

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN CHILD'S EDUCATION AS CORRELATES OF STUDENTS ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT IN DELTA STATE

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Abstract

This study examined the relationship between parental involvement and academic engagement among secondary school students in Delta state. Two research questions and two null hypotheses tested at 0.05 level of significance guided the study. The study adopted a correlational research design. The study was conducted in Delta state senatorial District. A sample of 1,205 senior secondary school students (555 males and 650 females) were selected through non-proportionate stratified random sampling from 20 secondary school. Two structured instruments, the Parental Involvement Questionnaire (PIQ) and Academic Engagement Scale (AES) were used for data collection; achieving internal consistency coefficients of 0.72 and 0.82 respectively. The data collected were analyzed thus: The research questions were answered using Pearson Product Moment correlation coefficient whereas hypotheses were tested using t-test of correlation at 0.05 level of significance. The outcome of data analysis showed that a significant positive relationship existed between parental involvement and academic engagement. The male students showed stronger connection than female students. The study recommended that workshops should be organized y schools to encourage parental involvement in children's education. The introduction of free and compulsory education is also suggested to help poor parents who could not for the education of their children to do so without much difficulties.

Key words: Parental Involvement, Academic engagement, secondary school students

INTRODUCTION

The education of the child is the responsibility of the parents, guardians and the society. The parents therefore owe it as a duty to provide for the welfare of their children including education.

The children are reared by their parents who are supposed to provide them with the basic necessities of life such as food clothing and shelter. The parents are also expected to ensure that their children at school engage in their academic activities so as to achieve their educational goals.

Academic engagement is increasingly being recognized as a crucial factor for promoting positive academic and social outcomes. To Domina (2016) academic engagement encompasses the efforts students exert in their academic pursuits, which include attending classes, listening alternatively participating in discussions, arriving at school on time, and submitting homework punctuality. In addition, parental involvement in school activities, such as Parent's Teachers Associations, cultural events and inter-house sports also play a vital role in fostering academic engagement. Academic engagement reflects the degree of attention, curiosity, interest and passion that students display during learning activities (Joe et al, 2018). It serves as a measure of the quality of students participation and emotional states within learning environment. When students feel confident in their academic lives, they are more likely to engage actively in the available learning opportunities.

The parental roles in the education of the their children tend to differ as a result of gender. Gender is defined as the act of being either a male or female being. It is the socio-cultural roles which the society

assigned to individuals because he is a male or female. The society assign roles on individuals on the basis of gender. In most Igbo communities, parents tend pay more attention on the education of the female child unlike the males. In some other societies parents tend to give more attention to the education of the male child. The scenario is therefore not conclusive, hence the present investigation.

Parental involvement could positively or negatively correlate with the academic engagement of male and female secondary school students.

The reported cases of decline in the academic engagement of students as reported in the social media has been an issue of great concern to parents teachers, educational psychologists, the government and stakeholders in Delta state. This ugly trend has provoked a lot of studies by scholars to unravel this development. Unfortunately most of such studies have not provided remedy to this teething problems. Some of the previous studies were conducted at the primary school level in urban and rural centres. There seem to be dearth of empirical studies on the relationship between parental involvement and academic engagement, hence the present study.

Statement of the Problem

The upbringing of children is an upheld task facing the parents, guardians, teachers, the school administrators and indeed the government. The level of support or assurance offered to the child will to a great extent determine his growth and development particularly in the field of education.

The parents of children are expected to give their children the best form of education to enable them succeed in life. Unfortunately the level of students commitment to their studies at school has not been very encouraging as some parents abandon the education of their children in search of economic pursuit. This ugly sceneries has adversely affected the academic engagement of most students at school.

Efforts through research by scholars to find solution to this development seem not to have yielded much success. Some of the previous studies were carried out at the primary school level outside the study area. It is this gap in knowledge that the present study sought to fill. Hence the problem of this study is stated thus: To what extent are parents involvement in the education of their children relate with the male and female students academic engagement?

