



Importance of Parental Involvement for Students' Academic Motivation

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines how parental involvement contributes to students' academic motivation. The concepts of motivation, students' academic motivation and parental involvement were discussed. It equally discussed the roles of parental involvement in shaping students' academic motivation and the multifaceted challenges hindering effective parental involvement in students' academic motivation and overall learning experience. Time constraints, parental stress and fatigue, a lack of parental education, unavailability of resources and limited access to information were identified as significant obstacles. Recognizing the importance of parental engagement, this paper offers a set of recommendations to address these challenges collaboratively. Proposed strategies include advocating for flexible work arrangements, establishing parent education programmes, ensuring accessible to educational resources, improving communication channels, fostering parent-teacher collaboration, promoting community support networks, integrating technology for real-time updates, and advocating for work-life balance. By implementing these recommendations, stakeholders can work together to create an environment that empowers parents to actively participate in their child's education, ultimately contributing to improved academic motivation, emotional well-being, and a more enriching educational journey for students.

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Introduction

The significance of motivation in the field of education cannot be overstated, as it has a crucial role in forming students' attitudes and methods of learning. Student's academic motivation refers to the internal factors that propel students to engage actively in the learning process, such as a genuine interest in the subject matter, a sense of personal achievement, and the aspiration for academic success, as well as external factors, including the learning environment, teacher support, and peer interactions, that drive and influence a student's desire, effort, and persistence in engaging in academic activities and achieving academic goals (Manzoor et al., 2023). It encompasses the student's beliefs, values, interests, and goals related to their academic pursuits. There are several factors that are likely to influence the academic motivation of students such as goal orientation, self-determination and active engagement amongst others; however, the role of parental involvement can never be overemphasized.

According to Yang et al. (2023), parental involvement refers to the active participation, engagement, and active presence of parents in their children's educational experiences. Parents act as influential figures in shaping a student's attitudes, beliefs, and goals related to academic pursuits. Their engagement can foster a sense of personal achievement and academic success by reinforcing the importance of education. It encompasses a range of actions and behaviours that parents undertake to support and enhance their children's learning, development, and academic success. It plays an essential role in shaping a student's academic motivation by contributing to both internal and external factors. Internal factors may include the values and expectations instilled by parents, while external factors encompass the level of support and encouragement provided by parents throughout a student's educational journey (Chamberlin et al., 2023). When parents actively show interest in their child's learning, provide a

supportive environment at home, and participate in school-related activities, they contribute significantly to the development of positive academic motivations. Therefore, this paper aims to explore how parental involvement contributes to student academic motivation towards learning.

Statement of the problem

The issue of insufficient drive for academics among secondary school students has profound implications for various stakeholders, including parents, teachers, examination bodies, and educational administrators. Despite concerted efforts from parents, teachers, and society at large, a considerable number of senior secondary school students are not achieving satisfactory outcomes, potentially linked to their lack of motivation for learning. The escalating trend of students' not being motivated to learn is observable through various manifestations, such as low engagement in class, incomplete assignments, poor attendance, and procrastination (Dierendonck et al., 2023).

These issues can significantly impact parents who have high expectations for their children's academic achievements. When these expectations remain unmet, parents may grapple with feelings of disappointment and bitterness, potentially leading to shame and regret. This, in turn, may dissuade them from sending their other children to school. Moreover, the consequences of poor academic motivation extend beyond individual disappointment to broader implications for stakeholders, including the government. The misallocation of resources, coupled with emotional and psychological devastation, can result in a diminished sense of self-concept and self-worth among students, fostering the development of an inferiority complex. Several factors contribute to this problem, such as peer influence, ineffective study habits, and insufficient parental engagement, with individual students bearing the brunt of these challenges. In response to these pressing issues, this paper seeks to examine the role of parental



involvement in shaping student academic motivation.

