

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MOTHER'S EDUCATION AND STUDENT'S ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AT UNIVERSITY LEVEL

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to investigate relationship between mothers' education and students' academic achievement at university level. On existing literature, it was assumed that mother education would have significant correlation with students' academic achievement at university level. This study based on correlational research design. All the university students from Karachi city are considering as population. The sample of this study consisted of 152 university students (including 62 male and 90 female students). Further stratification represents 72 from public and 80 from private universities. Data was collected from both public and private universities located in city of Karachi-Pakistan. Descriptive and correlational statistic was applied to measure relationship between mothers' education and academic achievement of students at university level. Findings of this study showed that mother education has positive significant correlation with academic achievement of university students.

Keywords: *Mother's Education, Students' Academic Achievement and University Level.*

INTRODUCTION

In era of globalization and revolution, education is measured as a vital and most powerful variable for human development and betterment. According to Battle and Lewis in 2002 education is accepted as fundamental element for human wealth which is directly connected with a human success and better standard of living. In modern age education is one of the core factors which makes difference among developed and underdeveloped countries or societies. For economic and social growth of any country, stake

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holders including teachers and parents are continuously making efforts to highlight the role of education and increasing literacy rate. In 2002, Edwards indicated that teachers, guardians / parents, and lawmakers are consistently making arrangement for state funded education framework which will ultimately results in improved youth with a quality education.

Whereas, academic performance of youth is considered as one of the universal vital themes. Stakeholder always showed keen interest to investigate the pro-active and protective elements behind academic performance of students. Mann (1985) stated that the analysis of such factors can be traced back in seventeenth century. According to Crosnoe, Johnson and Elder (2004) these elements might be named as student's factors, family factors, scholarly institutions factors and friend factors etc. Among family factors parental education is considered as one of the prominent factors which has significant relationship with students' academic achievement.

Engin and Demir (2009) has expressed that youngsters with educated parents /guardians are in an ideal situation as they grasp their educational needs. Parent-child relationship demonstrates significant solidity over time. Youngsters' associations with their mothers normally influence their improvement more than father-child connection. Wintre and Yaffe (2000) find out that fathers' education and mothers' education as a predictor for GPA of post-secondary education. They concluded that father's education was an interpreter for boys' GPA and mother's education was the predictor for girls' GPA at college education. Fantuzzo and Tighe (2000) and Trusty (2000) stated that the mothers are more likely helpful their youngsters in their academic works and take more interest than fathers. Similarly, mothers' education always seems to be a strong influenced variable on children academic achievement. Educated mother has more competencies to educate her offspring especially at higher level of education. Mother education is also correlated with positive childhood development and also serves as predictor of the higher academic achievement. In 2005 Krashen discussed that the learners whose mothers are educated show higher standardized scores than those whose mother were not educated.

Regarding higher education, universities play a vital role in education, research, technology and professional training for jobs and

development of personalities. Universities are being viewed as a key institute bringing social change. In the entire cycle of academic life, higher education is an important stage. In 1999 Butlin illustrated that the advanced education is a main factor for economic improvement and for accomplishment of individual financial needs. Role of mother education in academic achievement of students in school or colleges are widely highlighted but this theme among university students has been rarely addressed specially in Pakistani context. Unfortunately, Pakistan is among those countries where literacy rate is very low. According to the Pakistan Economic Survey 2019 literacy rate of women is hardly around 48% which far behind from other countries or societies. Role of mother education cannot be denied improving the quality of academic achievement of students. Few researchers had indirectly uncovered this prime theme but there is dire need for more. Among these researchers like Aslam and Kingdon (2010) have stated that more educated mothers have healthier children. Whereas, Andrabi, Das and Khwaja (2009) found that educated mothers in Pakistan spend more time in educational activities with their children at home. Considering the importance of the current theme and existing literature gap this study was initiated which will serve as an opening gate for future researchers. Beside that implications of this study will be fruitful for policy makers, parents, teachers, students and other concerns authorities.

