

Impact of Parental Involvement on Elementary School Students' Academic Achievement

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Abstract: In today's society, education has been given unprecedented importance, and parents, as essential companions and guides in the development of children, are increasingly concerned about the influence of their involvement on students' academic performance. As the primary stage of the education system, Pupils' academic performance reflects the degree of knowledge mastery and predicts the potential for future learning and development. Therefore, we need to explore the influence of parents' participation on pupils' academic performance. It has some advantages. On the one hand, it is helpful to understand the mechanism of family education. On the other hand, it provides a theoretical basis and practical guidance for improving the quality of elementary school students' education. Based on the literature analysis method, this study systematically combed domestic and international research results on the relationship between parental involvement and students' academic achievement, aiming to reveal the critical role of parental involvement in improving primary school students' academic performance and its realization path.

1. Introduction

In today's rapidly developing educational environment, improving primary school students' academic performance has become the Focus of Social Concern. The influence of the family as the first classroom where children grow up should not be underestimated. Parents are their children's first teachers. The degree of their participation in children's learning is directly related to the level of children's academic achievement. These studies have shown that parents actively involved in their children's education can significantly affect their academic performance, thus becoming a significant driving force for improving academic achievement. Parental involvement is reflected in daily home tutoring and homework checking. It covers many aspects, such as emotional support, learning resources offered, and learning environment construction. This all-around participation can stimulate students' motivation and cultivate good learning habits, directly improving academic performance. At the same time, the close cooperation between parents and schools also creates a more harmonious and comprehensive learning environment for students. It promotes the overall development of students' comprehensive quality. However, under different family backgrounds, there are differences in the degree and way of parental participation. How these differences affect the academic performance of primary school students has become an urgent problem that needs

further study. This study aims to systematically review domestic and international research on the relationship between parental involvement and primary school students' academic performance using a literature analysis approach. It seeks to explore the specific mechanisms through which parental involvement contributes to the improvement of academic outcomes. Based on these findings, the study proposes strategies and recommendations to promote effective parental engagement and enhance academic performance among primary school students. This is of great significance in guiding the practice of family education, optimizing the educational cooperation between schools and families, and promoting the overall development of students.

2. Definition and Categorization of Parental Involvement

2.1 Definition of the Concept of Parental Involvement

This multi-level involvement promotes home-school cooperation and supports students' growth and academic performance. Parental involvement helps establish a cooperative relationship between home and school, significantly improves students' academic performance, and promotes overall development. This concept has been widely explored in the academic community and defined by scholars from different perspectives. For example, Epstein defines parental involvement as a collaborative partnership between parents and school staff to support and enhance children's learning, development, and overall well-being [1]. On the other hand, the concept of parental involvement in this study emphasizes the holistic involvement of parents in the educational process of elementary school students and its positive impact on academic achievement.

2.2 Types of Parental Involvement

2.2.1 Direct Involvement

Direct involvement refers to parents actively participating in their children's learning process or school activities, fostering a close interactive relationship between the parents, children, and the school. This type of engagement allows children to feel supported and valued by their parents, boosting their motivation and self-confidence in learning [2]. Direct involvement mainly includes tutoring homework. Parents help children consolidate classroom knowledge by checking their homework completion and answering difficult questions. This approach enhances learning efficiency and enables parents to better understand their children's academic progress and challenges, allowing them to offer more targeted support. Additionally, parents' participation in school activities further strengthens their connection with the school and contributes to their children's overall educational experience. Parents' active involvement in school activities such as parent-teacher conferences, open days, and volunteer services deepens their connection with the school. It provides them with an intuitive understanding of the school's educational philosophy, teaching methods, and their children's performance at school. At the same time, parents' participation also sets an excellent example for their children and encourages them to participate more actively in group activities.

2.2.2 Indirect Involvement

Indirect participation means parents create a home environment conducive to learning by providing the necessary material conditions and moral support. This kind of participation, though not directly involved in the learning process, is also crucial to the child's development. Indirect participation mainly includes: first, providing learning resources. Parents purchase books, educational software, science experiment kits, and other learning resources tailored to their

children's interests and needs. This enriches the learning experience and broadens their children's knowledge and perspectives. At the same time, parents can also guide their children to utilize online resources for independent learning and cultivate their information literacy and lifelong learning ability. Second, parents create an optimal learning environment by ensuring it is quiet, tidy, and well-organized, minimizing distractions and allowing children to focus on their studies more effectively [3]. In addition, parents can make a study plan with their children, rationalize their time, and help them develop good study habits.

