

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS' EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN OWERRI, IMO STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

*The study investigated parental responsibility for secondary school students' Education. The research design for this study was a descriptive survey research design. The specific objective was to find out the correlation between parental responsibility for secondary school student and status of students educational life development in Owerri, Imo state, 4,604. students in Owerri municipal made up the study population. A sample size of 821 was used. A 30-item questionnaire tagged Parental Responsibility for Secondary school students Educational Development in Owerri (PRFSSSED) was used to collect data. Frequency count, mean and standard deviation statistics were used to the answer four research questions formulated for the study. The study found out that, most parents neglect or do not take up their responsibility and student shows *laissez faire* attitude toward their studies. The study recommended that Parents should be role models and endeavor to develop relationship with their children which can transcend to educational development provide enabling environment to encourage learning, provide study materials and assist students in their home work and they should instill moral values and civic responsibility in their children amongst others for their children and wards to get all that they require to function optimally in the society*

Key words: Education, Educational development, Parental responsibility, Student.

Introduction

Parents are a child's first best friend, favorite teacher, guru, confidant and therapist. The responsibility of parents in the child's development is of paramount importance. Parents endeavor to create homes comfortable for their children, just as they would also want their children to respond to others in the most appropriate way. Ajimoko (1980) opined that, responsibility of the parents to the child begins from the period of gestation and on up till attainment of adulthood. As the various parts of the child's body matures, the parent should provide encouragement, avenues for freedom of speech, choice and all necessary for proper growth etc. It is the responsibility of a parent to nurture the child emotionally, physically, mentally as well as spiritually. There is probably no more important duty than that of the education of the child, hence the material, spiritual mental development of the child depend primarily in the hands of the parents. Also, it is the responsibility of parents to participate in the education of their children and wards by motivating them and inculcating moral values in them. According to Njoku (2012) those who accept responsibility are dependable and reliable. They take responsibility for what they do and who they are.

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Parental responsibility is to give birth and send the child to school, after sending a child to school, parents would still need to provide him with those basic needs of life, without which the child's formal education cannot proceed smoothly. Such basic needs include socialization into the society's norms and taboos training in good manners, habits of unselfishness, use of polite language, for example, learning to say 'please' and 'thank you', are all aspects of socialization which the average Nigerian recognizes as home training. Other needs include the satisfaction of hunger sensation, and the control of emotions of anger and fear. Educational institution is expected to cater for the differences in family upbringing found in different socio- economic families. School also has a role to play in helping parent to carry out their responsibility in the following ways: Help parents understand why they are so important to their children's school success. Work to win parents endorsement of their school's educational program. Give parents the specific information they want and give parents specific things they can do to help their children. Provide staff training and support for parent and involve them to read what school sends home. Recognize and reward exemplary parent involvement practice to ensure your plans success. Send home frequent note and newsletters about school activities every week, send news about parent meeting and family events. Visit parents at home and help solve problems, arrange "parent-friendly" meetings. The schools must hold parent meetings on evenings and weekends so working parents can attend, also provide child care/or food at meetings. Hold family learning events at school. By so doing a child that pass through the school would have been fully equip and endowed to live in the society.

Parental responsibility

Parental responsibilities can be examined and reviewed using the undermentioned :

i.Provision of necessities of life: Children look up to their parents as God in everything. A basic role of parents is to provide physical security for their children. Medical attention is one of the components of a physically secure environment. Peaceful, lovely environment provided by the parents, with leaning material goes a long way in assisting their wards in education performance.

ii.Role model : children are easily inspired by what the parents do, be their role model in their learning state. There are two things parents can do to help their children; the first is to have relationship with their children, be their friend to play and study with them. Inspire them to be creative, skillful and careering by your attitude and action , children learn by observations. Hence, The study investigated parental responsibility for secondary school students' Education in Owerri municipal area of Imo state, Nigeria .

Benefits of Parents' Involvement in Children's Education.

