

Parental support in students' academic motivation

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Abstract

Parents play a vital role in developing study habits and in improving academic performance. This study determines parental involvement in students' academic motivation. Specifically, this sought answers to what are the kinds of support that parents give and the factors affecting academic motivation of children. This involves 10 parent-respondents of Grade 9 Mansanas from Matingain and Balanga, Lemery, Batangas of school year 2021-2022. A semi-structured interview questions were crafted by the researcher for data – gathering in which the respondents were interviewed during limited face-to-face. The semi-structured interview questions were validated by the psychometrician. Through purposive sampling, the respondents were referred by the barangay captains of brgy. Matingain and Balanga from Lemery District. The study used qualitative research design. A qualitative research design is concerned with establishing answers to the whys and how's of the phenomenon in question. Based on the interview, the following themes emerged in terms of the kinds of support that parents give to their children, providing basic needs, giving moral support, and spending quality time with children. While watching and playing online games, doing household chores/tasks, and lack of parent's encouragement are the factors affecting children's motivation.

Keywords: parental, involvement, students, academic, motivation

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1. Introduction

When the Covid 19 reached the Philippines, education is one of the most affected sectors of the society that has been shaken by the global pandemic caused by the novel coronavirus. As the pandemic changes the way we live, the demand for a more flexible learning opportunity also increased. To alleviate this growing necessity, the educational institutions all over the country has shifted to distance learning. This type of remote learning method enables the learners to stay at home with the guidance of their parents to study. Through modular distance learning the modules are used by the learners and facilitate learning on their own. In this approach, it encourages students' independent learning. The learners are engaged in the different concepts indicated in the modules. Based on the observation, there are some students who were able to cope with the lesson while others find difficulty because of limited knowledge to answer the activities. While it is true that teachers play a vital role in teaching-learning process, majority of the time spent of students in studying are at home. This is where students read and answer the modules. Parents or guardians were firsthand assistant in this set-up. Thus, this needs for parent support regarding their academic motivation.

Gov. Feliciano Leviste Memorial National High School caters several students having different academic performance and needs. Because of pandemic, it shifted its approach in modular print. In today's mode of learning, students faced a lot of challenges on understanding difficult lessons. Some find staying at home to study quite boring and wanted to escape from monotonous environment. In addition, others don't get support from their parents especially when it comes to academic motivation. Due to increasing physiological needs, both parents need to work to support family's expenses. On the other hand, parents tend to become busy of doing household chores that eventually neglect motivating their children to focus on studies.

This study is focused on how parental support plays a vital role in students' academic motivation. This study discussed how the select parents contribute to the success of teaching-learning process in the new normal by continuously guiding their children in their education.

Research questions:

This study determines parental involvement in students' academic motivation. Specifically, it sought answer to the following:

- What are the kinds of support that parents give to their children in their academic motivation?
- What are the factors affecting academic motivation of their children?
- What action plan can be proposed to improve academic motivation?

Scope and limitations - This study was conducted to determine parental support among students during pandemic. This involves 10 parent-respondents of Grade 9 Mansanas from Matingain and Balanga, Lemery, Batangas. A semi-structured interview questions were crafted by the researcher for data – gathering where respondents were interviewed face-to-face. The semi-structured interview questions were validated by the psychometrician. The study involved 10 parents of select Grade 9 students during School year 2021-2022. Because of the pandemic, wherein limited face-to-face was being implemented, only 10 respondents were interviewed. The respondents were randomly selected using purposive and selective sampling.

2. Research methodology

Purposive sampling was used in data gathering. The respondents were referred by the barangay captains

from Matingain and Balanga of Lemery District. Brought by pandemic, limited face-to-face meeting have been implemented. The study used qualitative research design. A qualitative research design is concerned with establishing answers to the whys and how's of the phenomenon in question. In this study, the consent was given freely by the respondents. The subject of this study understands what is being asked on them. The consent to record the interview was also asked from the participants. The confidentiality of the participants was preserved by not revealing their names and identity in the data collection, thematic analysis and reporting of the findings. For ethical considerations, the data gathered was used for education purposes only and utmost confidentiality was secured.

A semi-structured interview served as the data gathering instrument in which 10 parents of Grade 9 students were asked about the effect of parental involvement in academic motivation of students. The parent-respondents were interviewed through face to face and/or online interview. Questions were asked among the selected respondents. The Thematic Analysis of data was used for this study. Thematic analysis is a method for analyzing qualitative data that entails searching across a data set to identify, analyze, and report repeated patterns (Braun and Clarke 2006). It is a method for describing data, but it involves interpretation in the process of selecting codes and constructing themes.

3. Literature review

This chapter covers the review of literature from local and foreign articles that provide significant concepts for this study. Motivation is an important factor in learner's achievement. When properly motivated, students strive effort to learn and perform better in the learning tasks and scores higher in standardized tests. When students are motivated, they keep track on their academic performance and shows eagerness to achieve their goals. Dweck, et al. (2011) mentioned that when students were given proper support by their parents, academic failure and school leavers can be avoided. Most of the students fail when parents are not spending quality time with their children. Students who are loved at home come to school to learn, but students who are not given attention at home perform less tasks at school.

Parental involvement among students' academics comes in providing them with learning materials, showing interest in and being attentive to their emotional needs as a child. An important aspect of children's success is parental involvement in the children's academic motivation. Parents must continuously be a most important component of curriculum (Nihat Sad & Gurbuzturk, 2013). Moreover, if school-based instruction is being supported by parents at home no learners will be left behind in their academic performance. Parental involvement creates a positive impact in students' regular attendance, improved academic performance, developed sense of confidence and discipline. Accordingly, students should not think of being overly challenged when being monitored by their parents. Parents' role is to guide and properly monitor if their children achieve the knowledge and skills needed to succeed.