2.2.3 Emotional Support

Emotional support is the most nurturing and essential aspect of parental involvement. It is reflected in parents' care, encouragement, understanding, and respect for their children, serving as an invaluable source of emotional strength throughout the children's developmental journey [4]. Emotional support primarily includes, first, encouragement and praise. Parents frequently provide positive feedback and reinforcement, recognizing their children's efforts and progress. This affirmation helps children experience the joy of success and fosters a strong sense of accomplishment. This positive emotional support can stimulate children's internal motivation and make them more confident to face challenges and difficulties. Second, care and listening. Parents remain attentive to their children's emotional changes and psychological needs, patiently listening to their thoughts and feelings. They provide ample care and support, ensuring their children feel understood and valued during their developmental process. When children encounter frustration or confusion, parents can become their most solid support, help them out of their predicament, and regain confidence.

3. Mechanisms of Parental Involvement on Primary School Students' Academic Achievement

3.1 The Role of the Family Education Environment

3.1.1 Influence of Family Atmosphere on Elementary School Students' Attitudes toward Learning

The home education environment plays a vital role in a child's development, particularly during the elementary school when children are in a crucial phase of cognitive, emotional, and behavioral development. During this period, the influence of the home environment is especially significant in shaping their growth and learning habits [5]. Family education at this stage determines the foundation of children's academic and social behaviors and lays an essential foundation for their future growth.

Positive effects of a family atmosphere: Children feel unconditional acceptance and support in a loving family environment. This emotional security makes them dare to experiment and face challenges, manifested in their learning by persevering and not being afraid of difficulties.

The negative effects of a tense family atmosphere can be profound. If the household is filled with conflict, the child may experience prolonged anxiety, making it difficult to focus on learning. This stressful environment can lead to resistance to learning, hindering the child's academic progress and emotional well-being. At the same time, the lack of emotional communication between family members and their indifference to the child's learning will make the child feel neglected and reduce the enthusiasm and motivation for learning.

3.1.2 The Shaping of Children's Approach to Learning by Parents' Words And Teachings

As children's first teachers, parents have a profound and lasting influence on their development.

Their words and actions subtly shape their children's approach to learning. By setting positive examples in daily life, such as engaging in regular reading, managing time effectively, and facing challenges with a positive attitude—parents model behaviors that encourage a strong and resilient learning mindset in their children. They teach specific knowledge and skills and emphasize the development of learning habits and mindsets, such as critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and an attitude of continuous learning. When parents accompany their children during study sessions, they patiently guide and encourage them to explore effective learning methods. This includes helping their children deepen their understanding by summarizing key points, reflecting on their progress, and optimizing their learning strategies for better outcomes. This kind of teaching by word and example not only shapes children's efficient learning methods but also develops their independent learning ability and awareness of lifelong learning [6].

3.2 Effectiveness of Home-school Cooperation

3.2.1 Establishment of Communication Mechanisms between Parents and Schools

The core of home-school cooperation lies in building a solid communication bridge to ensure that information flows freely between parents and schools. Establishing this communication mechanism enhances both parties' understanding of the child's educational progress and fosters the collaborative development of effective educational strategies [7]. First, regular parent-teacher conferences and home visits provide opportunities for face-to-face communication between home and school. Schools can provide comprehensive information on their educational philosophy, teaching programs, and the child's academic progress during parent-teacher conferences. At the same time, parents can offer feedback on their child's performance at home, including study habits and any notable psychological changes. On the other hand, home visits enable teachers to go deeper into students' home environments and gain a more comprehensive understanding of their children's developmental backgrounds to implement more personalized education programs. Secondly, with the development of information technology, online communication platforms for home and school have emerged, providing a more convenient and efficient channel for home-school communication. Parents can check school notices, homework assignments, children's performance at school, and other information anytime and anywhere. At the same time, they can communicate with teachers instantly to solve the problems their children encounter in learning and life, which significantly enhances the closeness and effectiveness of home-school cooperation.

