



Perception Of Parents Towards Formal Education

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Abstract: The present study was aimed to explore the perception of parents towards formal education for their children. This study is delimited to the parents of students who are pursuing formal education residing in the sub locality of Hengrabari area of Guwahati city of Assam. For this study, descriptive survey method was employed to find out the way of perceiving the educational system by the parents. It directly influence the children to undertake the type of education according to their preference of parents. This research was done using a self structured questionnaire including close ended questions for deriving the overall perception of parents towards formal education. This study is relevant in the present day society for the fact that parents prefer formal education over the other types of education as the parents are familiar with formal education and also it is easily accessible.

Key words: Perception, Parent, Formal Education.

I. INTRODUCTION

Education is an inevitable aspect for human development. It is a dynamic instrument of intrapersonal changes along with inter personal changes which brings structural modification of the society through influence of it. Education acts as a veritable tool of inculcating the skills, abilities, aptitude, values etc for functioning effectively in the society. The aims and objectives of education can be perceived differently by people at different levels but the general one can be mentioned is 'All round development of individual'. In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, the term education is reflected as "An all round drawing out of the best in the child and man-body, mind and spirit".

The importance of Education cannot be ignored as in every step in life, we tends to learn new knowledge and modifies own personality. It is a lifelong process which cannot be neglected. There are different types of Education such as Formal Education, Informal Education and Non formal Education or Quasi Formal Education. All the types have different characteristics along with aims and objectives but the main and ultimate aim is to fulfill the main motive of Education.

Among all the types, Formal Education is the mainstream education of the vivid developmental aspects of the child, which is the all round development of the child. It is an educational model for delivering pre determined curricula by mediating through institutional arrangements. The ultimate purpose of formal education is to impart knowledge to the learners for possessing the basic as well as specialized dimensions of the various educational matters. Formal Education is responsible to provide balanced knowledge, wisdom, intelligence and learning through its various crucial stages that are Primary Education, Secondary Education, Higher Secondary Education and Higher Education.

The psychological environment concerned for formal education combines learners from different communities, regions, different potentials, talents, capabilities etc to possess a competitive approach, creates a social atmosphere along with better understanding of the vivid cultures etc. The learners interaction with the people under a formal setting along with other extraneous stimuli enables to acquire mastery of knowledge as well as right attitude, appreciation, skills, thought and processes. The acquisition of education from the formal environment possess the learner to have academic proofs such as certificates, degrees, diplomas etc which makes the learner to have better employment opportunities and contribute for the welfare of the society's economy.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

1. Gardia Alik, Kaur Nitu (2014) (A Study of Parental Towards Schooling): The study was undertaken to understand the parent's attitudes to schooling and relevant school education issues with some limited mixed set of population of parents which are going to different schools(both govt and private) in the Varanasi city of U.P(state). The results of the study identify the key areas of parental interests for quality education along with the growing concern towards curriculum content, quality, standards of teaching, skill and personality development and career guidance.
2. Hussain Mariam (2019) (Parental Involvement and Student' Educational Achievement: A phenomenological Study) was conducted to look into the effects of parental contribution on student's achievement, the factors that interrupt parental involvement and the role of the school management playing to promote parental involvement. Qualitative data was collected through semi structured interview from the nine parents to find out their involvement in their child's education. The result of the study reveals that effective parent involvement contributes to greater academic achievements by their children. It also states recommendation to the school management that it should encourage greater parental involvement by arranging parent training sessions.
3. Holmes. E Kate (2013) (Influences of Parents Expectations and Involvement on Academic Success): This study focused on only two of the possible influences that are parental involvement and parental expectations in students academic success. Data for this study was collected by using student surveys and interviews. The results of this study determined that a positive relationship exists between parental involvement and academic achievement. And parental expectations do not influence students to perform at a level that meet their parents' expectations.

III. METHOD

3.1 Statement of the problem

To explore the perception of parent's perception towards formal education.

3.2 Objectives

To review the parent's perception towards formal education.

To determine the expectations of formal education for their children.