RATIONALE OF STUDY

With an expansion in innovation, globalization and statistic, the role of advanced education is expanded as it's viewed as the fundamental contributor and will addition with an increase in the rate of economic improvement in a society. This fundamental contributor has not been given due weightage in Pakistani educational researches; this study would fill the gap. In 2002 Corwyn and Bradley exposed that mother's education had the steadiest direct effect on children's psychological outcomes. Moreover, learners' psychological aptitudes, grades, and educational achievement are firmly connected to their mother's level of education. This phenomenon (i.e. role of mother education in academic achievement of learner) has been well established but scientific evidences in a form of researches have been overlooked comparatively. The current research aimed to uncover this tie. Thirdly role of mother education in academic achievement among university students has been rarely highlighted across the societies, so this study would also fill out

literature gap on this prime theme. As the implication of such study would be multi-dimensional and long lasting so present study would be beneficial for different stakeholders.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Education is essential components for human development. No nation can achieve advancement without taking keen interest in educational growth. Education does not improve individuals' efficiency, but it also serves vital role in advancement of societies. In this progression many important variables serve as mediators and parental education is one of them. Universally it has been widely reported that educated parents provide better and supportive environment to their offspring. Specifically educated parents create academically enrich home environment which play vital role in academic performance of their children. A review by Campbell, et al., (1999) revealed that students who exposed higher parental educational levels tended to have higher standard score. Researchers like Zhan (2005), Yamamoto (2007) and Yamamoto and Holloway (2010) reported that less educated parents are not as much ready to perform active academic participation in their youngster's academic activities. Moreover, such parents feel uncomfortable with interacting teachers about their children's academic happenings. In one study parental educational attainment was reported to be positively related to reading and writing scores of the learner (Young & Smith, 1997). Researchers in past also reported that parental education was strongly correlated to students' academic achievement (Mullis & Jenkins, 1990; White, 1982; Gruca et al., 1989).

Among parental education mother's education is seen more effective than father education. Grolnick and Slowiaczek (1994) stated that fathers' education was not found to be a significant effect on parental academic involvement. Fathers are less likely to be involved in academic activities of children then mothers and generally mothers spend more quality time with their child at home. Researchers pointed that the leaners whose mothers were educated gets higher achievement positions than those who had less educated or illiterate mothers.

In 1989 Engelhard discovered that mother's education influencing academic performance in children of both boys and girls. Some other researchers also supported that mother education is positively correlated with youngster's educational attainment also (LeVine, 1980; Stevenson

& Baker, 1987; Youniss & Smollar, 1985). Muola in 2010 also cited that maternal education has both a direct and indirect effect on student educational attainment. Mothers' education related in a general sense with educational achievement. High educated mothers are more likely to consider the nature of the nearby schools while choosing an area in which to live. When their kids enter a school, educated mothers are additionally more likely to focus on the nature of their youngsters' education and may endeavor to guarantee that their kids are satisfactorily attended. By involvement in parent-teachers' meetings and volunteering at school, they may urge staff to take care of their youngsters' individual needs. Educated mothers are more involved in their children's academic achievement because they thought that they are enough capable in assisting their kids in their academic performance. Shumow et al. 2004 stated that parental involvement is positive co related with their educational status. Mothers who are increasingly qualified and have higher self-respect have children who get higher test scores (Baharudin & Luster, 1998, Eamon, 2005). Highly educated parents/guardians can likewise utilize their social wealth to develop their youngsters' improvement. In many investigations, mothers' education has been recognized as the single most grounded associate of youngsters' accomplishment in academic career (Daouli, Demoussis, & Giannakopoulos, 2010; Falaye & Adams, 2008; Englund, Luckner, Amy & Egeland, 2004; Houtenville & Conway, 2007).

Importance of youngsters' education in nation' life is not unfolded. There are many factors correlated with student's academic achievement at university level. It is need of the time to sort out the connected variables. Amongst all variable's mothers' education is one of the most concern factor related to youngster's academic achievement. Although lots of work have done on co related variables at primary and secondary level, but at higher level there is lack of research. It is expected that this research would help out in opening the door of thoughts, views and judgment for policy makers, students' teachers' parents and stakeholders, and it will set light to improve academic achievement at university level in future.

RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS

After detail literature review it was hypothesized that "there would be significant correlation between mother education and academic achievement of the university students".

METHOD

Participants

The study used correlational research design. The sample of the study was 152 students consisting 62 male and 90 female students from public and private sector universities located in Karachi-Pakistan. Data was collected from public and private universities. From public sector universities 72 students were selected and from private sector universities 80 students were selected through convenience sampling technique. In further stratification 110 students were from graduation level and 42 students were from master level. Age ranged of the participants was 20 years and above. Participants belonged from different socio-economic background.

Measures

This study aimed to explore relationship between mothers' education and academic achievement among university students. Status of Mother education was measured by using students' self-reported demographic information in which status of mother education was divided in eight categories such as illiterate, primary, matric, intermediate, graduate, masters, MPhil / PhD and any others. Student's academic achievement at university level was measured by their self-reported current academic result. Although student's past academic grades were also considered while calculating their academic achievement. Moreover, researcher also developed a questionnaire to evaluate the following demographic aspects of students. Demographic information was collected through variables of gender, age, qualification, year/semester and residence articles etc.

Procedure

For data collection participants were approached through their respective academic institute. Research objectives were explained to those authorities and all necessary measures were provided. After getting permission from authorities of these institutes, participants were approached through their class teacher. Data was collected in a group form. Initially rapport was established by introducing researcher and research objectives. Confidentiality was assured and participants were informed that their participation would be voluntarily, and they can withdraw at any stage of research. The estimated time of the administration of the measures was also told. Those participants who agreed to participate their formal written consent were also taken. Then

demographic form along with questionnaire was distributed. During administration of measures if any concern was raised from the participants, it was answered in objective way. Throughout data collection and administration phase medium of instruction was kept constant. It was assured that classroom in which data was collected should be free from interruption and noise. It was also assured that no presence of academic institute authority and class teacher. Participants were also informed that they can approach researcher in case of in query or feedback. At the end of data collection participants and authorities were thanked for their cooperation.

Scoring and statistical analysis

All those forms which were partially filled or unfilled were discarded. Scrutiny and scoring of all filled forms were done through pre- determined method set by the researcher. Descriptive statistics and Pearson Product Movement Correlation was applied to calculate results using SPSS (latest version).

RESULT

The results of present study reveal that the mother education is significantly co related with the academic achievement of students at university level.

Table 1: Frequencies and percentages of variables of students' data

Variables		F	%
Gender	Male	62	40.8
	Female	90	59.2
University Type	Government	72	47.4
	Private	80	52.6
Qualification	Graduation	110	72.4
	Masters	42	27.6
Mother education	Illiterate	17	11.2
	Primary	13	8.6
	Matric	18	11.8
	Inter	28	18.4
	Graduation	52	34.2
	Master	24	15.8

Table 2: Descriptive Statistics of Mother Education and Academic Achievement

Variables	N	M	SD
Mother Education	152	11.14	4.907
Academic Achievement	152	70.13	6.880

Table 3: Correlation between Mother Education and Academic Achievement

Variables	Academic Achievement	
Mother Education	r	344
	Sig.	000
	N	152

DISCUSSION

The findings of this study (table 3) endorsed existing literature and our hypotheses regarding significant correlation between mother education and student academic achievement at university level has been accepted ($p > .05$). Few possible reasons can be mentioned for our result pattern.

First possible reason for our result could be mother supplementary influence on youngsters. As family is considered one of the important influential factors in youngster life and mother is directly attached with their youngsters so the mother influence is certain. The environment provided by mother, impact the youngsters' every aspect of life. Educated mother can provide a suitable learning environment to their young learners which can improve their academic achievement at higher level. Mothers can, for instance, exchange their convictions and qualities to their youngsters and give warmth and fondness just as control, direction and discipline. They additionally can take part in instructive exercises with their kids and use assets to make a subjectively stimulating home condition. Consequently, the family has been recognized as a significant unique condition where parent-child communications can significantly affect youngster's improvement from earliest stages to puberty (Bronfenbrenner, 1986). Inside the family condition, the role of mother education 'educational attitudes and practices on youngsters' academic achievement has been very abundantly

recorded (Eccles et al., 1997; Brook-Gunn, Klebanov, & Duncan, 1996; Brook-Gunn & Duncan, 1997; Hoff, 2003; Eccles, 2005).

