



Exploring the Impact of Parental Involvement on Students Academic Success: A Case of Secondary Schools in Lilongwe

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ABSTRACT

Impact of Parental Involvement on students' Academic success. The purpose of this study was to explore the impact of parental involvement on their children's achievement. The subjects of this study were parents, students and teachers in Central West Education Division (Lilongwe). the study involved a total of 68 participants who were purposively sampled according to the purpose of the study. Manner of research were questionnaire and interviews. Data was analyzed and coded into patterns using SPSS and Excel. The findings of this study indicate that, as individuals, majority of the respondents were directly involved in their children's learning activities. majority of the respondents agreed that parental involvement is a very important and crucial for their children's achievement. Even though PTA is important there are also some barriers it faces such as lack of communication from the school and lack room for discussion as well as inadequate resources. Even though there are barriers solutions are also there to mitigate the challenges.

1. INTRODUCTION

Parental involvement is an effective strategy to ensure student success (Desmond and Westman, 2018). Parental involvement has many positive effects on students other than academics, including increased motivation, self-esteem, and self-reliance, which may lead to academic success. In essence, parents, siblings, and other significant relatives can create rich learning environments to enhance children's academic development. Traditional forms of parent involvement include participating in school activities (e.g., Parent Teacher Associations [PTA]).

2. Literature review

The involvement of PTAs has greatly impacted on academic success of students as parents seem to be directly involved in their children's education as they offer academic support and motivation. Finally, Luiz (2012) in separate chapters described the current state of parental involvement in schools. The schools believed that the idea of attempting to create room and environment that supports and respect parents. PTAs are playing a pivotal role in academics despite the obstacles and challenges PTAs are continuing to grow in number and strength as parents are feeling an increased sense of solicitation to become involved in their local schools.

THE IMPACT OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Everyone seems to agree that parental involvement in their children's education is a wonderful idea, simply because the challenges which school children face cannot be solved by either the school alone or the family alone. As Henderson (2017) stated, "parent involvement is neither a quick fix nor a luxury; it is absolutely fundamental to a healthy system of public education" (p. 153). Kim and Bowles (2016) found that a child's prospects for future academic success were enhanced by parental involvement in the educational process. They said that parental involvement is the critical factor in the aspirations and achievement of high school students. Marquand (2017) reported that parental involvement in school issues establishes a powerful climate for student learning in school as well as in the home.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

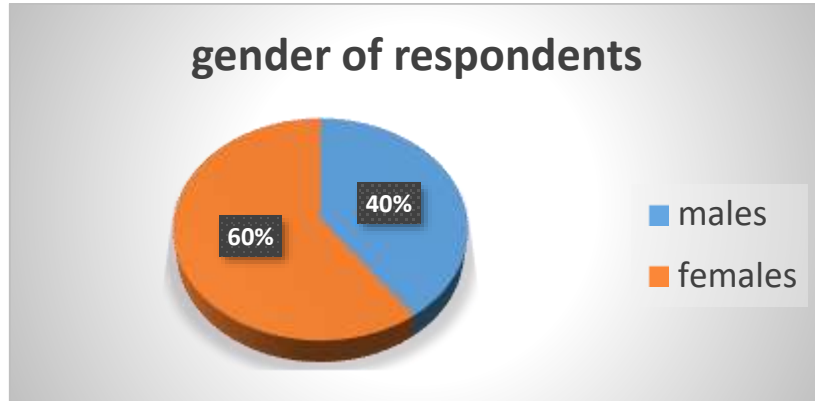
Research Design

The study used both Inductive and deductive approach. Inductive approach uses qualitative research design and is often associated with an interpretative philosophy (Derrick, 2015). Inductive approach starts with observations and theories which are then proposed towards the end of the research process as a result of the observations that have been made (Gerrard, 2020).

Sampling

The study adopted random sampling and purposive. Purposive sampling was used in the study. Joyo (2013:142) describes purposive sampling as “a method of sampling where the researcher deliberately chooses who to include in the study based on their ability to provide necessary data”. The rationale for choosing this approach was that the researcher is seeking knowledge about the participant’s opinion on impact of PTA on students academic performance, only primary stakeholders who were eligible to participate in this study.

4. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION.



Source: Author (2025)

The figure 1 indicates the demographic data of the respondents, the findings indicates that out of a total of 68 respondents 60% of the study respondents were females while 40% were males. The study consisted of more females than males despite having the research free from bias.

Age of teacher respondents

| Age | frequency | Percentage % |
|----------------|-----------|--------------|
| 25-30 years | 8 | 12 |
| 31-40 years | 14 | 20 |
| 41-50 years | 46 | 68 |
| Above 50 years | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 68 | 100 |

The age of teacher respondents was analyzed. The findings revealed that more than half of the teachers (68%) who participated in the study were between the ages of 41 and 50 years, followed by (20%) between the ages of 31 and 40 years, and a small percentage (12%) between the ages of 25 and 30 years. It is important to note that no teacher was above 50 years of age.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of this chapter is to present the summary, findings and recommendations of the study. The main aim of the study was to investigate impact of PTA on students’ academic performance. There is a need to create room for parents participation as they are the ones nurture the children in a world of education through instilling the spirit of education in the children as they motivate and monitor them.

5.1 Conclusion for the Study

The proximate purpose of this study was to investigate the impact of parental involvement on their children's achievement. The present study confirms that parents do play a vital role in providing their children with the values and skills essential to success in school and in later life. Thus, it is important to educate parents to understand the important role they play in the lives. The paper has also outlined some activities which parents are supposed to be involved in just improve the performance of their children. In addition the role of a parent is to be a role model as well as motivate the children and support them academically as they tend to instil the spirit of loving education. More to this, there is a need for institutions to provide and communicate with parents and hear out some ideas from parents on how they can go about with education as a community whilst observing ways of how to eradicate some hindrances parents face of their children and devise a plan for providing parents an opportunity to perceive the effect of their own involvement, which in turn will enhance parental involvement.

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