



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN SCHOOL EDUCATION

Dr. Syeda Bushra Hussain Naqvi
Bahauddin Zakariya University
Multan - Pakistan
bushra51214@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This study investigates that civic participation has positive influence on success of students and helps to get best results for students, parents and educators. It brings change in learning behavior, ethnicity and societal actions. These requirements have embraced the perception of parent and civic participation in different way including some part of school governance. The reason of this study was to describe the function and influence of community on educational betterment programs and give a clear picture about the role of parents and other community members. Community participation in education is related to the overall culture of the school. Parents play their supportive role in educational activities that helps to improve the learning skills of students. Recommendations for further research in community-school relationships, training and parent teacher association, preparation for teachers, and the provision of more national and local funds to maintain educational improvement efforts are discussed.

Keywords: *Community involvement, Education, Schools, Multan District*

INTRODUCTION

This study investigates that civic participation has positive influence on success of students and helps to get best results for students, parents and educators. It brings change in learning behavior, ethnicity and societal actions. Community participation in education is related to the overall culture of the school. Parents play their supportive role in educational activities that helps to improve the learning skills of students. Furthermore, the research shows that it is a very critical challenge since community involvement among culturally different societies is positively related to academic achievement. The current research is an attempt to evaluate community involvement in education; a study of schools of Multan district.

Community involvement is defined as the “active, ongoing participation in education to provide the quality education”. To support learning at each age and grade level, society members also involve in school program i.e. curricular activities, co curricular activities.



Education is a process of developing human resources to the maximum extent and enabling the individuals to learn reconstruction of the experiences essential for survival in this era of competition, though all parents, teachers and community members share their experiences for the student's achievement. It is the process of receiving or giving systematic instruction, especially at a school or university.

Civic involvement in education is the enclosure of group of people in institutional decisions, setting up activities, mandate, and other school-linked behaviors. It is also known as public engagement, civic association, or community involvement, Civic involvement is the concept that community members participate in the educational supporting activities. Civic involvement is more than just the involvement of student's mother and father, such as Parent Teacher Association (PTA) or the institutional committee. Civic involvement in education also includes group of people, those living in the area that does not have kids attending the school, but also involve in process of decision making they give a worthless resource that resolve, help, enhance and improve the learning process (Carr,etal.1999)For a good joint venture, teachers must emphasize on different methods by which the institutes can set this engagement. In this type of linkage, the institute and the parents contribute the task for students learning. The association is based on shared values and acknowledgment of the resources and proficiency of every member. As an addition of this joint venture, institutes look at large support from societal side. With the help of involvement of society, institutes results in long lasting, better and enhanced learning. The institutes make and support useful school-people-society partnerships that results in better learning program for all students and provide strength to institutes, families, and societies (Garg,etal.2002).

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Community in education is a broad plan and helpful to understand the learning, entertaining, societal and civilizing values in the society. Education is a process of developing human resources to the maximum extent and enabling the individuals as well as group to learner construction of the experiences essential for survival in this era of competition, though all parents, teachers and community share their experiences for the student's achievement. Parents are naturally devoted to their child, while teachers, schools and the community must consider cultural values, norms, socio-economic issues, attitudes, spiritual power, emotions and feelings of students when making decisions. It is very challenging situation, when parents activist for their child, while school must think deeply regarding stream of demands technicalities, politics and regulations in determining how they communicate, with students, parents and community. Community and parental awareness are described as nonstop preparation involvement, and evaluation of actions that develop the achievement of students. Community and parental awareness is really necessary for the quality education (Wolfendale, 2000).



Dubois (1994) stated that a set of interacting living human beings in a settled location is known as community. In human societies, ideas, belief, resources, privilegens, needs, risks, and a number of other elements may exist and be universal, affecting the personality of the members and their level of communicating. According to sociology, (the society and community is a debatable concept). The meaning of "community" has deep roots in the old French language, *communité* which is taken from the Latin *communitas* (cum, "with/together" + *munus*, "gift"), a wide expression for society or well settled community.

Steps for the Community Involvement

The following procedures provide a sketch for developing a program. The procedures have overlapping features and functions, and make a good action plan.

Approach1. Carry on maximum increased consumption of societal resources and support the free learners for improvement of educational activities. Every community keeps capital in form of human beings, assets and physical assets which can support to change the traditional educational trends. It includes arrangement of visits of educational places, offer different types of coaching, support student-based activity projects, and maintain practical based learning.