3.3 Significance of the study

Parents perception towards formal education has a pivotal role as every parent consider to undertake education for their child through the formal way, as it is the most familiar as well as convenient way to hold academic along with other developmental aspects as a human. Parents shows faith towards the formal education as it has been inseparable from the society from the past ages. Also the scope of formal education is wide enough to provide a child with various career opportunities. The inclination of parents towards providing the child formal education is to enlighten them with absolute multi faced knowledge along with skill enhancement. Parents expect their child to have better employment opportunities through the formal educational way as the formal education makes the learners to possess qualities, potentialities according to the formal stage to which they belong to. The perspective of parents matters a lot as the willingness to have education through the formal way indicates the devotion of their time, efforts, resources etc for increasing the children performance to attain the educational success. The pre dispositions of choosing formal education by the determining its importance by the parents is due to their past experiences, beliefs, perceptions, and awareness of opportunities available through the formal agencies of education. Education achievement has been considered a significant factor in life and it is one of the most important goals to be achieved by the students and formal education becomes the easiest option to fulfill such goals. Nowadays, the people have become educational minded due to the fast changing society and world. This challenging and changing social environment is creating competition in every field, that is why every parent set certain expectation for their child to attain the high goals in their lives and make a sustainable employment career in this competitive world. Thus, this study aims to review the perception of parents towards the formal education for their children.

3.4 Population and Sample

The population was selected using purposive sampling. The participants were aware of the study and were participated by knowing their consent. From the population of almost 300 parents, sample of 40 parents were selected to conduct the study and derive the possible perception towards formal education.

3.5 Delimitation of the study

The study was delimited to the parents of the school going children to assess the perception of them for the formal educational system.

3.6 Method of Data Collection

Self structured closed ended Questions.

3.7 Research Design

Phenomenological research design.

IV. FINDINGS

This study conducted with an aim to explore the perception of parents towards the formal education.

Findings regarding the objective no 1, Parents perceive that formal education is the one of the first and foremost platform which provides opportunities to explore the varied fields of study as the child's potentialities, innate tendencies, capabilities are fully recognized by the formal environment. The parents accepts that formal education is beyond the sake of acquiring the degrees, diplomas etc as it provides both theoretical as well as practical aspects in the field of education. Investing in formal education for the child will make able to have a secure and stable employment in the future.

Findings regarding the objective no 2, parents agreed about the concern for the child's academic performance as completion of formal education is one of the main factor for the career afterwards. Parents expect that through the formal educational environment, the students will hold necessary skills, ethics for the personal as well as professional growth.

Along with the findings, during answering the survey, most of the parents also opined that formal education in India as compared to foreign countries is different as the necessities of the society as well as the availability of the educational resources makes the difference and so the students should have the will power to cope up with the advancement of the technological era with Indian formal education.. Also during the pandemic, education completely depend on technology which they somehow accepts using it as it is required in modern technological era.

They also opined that no other educational system like the vocational education is less than the formal one in this 21st century but as they are familiar and known with the traditional formal education so they prefer their children to have such education. They appreciate that the new pattern of formal education recommended by National Educational Policy 2020, i.e, 5+3+3+4 will be a good initiative to change the education system of India and they accepts that the under developed areas of the formal educational system will be modified with the new NEP 2020.

4.1 Suggestions

From the above findings of the study, certain suggestions can be given for the further derivation of the parents perception towards the formal education.

1. Formal education should be considered as the most convenient way of imparting knowledge but it should not be the ultimate one to develop the child's competencies.

2. Parents should prioritise the child over the society's expectations to handle the competitive world. They should consider the child to attain a sustainable career through skilful acquisition of experience and learning from the formal setting of education to avoid mental stress for the child.
3. Parents should constantly communicate with the child about the pros and cons of their educational growth. They should not hamper the child to adjust in the formal educational setting if they lack it as it may result in defensive attitude among themselves.
4. Effective measures are to be adopted in the educational sector of India to enhance wider perspective of education worldwide so that the Indian education system does not contradict with the foreign educational system.
5. Parents should be adaptive according to the emerging needs of the society and develops a wider area of understanding the basis of education related to it.

4.2 Conclusion

Formal education has the universal applicability as it fulfill the curiosity, urges and impulses of children along with enhancing the behavioral traits of the child in the way that is desirable in the society by moulding the personality into a productive, responsible and passionate citizen contributing to the advancement of the society. By recognizing the indispensable impact of formal education, the parents are responsible in investing the child in the formal setting and having certain expectations for the child's successful education.

The parents should not pressurized the child to fulfill the expectations for having the formal education as it might creates defensive attitude among the children intra as well as inter personally. The child should perceive the formal education as one of the medium of attaining educational success rather than idolizing it as supremacy and the ultimate way for attainment of sustainable professional career in the future. Also by limiting prioritization of the over influences of the society, the parents can provide the child with a democratic environment to foster his own personality according to his needs, desires, interests to attain an exemplary education without any pressurize burdens of the society and blooms to its fullest.

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