



Educate the Parents to Educate the future of India

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Performance, Attitude, Involvement, Motivation, Literacy

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ABSTRACT *Along with other factors education level of parents also influence the academic performance and life skill development of child. Different studies proved that parents who are educated up to degree level are able to motivate their child in better way as compared to parents who not well educated. Education level of parents decides many factors such as socio-economic status of family, availability of resources, involvement of parents with children, attitude of family toward education, relationship of child among family and in their social group, quality of schooling and behavioural development etc. These factors directly or indirectly impact child learning and their growth. Educational activities of parents such as reading, writing, visiting museums and libraries, collecting books etc. adds learning experiences of child. These experiences act as a motivational force for child which leads to better performance. Highly educated parents have ability to utilise the resources in better way for child wellbeing. It is observed that child whose parents are not well educated, develops behavioural problems and addiction to alcohol, drugs and tobacco etc. Such types of children are generally develops introvert personality and have more chances of being attracted toward crime. A clear policy is required from Government to enhance the educational level of parents which will ultimately have positive effect on literacy percentage of nation.*

Introduction:

In India we find diversity in each and every field of life not only on social, cultural, and economical basis but also on the basis of educational level of individuals. Educational level is interlinked to number of variables such as genetic traits, quality of schooling, availability of resources, socio-economic status of family and surroundings etc, beyond the innate abilities of child. Due to these reasons two students studying in same class by same teachers provided with similar resources perform differently on issue of academic achievement and school outcomes.

Studies have shown that education level of parents have more impact as compared to facilities and resources provided to them (Shepherd J. and Stevens J. 2010). Education level of parents decides the attitude of family towards Education. It is also seen that parents with higher education are more concerned about their child and spent more time with their children as compared to time spent by parents of low education level, although the opportunity cost of time for parents who are more educated is much higher to those who are comparatively less educated (Guryan J. et. al. 2008). This study also proved that highly educated parents accept that time spent by them in educational child care is more interesting and satisfactory as compared to time spent in other leisure activities.

Discussion:

Question arises that why parent's level of education influences the child learning outcome and all round development. It is because during initial phase of development child spent maximum time with their family members especially mother. Image of parents once formed in the minds become role model for them. It is common observation that child of a Doctor want to become Doctor and child of an Advocate want to become Advocate in future. In process of growth when he comes in contact with the outside world his or her approach toward future and their role model may or may not change.

A research carried out by Essex University Institute for

Social and Economic Research revealed a strong link between number of books a family own and how will their child perform in Math test. It means that family members such as parents and siblings have direct impact on child learning process. In England children whose parents have more than 100 books have 4.7 times more chance of achieving higher results in examinations. For Scotland this figure is 5.6 and for Australia and Canada it is 2.9 (Shepherd J. and Stevens J. 2010). It means that difference in environment of home created due to the high Education level of parents really matters.

Parent's education not only affects school outcomes of child but it also has indirect impacts on physiological, social and intellectual development of child. Better educated parents are themselves involved in studying and reading activities and often it is seen that they are also socially more active. It automatically acts as motivating force for child, such children develops vocabulary, language and communication skill much earlier as compared to other children whose parents are not well educated.

Article published in London review of Education pointed that children learn by experiences often through observations at home. If child parents are involved in reading books and attending museum and libraries and taking children along with them, they are engaging their children indirectly in number of learning experiences that will certainly enhance their abilities and success (Eccles J. 2005).

Consequences of low Education level of parents:

Low Education level of parents leads to number of problem in child which can be categorised as follows –

- **Low Socio –Economic status of the family:**

National centre of children poverty report 2007 established that parent with low education level earn low income normally. It affects structure of their social group. Generally better educated parents have educated friends and society which have positive impact on child.

- **Less involvement with child:**
Parents who are not well educated with lower income have to work for more hours. Due to this they find less time to spend with their child. It ultimately result child mental and emotional development.
- **Lack of resources:**
Families where parents are less educated suffers from scarcity of resources. Even they cannot fulfil the basic needs of children. If family income is really very low then child may have to leave their education. To meet the demands of family they either start low salaried job or enter in to the world of crime.
- **Negative attitude about Education:**
Parents with low education level generally has negative attitude toward Education. Due to lack of awareness they are not able to understand the importance of Education in life of an individual.
- **Unhealthy relationship among family members:**
Due to several family problems and inability to solve those problems such child develops unhealthy relationship with their Parents and Siblings. Such type of child does not have acceptability in their social groups.
- **Discrimination against females:**
Condition of women and girl child is even worse in families where Education level of parents is on lower side. Female members of such families have very limited chance for their personal development and educational upliftment.
- **More chance of being involved in crime and addiction:**
Child who do not find positive environment in family and their surrounding have more chances of being involved in crimes and addicted to alcohol, drugs, tobacco etc.
- **Lack of motivating factor:**
Child whose parents level of education is low have low motivation level, as a result their performance is affected in their peer group. It is also observed that these children develop introvert personality.
- **Low expectation level:**
Expectation level of such parents from child is very low because their involvement with the child is not enough to develop high expectancy and exert required pressure on their brains for better performance.
- **Quality of schooling:**
Quality of schooling is also affected directly through attitude of parents toward Education. It is observed that parents whose Education level is comparatively higher keep Education of children on top priority. They are always ready to pay more money on fees, books, technology and other facilities which directly indirectly effects child learning.
- **Behavioural problems:**
Child whose family members including parents and siblings are not educated has more chances of developing behavioural problems. Such children are generally more aggressive as compared to other children.

Suggestions:

In spite of expending big percentage of budget on Education, quality of Education in country is very unsatisfactory. Even many individuals who come under the category of literate cannot read and write properly. Government never emphasised on changing attitude of community and parents toward Education. Education movement can only speed up when it find favourable environment from school, parents and child. High education level of parents can really act as a positive factor for academic achievements of children. Here are few suggestions which can be helpful in uplifting Education level of country quantitatively as well as qualitatively –

- Education up to graduation level must be made free for every citizen of country so that potential parents of future can be educated. If not possible for all then at least girls must be provided free education up to graduation because they have to play the role of mothers in future and mother is the first teacher of child.
- Adult Education Programme which is now not in priority list of Government, must be made continue especially in rural areas. Help of NGO,s can be useful in this mission.
- In case we find that Parents are not ready for Formal Education due to social and economic reasons then at least they should be provided some kind of Informal Education which will help to bring awareness toward importance of Education in life.
- Teachers must play important role to motivate the child whose parents are not well educated.
- Curriculum of Education must be directly linked to the opportunity for Employment so that parents who are not well educated can also feel the importance of Education.

Conclusion:

From above discussion it is clear that efforts made by Government for making the community literate is not heading in appropriate direction. It is well established fact that Parent's Education influences children learning, beliefs and goals. Parents who are well Educated see the Education with different angle, for them Education is not only ladder for getting employed and earning livelihood, it is essential for learning essential life skills which ultimately proves as a master key for all the hurdles of life.

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