According to McMillan, there are five reasons why parents should get involved in their children's education though there are many more than just these:

i.Need for High grades: parents gets involved in their children education influence and motivate them to get higher test scores in school. And the more parents are involved, the more their children seem to benefit. A study of parents highly involved in the educational process showed that their children were more likely to improve in reading and math.(McMillan, 2007).

ii.Better behavior - Kids develop better social skills and show improved behavior when their parents are involved at school. Studies have also shown that kids are less likely to skip school, less disruptive in class, and more likely to do their homework when their parents are involved. One study showed that when dads are highly involved in schools, their children enjoy school more and are less likely to be suspended, expelled, or required to repeat a grade.

iii. Improved education - Research shows that parent involvement can help improve the quality of schools, raise teacher morale, and improve a school's reputation in the community. Involved parents gain

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the respect of teachers; as a result, teachers have higher expectations of their children. Involvement pays off in the long term, too: Children stay in school longer and are more likely to continue their education after high school (Roland & Thomas, 1987).

iv. **Increased confidence** - When students feel supported at home and school, they develop more positive attitudes about school, have more self-confidence, and place a higher priority on academic achievement. Children of involved parents are more likely to feel that they're accepted, included, and respected and at school.

v. **Parents benefit too** - When parents become involved in children's education, they become capable, more comfortable and gain confidence in their parenting skills. By so doing, they likely to be motivated to continue their own education. (McMillan, 2007).

Role of the family students' educational development

The family is a cultural workshop for the transmission of traditions and for the creation of new social values, in this process of culture transmission and value creation, a democratic culture evolves within the family. This culture favours reciprocity in parent-child relationships while it encourages humane discipline of the child through guidance and understanding. This concept of democracy has far-reaching consequences in the rearing of children. Normally, a parent has responsibility to send his children to school. But once the children are at school, should parents abdicate their responsibilities? Parent has a role to play as both socializing and control agent over their children. Parents must be involved in the school decision-making process, governance, and advocacy through PTA, school councils committees, and other parent organizations. Schools have the responsibilities to work in partnership with parent, agencies and other groups to coordinate resources, and provide services to the school and the community. As Muller (2009) stated, parent and community partnership are re defining the boundaries and functions of education. It shows that parental education helps student to develop, better social skills, improve behavior, better adaptation to school, increased social capital, greater engagement in school work, stronger belief in the importance of education. The duty of education is therefore a family responsibility. According to the holy Bible, (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-25; 18:19; Psalm 127:3-5; Ephesians 6:1-4) The family is the fundamental unit of society under God, and it is the duty of parents as led by the father to prepare their children to function righteously under God's rule in all spheres of life. Therefore, the Lord requires that parents provide all that their children need! Parents are required to feed, clothe, house and protect their children and prepare them for adulthood. Children are full of curiosity and inquisitiveness. To fulfill their curiosity, they need a guide, a mentor, someone to show them the direction of the path they walk on. This is where a parent comes in. It's been said that with the birth of a child, a parent is also born, as the child grows, the parent also grows with growing responsibility.

Education has been recognized, the world over, as a potent instrument, not only of culture transmission but also of culture enrichment and improvement. The approach to the satisfaction of human basic needs vary from society to society. Education as one of the institutions established in every society is not an exception in that each society designs its educational system to meet its societal needs in a unique way. Education as define by Osuala (2010) is a process of acculturation through which an individual is helped to other development of his potentials and maximum activation according to right reason, in order to achieve self-fulfillment and happiness. Also Durkheim (1922) , sees education as a systematic socialization of an individual in belief, collective opinions, and feelings of nationality from one generation to another. With this his definition, these forms of education can be group as informal and formal education. the informal type of education refers to the truly life long process whereby every individual acquires attitudes, values, skill and knowledge from daily experiences and the educative influences and

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resources in his or her environment specifically the parents. Though relatively unorganized and unsystematic, but most fundamental elements of parental responsibilities for the education of their children lies within.

Education development could be define as a means of assisting teachers to teach adequately by providing resources, seminars and workshop. Educational development is described as being “broader than faculty development, in that it encompassed instructional, curriculum, organizational, and some aspects of faculty development. In another sense, the term was narrower in that it focused on the teaching domain, as opposed to all aspects of academic career development” (Bédard et al., 2010). In line with the above view, Teachers fail or does not give optimal services: teacher were not paid, school were not maintained, school materials, and books varnished from the libraries. Parents need to be involve in teachers issues and well being. Teachers and parents need to work in harmony to achieve student educational development. Parental engagement is associated with various indicators of student development. These include:

- Better social skills
- Improved behaviour
- Better adaptation to school
- Increased social capital
- A greater sense of personal competence and efficacy for learning
- Greater engagement in school work
- A stronger belief in the importance of education.

