

Factors Influencing the Student's Academic Performance in Secondary Schools in Mogadishu

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Abstract

education, discipline that is concerned with methods of teaching and learning in schools or school-like environment as opposed to various nonformal and informal means of socialization (e.g., rural development projects and education through parent-child relationships). In order to bring about improvements in all aspects, and utilize modern and innovative techniques and methods, individuals need to generate awareness and enhance their educational skills. The main purpose of this research paper is to understand the factors that influence the academic performance of the students in secondary schools in India. In secondary schools, there are numerous factors within school and outside school that influence the academic performance of the students. The main areas that have been taken into account include, factors influencing the academic performance of the students, academic performance and large number of students in class, parental and associated factors relating to academic achievement, contribution of school factors towards the academic performance of students, influence of poverty on academic achievement of students and other causes of low academic achievement

Introduction

Education is very important for every human being. It makes one able to understand what is happening around us logically and clearly. Only an educated person has the ability to take practical decisions and make right moves at the right time. Human existence without education is just like a barren land. Education not only enables individuals to put their potential to best use and do something productive in the upcoming future,

1. Background

Education is one of the imperative aspects that not only inculcates the essential skills, abilities and knowledge among the individuals, but also leads to overall growth and progress of the individuals, community and nation as a whole. An educated person is not only able to accomplish his desired goals and objectives, but is also able to render an efficient contribution towards the well-being of the community. The inculcation of academic knowledge, skills, abilities and proficiency among the individuals is enhanced through learning and academic performance. In secondary schools, there are numerous factors that contribute an important part in enhancing the academic performance of students. The academic performance determines the future goals and objectives of students. What subject they will specialize in colleges and universities, which educational institutions they will get enrolled into, what career opportunities they would take up and so forth.

The determinants of academic performance of the students include, class participation, class assignments, home-work assignments, tests, examinations, and participation in competitions or

but also plays a main role in shaping an individual to be a better, responsible citizen and an active member of the society. An educated person with self-confidence and precise moves knows how to transform the world. Education provides the ladder for achieving success in life and enables us to utilize skills and caliber in a constructive way. (Nyagosia, 2011).

Therefore, it's the prime responsibility of an individual to get educated and live a prosperous life while being a responsible citizen.

other events. The pressure of the parents and other individuals upon teachers and school administrators to improve the academic performance has enabled schools to come up with advanced strategies.

Factors Influencing the Academic Performance of the Students

The factors that influence the academic performance of the students have been stated as follows:

- School Resources
- Leadership Aspects
- Skills and Abilities of the Teachers
- Role of Parents
- Attitude of the Students
- Classroom Environment
- Psychological and Health Related Factors
- Visual and Hearing Impairments
- Motivating and Encouraging Students
- Counselling and Guidance Services
- Counselling and Guidance Services
- Teaching-Learning Methods

In science subjects, when teacher is providing training to the students regarding the implementation of the experiment through making use of test tubes, burners, equipment and procedures, then it is not possible for the teachers to go to each and every student and check, how, he or she is performing (Maganga, 2016). The lesson plans need to be completed in schools within limited time. In such cases, if the students are hard-working and sincere in their work, then they would understand the procedure explained by the teacher and independently perform the experiment. On the other hand, there have been cases of students, who do not acquire adequate understanding in just one explanation and imitate their neighbour's work. Lack of sufficient understanding does affect their academic performance in an inappropriate manner. The teachers have the job of just providing explanation of the experiment once and then students are required to implement it and get it checked from the teacher. When the classroom has more than 100 students, then teaching-learning processes and checking of the assignments may take time

Academic Performance and Large Number of Students in Class

In Somalia , there are many schools, which have large number of students in one class. Having large number of students in one class is referred to as classroom congestion. Classroom congestion is considered as a disadvantage in improving academic performance. The main problems due to this factor are experienced by the teachers.

They are unable to implement the teaching- learning processes and instructional strategies in an appropriate manner. The teachers are unable to make provision of personal attention and as a result of which, academic performance of the students may undergo detrimental effects. In some cases, when

the number of students are large within classrooms, the teachers provide explanation of the academic concepts on black-board or through the use of technology and give class and home-work assignments

They correct the assignments, submitted to them by the students. Some students perform well, whereas others depict errors. In case of errors, the teachers usually ask them to learn from the students, who have performed well. Hence, teachers tend to move on to the next lesson in the next class, as they need to complete the syllabus within limited time (Maganga, 2016)..