3.2.2 Advantages of Home-School Cooperation in Resource Integration and Information Sharing

Home-school cooperation shows unique advantages in resource integration and information sharing, supporting children's comprehensive development. On the one hand, home-school cooperation promotes the effective integration of educational resources. Schools have professional teachers, perfect teaching facilities, and rich educational resources, while families can provide a unique emotional atmosphere, life experience, and personalized learning support. Through home-school cooperation, both parties can work together to explore and utilize available resources, creating a more diverse and personalized learning environment tailored to the needs of each child [8]. For example, parents can invite professionals to give lectures at school to share their career experiences. In contrast, schools can organize social practice activities to let children leave school and experience society. On the other hand, home-school cooperation is essential in information sharing. Through home-school communication platforms and parent-teacher conferences, schools can promptly share their educational concepts, teaching plans, and updates on children's academic

progress with parents. In return, parents can offer feedback on their children's performance at home, study habits, and any observed psychological changes. This two-way information-sharing mechanism helps both parties comprehensively understand their children's development to formulate more scientific and reasonable education strategies.

3.3 Learning Motivation and Habit Development

3.3.1 Parental Involvement in Elementary School Students' Motivation to Learn

In the learning journey of primary school students, learning motivation is a vital force that drives them to keep moving forward. The active participation of parents is undoubtedly a crucial part of motivating primary school students. By participating in their children's educational process, parents can enhance their children's interest in learning and provide them with the necessary support and encouragement to further improve their academic performance. First, parental attention and encouragement can significantly enhance elementary school students' self-confidence and sense of accomplishment [9]. When elementary school students sense their parents' recognition and appreciation of their learning achievements, they develop greater confidence in their abilities, encouraging them to become more actively engaged in their studies. This positive motivational cycle can continuously stimulate students' learning motivation and prompt them to pursue higher goals. Secondly, parents and their children collaborate to formulate learning goals and plans, a meaningful way to stimulate learning motivation. This positive home-school cooperation helps children's academic progress and develops their self-confidence and independent learning ability.

3.3.2 The Relationship between the Development of Good Study Habits and Parental Involvement

The development of good study habits is inextricably linked to parental involvement. Parents, as essential guides on the road of children's growth, have a far-reaching influence on their children through their words and behaviors. The active participation of parents can guide children to set up the correct concept of learning and cultivate good study habits [10]. Through daily supervision, parents ensure that their children complete homework and review assignments on time, helping them avoid procrastination and distractions. This guidance supports the development of a regular study routine, fostering discipline and consistency in their academic work. At the same time, parents can collaborate with their children to create a study plan and set clear learning goals. This approach helps children develop time management skills and enables them to self-manage their studies effectively. More importantly, the role of parents as role models should not be overlooked. If parents can show their love and pursuit of learning daily, their children will naturally be inspired and gradually develop a sense of independent learning and habits.

4. Strategies and Suggestions to Enhance Parental Involvement

4.1 Enhancing Parents' Educational Awareness and Capacity

4.1.1 Organization of Parent Education Seminars and Training

Parent education lectures and training are essential to enhance parents' awareness and ability in education. Education experts, psychologists, and exemplary teachers are invited to conduct regular lectures for parents, offering guidance on scientific education concepts, effective methods, and practical skills. This helps parents improve their approach to supporting their children's learning and development. The lectures may cover a wide range of aspects, such as the characteristics of

children's psychological development, principles of family education, parent-child communication skills, and study tutoring strategies, to help parents comprehensively understand their children's developmental needs and master scientific education methods. During the training process, emphasis should be placed on interaction and participation, encouraging parents to voice the challenges and confusion they encounter in the education process. Parents can exchange ideas and learn from one another through expert responses, group discussions, and other interactive formats, fostering a collaborative learning environment. The training can also be combined with case studies, role-playing, and other teaching tools so that parents can feel the effectiveness of educational strategies in practice and thus apply them more confidently to family education.

4.1.2 Provide Parental Involvement Guidance Materials

Apart from organizing seminars and training, providing various instructional materials on parental participation is also essential to enhancing parents' awareness and ability in education. These materials may include educational books, manuals, video tutorials, and more, covering all aspects of family education. The content should address cultivating children's study habits, emotional management, character development, and other key areas essential to their growth and learning. The guidance materials should be practical and operable and be able to directly guide parents to implement effective educational strategies in their daily lives. It helps them to better understand and support their children's developmental needs at different stages of growth, thereby optimizing the quality and effectiveness of family education. At the same time, a series of educational video tutorials can be developed to address specific issues, such as "How to Help Your Child Overcome Procrastination," "How to Communicate Effectively with Your Child," to allow parents to learn educational skills intuitively, enhance their educational awareness and ability, and provide parents with the necessary tools for the healthy growth of their children.

