

**An Exploratory Study On Parent's Involvement in Students
Academic Activities at Secondary School Level in District
Quetta, Balochistan:**

By

¹Gurya Bakhtawar, ²Abdul Qadoos

Abstract:

There is no denying the fact that the role of the parents in deciding the future of a person is paramount and the parents being the closest to their children are the only ones who know the strengths and weaknesses of their children, thus, they are the best sources to guide to them toward a coherent path to attain their destination. This research is mainly focused on the role of parents in pupil academic activities in secondary level courses and for this purpose, the researcher had designed a questionnaire containing 150 respondents. The tables given below contain the responses of the respondents which were then put through the SPSS for more refined and reliable results. Given this factor, the results of the tables prove that the parents in Quetta do care about the education of their children and they maintain a check on the activities of their children which helps them understand the nature and interests of the children.

Keywords: Parents, Pupil, Academic, Secondary level, Career, Teachers, Schools, Education

¹M.Phil. Scholar, Department of Balochistan Study Centre, University of Balochistan, Quetta Pakistan

²Abdul Qadoos, Lecturer, Institute of Education and Research (IER) University of Balochistan Quetta Pakistan

Introduction:

There is no denying the fact that the parents are the role model for their children. Children not only learn the social and religious etiquettes, but they develop certain skills and habits associated from their parents. Whether the children go to the wrong path or come to the right track, all is inextricably associated to the parents (Atiq,2014).

If the parents are concerned about their children and do their utmost to ascertain a bright future for their children, the latter will have a brilliant and bright future, but if the parents are totally negligent toward the activities of the children at home or outside, the children may engage in wrongdoing (Asad, 2016).

It means that they are the victims of this negligence by the government and other educational institutions and they want reforms at least for career counseling where forums should be made to guide the students and there must be other pertinent measures. The parents in Quetta know their duties toward their children, but as a matter of concern, Quetta is still much behind other provincial capitals of Pakistan in terms of facilities and standards (Alisha, 2013).

The media can better highlight the issue and can better perform the career counseling. For this reason, educational debates, programs over varying subjects with their scope and opportunities (Farooq, 2012).

Even if the parents do their utmost to guide their children, the school teachers are not cooperative and the government is not responsive to the growing necessities of the students, the children cannot establish their future on strong grounds. In other words, the responsibility of the students is the responsibility of the teachers at schools and the responsibility of the parents at home (Afsar, 2014).

There are various methods to involve parents in the education related to their children. These series starting parent contacts towards school and training of parents to involve them in policy making. According to researchers the involvement of parents in schools of their children comes into five wide categories (Khan, 2009).

Involvement of the parents in the education process of their children is crucial because by doing so they can understand the weak and strong areas of their children which will in return help them work on their interests and career planning. Without knowing the strengths and weaknesses of the children, the parents will not be able enough to guide them in the best manners.

These categories need to be focused such as; the activities of reading (to know that how good their children are at reading), education during discussions (the parents must know that how good their children are when it comes to debates and discussions), Provide ideas and suggest activities at home (the parents must suggest and guide their children wherever they find any weakness, Agreement among parents as well as teachers (related to reward or punishments which is important to encourage or inspire the children toward the studies), Methods to promote tutoring abilities of parents (the parents must improve their tutoring abilities so the children can find the best teachers in the shape of their children (Khan, 2013).

The association of guardians is shifting from custom to convention and network to network. The investment may be of various kinds and which may impact the scholastics identified with their kids' execution. The desires for guardians had a bigger effect learning results of the understudies. the contribution of guardians incorporates the exercises, for example, supporting their kids in perusing, urge their youngsters to finish their schoolwork independent from anyone else, screen their kids exercises inside just as outside of their home, and whenever required they should give training classes to improve their kids' instruction in the required subjects (Bilquees, 2004).

The association of guardians at the degree of rudimentary schoolings is engaged in many research thinks about. The investigations led on the guardians of auxiliary level understudies communicated the essentialness of parental interest in improving instructive accomplishments of their kid (Andy, 2010).