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this study was to determine the relationship between parental involvement and academic engagement of secondary school students in Delta state. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. Examine the relationship between parental involvement and academic engagement of secondary school students in Delta state.
2. Ascertain the relationship between parental involvement and academic engagement of male and female secondary school students.

Research Questions

The study was guided by the following research questions

1. What is the relationship between parental involvement and academic engagement of secondary school students in Delta state.
2. What is the relationship between parental involvement and academic engagement of male and female secondary school students in Delta state.

Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses guided the study and were tested at 0.05 level of significance.

1. There is no significant relationship between parental involvement and academic achievement of secondary school students in Delta state.
2. There is no significant relationship between parental involvement and academic engagement of male and female secondary school students.

Method

The study adopted a correlational research design. This is a kind of research design that investigated the relationship between two or more variables. The study was conducted in Delta state, Nigeria. The population consisted of 1,205 secondary school (SS 2) students. A sample of 990 was drawn from the population using accidental random sampling technique. Two instruments structured by the researchers were employed for data collection. They include: Parental Involvement Questionnaire (PIQ) and Students Academic Engagement (SAIQ). The validity of the two instruments were face and content validated by two

experts drawn from the Faculty of Education of Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Igbaram. They yielded a correlation coefficient of 0.82 for PIQ and 0.86 for PIQ. The reliability of the instruments were also determined using cronbach alpha method and this yielded a correlation coefficient of 0.83. The data collected were statistically analyzed using Pearson (r) statistic. The SPSS computage package version 26 was employed for data analysis.

Data Analysis

The data collected from the field were analysed in accordance with the research questions and hypotheses that guided the study.

Research Question One: What is the relationship between parental involvement and students academic engagement?

Table 4: Pearson Correlation on Parental Involvement and Academic Engagement in secondary schools.

Variables	N	Parental Involvement	Academic Engagement	Remarks
Parental Involvement	990	1.00	0.46	Moderate positive relationship
Academic Engagement	990	0.46	1.00	

The result presented in Table I showed that there was a correlation between parental involvement and academic engagement of secondary school students in Delta state. The relationship yielded a correlation of $r = 0.46$ (0.05). This indicates that there was a moderate positive relationship between the variables of the study. This implied that as parental involvement increases, their children's academic engagement increases as well.

Research Question Two: What is the relationship between parental involvement and academic engagement of male and female secondary school students in Delta State?

Table 2: Pearson Correlation on Parental Involvement and Academic Engagement among male and female secondary school Students in Delta State.

Variables	N	Parental Involvement	Academic Engagement	Remarks
Parental				
Male				
Parental Involvement	433	1.00	0.54	Moderate Positive Relationship
Academic Engagement	433	0.54	1.00	
Female				
Parental Involvement	557	1.00	0.39	Low Positive Relationship
Academic Engagement	557	0.39	1.00	

Table 2 presented the Pearson's correlation between parental involvement and academic engagement based on gender. The correlation coefficient (r) for males was 0.54 whereas that of the female was 0.39. These values obtained indicated that a moderate positive relationship existed between parental involvement and academic engagement among the males, while, a low positive relationship existed between parental involvement and academic engagement among the females .

Tests of Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant relationship between parental involvement and academic engagement of secondary school students in Delta State.

Table 3: Test of significance of Pearson Correlation on students' Parental Involvement and Academic Engagement in Secondary Schools in Delta State.

Variables	N	Parental Involvement	Academic Engagement	P	Decision
Parental Involvement	990	1.00	0.46	0.000	Significant
Academic engagement	990	0.457	1.00		

Table 3 showed there was a significant positive relationship between parental involvement and students' academic engagement among students in secondary schools in Delta State, ($r = .46$, $p < 0.05$). Since the p-value was less than 0.05, the null hypothesis was rejected.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant relationship between parental involvement and the academic engagements of male and female secondary school students in Delta state.