Research has indicated that when there are large number of students in class, then usually work gets distributed among two teachers. As it would not be possible for one teacher to carry out all the job functions and management of the classroom. Therefore, to facilitate the implementation of tasks and functions, there are two teachers, who work in co-operation with each other to manage the classroom activities and functions. This aspect has proved to be advantageous and one does not experience any job pressure. On the other hand, when teachers are required to control the teaching-learning processes, instruction and classroom management individually, then they experience job pressure.

Parental and Associated Factors relating to Academic Achievement

In promoting the academic achievement of the individuals, parental and home environmental factors contribute a major part. There are positive as well as negative factors associated with the academic achievement of the students. These have been stated as follows:

Positive Factors

- *Pleasant Home Environment*

- *Encouraging Attitude of Family Members*
- *Provision of Resources*
- *Education of Parents*
- *Small Family Size*

Negative Factors

- *Viewpoints and Perspectives*
- *Poverty*
- *Illiteracy*
- *Large Family Size*
- *Lack of Provision of Tuitions or Extra-Classes*

manner that learning and development of the students can be improved. Professionalism of the teachers is depicted primarily in the teaching-learning processes, instructional strategies, communication and their approachable attitude. When the teachers depict professionalism in these areas, then they are revered not only by the principal, staff and other teachers, but they are also appreciated by the students and they take pleasure in learning from them. There have been cases in schools, when teachers get upset and angry. This is normally due to incompleteness of home-work assignments and deprived academic performance. In such cases, professionalism is depicted when teachers are decent in their communication. They should explain the consequences to the students in a calm manner and any kind of harsh behaviour should be avoided.

Technology – In the present existence, technology is regarded as imperative to enhance learning. When students need to improve their skills and abilities regarding academic concepts, then internet serves as the imperative source of obtaining knowledge and information. In textbooks, sometimes the knowledge is limited, hence, in order to acquire better understanding of the lesson plans, the students make use of the internet, take down notes and are able to acquire a better understanding. In the

- *Lack of Resources*

Contribution of School Factors towards the Academic Performance of Students

The contribution of school factors in influencing the academic performance of the students have been stated as follows:

Professionalism of Teachers – It is vital for the teachers to be professional in their conduct, especially, while dealing with students. The main objective of the teachers is to enhance their teaching skills within their subject areas in such a

present existence, technology is even made use of in the preparation of projects, reports, and assignments. Earlier when technology was not adequately made use of in schools, then students used to prepare their

assignments using stationary items. In the present existence, not only in higher educational institutions, but also in secondary schools, it is been made use of to a

provision of books and the necessary materials to major extent. The use of technology also helps in correcting the errors and making the assignment appropriate

Rewards – Rewards are regarded as one of the most important factors that are used in motivating the students. In secondary schools, students usually enjoy playing and getting engaged in recreational and leisure activities. They in some cases neglect their studies, especially when they are unable to understand the concepts or have to watch a television show or go out with friends and so forth.

Usually, parents at home create means of motivating their children by saying that they will give them their favorite ice-cream or take them out for dinner or give them a gift etc They believe that through their good performance, their parents and teachers, both would get pleased

Library Facilities – The library is the place, where students usually are able to obtain the materials that are made use of to enhance one’s learning. It is the building or the room, in which the collection of books, tapes, newspapers, articles and journals are kept. These are meant for the individuals to read and borrow. Library is important in the teaching-learning processes. It is regarded as one of the most important educational services. The main purpose of the school libraries is to make

the members of the school, which are of interest to them. It occupies the central and the primary place within the schools. It makes provision of support and assistance in the teaching-learning processes and provides service and guidance to the individuals (David, 2014).

Influence of Poverty on Academic Achievement of Students

Through education, the students are able to learn specific skills, such as literacy, quantitative abilities, problem solving, and logical reasoning, this contributes towards the development of professional skills and abilities (Ford, 2011).

The children residing in the conditions of poverty experience low academic achievement. The factors that lead to low academic achievement as a result of poverty have been stated as follows

Learning Materials: In the pursuance of education, there are number of learning materials that are required by the individuals. These include, stationary items, bags, uniforms, textbooks, notebooks, technology, computers etc. In extra- curricular activities, such as performance of artworks and handicrafts, students need materials, when they get involved in sports competitions, they need sports gear and so forth. The conditions of poverty imposes barriers in the fulfilment of one's needs. Parents are unable to meet the needs and requirements of their children. For instance, if purchasing of a textbook is unaffordable, then the academic performance does get affected in a negative manner

Coaching – In secondary schools, normally in subjects such as, mathematics and science, students need coaching. In some cases, even subjects such as, Hindi, English and social science require coaching. The main purpose of coaching is to make available extra classes for the students, so they are able to improve their academic performance. The poverty stricken individuals mainly possess low literacy skills or they are not educated, hence, they are unable to provide any kinds of instructions and training to their children.

