
Research Papers



A Study on Parent Participation in the Home Work of Children

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Abstract

Teaching – Learning is a participatory activity. It includes the participation of not only the learner and the teacher but also the involvement of the parents. The activities like 'Home–Work' or 'Home assignments' given to the learner by the teacher expects the support of the parents in its successful completion.

It is an established fact that schooling is the joint responsibility of the school as well as the society. This joint effort of the teachers and the parents can form a strong base of the education of the child.

Home – Work is such an activity given to the child as a continued activity of the school. It also provides an opportunity of independent practice to the child.

'Cooper' considers home-work as a specified activity provided to the learners by the teachers to be completed after the school hours. 'Butler' holds that the home work helps a child to get reinforced by a specific activity and enables him to acquire a new skill and helps him to learn independently. Generally home work is considered as an activity given by the teacher to the students to be carried outside the class room.

In today's primary education set up giving home work has become an indispensable activity provided by the teacher to the student.

Despite of its limitations it has its own

merits, such as providing independent practice to the child, attracting the involvement of parents in the child's scholastic activity etc., In turn updating the parents about their ward's scholastic activity.

To study the extent of involvement of the parents in their ward's home work the researchers took up the following study. They were also interested to know the opinion of the parents towards the nature of home work and also to what extent the parents' involvement help in the scholastic performance of the students.

Objectives of the study

The study was carried out with the following objectives.

1. To study the time spared by the parents in the home–work given to the students by the teachers at the primary school level.
2. To study the parents opinion towards the nature of the home work given to the students at primary school.
3. To study the extent of the parents

involvement in carrying out the home work by their wards.

Methodology

The following study was conducted by applying survey technique.

Tools of the study

Questionnaire for the parents was constructed by the researcher and used for the collection of data.

Sample

The sample constituted of 30 Parents selected purposively from four upper primary schools (5th to 7th students) of chikmagalur town.

Analysis of the data

The researchers analysed the data descriptively.

Time spared for home work: A child after coming from the school has to spare considerable amount of time for doing the home work. The parents also have to spare the same amount of time to help their child to complete the home work. The parents were asked about the time spared by them in completing the home work of their wards.

Table 1: Time spared by the child and parents for doing the home-work.

Less than 10 mins	10-20 mins	30 mins to one hour	more than one hour	Total
0	6	5	19	30
0%	20%	16.67%	63.33%	100%

Table 1 reveals the time spared by the child and parents for doing home-work. It can be observed from the table that 63.33% at the students and parents spare more than one hour in doing their home work 20% of them spare 10 to 20 mins and 16.67% between 30 minutes to 1 hour

It can be understood that children spare a considerably amount of time along with their parents in doing their home work.

Parents' help: The parents were asked about the extent of their help carrying out the home work of their wards.

Table 2 : Extent of parents help in the home work of their wards.

Always	Some times	rarely	Not at all	Total
16	8	5	1	30
53.33%	26.67%	16.67%	3.33%	100%

It can be observed from Table:2 that about 53.33% of the parents every time participate in the process of completing the home work of their wards. About 26.67% of parents usually participate in the process. It can be observed only a meager percentage (3.33%) of the parents not at all participate in the home work of

their wards.

Overall the data reveals that of major percentage of the parents participate in the process of completing the home work of their wards.

Parents Participation: Among the parents the mother, father, brother and sister of the child usually help in carrying out the home work of the child. The parents were asked about the persons who participated in the home work process.

Table 3 : Parents participation in completing the home work of their wards.

Father	Mother	Elder brother	Elder sister	Total
4	20	3	3	30
13.33%	66.67%	10%	10%	100%

Table 3 revealed that 66.67% of the Child's mother helped in completing the home work followed by father (13.33%) brother and sister (10%). Overall it was found that mothers took more interest in their children's home work then any other family members.

Parents Opinion: The parents were asked about the usefulness of the home work given by the teachers to their wards

Table-4: Parents opinion about usefulness of home work in the learning process of the child

Greater extent	Some extent	Less extent	Not at all	Total
16	13	0	1	30
53.33%	43.33%	0%	3.33%	100%

It can be observed from Table 4 that 53.33% of the parents respond that home work is useful to a greater extent, 43.33% of the parents consider that home work is useful to Some extent in the learning process of their children.

Overall it can be observed that parents opinion that giving home work is useful for the learning of their wards.

Impact of Home Work: Is the home work really helpful to the child? Does it help in improving the academic achievement of the child was the question asked to the parents?

Table-5: Parents opinion about the impact of homework on the academic achievement of the child

Greater extent	Some extent	Less extent	Not at all	Total
12	17	1	0	30
40%	56.67%	3.33%	0%	100%

Table 5 brings into picture the opinion of the parents regarding the impact of home work on the scholastic achievement of their wards.

It was found that 40% of the parents

definitely agree, 56.67% just agree that performing the home work will help in improvement of academic performance of their wards.

It can be understood that home work is not a burden for the child but it helps in the academic improvement of the children.

Findings of the study

The study revealed the following important findings about the home work.

1. The parents spared more than one hour for performing the home work of their wards.(63.33%)
2. Majority of the parents (53.33%) help all time to their wards in completing their home work.
3. Among the parents mothers mostly help their wards in completing their home work (66.67%) followed by father (13.33%), brother and sister (10% each)
4. Majority of the parents opine that home work given by the teachers to their wards help them in the learning of their wards (53.33% and 43.33%)
5. It was found that 40% of the parents definitely agree that the home work will have an impact on the academic performance of the wards. 56.67% of the parents agree that performing the home work will help in academic performance of their wards.

Conclusion:

Home work has become an indispensable part of the academic activity of school going children. It has become so inevitable that without it the process of schooling seems to be incomplete. More over the emphasis on independent practice on the part of the learner has to be taken care of which is fulfilled to a greater extent by the home work. Some times the school teachers over burden the children by giving such activities which are of too higher level of the children and which do not cater to the over all development of the child. This may attract more parental participation which has both merits as well as demerits.

By the home work the parents become aware of the type of work going in their children's school; they will also come to know about the academic level of their child. Or other wise there may be instances where in the parents do not know in which standard their child is studying and what is going on in the school. Care should be taken by the teachers that home work should not be over burdened and should not be a dry and dull

repetition of the school work. It should develop creativity among the child and develop a sense of positivist mentality about the school.

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