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ATTITUDE OF PARENTS TOWARDS ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF THEIR CHILDREN: IMPLICATIONS FOR SOCIETAL GROWTH.

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ABSTRACT

Many researchers came to understand that attitude of parents towards their children can encourage them to engage actively in order improve their academic achievement in secondary schools (Epstein, 2018). This article recommends that parents' attitude should be considered as an important and useful tool because it could provide rich information about the student academic needs which will positively help s teacher improve on their instructional skills and methods to use in order to ensure good teaching-learning process. The study aims to investigate the attitude of parents towards academic achievement of their children in primary schools in Awka, Awka south L.G.A of Anambra state, Nigeria. Different attitudes were assessed which include; parents perception or value for education, high cost of schooling, unable to attend to their children homework after school. Random sampling method was adopted to cover 100 parents from Enzy Royal School, Favour Dot Queen Academy, Progressive Royal School all in Awka, Anambra State of Nigeria. The data were collected by parental involvement questionnaire scores. The overall results indicated that those children whose parents perceive education as a "meal ticket", cost effective, unable to do their homework were the children that had worst grades than those whose parents do not. It is hoped that the results of this study will give parents a better understanding of how their attitudes can improve academic achievement of their children in primary schools.

Keywords: Parental attitude, academic achievement, growth.

Introduction

Academic achievement of any child is undoubtedly a research after the heart of educational psychologist. In quest to investigate what determines the academic achievement of any child, they come up with different questions. The way in which parents behave or act towards their children education is something beyond one's imagination. Some are too careless about the academic achievement of their children and in some cases give deaf-ear to anything pertaining to their children's' education. In this regard, Epstein (2018) opined that; though there are barriers to parental involvement, the link between parents' attitude and their children achievement is strong. In any primary school where there is high academic achievement of children, it means that parents value education and as such show positive attitudes towards increasing their children's achievement, but when achievement is low, the reverse is the case.

In Nigeria for instance, parents perceive education as a "meal ticket". They want their children to attend school all in the name of getting ordinary paper called certificate in order to gain themselves jobs in future time as civil servants, etc. They have this impression that they don't want their children to end up as farmers. As a matter of fact, they see primary school as key or bedrock of actualizing this aspiration (National Policy on Education, 2004).

However, parental attitude are most often influenced by cost of schooling and their level of income. This limits the participation of parents in the education of their children. These days, the income of parents determines whether their children will attend public school or private school. Those with low income send their children to public schools while those who are average and of higher class send their children to private schools with better teaching facilities.

Parental attitude also focus on how parents support their children's education and meet the needs of the schools. Parents should suppose to attend parent-teacher meetings, help their children to finish the homework given to them in school. According to Reinke W.M., Smith T.E., and Herman, K.C., (2019), suggested that it is very important to find strategies to support parental attitude because they influence the childrens' achievement in the school (Grace & Gerdes, Tan et al., (2019). Parents attitude in addition is viewed as an important factor that help childrens' educational achievement in the school (Boonk et al., 2018; Dotterer & Wehrspan, 2016; Epstein, 2018, Nevski & Siibak, 2016; Smith & Sheridan, 2019; Tan et al., 2019; Thompson et al., 2017). Attitude of parents in their children's education not only increases the children's achievement (Nevski & Siibak, 2016; Pineda et al., 2018) but also helps parents to understand their children and teachers better in order to improve on the teachers' instructional skills.

Furthermore, parents ought to play a critical role in their children's early life (Alimohammadi et al., 2017). Many parents are dropping their children in school not to help them improve their academic achievement, they do it because they need someone who will take care of their children while they go out for their normal businesses or works. If parents view their roles or attitude as being an important aspect of their children's academic achievement, they may be more willing to attend school activities and interact with teachers on a regular basis and also be ready and able to help their children to finish their homework after school.
This study therefore will go a long way to motivate parents to change their mind set towards their children's education, spend much money to gain high as well as assisting their children to finish their homework.

