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RESEARCH ARTICLE

A STUDY OF THE FACTORS AFFECTING ON A POOR ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF STUDENTS AT SECONDARY LEVEL

*Dr. Asia Khatoon, Gulzar Ali Khokhar and Qazi Asad-ull-ah

Education Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University, Shaheed Benazirabad, Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

Academic achievements represent performance outcomes that indicate the extent to which a person has accomplished specific goals that were the focus of activities in instructional environment, specifically in schools, colleges and universities. The student's academic performance may be influenced by various external factors other than their personal characteristics. This study has been conducted on 60 students of secondary school of Mehmoodabad Karachi. The main purpose of this study was to examine different factors influencing the academic performance of students at secondary level. A comprehensive structured questionnaire was used as a tool to collect the data. The collected data was processed and then its analysis was made through simple frequency and percentage distribution tables. The finding suggests that students should be aware of need and important of academic success which can help them in all areas of their lives.

INTRODUCTION

Education begins at home with parents sharing their knowledge, offering guidance along life's little bumps and potholes all the while providing a lot of encouragement. These things all make up for an enriching environment but more formal instructions is required while going to school when children learn to read and write, they gain the most basic and important requirements one need in life.

According to Nelson Mandela: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world".

1. **Nelson Mandela:** [Htt://www.mindset.za/occasion: launch of Minded Network /place: Planet University of the Witwatersr and Johannesburg. South Africa. Date: Wednesday, July 16, 2003.](http://www.mindset.za/occasion: launch of Minded Network /place: Planet University of the Witwatersr and Johannesburg. South Africa. Date: Wednesday, July 16, 2003.) Nelson Mandela said that education is the key to changing the world. It is a vital weapon, a shield against the world by way of expressing freely one's ideas. Education is the foundation of all types of development in the world. It is an established fact that in the world only those nations have made progress and development which have a sound educational system.

According to Pestalozzi: "Education is the activity of integrated and gradual development of individual abilities". Pestalozzi said that education develops individuals. It creates awareness among the people about life and its challenges in the world about life and its fills empty mind with ideas and creativity.

A secondary school often referred to as a high school, it is a school which provides secondary education between the ages of 11 to 19 depending on location, after primary school and before higher education. "Adolescence corresponds to a time when the human race was in a turbulent transitional stage". (Hall's analogy and expansion of Darwin's concept of biological "evolution"). Adolescence is often a turbulent period in human development and schools that serve adolescents are likewise in a period of turbulent change. Secondary school students are at the age of adolescents and is best defined in relation to youth. This is period which begins with puberty and ends with the several ending of physical growth it emerges from the later childhood and merges into adulthood. Secondary education occupies a pivotal role in the functioning of the economy and the education system itself. The performance of students at secondary level or even every level is not only influenced by their own characteristics but also various factors are involved in these achievements.

2. Pestalozzi: Siber Kate (1973) "The man and his work (3rd edition) London, Rutledge and Kegan Poul, ISBN 0710021186
3. Hall,s Analogy: MUSS RolfE (1975) in Theories Of Adolescence (3th edition) New York, Random House. Academic achievement is important because,
 - It prepares students for future careers.
 - It allows students to enter competitive fields, those who wish to enter themedical field need a through educational background in biology and engineering certification

*Corresponding author: Dr. Asia Khatoon

Education Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University, Shaheed Benazirabad, Pakistan

require adequate educational credentials. Those looking to enter academic need strong academic achievement.

Durden and Elli is quoted staffolani and Bratti (2002) observed that: the measurement of students previous educational outcomes are the most important indicators of students future achievements, this refers that as the higher previous appearance, better the student academic performance in future endeavors.

Aremu and Sokan (2003) define poor academic performance as a performance that is adjudged by the exam/test and some other significant that shows as falling below an expected standard.

Okoye (1982) defines a poor academic performance of the individual or candidate in a learning situation as one in which a candidate fails to attain a set of standard of performance in a given evaluation exercise such as a test, an examination of serious of a continuous assessment. A candidate who scores below the standard is regarded showing poor academic performance. The study under investigation is quite significant and has a wide scope to study the various factors that effect on academic performance of students at secondary levels. According to researchers there are two types of factors that affect the student academic performance most these are internal and external classrooms factors and these factors strongly affect the student's performance.