Objective of the Study

The aim of this paper is to examine the role of parental involvement in shaping student academic motivation towards learning. In achieving this objective, the following, which are specific areas of interest in this paper, were addressed

- i. What is students' academic motivation towards learning?
- ii. What is parental involvement?
- iii. What are the roles of parental involvement in shaping students' academic motivation?
- iv. What are the possible challenges to effective parental involvement in their children's academic motivation?
- v. Solution to identified challenges of parental involvement in students' academic motivation

Concept of Students' Academic Motivation

According to Keerthigha & Singh (2023), students' academic motivation refers to the internal or external factors that drive individuals to engage in learning activities, pursue educational goals, and persist in academic endeavors. It involves the desire, enthusiasm, and determination to acquire knowledge, develop skills, and achieve success in an educational context. It is the inner drive to partake in educational endeavours such as studying, completing assignments, and striving towards educational objectives. Additionally, it measures the willingness of a student to exert effort towards a particular objective, considering their confidence in achieving success and the perceived value of the goal (Graciani et al., 2020). Students' academic motivation is the level of drive to attain a specific goal, distinguishing between a focus on mastery and performance. Furthermore, it involves a student's belief in their capability to succeed in a given academic task and the perceived importance of that task in achieving their long-term goals. It highlights how a student's attribution of the causes of their academic success or failure influences their

future motivation to engage in academic activities (Ma et al., 2021). Several key factors contribute to students' academic motivation such as peer influence, personal interest, self-efficacy, goal orientation, but the focus of this paper is on parental involvement.

Concept of Parental Involvement

Parental involvement is a multifaceted concept encompassing the active engagement of parents or guardians in the educational and developmental journey of their children (Ribeiro et al., 2021). It goes beyond the traditional roles of overseeing homework and attending parent-teacher meetings, extending into a spectrum of supportive behaviors. According to Ribeiro et al., 2021, this involvement includes fostering a positive attitude towards learning, creating a conducive home environment for studying, and participating in school events such as meetings and conferences. Volunteering in classrooms, contributing to school committees, and assisting with extracurricular activities are tangible ways parents can contribute to their wards education. Communication with teachers is crucial, providing a platform for the exchange of information about a child's progress and areas for improvement. Moreover, parental involvement extends to emotional and social support, aiding in the overall well-being of the child (Liu et al., 2023). Studies consistently highlight the positive correlation between parental involvement and educational outcomes, emphasizing its crucial role in shaping a child's academic success and personal development. Therefore, this section will discuss parental communication, homework support and parental attendance as indicators of parental involvement.

Parental Communication

Effective communication between parents and educators is a crucial aspect of parental involvement in a child's education. It involves the exchange of information, ideas, and concerns related to the child's academic progress, school



activities, and overall well-being (Maurya et al., 2023). This communication positively influences a child's educational journey in various ways. Regular and open dialogue fosters a collaborative relationship between parents and teachers, centred on the child's needs. Sharing information about the child's strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement enables joint efforts to create a supportive learning environment. This collaboration ensures that parents stay well-informed about their child's academic development, empowering them to offer appropriate guidance and support at home. It's essential to emphasise that effective parental communication should be reciprocal, encouraging parents to share their perspectives and concerns. Teachers, in turn, should be open to parental input and actively involve them in decision-making processes pertaining to their child's education (Octavia et al., 2022). This inclusive approach strengthens the partnership between parents and teachers, ensuring a comprehensive and well-rounded educational experience for the child.

Homework Support

Homework support is a vital element of parental engagement in a child's education, involving parents in assisting, guiding, and providing resources for homework assignments (Gordon et al., 2020). This support has significant positive impacts on a child's academic development. It communicates to children that education is valued, fosters a positive attitude, and instills responsibility. By actively participating in homework assistance, parents reinforce classroom learning, clarify concepts, and contribute to improved academic performance. Additionally, homework support promotes effective study habits and time management skills, essential for long-term academic success (Park et al., 2023). It's crucial, however, to maintain a balanced approach, encouraging independence and self-reliance in children. The goal is to empower them with

problem-solving skills and a sense of ownership over their academic work.

