

PARENTAL ENCOURAGEMENT IN RELATION TO ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

Parental Encouragement refers to the general process undertaken by the parents to initiative and directs the behaviour of the children towards high academic achievement. The present study aims to probe the relationship between Parental Encouragement and Academic Achievement of Higher Secondary School Students. Survey method was employed and the investigators used stratified random sampling technique. The sample consists of 350 higher secondary school students from ten schools at Thanjavur district. Parental Encouragement Scale developed by Kusum Agarwal (1999) and academic achievement constructed by investigator (2012) were used as the tool. Karl Pearson's product moment co-efficient of correlation was used as the statistical technique for analyzing the data. The result shows that there is significant relationship between parental encouragement and academic achievement of higher secondary school students.

Keywords: *parental encouragement, parental involvement, academic achievement, higher secondary school students*

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1. Introduction

Parents always want the best for their child and always want their child to live a better life than they did. Parents provide as many resources as they can, but this can also be negative to the child's education in sometime. Parental encouragement is the inspiration or extra-boosting given by the parents to the children for their active involvement in academic life. Parental encouragement plays an important role in the formation of life of children. It also enables them to face the future challenges of life. It involves a number of things like deep understanding of developmental process and learning of temperaments, intelligent, personality patterns, inter personal action and socialization etc. Not all learning happens in school; some takes place at home. To ensure those students are encouraged or motivated to learn at home, educators must involve parents.

Parental encouragement in higher secondary education is essential for children to be successful in school and later in their lives. Studies have shown that parental encouragement and involvement in education is associated with (i) better grades and test scores, (ii) better attendance, (iii) higher rates of homework completion, (iv) increase in positive attitudes and behaviours at school and at home, (v) higher graduation rates, (vi) higher college attendance rates, (vii) greater overall student achievement, (viii) better attitude toward school and individual subject areas, (ix) more time to spent on homework and studying, and (x) better self-concept etc. (www.msu.edu).

2. Significance of Study

Adolescence is the transition period from childhood to adulthood. One can encounter stress and storm during this period due to physical, emotional intellectual and social change. The concentration diversion would also be the

result if they are not trained properly. To flourish in the academic aspect the children should prepare all efforts to study systematically. The external diversion should also be controlled to provide conducive environment for the children to study all these things. Parents love, care and guidance will bring out tremendous change in the behaviour of the children.

Sociological factors in dynamics of personality purely state that parental encouragement and involvement on children influences their personality. Education of children fetches the life skill for betterment of future. Though education is the contributing factor for one's development, if this education is given properly to the children in early years, it would make them contributing members of the society.

The high score obtained in XI, XII standard will decide their future. The pressure is increasing from all sides to the children for the study of the subject. The students are at high emotion due to their adolescent period and expectation out of world pleasure. The parents are the prime well wishers for the children to excel in academic performance. The encouragement of parents will bring out marvelous change in academic performance.

The present study focuses on the parental encouragement and academic achievement of higher secondary students. This study is the best and the need of the hour to bring out the different background dwelling in rural or urban, socio-economic status, educational status, influence the academic aspect of their children. The present study is the unique one to explore and present in what way and how parental encouragement brings change in academic achievement of higher secondary students.

3. Title of the Study

Parental Encouragement in relation to Academic Achievement of Higher Secondary School Students.

4. Operational Definition of Key Terms

Parental Encouragement refers to the general process undertaken by the parents to initiative and directs the behaviour of the children towards high academic achievement in higher secondary level.

Academic Achievement means how the students perform in the examination and how much marks he gets from the quarterly examination. The total mark earned by the student in quarterly examination is the academic achievement of the students.

Higher Secondary School Students: Education after secondary education is said to be higher secondary education. Higher secondary education is for a period of 2 years. By the term 'higher secondary students' the investigators mean students who are studying XI and XII standards in matriculation and state board schools at Thanjavur district.

5. Objectives

1. To find out whether there is any significant relationship between parental encouragement and academic achievement of higher secondary school students.
2. To find out whether there is any significant relationship between parental encouragement and academic achievement of higher secondary school boys.
3. To find out whether there is any significant relationship between parental encouragement and academic achievement of higher secondary school girls.
4. To find out whether there is any significant relationship between parental encouragement and academic achievement of rural higher secondary school students.
5. To find out whether there is any significant relationship between parental encouragement and academic achievement of urban higher secondary school students.

6. Null Hypothesis

1. There is no significant relationship between parental encouragement and academic achievement of higher secondary school students.
2. There is no significant relationship between parental encouragement and academic achievement of higher secondary school boys.

3. There is no significant relationship between parental encouragement and academic achievement of higher secondary school girls.
4. There is no significant relationship between parental encouragement and academic achievement of rural higher secondary school students.
5. There is no significant relationship between parental encouragement and academic achievement of urban higher secondary school students.

7. Methodology

The investigators have adopted the survey method of research to study the parental encouragement and academic achievement of higher secondary school students in Thanjavur district.

The investigators used stratified random sampling technique for selecting the sample from the population. The stratification was done on the basis of gender, locality of students. The sample consists of 350 higher secondary school students from ten schools at Thanjavur district.