Theoretical framework

This study is hinged on two theories: Functionalism and Pragmatism theories. The first one is Functionalism theory which was propounded by Auguste Comte. The basic idea of this theory is that society is viewed as a whole unit which is made up of related structural and functional complex System including the family, economy, education and religion, whose parts work together to promote stability and achievement of societal goals. These institutions constitute the social structure of the society. Formal education is systematically organized means of education done in a well structured establishment. Haralambos and Holborn (2004) opined that, functionalist sociologist sees the educational system as a vital mechanism for the selection of individual for their future role in society. In Weber’s contribution, human action could only be interpreted when the objective and the awareness of the goals are known. For him, education is supposed to inculcate the norms and values of society; thereby allocate individuals to their respective societal roles. The duty of education is (from the biblical perspective) a parental duty. According to Scripture, children are a gift from the Almighty God and thus are a sacred trust. Therefore, the Lord requires that parents provide all that their children need. Parents are required to feed, clothe, house and protect their children and prepare them for adulthood. Children are full of curiosity and inquisitiveness. To fulfill their curiosity, they need a guide, a mentor, someone to show them the direction of the path they walk on. This is where a parent comes in. It’s been said that with the birth of a child, a parent is also born, as the child grows, the parent also grows with growing responsibility.

Another theory that supported this study is Pragmatism. Pragmatic believe that knowledge should be used to act on things. An idea is indeed true if it has a practical efficiency. Dewey is one of the founding fathers of pragmatism to have made a significant contribution to the philosophy of technology. Dewey’s logic is actually a ‘theory of inquiry’ Living things have continued to experience a situation forming a unified whole, but in case of breakage; they undertake to restore the unity and balance

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the situation through an investigation. In this way, a situation initially determined, but which is disrupted by a failure to become permanent, is transformed into a new position determined by a survey. Parent’s responsibility to their children should produce results to affect their education development.

Research Questions

The study was guided by the following research questions :

1. What impact does parental responsibility have on their children’s studies
2. What is the impact of parent’s failed role on their children’s study ?
3. What impact does school play on students studies ?
4. What is the influence of Parental responsibility and engagements towards their children’s education ?

Methodology

The study adopted a descriptive design method and the population for the study was 4,604. Using a purposive sampling Technique, a sample size of 821 was selected. The instrument for the study was a questionnaire titled “Parental Responsibility for Secondary school students Educational Development in Owerri (PRFSSSED). The instrument was validated by 3 experts. Pearson product moment Correlation Co-efficient was used to compute the reliability. An overall reliability co- efficient of 0.78 was obtained, hence the instrument was considered to be reliable.

Results

Research Question 1 :What impact does parental responsibility have on their children’s studies ?

Table 1: Mean analysis on response on Parental responsibilities on their children’s studies

N = 381

S/N	Students response on parental responsibility on their Children’s studies	Mean	Decision
1	Parents are role model	3.44	Agree
2	Parents provide pleasant atmosphere	3.19	Agree
3	Parents help children to Increased self confidence	2.80	Agree
4	Parents teach their children morals	3.33	Agree
5	Oversee child’s activity	2.43	Disagree
6	Parents help with their child home assignments	3.43	Agree
Sectional Mean/ Std. Dev.		3.1	

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Research Question 2:What is the impact of parents role on their children's study ?

Table 2: Mean analysis on response on parental failed responsibility on their studies

S/N	Students response on parental failed responsibility on their studies	Mean	Decision
7	Parents don't set out time to be with their children	3.14	Agree
8	Parents don't read together with their children	3.19	Agree
9	Parents don't monitor their children learning at home	3.29	Agree
10	Parents don't reward them in their learning results	2.79	Agree
11	Parents don't help children to relax at home	3.02	Agree
12	Parents are not their children best friend and confident	2.91	Agree
Sectional Mean/ Std .Dev.		3.06	

Research Question 3 : What impact does school play on students studies ?

Table 3: Mean analysis on Students response on School responsibility on their Studies

S/N	Students response on School responsibility in their Studies	Mean	Decision
13	School provide friendly skilled qualify teachers	1.82	Disagree
14	Provide free & mandatory school system	2.12	Disagree
15	Provide learning and life skill needs of learners	2.29	Disagree
16	Teachers make sure students attains and participate in all activities	1.76	Disagree
17	Treat each child according to individual differences	1.80	Disagree
18	Provide all the comfortable learning atmosphere	1.76	Disagree
Sectional Mean/ Std.Dev.		1.96	

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Research Question 4 : What is the influence of Parental responsibility and engagements towards their children's education ?**Table 4:Analysis on Parental responsibility and engagements towards their children education indicates****N = 381**