Parental Attendance

Parental attendance involves parents actively participating in school events, conferences, and meetings related to their child's education, representing a significant form of parental involvement with positive effects on a child's educational journey (Hahmann et al., 2023). Attending school events communicates to children that their education is valued and prioritised, contributing to increased motivation, self-esteem, and a sense of belonging within the school community. Moreover, parental presence provides an opportunity for active participation in decision-making processes, allowing parents to contribute insights and perspectives on educational matters, influencing policies and curriculum development. Additionally, parental attendance at school events fosters community-building by bringing together parents, teachers, and students and creating supportive networks that enhance the well-being and success of all children in the school.

Parental Involvement and Students' Academic Motivation

Parental involvement plays a crucial role in shaping students' academic achievement and overall learning experience in ways such as establishing a positive learning environment, regular communication with teachers, supporting homework and assignments, active participation in school activities, and providing emotional support. This will be discussed in this section.

Establishing a positive learning environment at home is fundamental to fostering a child's academic success (Rusticus et al., 2023). Designating a specific study area, free from distractions, provides a dedicated space for focused learning. This area should be equipped with essential materials such as books, stationery, and a comfortable workspace, promoting an organised and conducive atmosphere for studying. By minimising interruptions and



creating a space tailored for academic activities, parents help instill a sense of discipline and focus in their children. Additionally, the home environment should be supportive and encouraging, allowing for open communication about educational goals and challenges. When a child associates their home with a positive and focused learning atmosphere, it contributes significantly to their motivation, concentration, and overall academic performance.

Regular communication with teachers is a crucial aspect of parental involvement that directly impacts a child's academic journey (Malatji et al., 2023). By staying in consistent contact with teachers, parents gain valuable insights into their child's progress, strengths, and areas that may require additional attention. This ongoing dialogue facilitates a proactive approach to addressing challenges and implementing strategies for improvement. Attending parent-teacher conferences further enhances this communication, providing a structured platform for in-depth discussions about the child's academic performance and development. These conferences offer an opportunity for parents and teachers to collaboratively set realistic goals, align educational expectations, and tailor support strategies to meet the unique needs of the student (Al-Hail et al., 2021). Through this partnership, parents become active participants in their child's education, fostering a collaborative environment that ultimately contributes to the child's overall academic success and well-rounded development.

Supporting homework and assignments involves striking a balance between providing assistance and fostering independence in a child's academic endeavors. Parents can offer guidance and support when their child encounters challenges, promoting problem-solving skills and a sense of self-reliance (Taub, 2008). It's crucial to encourage a mindset where the child feels confident tackling problems on their own while knowing that help is available

when necessary. Regularly monitoring and discussing homework assignments allows parents to stay informed about their child's academic responsibilities, ensuring they are completed in a timely manner. This involvement not only reinforces the importance of responsibility and time management but also provides opportunities for parents to offer constructive feedback and celebrate the child's achievements, creating a positive learning experience within the home environment.

Active participation in school activities is a powerful way for parents to strengthen their connection with their child's educational journey. Attending school events, meetings, and activities enables parents to stay informed about the school community and its dynamics. By volunteering for school events or joining parent-teacher associations, parents actively contribute to the positive atmosphere within the school environment (Popovska et al., 2021). This engagement not only demonstrates a commitment to their child's education but also provides an opportunity to collaborate with teachers, administrators, and other parents. Volunteering allows parents to gain firsthand insight into the school's operations, building a sense of community and mutual support. Additionally, being present at school events fosters a strong parent-school partnership, which, in turn, can positively impact the child's academic experience by creating a collaborative and supportive educational environment (Povey et al., 2016).

Parental Investment Model (PIM)

The Parental Investment Model (PIM) is a theoretical framework that explains how parental involvement influences students' academic motivation. PIM posits that parental involvement is a crucial investment in students' educational journey, fostering academic motivation and success. The model comprises three key components: Parental Expectations, Parental



Support, and Parental Communication (Graham, 2001).