The two enormous degree of concentrates that have been directed shows blend outcomes identified with the perspectives on guardians concerning their inclusion in school. As per a national report led by scientists demonstrates that around 50% guardians in the midst of offspring of sixteen or more seasoned years old are not worried about their youngsters' schoolings while different specialists

found that the guardians want to include. On a national scale the auxiliary just as secondary school advancement is engaged as disturbing (Afzal,2010).

The failure of NGO's in Motivating Parents about Children's Education:

The reason why the NGO's have been mentioned in this article is because hundreds of NGO's are working in Quetta with the primary aim of promoting the standards of education in the province. Given this fact, the NGO's must have dealt with all the major problems of the people of Quetta which also include the parents' role in educating their children. In this regard, the NGO's have utterly failed to bring any significant change in the mindset of the parents with regard to the higher education of the children (Hoodbhoy, 2009).

Now complexity is here about funding of NGOs from government. Rural support programs, education programs in urban and rural areas and small other projects have support from local and international NGOs. According to United Nations 38% NGOs are funded by government and low funding is in Balochistan province approximately 60% NGOs are not getting any kind of helping form government (Bangulzai, 2015).

This huge amount of fund helps government to help the NGOs to work for social welfare of society. Currently in Pakistan NGO's are supposed to help the Afghan refugees to return to their country and supporting the society which is affected due to insurgent or militant brutal attacks (Shah, 2011).

Beside this, the NGO's like Alif Ailaan are working to upgrade the quality of education in Balochistan, but they have failed to register any progress in motivating the parents. Those parents who educating their children with every possible sacrifice, they are inspired from either the civil society or their family heritage, but not from the NGO's (Shah, 2011).

Parents, Academic Activities of the Children and Career Counseling:

The role of the parents in the career counseling is equally imperative as is the role of the teachers. If the parents are keeping in touch with the progress of the children at schools and keeping a vigilant watch over the activities of the children at homes, the parents can easily decide that what should be the possible discipline their children will be interested in and will be able to make a bright future in (Woolley, 2006).

If the parents are not aware of the interests of the children and they are neglecting the academic activities of the children, the children will face enormous problems in their higher secondary education as they will not be able to decide anything about their future and this ambivalence of the future is potentially dangerous for the students.

Sometimes the parents impose their own on the students while ignoring the interests of the students outright. This is the key reason that pushes the students to quit their courses of choice and move to the course of the choice of parents. Now the reason that why they do not move to any other field and they opt for course of the choice of parents is obvious from two factors (Ullah, 2011).

First, the students are not provided the economic ground to make their decisions as they are heavily reliant on their parents and they have to cling with the subjects of their parents' choice. Secondly, the parents have not given their children enough time during their academic activities and are totally ignorant of the choice of the students.

Social environment is the most important factor in encouraging and discouraging students to opt for and cling with a particular subject for specialization of the career. The social gap, economic gap and education qualification gap between the rural and urban areas is also a big reason and a big problem for student confusion.

However, in the case of Quetta, the parents are more responsible in this regard as they communicate on regular basis with their children on certain topics pertaining to their education and their future or in

other words about their career. These discussions are indirectly an indication of career counseling. (Tams, 2007).

The Students at Secondary Level and The Role of Parents in Guiding Them to Adjust in The Environment:

Students migrating from poor backgrounds when come to advanced areas, they turn frustrated for the economic and social gap which is between them and the urban elite. Strong nerves and bold decisions are not a matter found in every student. Here comes the role of the teacher at school or college to boost confidence among the students and without the support of the parents at home, the students can never come out of this frustration (SPARC, 2004).

Changes in career decisions instantly under pressure from social constraints like urbanism and elitism are a great problem the students at varying schools and colleges of Baluchistan in general and Quetta in particular are facing.

Therefore, the students need to be guided by the schools and colleges at the earliest of their admissions or even before the admissions so they must not take wrong and career damaging decisions. The overall fate of the nation depends on the true judgment, well thought planning and successful careers of the students (Akbar, 2015).

