

Parental Involvement – Step Ahead towards Betterment of Children’s Education

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Abstract

Parental involvement is a commitment and active participation of the parent in their children's schooling and education. Most of the parents are very keen about their children's education whereas some other parents want to be involved but they are not having time for it. There are also cases that parents wants to involved but they don't know the way of doing it. However, it is evident that parent's involvement can bring a drastic change in their children's academic growth than compared with that of the uninvolved ones. This articles deals with impact of parent's involvement and uninvolvement in their children's education, barriers for it and the way of improving the involvement.

Keywords: Parents, Children, Involvement and Education

Introduction

Education is a form of learning in which the knowledge, skills, values, beliefs and habits of a group of people are transferred from one generation to the next through storytelling, discussion, teaching, training, and research. Education frequently takes place under the guidance of others. Any experience that has a formative effect on the way one thinks, feels, or acts may be considered educational. It is a systematic process through which a child acquires knowledge, skill and attitude. It makes an individual civilized, refined, cultured and educated. Education makes an individual perfect. Education is the only means for a civilized and socialized society and it is a panacea for all evils. It serves as a key to solve various problems in life.

It is not a wonder that parent involvement with the schools has become a major educational issue now a day. This is an era of increasing concern about the quality of education, academic standards, extracurricular activities, and character building and communication skills. Parents are not concerning about the expenses they are spending on their child's education indeed they want their children to excel in all their endeavours. In addition, parents want assurance that their children will receive adequate preparation to lead rewarding adult lives.

Apart from these needs parents ambition regarding their children's career will reflect in their attitude towards their children's school education. Most of the parent's mind set is to choose the right school so that their children's career will be brightful.

Hence parents give due care for their children's school selection and their education.

Parental Involvement

Most children have two main educators in their lives – their parents and their teachers. Parents are the prime educators until the child attends an early years setting or starts school and remain a major influence on their children's learning throughout school and beyond. Both school and parents have crucial roles to play. Parents are more likely to see a child's education as mainly or wholly their responsibility. Parents believe that they are having equal responsibility with the school. Parents also now participate in a wider range activity with their children. It includes doing school projects together, making things, playing sport and reading.

Impact of Parent Involvement

Parental involvement has a positive effect on children's achievement even when the influence of background factors such as social class and family size have been taken into account.

Decades of research show that when parents are involved in their children's education, then a child will show positive signs of

- Higher grades, test scores, and graduation rates
- Better school attendance
- Increased motivation
- Better self-esteem
- Fewer instances of violent behavior
- Better social responsibility

Even though most of the parents do not know how to help their children in their education, they may involve in home learning activities so that they can find an opportunity to guide, teach and support their children. When schools encourage children to practice reading at home with parents, the children make significant gains when compared to those children who only practice at school.

Moreover, parent's involvement will not only result in higher academic results but also it will reflect in children's attitude, self-confidence, classroom behavior, discipline, extracurricular activities and attendance.

Parental Uninvolvement

Parental uninvolvement refers lack of involvement and responsiveness to their children's educational needs. These parents provide basic needs like food and shelter, join their kid in good school and they will involve in all the activities that are needed for the betterment of their children but they don't involve in their children's education. They don't have regular contact and visits to schools. They don't even attend school events and parent-teacher meetings. However, parents are very affectionate and provide all necessary facilities for their children's education, their involvement matters. Without the parent involvement, the children's school, teachers, friends and syllabus are likely to have meager benefit. The children of uninvolved parents generally perform poor in both academic and extracurricular activities.

Impacts of Parent Un-involvement

Parent un-involvement likely to bring several negative impacts in children's growth and career. In some cases the impact is even worse that it will affect their personal life too. These includes

- Proneness to stress and anxiety
- Detachment from school and family
- Poor academic performance
- Difficulty in establishing and maintaining relationships
- Poorer social skills
- Lack of social interaction
- Unfavourable behavioural change

Barriers to Successful Parent Involvement

Parents sometimes hesitate to involve in their children's school and education due to several reasons. One of the main reason is they think that they don't have fluency in English to communicate with teachers. These parents may want to be involved, but they don't know how to be involved.

Some parents believe that they are not always welcomed in school because of their own education history. They often have a dissatisfactory experience with their own schooling. Therefore, they don't like to go for their children's school.

Some parents may be highly stressed about work or other family responsibilities. They don't have enough time to spend for teaching home work for their children, playing with them, meeting their children's teachers and even visiting schools. So they are thinking that it's a duty of the teachers and school to look after their children's education.

Some parents are unaware of the important skills that a children need to acquire prior to kindergarten. These skills provide the foundation for learning in elementary school. So they hesitate to go for schools as they were thinking that they will be blamed for this.

Only few parents understand school administration. The rest of them are unaware about the hierarchy, rules, regulations and procedures followed in their child's school. They don't even know whether their children's school is comparatively good with the other schools in their locality.

These barriers hinder the parent to get involved in their children's education and school. Whatever the reason may be parents uninvolvement will likely to bring several negative impacts in child's personal and school life.

Ways to Enhance Parent's Involvement

There are several strategies and practices to enhance parental involvement. The following strategies can be effective for increasing parent involvement.

The parents can have conversation with their children's teacher at least once in three months to find out how their children are doing in school. They can do it at least through phone or email. If they go in person, it will be better.

At the end of academic year parent get to know whether their children are meeting their standards in both academic and extracurricular activities.

Parents who are working can spend the weekend or evening hours to meet teachers and school officials for discussion.

Parents whose children get fail marks can seek the help of teachers so that they will guide them to teach their kids in home.

The schools have to think about this issue to help parents to participate fully in their children's education.

By following these ways, the parents can involve themselves in their children's education and they can find them attached with their children's school and teachers. This will not only improve the children's academic performance but also brings several positive signs in their personal life too.

Conclusion

Every parent wants their children to excel in academics. It is only in their hands to mould and shape their kids future. They need to spend few hours for their children daily and they have to interact with them regarding their teachers, friends and their school environment. They need to sit together while doing home works, projects, reading and preparing for exam. This will not only enable them to show high academic performance but also increases their confidence level and emotional stability.

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