Second possible explanations for our result pattern might be problem solving ability of mother. Problem solving approach is another quality which may leads to words better academic results. Illiterate mothers are reported that generally they don't know about the educational difficulties in depth, so they can't able to help their young learners to solve their academic problems. While educated mothers are commonly, more equipped because their concepts are cleared regarding different issues of education. Educated mothers are reported to guide their youngsters to solve their academic problems which may ultimately boost their offspring academic achievement. In addition, it is usually observed that educated mothers have awareness about the existing system of education because they were the part of that. So, in return educated mothers may spend quality time with their youngsters which added their academic achievements.

Third possible reason for our result pattern is mother support. In 1994 Cutrona et.al. proposed that the youngsters who have suitable assistance of their parents are able to overcome academic problems. It is characteristically believed that educated mothers are so concern about the study of their youngsters. They i.e. educated mothers are more keen watch on their youngster's academic performance and put all their efforts to improve and keep up their academic achievement. Wintre, et al. (1995) discovered that the students who have supportive relationship with parents are less likely to depressed and show good academic performance.

Another possible reason for our result pattern is mother level of involvement. It is observed that an educated mother invests assets of energy and money on those exercises that produce academic achievement. This in return may enhance the capability of their youngsters especially in the field of education. Additionally, educated mothers understand more procedure of development of her kids, can realize the different psychological, emotional and physical changes in her youngster's life. She put all her energy to realize, understand and solve different problems of youngsters regarding their social and educational issues and help them in behavioral adjustment. A few significant hypothetical models have been created to clarify the complex pathways by which mothers can have a fundamentally gainful impact on their youngsters' academic achievement

and behavioral adjustment (Bronfenbrenner, 1979 and 1986). Other possible reason for our result pattern is that educated mother develops confidence in her youngsters in account of trust on them. Success begins in the state of mind so; trust on self can lead to the better academic achievement especially at higher level. Educated mother identifies potential and ability her youngsters and treat them according their needs. Confidence provided by mother would one even able to label oneself a “good” (Wigfield & Asher, 1984; Alexander & Entwisle, 1988; Schneider & Coleman, 1993).

CONCLUSION

On a basis of this study results, it can be concluded that mother education has positive and significant correlation with academic achievement of Pakistani university students. There is possibility that educated mother generally provide supportive environment, enhance confidence of youngsters and may understand all their social, psychological problems as compare to uneducated mothers. For our result pattern further studies are recommended which will help researchers to comprehend this theme in a broader way.

LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Present study has some limitation, if in future it will overcome, results of upcoming studies will be more fruitful for students, teachers, parents and stakeholders.

The first limitation of the study is that it is only focused on university students, primary and secondary levels were not included in this study. So, it is recommended that other students i.e. primary, secondary and higher secondary level should be included in future researches which will provide broaden picture on this theme. Second limitation of that in current study was incapable to address uneducated mothers. Extending it to uneducated mothers will open the new entrées of thoughts, views and judgments. Third limitation of the study was that only mother education was kept in view. It is suggested that father education should also count in future researches. By doing so results may provide better comprehension of relationship pattern between parental education and academic achievement of youngsters. Another limitation of this study was that academic performance of students was measured through self-reported method mention in questionnaire. Other parameters for measuring academic achievements of the university students should be included in

future studies. In last sample size of the current study was small; in future enlarging sample size and extending data collection to other cities of Pakistan will offer enhanced generalizability.

IMPLICATIONS

The analysis of the current study highlighted that level of mother education has significant influence on youngster's academic achievement at university level. Therefore, there is dire need that government and education policy makers should take measures to increase women's literacy rate. By giving positional importance to mother education will results in progressive, youth, society and ultimately better nation.

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