Table 1

Sr. Statements.	Yes		No	
	F	%	F	%
1. Do you know your child 13 favorite subject? 8.7?	137			91.3
2. Do you know your child 39 favorite teacher? 26.0?	111			74.0
3. Do your children share with 16.7? you his/her school activities?	125	83.3		25
4. Have you provided time for your 9.3? child to do his her homework?	136	90.7		14

The objective of the article is 'To explore the role of parents in pupil academic activities in secondary level courses' and the above given tables were also made in accordance with the objective. The questions were intended to explore the role of the parents and the results of the tables exactly show that the role of the parents in the academic activities of the children is highly pivotal in defining their career.

In the frequency portion for the question that the parents know their children's favorite subjects, 137 of the respondents said yes and 13 of them said no. on the other hand, in the percentage portion, 91.3 percent of them said yes and 8.7 percent of them said no. it is a good omen that the parents at least know the favorite subjects of their children. In the frequency portion for the question that the parents know the teachers of their children, 111 of the respondents said yes and 39 of them said no. on the other hand, in the percentage portion, 74 percent of them said yes and 26 percent of them said no. In the frequency portion for the question that children share their school activities with the parents are not, 125 of the respondents said yes and 25 of them said no. on the other hand, in the percentage portion, 83.3 percent of them said yes and 16.7 percent of them said no. similarly, for the question that whether the parents provide time for their children's homework or not, the majority were saying yes they provide time. The parents in Quetta are

quite aware of their children's educational status as they know the teachers of their children which demonstrate the objective of the article that the role of the parents in the educational activities of the girls is undeniable.

7 of the respondents showed strong disapproval over the parents-teachers meetings and 9 of them only disagreed. The neutrality ratio was 1 who could not decide to respond. 58 of the respondents showed their moderate agreement and 75 of them gave their strong approval to the debated question. 3 of the respondents showed strong disapproval that the parents must not check their children's homework and 7 of them only disagreed. The neutrality ratio was 1 who could not decide to respond. 26 of the respondents showed their moderate agreement and 113 of them gave their strong approval to the debated question.

The objective of the article was to explore the role of the parents in academic activities of their children and the results of the tables have proven that. The majority of the respondents were of the view that the parents must check their children's homework and observe the remarks of the teachers which shows that the objective of the article has been achieved. The respondents exactly told what the objective had intended which is to establish a link between the parents and the academic activities of the children. The majority of the respondents were of the view that the children get pleased when they see their parents at schools coming on the parent teacher meeting which again is the attainment of the objective that the growing role of the parents in the education of their children can assist them attain a bright future.

Discussion:

Insecurity for a very long time has been the main hindrance in the way of the students to get education, but the parents have broken all the barriers whether they are the social or economic barriers or the ethnic or security related barriers.

They further analyze the elements of school enrollments, completion and learning in Pakistan and analyze that majority who are not enrolled in schools are from the insecure places like Quetta, Swat, Fata and Sindh. Most of the families who have suffered from the insurgent attacks do not want their children to study further.

The bloody attack on the school bus of the Sardar Bahadur Khan Quetta University did discourage many people from sending their children

for higher education in Quetta, the majority of them were for the time being shaken by the attacks, but they stood their ground and did not prevent their children from higher education.

The parents in Quetta have not only been keenly active in encouraging them to get higher education in various disciplines, but also they have kept a vigilant eye on the works and activities of their children. The awareness of the activities of the children at home as well as the schools and to polish the very interests of the students toward a particular profession are the key to the success of the people of Quetta.

Therefore, the ratio of the gender disparity not only in the higher education in the city of Quetta has been reduced, but also the number of female employees in every department and discipline has increased by leaps and bounds.

Furthermore, the role of the mother or just the father as individual is not enough. Both of them have to understand the mindset of their children, especially, of their female children because the boys can adjust with the social environment easily and they can boost confidence in themselves soon, but the real challenge is the adjustment of the female students in the surrounding environment.