Table 4: Test of Pearson's Correlation on Parental Involvement and Academic Engagement among male and female students in Secondary Schools in Delta

Variables	N	Parental Involvement	Academic Engagement	P	Decision
Males:					
Parental Involvement	433	1.00	0.54	0.000	Significant
Academic engagement	443	0.54	1.00		
Females:					
Parental Involvement	557	1.00	0.39	.000	Significant
Academic engagement	557	0.39	1.00		

As displayed in Table 4 there was a significant positive relationship between parental involvement and students' academic engagement among males ($r = .54$, $p < 0.05$); there was equally a significant positive relationship between parental involvement and students' academic engagement among female students ($r = .39$, $p < 0.05$). therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected.

Summary of the Findings

Based on the data analysis, the summary of the findings are presented as follows.

1. There is a moderate positive relationship between parental involvement and academic engagement among secondary school students in Delta state.
2. There is a moderate positive relationship between parental involvement and academic engagement among the male secondary school students in Delta state.
3. There is a low positive relationship between parental involvement and academic engagement among the female secondary school students in Delta state.

Discussion of Findings

The discussion was presented in accordance with the purpose of the study presented as follows:

1. Relationship between parental involvement and academic engagement of secondary school students in Delta State.
2. Relationship between parental involvement and academic engagement of male and female secondary school students in Delta State.

Relationship between Parental Involvement and academic engagement of secondary school students in Delta State.

This study sought to find out the relationship between parental involvement and academic engagement of secondary school students in Delta State. The findings of this study showed that there was a significant positive relationship between parental involvement and students' academic engagement among students in secondary schools in Delta State. Although, it was a moderate positive relationship, but it was significant enough to be considered positive. This implies that as parental involvement in their children's education increases as their children's academic engagement increases as well. This finding agreed with that of Umeano (2017) which emphasized the importance of community and family participation to academic engagement and indicated a strong positive relationship between parental involvement and academic engagement of secondary school students. Furthermore, this finding also corroborates the earlier findings of Okon (2019) who explored the relatedness of parental and community involvement to academic performance in senior secondary schools and revealed that parental involvement has a strong positive relationship with the academic engagement of senior secondary school students. This findings could be attributed to the fact that the studies were conducted at secondary level in Nigeria.

Relationship between Parental Involvement and Academic Engagement of Male and Female Secondary School Students in Delta State

This study investigated the relationship between parental involvement and academic engagement of male and female secondary school students in Delta State. The results revealed that a moderate positive relationship existed between parental involvement and academic engagement among the males, whereas, a low positive relationship existed between parental involvement and academic engagement among the females. This suggested that the relationship between the two variables was stronger among males compared to their female students. This finding confirmed the findings of Chohan and Khan (2014) which investigated the difference between the academic engagement of male and female students and found a stronger positive parental relationship on the male students more than the female students. However, the findings of this research refuted the findings of Mante (2015) on the effect of parental involvement on academic performance of students which indicated that there was no relationship between the academic engagement of male and female students. The age of the respondents and location could explain the dissimilarities in findings. Another study of Hussain et al (2018) who investigated the correlation between students' performance and parental involvement at secondary level also disagreed with this study by revealing that the parents of female students had stronger association with their parents compared with parents of male students.

Conclusion

Based on the findings, it was concluded that, there is a significant positive relationship between parental involvement and academic engagement among male and female secondary school students in Delta state. The male students presented a stronger positive relationship with their parents than the female students. Parental involvement in a student's education leads to positive academic engagement, which impacts on the overall success of the students at secondary school level. A student whose parent is involved in his or her education is positively motivated to engage academically.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendations are made:

1. Parents should recognize their involvement in their child's learning as a significant factor for their positive academic engagement. They should therefore increase their efforts by being more involved in their children's learning through taking the leading roles in supporting their children's learning endeavours, like take home assignments, encouraging them to study and going through their notes after school.
2. Guidance counsellors and school administrators should work together to organize periodic workshops and seminars for parents on the need for their involvement in their children's learning to enhance their overall academic success.
3. The findings on parental involvement showed a lower positive relationship among the female students than the male. Public enlightenment programmes should be provided by the government through

social media and other platforms to sensitize parents on the need to be gender sensitive by encouraging both their male and female children alike.

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