Parental Expectations refer to the beliefs and expectations parents hold about their child's academic abilities and future success (Graham, 2001). High parental expectations can motivate students to work harder and strive for excellence (Henderson & Mapp, 2002). Research has shown that parents who have high expectations for their child's academic achievement tend to have children who perform better academically (Fan & Chen, 2001).

Parental Support encompasses the resources, guidance, and encouragement parents provide to help their child navigate academic challenges and develop a sense of competence (Graham, 2001). This support can take many forms, including emotional, instrumental, and informational support (Henderson & Mapp, 2002). Studies have consistently shown that parental support is positively related to students' academic motivation and achievement (Werang, Agung, Jampel, Gading, Jim, Asaloei, & Sianturi, 2024).

Parental Communication refers to the open and regular exchange of information between parents and children about academic goals, progress, and concerns (Graham, 2001). Effective communication promotes a sense of relatedness and shared responsibility, fostering a collaborative approach to academic success (Henderson & Mapp, 2002). Research has demonstrated that regular parental communication is associated with higher levels of student motivation and academic achievement (Epstein, 2001).

According to the Parental Investment Model (PIM), when parents actively invest time, effort, and resources in their child's education, it can have a profound impact on the child's academic motivation and success. This investment can lead to five key outcomes:

- i. Develop a growth mindset and belief in their abilities
- ii. Set higher academic goals and aspirations

- iii. Engage more deeply in learning activities
- iv. Persist in the face of challenges
- v. Experience increased motivation and academic success

In conclusion, the Parental Investment Model highlights the critical role parents play in shaping their child's academic motivation and success. By holding high expectations, providing support, and engaging in open communication, parents can help their children develop a growth mindset, build competence, and achieve academic excellence (Graham, 2001; Henderson & Mapp, 2002). As educators and policymakers, it is essential to recognize the importance of parental involvement and provide opportunities for parents to engage in their child's education.

Challenges to Parental Involvement in their Children's Academic Motivation

While parental involvement is generally beneficial for students' academic success, there are several challenges that may hinder parents from being actively engaged in their wards academics. Such are time constraints, stress and fatigue, lack of education, limited resources, and limited access to information. These challenges are discussed in this section:

Time constraints pose a significant challenge to parental involvement in students' academic motivation (Núñez et al., 2023). In today's fast-paced world, many parents juggle demanding work commitments, household responsibilities, and personal obligations, leaving limited time for active engagement in their child's academic life. Balancing professional and family responsibilities often results in challenges attending school events, parent-teacher meetings, or providing direct assistance with homework. The scarcity of time can hinder the establishment of a consistent and supportive routine that fosters a child's motivation towards learning. Despite their best intentions, parents may find it challenging to allocate quality time for meaningful interactions related to



academics, potentially impacting their ability to understand and address their child's educational needs effectively.

Another factor that can significantly impede the capacity for consistent involvement in a child's academic life is stress and fatigue (Calvano et al., 2022). The pressures of managing work responsibilities, household duties, and personal challenges can leave parents feeling mentally and physically exhausted. In such circumstances, maintaining a consistent and active role in their child's education becomes a formidable task. Stressed or fatigued parents may struggle to provide the emotional support crucial for a child's well-being and may find it challenging to engage in educational activities or discussions effectively. The mental and physical strain experienced by parents can create a barrier to fostering a positive learning environment at home, potentially influencing a child's academic motivation and overall educational experience.

Mijs and Nieuwenhuis (2022) opined that the lack of education or resources among some parents poses a significant obstacle to effectively supporting their child's learning, particularly in the context of evolving academic curricula. As educational methods and subject matter continually evolve, parents without a sufficient educational background may struggle to grasp the nuances of their child's school work. This lack of understanding may hinder their ability to provide adequate assistance with homework or to engage in meaningful discussions about academic challenges. Additionally, limited access to educational resources, such as textbooks or online materials, can further exacerbate this challenge.