It is not only the case of those girls who are living in the hostels, the environment of the college or school itself is a totally different environment where the students from different class or ethnic or religious backgrounds come. The parents have to keep in touch with the students by asking them about their school routines and the parents must regularly meet the teachers to know the academic performance of their children.

Career choice is not an easy task and it cannot be opted overnight, in fact, it needs serious and arduous thinking, experiences and planning then a person comes up a conclusion with a better future plan. The issue of career planning should also be elevated to media level. In the absence of the role of the parents, especially, at the stage of the secondary and higher secondary level, the students can never develop their skills on their own.

There are, no doubt, some parents who are not educated and that they had not experienced any kind of career counseling throughout their education whether that is parental career counseling, the teachers' counseling and guidance, the social environment guidance or the forums of career counseling. If not possible, at least some school or college

institutions must be constructed in the rural areas so that those students who cannot afford to migrate to urban areas for education, they must carry out their future studies in the rural institutions.

Majority of the parents were of the view that financial constraints and lack of development are the most concerning and most serious challenges for a student who comes from a lower or middle class for higher education. The financial constraints are mostly transportation related and infrastructural facilities at the government schools. Therefore, the rich parents get their children enrolled at the private elite schools whereas the poor parents have to cling with the poor facilities on the part of the government. They are not happy with the current subjects they are pursuing and they are not that much optimistic of their career plans with great fears of failure with the given subjects. Once they were asked through the questionnaire that career counseling through media and teachers is a necessity for better and specialized career selection; the students strongly agreed with the solution.

They are those who have the economic potential and capacity to afford higher education in urban areas where the cost of education as well as the cost of life is very high. The bulk of the students do not go to urban areas out of sheer financial constraints and stay engaged in other activities like running shops or working in factories. This majority thus drops out of education once they clear the schooling. Thus, the students are urged to migrate to urban areas and advanced areas to study at the better facilitated schools and college education. However, it must be kept in mind that the students who migrate to urban areas for higher education are only a few in numbers and the parents face more problems in coping with the academic activities of the students.

Conclusion:

The overall results from the tables reveal that the parents in Quetta are quite aware of their children education and they are in touch with the teachers as well. They are fully aware of the academic performance of their children at schools and they are also aware of the activities of their children at home.

Without any shadow of doubt, the role of the parents in examining the academic performance of the students is highly essential, therefore, the parents in the city of Quetta the parents have broken all the barriers

whether they are the social or economic barriers or the ethnic or security related barriers and they have dramatically changed the status of Quetta.

It was palace two decades ago where all the settlers had to fill the jobs because the local people were either not interested in the jobs or they were not skilled enough to get the jobs. However, within a span of two decades, the educational status of the city of Quetta has dramatically changed. The people are accessing more and more education and the female have also jumped in the race of getting employment.

The people of Quetta are more skilled and more energetic and academically their performance is registering significant improvement with the passage of time. All this could never have been possible without the support and guidance of the parents.

The students whose background is from urban areas, they did not really appreciate the importance of academic performance while the students who hailed from a rural background; they not only appreciated the importance of academic performance, but also agreed that frustration is often misleading the students at secondary education level.

Recommendations:

Sometimes the parents impose their own on the students while ignoring the interests of the students outright. However, in the case of Quetta, the parents are more responsible in this regard. The given research suggests forward the recommendation that the teachers in the rural areas must actively take part in the academic activities of the children so they can better judge their children.

Furthermore, the parents, if the father is a government servant or works on the farm fields, must at least take little time to know what their children are doing and how through what factors their studies are affected at schools and homes. The greater the time they give their children; the better results the children will provide. Career counseling program must be held where their students should be invited to participate in open discussions so they learn and understand what is good and which field suits their skills. The media has to come out of sensational journalism and must contribute in educating the public rather than confusing the public. The parents must be encouraged to participate in every school program to understand the academic performance of the students in a more comprehensive way.

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