



# **“The Effect of Parental Involvement on Academic Achievement: A Closer Examination”**

***Priyanka Khongbantabam***

Master's in social work

Kristu Jayanti College Autonomous, Bengaluru

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## **ABSTRACT**

Parental involvement is no secret to having a significant impact on a child's academic path. But not all forms of involvement are created equal. This paper synthesizes findings from several studies to examine how various forms of parental involvement—such as having high expectations, providing emotional support, or assisting with homework—impact student achievement. The results indicate that encouragement and expectation-setting are the most strongly beneficial, but intrusive control or endless homework support may be counterproductive. The benefits of parental participation also vary based on such issues as grade, family situation, and culture. These conclusions will enable policymakers and educators to construct wiser intervention strategies that enhance the academic involvement of both children and their families.

**Keywords:** Parental involvement, academic achievement, expectations, student motivation, education policy

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## **Introduction**

All parents want their child to succeed at school, but the way they assist them makes a difference. Time and again, studies confirm that when parents engage actively with their child's schooling, it results in improved grades. Yet not every type of involvement is helpful. While providing support and high expectations can be really effective, interfering too much—particularly with homework—can occasionally be counterproductive.

So what is the best type of parental involvement? And how do socio-economic status and cultural differences influence these effects? This paper synthesizes results from a number of studies to examine these questions and offer lessons for parents, teachers, and policymakers.

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## **Literature review**

### **1. The Power of Encouragement and Expectations**

One of the best predictors of school success isn't homework assistance or going to school events—it's what parents expect. A large meta-review of research (Wilder, 2014) concluded that when parents discuss high aspirations and have confidence in their child's ability, children perform better. Likewise, moral support—such as discussing school, praising effort, and offering a stable home life—produces the kind of emotional ground that supports healthy development in children (Hanif & Alwi, 2019).

### **2. Financial Support: Help or Hindrance?**

Offering financial assistance—like covering tuition, books, and tutoring—can definitely help. But studies indicate that paying for academic achievement with tangible rewards can have negative side effects. Although it may appear to be an effective incentive, it can at times produce a sense of entitlement instead of actual effort (Hanif & Alwi, 2019).

### **3. The Homework Dilemma**

Most parents believe assisting with homework is the most beneficial way to be involved. Nevertheless, research shows otherwise. In one study conducted by Wilder (2014), parental help with homework proved to have no positive effect—and in a few instances, an adverse effect. Why is that? Parents may unconsciously bring undue pressure, resort to archaic instructional strategies, or intrude too heavily when their child is struggling. This can lower the confidence and autonomy of a child rather than promoting actual learning.

### **4. Cultural and Socio-Economic Differences**

Parental involvement is not the same everywhere. Parental engagement has a greater positive impact on academic achievement in developing nations compared to developed countries (Erdem & Kaya, 2020). It may be attributed to variations in the education system, the quality of teachers, or even

attitudes towards learning. In addition, as children age, parental participation tends to wane—naturally, perhaps, as young people become more self-sufficient, but also perhaps because parents don't know how to best assist their teenager's education.

### **5. A Changing Landscape**

Interestingly, studies indicate that parental engagement isn't as powerful now as it once was (Erdem & Kaya, 2020). Shifts in family life, changing education policies, and increasing student autonomy could be some of the reasons. But this doesn't imply that parental support is irrelevant anymore—it simply indicates the necessity for wiser, more efficient engagement strategies.

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## **Conclusion**

Parents have a significant role to play in determining their child's academic achievement, but the manner in which they do it is important. Encouragement, high expectations, and provision of a good home environment contribute most positively. Excessive control, constant homework help, and over-reliance on extrinsic rewards are sometimes more negative than positive.

Since parental effects differ by culture, grade level, and socio-economic status, the strategies for teachers and policymakers must be ones that empower parents to do what they can do best: offer significant support. The objective should be to create open communication, establish high but achievable expectations, and support autonomy—enabling the kids to gain the confidence to do well in their own right.

In the future, research should continue to investigate the long-term impact of parental involvement and how schools can better collaborate with families in creating the optimal learning environments. After all, education is a collaborative effort, and when parents and teachers collaborate, students are best able to achieve their full potential.