Solutions to Identified Challenges of Parental Involvement in their Child's Education

Addressing the challenge of time constraints to parental involvement requires a multi-faceted approach that recognises the complexities of

modern lifestyles (Henderson & Mapp, 2002). Schools can play a role by offering flexible scheduling for parent-teacher meetings and providing alternative methods of communication, such as virtual conferences or email updates (Epstein, 2018). Employers can contribute by promoting a culture that values work-life balance, offering flexible work arrangements, or providing resources for employees with parenting responsibilities (Allen et al., 2015). Additionally, communities can establish support networks, such as parent groups or workshops, where parents can share strategies for effective time management (Hoover-Dempsey et al., 2005). Encouraging a collaborative approach among schools, employers, and communities can help create an environment that acknowledges and accommodates the time constraints faced by parents, allowing them to play an active and meaningful role in shaping their child's academic motivation despite their busy schedules (Wang et al., 2019).

To address the challenge of stress and fatigue hindering consistent involvement in a child's academic life, it is essential to promote strategies that prioritize and support parents' well-being (Amabile et al., 2019). Employers can contribute by advocating for flexible work schedules, remote work options, and employee assistance programmes that address the mental health needs of parents (Gajendran et al., 2018). Schools can implement policies that recognise and accommodate the diverse family responsibilities parents face, ensuring that academic expectations are realistic and manageable (Berkowitz et al., 2016). Additionally, communities can establish support networks, offering resources such as parenting workshops, counselling services, or recreational activities to help parents alleviate stress (Miller, Ghalayini, Arnous, Tossyeh, Chen, van den Broek, Koppenol-Gonzalez, Saade & Jordans, 2020). Encouraging open communication between parents, teachers, and school administrators can also play a vital role in



identifying and addressing specific stressors (Jeynes et al., 2019).

Addressing the challenge of the lack of education or resources among parents requires a collaborative effort from educational institutions, communities, and policymakers (Hill et al., 2016). Schools can implement outreach programmes, workshops, and information sessions designed to empower parents with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate and understand the evolving academic landscape (Gonzalez-DeHass, Willems, & Holbein, 2005). Providing accessible resources, such as online educational materials or workshops on modern teaching methods, can bridge the knowledge gap for parents with limited educational backgrounds (Rodriguez et al., 2017). Communities can establish support networks where parents can share experiences and strategies, creating a collaborative learning environment (Zubiri-Esnaola, Vidu, Rios-Gonzalez & Morla-Folch, 2020). Policymakers can advocate for initiatives that promote parental education and ensure equitable access to resources (Eden, Chisom & Adeniyi, 2024).

Conclusion

In conclusion, parental involvement plays a pivotal role in shaping a student's academic motivation and overall learning experience. However, various challenges, such as time constraints, parental stress and fatigue, lack of education, unavailability of resources and limited access to information, can impede the effectiveness of parental engagement. Recognizing these challenges is essential for educators, policymakers, and communities to develop comprehensive strategies that foster a supportive environment for parents. Flexible scheduling for meetings, promoting work-life balance, offering educational resources, and improving communication channels are crucial steps in overcoming these obstacles. By addressing these challenges collaboratively, stakeholders can create an environment that empowers parents to actively participate in their child's education,

ultimately contributing to improved academic motivation, emotional well-being, and a more enriching educational journey for students.

Recommendations

1. Employers should implement flexible work schedules or remote work options that accommodate parents' responsibilities, allowing them more time to engage in their child's academic life.
2. Establishment of educational programmes at schools or community centers to provide parents with the knowledge and skills needed to support their child's learning, especially in the context of evolving academic curricula, should be provided.
3. Regular communication channels between parents and teachers, including progress reports, online portals, and mobile applications, should be provided by schools to keep parents informed about their child's academic progress and areas that may require attention.
4. Regular parent-teacher conferences to foster in-depth discussions about a child's performance, allowing parents to seek clarification and collaborate with teachers on tailored strategies for improvement, should be encouraged.
5. The establishment of community support networks, such as parenting groups or workshops, where parents can share experiences, strategies, and resources to create a collaborative learning environment should be encouraged.

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