Research Questions

In attempt to provide possible solutions to this stated problem, the following questions were raised:

i. Is academic achievement of children in primary school depends on their parents' perception or value for education?
ii. Is academic achievement of children in primary school depends on the cost of schooling/education?
iii. Is the academic achievement of children in primary school depends

on inability of parents to attend to their children homework?

Research Method.

A simple sampling methods in form of 'hat' drawn was used for the study. A descriptive method was used for the study with the population of one hundred parents out of two hundred parents in the named schools. The instrument used in collecting of the data is questionnaire. It was designed with five likert scale of strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagreed and strongly disagreed. The research was very reliable, effective and efficient. It was validated by three experts; two experts from Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka and one from Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Igbariam all in Anambra state, Nigeria. Available data was presented using tables constructed in rows and columns. The significance of the study lied on the facts that it helps to bring the right or positive attitude of parents and channel it towards improving the academic achievement of their children, and also helps in improving the instructional skills of the class teachers.

Presentation of Results

All the data collected through the questionnaire are fully analyzed and discussed in an attempt to provide answers to the three research questions and nine questionnaires.

Table 1: Mean scores on parents' perception/value for education and academic achievement of the children in primary schools.

S/N	VARIABLES	SA	A	UD	D	SD	TOTAL	MEAN	REMARKS
1	Lack of education for parents.	50	20	15	5	10	100	4.0	Accepted
2	Lack of advice from learned ones	40	10	40	-	-	100	3.6	Accepted
3	Rural area influence on parents.	20	40	20	15	5	100	3.6	Accepted

The analysis showed that the respondent agreed that parents' education, lack of advice from learned ones and rural influence on parents greatly affect children academic achievement.

Table 2: Mean score on the cost of schooling/education and the academic performance of the children.

S/N	VARIABLES	SA	A	UD	D	SD	TOTAL	MEAN	REMARKS
4	Lack of high paid business for parents.	50	10	25	15	-	100	4.0	Accepted
5	High cost of living on the side of parents.	40	20	30	5	5	100	5.8	Accepted
6	High cost of educational materials in primary schools especially in private school	20	30	25	15	10	100	3.4	Accepted

The analysis showed that the respondent agreed that lack of high paid business for parents, High cost of living and cost of educational materials had an adverse effect on the children academic performance.

Table 3: Mean score on the inability of parents to attend to their children homework in primary school.

S/N	VARIABLES	SA	A	UD	D	SD	TOTAL	MEAN	REMARKS
7	Lack of knowledge for parents.	60	20	15	5	-	100	4.7	Accepted
8	Children inability to tell their parents about their homework.	20	40	20	15	5	100	3.6	Accepted
9	Parent over busy and tiredness after their day-to- day activities.	70	10	20	-	-	100	4.5	Accepted

The analysis showed that the level of knowledge of parents as well as their too much engagement in their businesses, and children inability to tell them about their homework affect their children academic achievement.

Discussion of Findings

The finding answers the research questions as follows:

Parents' perception as a result of their lack of education, no advice from learned ones as well as influence of rural area on parents determined children academic achievement. The finding answers the research question: Is parents' perception for education affects the academic achievement of their children?

Cost of schooling/education knowing that parents operate a very low business, high cost of living in the country and cost of educational materials determined the academic achievement of the children. The finding answered the research question; Is high cost of schooling/education affect the academic achievement of the children?

Parent inability to attend to their children homework knowing that they lacked knowledge, children not telling them about the homework and over busy of parents affect the academic achievement of their children. The finding answered the research question; Is parents inability to do their children homework affect their academic achievement?

Conclusion

The finding from the study revealed that parents' perception for education, cost of schooling/education as well as parents inability of attend to their children homework posed a lots of problems to their children academic achievement.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made based on the research findings so as to improve children academic achievement:

i. Parents are advised to interact with their children teacher through weekly report and attend open day ceremonies.
ii. Parents should enroll in adult education where they will be mentored, pass through a counselor who will change their mind-set towards education.
iii. Parents should engage in other businesses that will ensure steady flow of income and also capable of increasing their level of income.

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