Approach2. "Building up learning collaboration between educational institutes and municipal and personal service providers, trade and commerce, many financial and social problems can be made in any society. To cope with them is the serious challenge; in this regard more resources are required. The good association for effective and efficient use of available resources will be helpful to solve the problems such as child care, after-school programs, drug education and treatment, literacy and remedial programs, internships and work-study programs, and career awareness activities" (Ball,1998).

Approach3. Make a plan that enhances long lasting learning. This is known as life time learning process. It includes learning not only in schools but also from the outside of school that is known as informal learning. It supports the improvement of learning programs to meet the needs of current time and latest skills and knowledge. Long lasting learning programs and actions include toddler education, education for youngsters, occupational preparation and programs and spare time activities.

Approach4. "Make a procedure for engaging the society in learning plans and management. The all society members should avail a chance to involve in educational activities. That they can play their role in supporting the learning program, requirements, setting priorities, and allocating resources. The repeated process of planning, evaluating, and changing takes advantage of a basic fact of human behavior: those who participate in planning and decision-making develop feelings of ownership. Encouraging the broadest possible involvement capitalizes on another fact: the greater the number and diversity of people involved, the greater the likelihood that diverse needs



will be met. Involvement opportunities should range from participation in ongoing advisory councils to membership on ad hoc task forces and committees” (Bogenschneider , 1999).

Approach 5. To solve the problems and issues make an approachable society based method to tackle it by all learning and societal groups. The societal issues are sometimes too much complexes and difficult that it requires joint utilization of a large variety of capital (Izzo 1999). The civic involvement has achieved increased attention at world widely and nation widely procedure from last year. This is essential as an conclusion in itself (as a independent right), as well as a way to the attainment of sustainable development and deficiency/shortage mitigation .The awareness in civic involvement has occurred at the same time with an intensified focal point on achieving gender equality in learning, and community participation may be seen as one of the means to achieve this goal.

The major results of civic involvement is the transformation of gender relations, giving permission as the opportunity for female to play role with male in management, for example (Capper 1998). As a means to an end, civic involvement in education is seen as a way to enhance capital, making progress in accountability of schools, making sure a more lucrative use of funds and, importantly, be responsive to societal desires. As an outcome, it helps to develop reasonable right of entry, maintenance, worth and value of education.

1. Community Works in Govt. Girls Comprehensive Higher Secondary School, Multan Providing Water Supply

The water is essential for human being and as well as for plants. Water supply was the most attention able problem in the school. So, the principal far warded the request to the authorities. To solve this problem school faculty and chairman of Tariq Aziz trust Mr. Abdul Rehman provides assistance for water supply within the school premises.

Establishing & Building of Library

Library is the asset for all entities of school that includes teachers, students and instructors. Tariq Aziz trust donated amount for construction of library which is established in 1991, now there are near about to twelve thousand books.

Construction of Classrooms

Classrooms are the fundamental and basic need of student in the school, this problem was faced by numerous students along many years. But in 1991 Dr. Rubina block was constructed that consist of two classrooms and in north portion of school three classrooms were constructed by Tariq Aziz trust.

Making of Shed at Main Gate



Female students felt very inconvenience due to absence of shed at gate. So, the shed was constructed at gate side that facilitates the students and also increases the beauty of front portion.

2. Community Works at Govt. Laboratory Model School Multan

Donation of Electric Water Cooler

As we all know that Multan is famous for its intense temperature in summer that is the cause for the need of cold drinking water anywhere in a city. So this essentiality of life was fulfilled by community member of school (Mr. Zaman Khan.)

1. Community Works at Govt. Girls High School no.2 Multan

Provides assistance to the needy students & spending money for welfare of student.

The making water pipe line & water tank watering of plants and reserving the water was the main problem in the school; this was overcome with the contribution of community members which provides assistance to the program.

Four classrooms were constructed by Tariq Aziz trust in 1993 to fulfill the requirement of students, which provides facilities to get education in very well manner.