S/N	Parental responsibility and engagements towards their children education indicates;	Mean	Decision
18	Improved behavior and self development	3.00	Agree
19	Improved grades and test scores	2.23	Disagree
20	Curp criminality and social deviance	2.73	Agree
21	Help students to aspire higher	2.37	Disagree
22	Increase belief in the importance of education	2.65	Agree
23	Increase self independent	2.65	Agree
24	Increase Self confidence	2.22	Disagree
25	Improve the quality of peoples life and the environment	2.88	Agree
26	Help in social mobility and political participation	2.30	Disagree
27	Increase discipline towards assigned tasks	1.98	Disagree
28	On getting a better job	2.50	Agree
29	Ill-mannered adult	2.27	Disagree
30	Cultured and civilized adult	2.90	Agree

Sectional Mean

2.48

Discussion of findings

The study revealed that Parental responsibility and engagement on their children education is not encouraging at all. A child's attitude for reading, writing, speaking, mathematics, science and social studies must come from and be foundationally developed in the home by the parents. The study found out that parent don't read together with their children as seen in the mean score 3.19. or even have time out with them or help them relax at home as in mean score of 3-14 and 3.04 respectively. Also seen in the mean score of 3.29, is that parent don't monitor their children learning at home. According to Osuala (2010) ,Parents needs to be involved in their children's learning process by exposing children to educational software, discuss government and world affairs, discuss history, engage in basic science experiments, together read teach vocabulary every chance you get, discuss basic concepts of how things work, fix things together, cook, clean, discuss the workings of money. It is the duty of the parent to provide such intellectually stimulating interactions designed to prime the child's brain with curiosity and excite their love of learning.

Gestwick (2011) found out that Children whose parents are involved in their education have better grades, test scores good attitudinal behavior than those with disinterested parents. Parents becoming involved in their child's schooling creates extra sources of social constraint to influence the child's behavior McNeal (2001).The duty of education is therefore a family responsibility. The family is the fundamental unit of society under God, and it is the duty of parents as led by the father to prepare their children to function righteously under God's rule in all spheres of life (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-25; 18:19; Psalm 127:3-5; Ephesians 6:1-4). Research has shown that parental engagement (of various kinds) has positive impact on them, many indicators of student achievement, including:

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- Higher grades and test scores
- Enrolment in higher level programs and advanced classes
- Lower drop-out rates
- Higher graduation rates
- A greater likelihood of commencing tertiary education.

It was further discovered that schools does not fully engage in child welfare as they claim that their duty begins and end with teaching only not mending the student character development, social and emotional attitude learning. This was buttress by the mean score of 1.82 that, school does not provide friendly skilled qualify teacher . The study further discovered that schools does not provide learning and life skill needed by the student, with the mean score of 2.29. This is in contrast with the assertion of McMillan (2007) about School responsibility on children education, where McMillan opined that ‘...one finding is that good teachers continually assess their students relative to learning goals and adjust their instructions on the basis of this information. Another important finding of this study was that parental involvement in their children education improved behavior and self development of students; this was shown with mean score of 3.00. Also assessment of students not only documents what students know and can do but also influence learning. The mean score of 2.65 showed that parental involvement increased students’ belief in the importance of education. This study shows that regular monitoring and feedback are essential to improving children’s and students’ learning by Parents and the School.

Conclusion

Parental responsibility and engagement on their children education is not encouraging at all and needs urgent attention. Parents needs to be involve in their children learning process .As Parents tend to their children educational, children tend to do well educationally becomes civil and socially responsible. It is the duty of parent to provide intellectually stimulating interactions designed to prime the child’s brain with curiosity and excite their love of learning. As Ajimoko (1980) puts it, the duty of education is therefore a family responsibility. The family is the fundamental unit of society under God, and it is the duty of parents as led by the father to prepare their children to function righteously under God's rule in all spheres of life according to the holy Bible, (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-25; 18:19; Psalm 127:3-5; Ephesians 6:1-4). Therefore, the Lord requires that parents provide all that their children need to assist them to develop as a functional human. School working in synergy with the parents will help parents understand why they are so important to their children’s school success. By constant specific information on their wards and what the school endorsed.

Recommendations

1. Parents should be role models and endeavor to develop relationship with their children which can transcend to educational development.
2. Parents should provide enabling environment to encourage learning, provide study materials and assist students in their home work.
3. Parents should instill moral values and civic responsibility to their children,
4. Parents should be involve in their children school programmes and activities like going to and contributing in Parents Teachers Association PTA and developments.
5. Schools should recognize and reward exemplary parent involvement practice to ensure success of school programs

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