The tools used for the present study were Parental Encouragement Scale developed by Kusum Agarwal (1999) and academic achievement constructed by investigators (2012). In the present study, Karl Pearson's product moment co-efficient of correlation was used as the statistical technique for analyzing the data.

8. Data Analysis

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between parental encouragement and academic achievement of higher secondary school students.

Table-1: Relationship between parental encouragement and academic achievement of higher secondary school students

Variables	Calculated ' γ ' value	Remarks at 5% level
Parental Encouragement Vs Academic Achievement	0.335	Significant

(At 5% level of significance for 350 df, the table value of ' γ ' is 0.098)

From the table (1), it is known that there is significant relationship between parental encouragement and academic achievement of higher secondary school students, as the calculated ' γ ' value 0.335 are greater than the table value 0.098 at 5% level of significance. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected.

H₀₂: There is no significant relationship between parental encouragement and academic achievement of higher secondary school boys.

Table-2: Relationship between parental encouragement and academic achievement of higher secondary school boys

Variables	Calculated ' γ ' value	Remarks at 5% level
Parental Encouragement Vs Academic Achievement	0.269	Significant

(At 5% level of significance for 350 df, the table value of ' γ ' is 0.098)

From the table (2), it is understood that there is significant relationship between parental encouragement and academic achievement of higher secondary school boys, as the calculated ' γ ' value 0.269 are greater than the table value 0.098 at 5% level of significance. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected.

H₀₃: There is no significant relationship between parental encouragement and academic achievement of higher secondary school girls.

Table-3: Relationship between parental encouragement and academic achievement of higher secondary school girls

Variables	Calculated ' γ ' value	Remarks at 5% level
Parental Encouragement Vs Academic Achievement	0.402	Significant

(At 5% level of significance for 350 df, the table value of ' γ ' is 0.098)

From the table (3), it is inferred that there is significant relationship between parental encouragement and academic achievement of higher secondary school girls, as the calculated ' γ ' value 0.402 are greater than the table value 0.098 at 5% level of significance. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected.

H₀4: There is no significant relationship between parental encouragement and academic achievement of rural higher secondary school students.

Table-4: Relationship between parental encouragement and academic achievement of rural higher secondary school students

Variables	Calculated ' γ ' value	Remarks at 5% level
Parental Encouragement Vs Academic Achievement	0.387	Significant

(At 5% level of significance for 350 df, the table value of ' γ ' is 0.098)

From the table (4), it is known that there is significant relationship between parental encouragement and academic achievement of rural higher secondary school students, as the calculated ' γ ' value 0.387 are greater than the table value 0.098 at 5% level of significance. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected.

H₀5: There is no significant relationship between parental encouragement and academic achievement of urban higher secondary school students.

Table-5: Relationship between parental encouragement and academic achievement of urban higher secondary school students

Variables	Calculated ' γ ' value	Remarks at 5% level
Parental Encouragement Vs Academic Achievement	0.237	Significant

(At 5% level of significance for 350 df, the table value of ' γ ' is 0.098)

From the table (5), it is understood that there is significant relationship between parental encouragement and academic achievement of urban higher secondary school students, as the calculated ' γ ' value 0.237 are greater than the table value 0.098 at 5% level of significance. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected.

9. Findings

1. There is significant relationship between parental encouragement and academic achievement of higher secondary school students.
2. There is significant relationship between parental encouragement and academic achievement of higher secondary school boys.
3. There is significant relationship between parental encouragement and academic achievement of higher secondary school girls.
4. There is significant relationship between parental encouragement and academic achievement of rural higher secondary school students.

5. There is significant relationship between parental encouragement and academic achievement of urban higher secondary school students.

10. Conclusion

Even though there are some limitations in the present study, it is evident that there is significant relationship between parental encouragement and academic achievement of higher secondary school students. This finding confirms the findings of Agarwal (1998); Jeynes (2007); Sharma and Thahira (2011); Singh & Devgun (2012); Rafiq (2013); Sekar & Mani (2013); and Singh (2016). Parents should be made aware of how to give proper parental encouragement for the academic excellence of their wards. In order to increase the parental encouragement the schools may organize the Parent Teachers Association (PTA). It should take initiative in making parents aware of the psychological variables that influence the children's studies. Through the PTA, guidance and orientation Programme can be organized for parents for creating good rapport with the teachers helps them to know their child's behavior, performance, interest, etc.

Adolescence is a peculiar period of human life and children of this age feel independent and they neglect their parents care and their advices. So, the parents should be made aware of the method of giving rewards and encouragement to their performance. The parents must able to find out the talents of their children and give them inspiration and guidance and what is good for them and they must also make sure that their children are getting proper food and exercise The parents should have an expectation according to the capacity of the child and should also help him to set his goals which are achievable. The child should be given enough freedom to express himself in home; this makes the child free to share his problems with his parents.

The recommendations given by the investigators may be very helpful for improving the parental involvement in education and academic achievement of higher secondary students. This study will be more fruitful when suggestions given by the investigators are applied for further study and it will be of a great help for those who want to study further in this field.

11. References

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