4. Bratti, M and Saffolanis, 2002"student time Allocation and Educational Production Function" University of Ancona, Department of Economics working paper No. 170.
5. Aremu and Sokan 2003: A multi Causal evaluation of academic performance of Nigerian learners: issues and implications for national development
6. Okoye (1892): martinslibrary. blogspot. com> Education

Hansen, Joe B. (2000) said that: Student's performance depends on many factors such as learning facilities, gender and age differences etc that can affect student's performance. A study effort from student and the proper use of the facilities provided by the institution to the student, a good match between student's learning styles and are positively affect the student's performance.

(Norhidayah et al. (2009), Teachers have been shown to have an important influence on student's academic achievement. They also play a crucial role in educational attainment because they are ultimately responsible for translating education policy into action on principles based on practice during their interaction with the student's.

According to Uchefuna (2001), "No wonder an effective teacher has been conceptualized as one who produces desired results in the course of his duty as a teachers". Teachers in schools and parents in homes use punishment as one of the most important tool for controlling student's behavior and disciplines. In the school, teachers punish students for being late to school, for not following the school rules, for not doing classroom assignment and for failure to perform better in test and examinations and the like (URT, 2006).

NSSE (National Survey of Student Engagement) reports, (2007/2008): have been widely used to study the relationship

between student engagement and academic performance. Student engagement including extracurricular activities, has a positive impact on student academic performance.

7. **Hansan Joe, B (2000)** http://globaljournals.org/GJMBRvolume12/3factors_affecting_students_academic_prdf
8. **Norhidayah:** (20 Dec 2001) The factors influencing students performance at University Technology MARA kedan center of sciences and cultures Vol.3 No.4
9. **Uchefuna. M.C (2001)** https://africle.com/project/read/study_of_the.
10. **[kytyhtginfluence of principle teachers relationship on teachers effectiveness in secondary school.**

Gafni and Deri (2012); emphasized the role of social networks in socializing students and opening channels for finding more academic resources, thus improving their academic achievement. Peer group provide a sense of security and they help adolescents to build a sense of identity. Given that adolescents spend twice as much time with peers with parents or others adults, it is important to study the influences or pressures that peers place on each other. As students enter the school, friend, take on a more important role in their lives peer influences has been more commonly conceptualized as encouragement from friends, to engage in delinquent behaviors, pressure to hold undesirable values and attitudes, or discouragement from participating in desirable behaviors. Guidance is of the factors through which a student can improve his study attitudes and study habits and is directly proportional to academic achievements. The students who are properly guided by their parents have performed well in the exams. The guidance from the teachers also affects the student performance. The guidance from the parents and teachers indirectly affect the performance of the students (Hussain, 2006). The students in public schools belong to a variety of background depending upon their demography. This diversity is much vast and complex as ever before in Pakistani culture. Keeping in view all these factors this study is educated to examine the effect of different factors on the student's quality of academic achievement at the secondary school level in a metropolitan of Pakistan (Karachi).

11. Gafni and derii: www.academia.edu/14649739/thesis_draft_based_on_the_research_of_other_countries.

METHODOLOGY

The questionnaire is used in this research 60 students from secondary school 9 and 10 were selected through random sampling technique. In this way the sampling of this study was based on sixty students in total. The objective is to study the level of awareness among students about importance of academic performance in the schools at secondary level and the factor that lead to the unsatisfactory academic performance of students in school and awareness about the output of the students gain from parental guidance regarding their studies at secondary level. Descriptive research refers to methods used in exploring a query or subject where the methods measure result instead of trying to predict outcomes or actions or determine cause and effect. Some types of descriptive research methods include survey, analyses, case studies, observation and review of published reports or results. Pre constructed structured questionnaire was used for the purpose of collecting data

regarding opinion of people towards poor academic performance of students at secondary level for this purpose, a questionnaire was prepared which covered the aspects of the problem under study i.e. the factors responsible for the poor academic performance of students at secondary school level.

To avoid ambiguity, the questions were constructed in simple and clear words. The students were required to tick mark the relevant one it was finalized after a detailed discussion, consideration and arrangement and after checking its relevance to the topic.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This table shows that 90% of students were of the opinion that academic achievement play an important role in educational system where 10% disagreed, 85% students were of the opinion that academic achievement is important for career development, where 15% disagreed, 95% students agreed that appropriate awareness regarding academic success will bring positive motivation in students where 5% disagreed, 82% students said that self-motivation is a key to achieve excellent academic performance in schools where 18% did not agreed. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected.