Diet and Nutrition – In secondary schools, as it has been stated that students get involved in multiple tasks and functions. Hence, in order to do well in all tasks and to stimulate their mind-sets, they need energy and one is able to obtain energy through adequate diet and nutrition. Factors such as, attention, concentration, and memory can be improved through proper diet and nutrition.

Health – Research has indicated that poverty affects the health of the individuals in a negative manner. Besides unaffordability of healthy and a nutritious diet, the individuals feel stressed and anxious. The main reason being, in order to carry out all the activities and functions, and to meet all the requirements, individuals need money. When they do not have the finances, they feel stressed and even get involved into frequent disputes, which may result in detrimental effects.

Education, training, medical treatment, child development, and sustenance of living, all require expenses.

Needs of Family Members – When parents go to work, they expect their older children to take care of the needs and requirements of other family members. These mainly include, siblings and grandparents. Poverty stricken individuals mainly have problems in meeting the medical expenses or looking after the health of the other family members.

Employment Opportunities – The poverty stricken individuals primarily look for employment opportunities to alleviate their conditions of poverty. They want their children, at an early age to get engaged in some kind of employment, so that they can contribute to family income. There have been cases of children, who are engaged in employment opportunities on full time basis and hence, are unable to devote time towards studies. Some jobs require them to develop their skills and abilities. For instance, when one is involved into production of handicrafts, then they obtain assistance from their parents in enhancing their skills or training is also provided within the employment settings. With the engagement in full time jobs and development of skills, individuals are unable to meet their academic requirements

Lack of Interest in Studies – The children belonging to poverty-stricken families usually are trained in terms of household chores at an early age. They are made aware that they need to possess the essential skills and abilities in taking care of the needs and requirements of the elderly family members and their younger siblings. The conditions of poverty even compel them to get engaged in full time jobs.

Criminal and Violent Acts – The children belonging to poverty-stricken families have been subjected to criminal and violent acts. These include, verbal abuse, physical abuse, sexual harassment, acid attacks, rape and even murder. Getting subjected to these acts, not only impede their psychological approach, but also the children develop fear and apprehensiveness in going out of their houses and communicating with the other individuals. The children belonging to deprived, marginalized and socio-economically backward sections of the society have experienced these acts within their homes, community as well as within schools. Research has indicated that when girls have experienced these

acts, they not only are unable to concentrate on their studies, but have dropped out of school. The occurrence of these acts within home has resulted in hindering the concentration of the children on studies, hence, they are unable to achieve the desired grades.

Other Causes of Low Academic Achievement

Some other factors that lead to low academic achievement have been stated as follows:

- *Lack of Adequate Planning*□
- *Psychological Factors*□
- *Employment Opportunities*□
- *Conflicts and Disputes*□
- *Fear of Examinations*□
- *Lack of Motivation*□

Conclusion

Although Education is vary important for every human being. It makes one able to understand what is happening around us logically and clearly. Only educated person has the ability to take practical decisions and make right moves at the right time. Human existence without education is just like fecund land. Education not only enables individuals to put their potential to best use and do something productive in the upcoming future, but also plays a main role in shaping an individual to be a better, responsible citizen and an active member of the society. An educated person with self-confidence and precise moves knows how to transform the world. Education provides the ladder for achieving success in life and enables us to utilize skills and caliber in a constructive way.(Nyagosia, 2011).

There are number of factors within school as well as outside school that affects the academic performance of the students. Within school, the factors mainly include, professionalism, skills and abilities on the part of the teachers, provision of

library facilities, laboratory, appropriate teaching-learning processes and instructional strategies, effective communication between the individuals, formation of good terms and conditions, usage of technology and evaluation methods. The class and homework assignments and tests are regarded as aspects that determine the understanding of the students as well as utilization of teaching methods by the teachers.

The other factors that influence the academic performance of the students are home environment, financial position of their families, conditions of poverty, provision of tuitions and assistance at home, counselling and guidance, occurrence of conflicts and disputes, employment opportunities, household chores, needs and requirements of other family members and violent and criminal acts. The home environmental conditions and financial position of the families have been favourable as well as unfavourable towards the academic outcomes of the students. Finally, it can be stated that in order to achieve good academic outcomes, it is vital for the students to be dedicated and sincere towards their studies, the home environmental conditions should be peaceful and amiable, and teachers should be approachable in attitude and implement teaching-learning processes and instructional strategies in a beneficial manner.

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