ANALYSIS OF DATA

Educational planning, visioning, communication& learning activities enhanced by involvement of community

Statement:	Responses	Frequency	Percentage
The educational planning, visioning, communication& learning activities enhanced by involvement of community	Sa	0	0
	A	31	62%
	U	3	6%
	D	16	32%
	Sd	0	0
	Sum	50	100%



Description

The results regarding the educational planning, visioning, communication & learning activities enhanced by involvement of community are presented in the table 4.1, which shows that 62% respondents are agreed with the question 32% are disagreed and 6% are unable to decide that the educational planning, visioning, communication & other learning related activities enhanced by involvement of community

Community participation helps to increase infrastructure of educational institute

Statement:	Responses	Frequency	./age
Community participation helps to increase infrastructure of educational institute	Sa	0	0
	a	40	80%
	U	6	12%
	D	4	8%
	Sd	0	0
	Sum	50	100%

Description

The results regarding the community participation helps to increase infrastructure of educational institute are presented in the table 4.2, which shows that 80% respondents are agreed with the question, 8% are disagreed and 12% are unable to decide that community participation helps to increase infrastructure of educational institute

Community members impose their opinion on educational administrators



Statement:	Responses	Frequency	./age
Community members impose their opinion on educational administrators	sa	0	0
	a	40	80%
	U	8	16%
	D	2	4%
	Sd	0	0
	Sum	50	100%

Description:

The results regarding the community members impose their opinion on educational administrators are presented in the table 4.3, which shows that 80% respondents are agreed with the question, 4% are disagreed and 16% are unable to decide that community members impose their opinion on educational administrators

Community involvement increases competition among teachers

Statement:	Responses	Frequency	./age
Community involvement increases competition among teachers	Sa	0	0
	a	25	50%
	U	14	28%
	D	11	22%
	Sd	0	0
	Sum	50	100%



Description:

The results regarding the community members impose their opinion on educational administrators Community involvement increases competition among teachers are presented in the table 4.4, which shows that 50% respondents are agreed with the question, 22% are disagreed and 28% are unable to decide that community involvement increases competition among teachers

Community involvement is the cause of higher learning outcomes of students

Statement:	Responses	Frequency	./.age
Community involvement is the cause of higher learning outcomes of students	Sa	0	0
	a	34	68%
	U	5	10%
	D	11	22%
	Sd	0	0
	Sum	50	100%

Description:

The results regarding the community involvement is the cause of higher learning outcomes of students are presented in the table 4.5, which shows that68% respondents are agreed with the question, 22% are disagreed and 10% are unable to decide that community involvement is the cause of higher learning outcomes of students

Community involvement is the cause of creating pressure group in educational institutes



Statement:	Responses	Frequency	./age
Community involvement is the cause of creating pressure group in educational institutes	Sa	0	0
	a	29	58%
	U	6	12%
	D	15	30%
	Sd	0	0
	Sum	50	100%

Description

The results regarding the community involvement is the cause of creating pressure group in educational institutes are presented in the table 4.6, which shows that 58% respondents are agreed with the question, 30% are disagreed and 12% are unable to decide that community involvement is the cause of creating pressure group in educational institutes

Community involvement has positive effect on teacher's performance

Statement:	Responses	Frequency	./age
Community involvement has positive effect on teachers performance	Sa	0	0
	a	33	66%
	U	4	8%



	D	13	26%
	Sd	0	0
	Sum	50	100%

Description

The results regarding the community involvement has positive effect on teachers performance are presented in the table 4.7, which shows that 66% respondents are agreed with the question, 26% are disagreed, and 8% are unable to decide that community involvement has positive effect on teacher's performance

Community involvement has positive effect on student's achievements

Statement:	Responses	Frequency	./age
Community involvement has positive effect on students achievements	Sa	0	0
	a	28	56%
	U	2	4%
	D	20	40%
	sd	0	0
	Sum	50	100%

Description



The results regarding the community involvement has positive effect on students achievements are presented in the table 4.8, which shows that 56% respondents are agreed with the question, 40% are disagreed and 4% are unable to decide that community involvement has positive effect on students achievements

Conclusion

In conclusion it is worth emphasizing that research on spontaneous levels of parental involvement in children's education confirms the long held view that the impact is large and the processes are well understood. What parents do with their children at home through the age range is much more significant than any other factor open to educational influence. Notwithstanding the poor quality of research and evaluations in intervention studies a clear picture of need, want, commitment and readiness is evident. What seems to be lacking is an effort to put these two bodies of knowledge together in a development format likely to deliver the achievement bonus from enhanced parenting.

In nutshell, community involvement plays positive role for the improvement of culture, social manners and attitude.

Recommendations

It is recommended to the higher authorities to provide proper and appropriate place for community in educational program to enhance.

It is suggested to all private and Government schools to emphasize on the active participation of community.

Another suggestion is develop educational partnerships between schools and public and private service providers, business and industry, and civic and social service organizations to foster lifelong learning.

It is also recommended that periodically meetings should be arranged for improvement of school activities between teachers, community members and parents.

It is suggested to the education department, Govt. of Punjab that community involvement should be retained in every educational institute at suitable level.



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