Table 1. Opinion of the students regarding lack of awareness about the importance of academic achievement in school may result in their poor academic performance.

S.no	Statement	Yes	No	Total
01	Does academic achievement play important role in educational system?	54 (90%)	6 (10%)	60
02	Do you think academic achievement is important for career development?	51 (85%)	9 (15%)	60
03	Do you think appropriate awareness regarding academic success will bring positive motivation in students?	57 (95%)	3 (5%)	60
04	Do you think self-motivation is a key to achieve excellent academic performance in school?	49 (82%)	11 (18%)	60

Table 2. Opinion of the students regarding the internal and external factors that may responsible to their poor school performance.

S.no	Statement	Yes	No	Total
05	Do you think lack of extra-curricular activities at school negatively affects school performance?	37 (62%)	23 (38%)	60
06	Do you think frequent absences from school leads to poor school performance?	48 (80%)	12 (20%)	60
07	Do you think in appropriate choice of friends leads to poor school performance?	44 (73%)	16 (27%)	60
08	Do you think punishment is a destructive factor in learning process?	43 (72%)	17 (28%)	60

The above table shows that 62% students are of the opinion that lack of extra curriculum activities at school negatively affects school performance, while 38% students did not agreed with the statement, 80% students agreed that frequent absences from school leads the poor school performance, while 20% students did not agreed, 73% students agreed that inappropriate choice of friends leads to poor school performance, while 27% students did not agreed. Hence, it become clear that majority of students fell that both intern and external factors are responsible for their poor academic performance in school at secondary level.

Table 3. Opinion of the students regarding lack of parental guidance may leads towards their poor academic performance at secondary level.

S.no	Statement	Yes	No	Total
09	Do you think parent's involvement in their children's education increases the rate of academic success of their child?	49 (82%)	11 (18%)	60
10	Do you think parental guidance develop confidence in the students?	54 (90%)	6 (10%)	60
11	Does the unavailability of parental guidance lead the students towards frustration?	38 (63%)	22 (37%)	60
12	Do you think educated parents provide better guidance to their children in their education than uneducated one?	46 (77%)	14 (23%)	60

Table 3 shows that 82% of the students both from class 9th and 10th agreed that parent's involvement in their children's education increases the rate of academic success of their child, where 18 % students did not agreed, 90% of the students said that parental guidance develop confidence in the students, similarly 10% of the students disagreed, 63% of the students were the opinion that unavailability of parental guidance lead the student towards frustration, while 37% of the students did not agreed, 77% of the students agreed that educated parents provide better guidance to their children in their education than uneducated one, while 23% of the students did not agreed with the statement. Hence, Majority of the students felt the need and importance of parental guidance for their academic success at secondary level.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Data collected from the school students indicates that academic achievement plays an important role not only in educational system but also for career for development. The performance of students at secondary level or even every level in not only influenced by their own characteristics but also various factors (internal and external) are involved in their achievement. Secondary education is playing a crucial role in laying the foundation for the further education. Therefore, it is right to say that if a good foundation is laid at this basic level, then students come up with the challenges of life and profession quite easily. There are some of the major issues we are confronting with like no awareness among students about the importance of academic success in schools which ultimately leads to their unsatisfactory performance at secondary level. Besides the internal and external factors which are responsible for their poor school performance students gave opinion that parental guidance must be provided to increase the rate of their academic success at secondary level. Following are our recommendation in order to solve this problem of students at secondary level. There should be provided appropriate awareness among students about the importance of academic achievement because it prepares them for future career. Extra ordinary co-curricular activities especially cricket and volley ball badly effects students academic performance. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that students should not be allowed to consume much time for extra-ordinary co-curricular activities.

- Absenteeism should be discouraged parents and teachers are advised to reduce the student's absenteeism

because only they can play an important role in this connection.

- A man is known by the company keeps. It is clear from this proverb that company plays crucial role of the future of the students. Therefore, it is good recommended that students should keep a good company. This should keep themselves away from the bad company.
- Corporal punishment employed by teacher seems to be in effective, dangerous and unacceptable methods of descriptive as it brings negative rather than positive impacts to learners so it should be avoided in school.
- Parents are advised to pay full attention on their children's education at home. They should develop a time table for their children regarding homework and studies.
- It is also recommended that this type of study should be conducted at higher secondary and at tertiary level. The result of my study is that there is no awareness among students importance of academic success and there is lack of guidance by the parents and because of this there is unsatisfactory and poor academic performance of students at secondary level.

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