4.2 Optimizing Home-school Cooperation Mechanisms

4.2.1 Establishment of an Effective Home-School Communication Platform

Establishing an effective home-school communication platform is the first task in optimizing the home-school cooperation mechanism. With the rapid development of information technology, home-school communication platforms have expanded beyond traditional forms such as parent-teacher conferences and home visits, becoming more diverse and convenient. This evolution enables more efficient and frequent interactions between parents and educators. Schools can use the Internet and mobile communication technology to establish online platforms for home-school communication, realizing the instant transmission and sharing of home-school information. These platforms should include information dissemination, interactive communication, and feedback collection, enabling parents to stay updated on the school's educational activities and their children's academic progress. Moreover, they provide a convenient channel for parents to offer feedback and suggestions to the school, fostering a more collaborative and responsive educational environment.

In addition, the platform can also set up parent forums, educational resource-sharing areas, and other boards to promote communication and sharing among parents, forming a positive atmosphere of home-school co-education. To ensure the effectiveness of the communication platform, schools should regularly maintain and update the platform's content and promptly respond to parents' inquiries and feedback to ensure the information's accuracy and timeliness.

4.2.2 Encouraging Parental Participation in School Management and Decision-Making

Encouraging parents to participate in school management and decision-making is another

important aspect of optimizing the home-school cooperation mechanism. As essential participants in their children's development, parents' opinions and suggestions influence the school's educational management and decision-making processes. Their input helps ensure that the school's strategies align with the needs and experiences of the students [11]. Therefore, schools should actively invite parents to participate in the school's management and decision-making process to enhance their sense of belonging and responsibility. Schools can establish parent committees or parent representative systems to involve parent representatives in the daily management of the school, the development of teaching programs, and the evaluation of teachers. This collaborative approach ensures parents have a voice in crucial decision-making processes, fostering a stronger partnership between the school and families. By holding regular meetings of parent committees and organizing parents' participation in school activities, parents can gain an in-depth understanding of the school's operation and educational philosophy and put forward constructive opinions and suggestions. At the same time, schools should also pay attention to cultivating parents' awareness and ability to participate and improve their educational literacy and management ability through training and lectures so that they can better participate in the school's management and decision-making work. In addition, schools should establish a robust parental participation mechanism to ensure that parents' rights to participate, be informed, and supervise are fully safeguarded. This will help foster a positive environment of home-school co-management and co-education, where both parties work together to support children's development [12].

4.3 Creating a Favorable Learning Environment

4.3.1 The School Provides the Necessary Learning Resources and Support

As students' primary learning place, schools should be committed to providing students with rich and diverse learning resources and a sound learning support system. This involves providing essential resources such as books and materials, laboratory equipment, and information technology facilities to ensure students access a high-quality learning experience within a modernized teaching environment. At the same time, schools should also establish a sound learning counseling system to provide personalized guidance and assistance to students with learning difficulties to ensure that every student can keep up with the learning progress and enjoy the fun of learning. In addition, schools should also focus on cultivating students' independent learning ability and stimulate students' desire for knowledge and spirit of exploration by offering elective courses and organizing academic competitions to lay a solid foundation for their future learning and development.

4.3.2 Creating a Positive Learning Environment at Home

As a warm harbor for students to grow up in, the learning atmosphere of the family has a far-reaching influence on students' learning attitudes and habits. Parents should strive to create a positive, harmonious, cozy home environment so children can enjoy learning in a relaxed and pleasant atmosphere. This includes providing children with a quiet study space, reasonable study time planning, and necessary school supplies. At the same time, parents should also set an example by showing their attention and love for learning, and by their own words and behavior, inspire their children's desire and pursuit of knowledge. In addition, parents should also maintain good communication with their children, pay attention to their learning progress and psychological state, give timely encouragement and support to help them overcome difficulties and setbacks in learning, and maintain confidence and motivation in learning.

5. Conclusion

To summarize, the impact of parental involvement on primary school students' academic performance is far-reaching and positive. By enhancing their educational awareness and ability, parents can effectively stimulate their children's interest and motivation in learning and provide them with scientific learning guidance and support. At the same time, parents actively participate in home-school cooperation, establish a suitable communication mechanism with the school, and work together to create a harmonious and positive learning environment for their children, further promoting their learning and growth. This series of initiatives helps primary school students form good learning habits and attitudes and significantly improves their academic performance. Therefore, parents should fully recognize their essential role in their children's learning process and actively participate to contribute to their children's overall development.

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