Motivation is regarded as central to successful learning and achievement. Motivation as a "theoretical construct used to explain the initiation, direction, intensity, persistence, and quality of behavior, especially goal-directed behavior" (Wentzel & Brophy, 2014). Parental involvement does not only refer to parents asking about the performance of a learner in schools, but also taking active role in interacting with their children with to build a healthy relationship, so that encouragement, mentoring, and inspiring may be felt. In the study of Clinto & Hattie (2013), it was revealed that lower achieving students need support and talking parents about their learning and schooling. Doing these results to higher expectations and improve learning. The role of the parents as a facilitator of learning at home because of pandemic is very important (del Castillo, 2023; Brossard et al., 2020).

Hamlin (2018) discussed the key supports that parents may give to their children such as nourishment, psychological wellbeing, and motivation utilize. A healthy learner does not make any excuses especially during class periods. While learners who don't have proper nutrition remain disturbed while attending classes. Some learners cannot focus well on their lessons because of insufficient nourishment. Without genuine support for students, the increasing standards for student learning level the problem that several students will fail and leave the

educational system (Dweck, Walton, & Cohen, 2011). Study shows that school dropout rates increased. It can be traced that the reason behind is the lack of support from parents or guardians.

4. Results and discussion

Table 1

Parental Support given to children

Themes	Description
1. Providing basic needs	This refers to access to basic and essential goods and services, such as adequate food, clothing, health care, education, and sanitation.
2. Giving moral support	This pertains to the act of helping someone by giving love, encouragement, etc.
3. Spending quality time with children	Quality time is time with your children and giving them undivided attention doing tasks that they like to do.

4.1 Kinds of support that parents give to their children in their academic motivation.

Based on the interview, the following themes are the identified kinds of support that parents give to their children's academic motivation.

Theme 1. Providing basic needs

This refers to access to basic and essential goods and services, such as adequate food, clothing, health care, education, and sanitation. Parent 1 shared that

“As a mother of four children, I supported them not only their basic needs. Parents 2, 7 and 9 shared that “I give my children their needs like food and clothing and other personal things they need.” Parents 4, 5, 8 and 10 shared “I give them financial support for their studies”. Parent 10 added “they pay for some school projects and that I need to keep some amount of money every time my child asks for it. Also, “she doesn't want to be late in giving payment in school.”

In the study conducted by Ghazi S., et.al (2010), it was recommended that children should be assisted in daily life needs (textbooks, exercise books, pens, satchels etc.) by their parents.

Theme 2. Giving moral support

This pertains to the act of helping someone by giving love, encouragement, etc. Parents 5 and 6 mentioned that

“I give them moral support”. Parent 1 shared that “I supported them not only their basic needs but also moral support. I have given them time for bonding, to know their personal problems and other concern.” “I considered them as my friend so that they did not hesitate to share their problems and feelings in life. Parent 8 narrates “moral support is important especially now that they are growing up.”

Based on the study, children whose guardians are involved with their schoolwork go to class more than whose guardians are uninvolved. They become academically inclined and refrain from making absences (Fraser, 2017).

Theme 3. Spending quality time with children

This refers to the time with your children and giving them undivided attention doing tasks that they like to do. Parent 3 narrates

I always talk to my son even in my busy schedule. I never forget to give love and call him always whenever I'm in my work.”

A student whose parents take the time to attend school happenings makes a child realize that school is important and should be taken seriously. Darling, Kleiman, and Larocque (2011) suggested that family involvement in school activities becomes a vital factor in students' success.

4.2 Factors affecting academic motivation of children.

Table 2

Factors affecting children's academic motivation

Themes	Description
1.Watching and playing online games	An online game is a video game that is either partially or primarily played through the internet or another computer network available
2.Doing household chores/tasks	These are tasks such as cleaning, washing, and ironing that must be done regularly at home.
3.Lack of parents' encouragement	This refers to encouragement or praise the child should receive for their strengths and to develop sense of pride and self-confidence.

Based on the interview conducted among the respondents, the factors affecting children's academic motivation are the following:

Theme 1. Watching and playing online games

An online game is a video game that is either partially or primarily played through the internet or another computer network available. This is one of the factors that affect children's academic performance because most of the time, the children were busy watching and playing with their gadgets that almost forgot doing their school activities/tasks. Based on the interview conducted by the researcher, Parents 1, 2 and 10 shared that

"The things that can affect their academic motivation are cellphone and other gadgets." Parent 5 added that "My children are fond of watching you tube". Sometimes, they watch for a long period of time with their cousins and friends. My children don't go out, they just watch online games", Parent 2 added. "They are fond of watching and playing online games", said Parent 4.

Online games encourage the children to be involved because of its convenience and accessibility. Those playing games can be accessed from anywhere at any time. Also, online games of all ages are more entertaining and enjoyable.

Theme 2. Doing household chores/tasks

Doing household chores are tasks such as cleaning, washing, and ironing that must be done regularly at home. Some children neglect doing their activities and assignments at home because they become more focused on helping their family with lots of household chores. Some students cram answering their modules the day before its submission. As a result, some activities/tasks were left unread and unanswered. Parent 3 mentioned that

"In my case, being a single mom, sometimes I asked them to help us do household works because I cannot do all those things by myself". After doing those activities they get tired and have few times to study". My child's grades were not high because I don't have enough time to teach him", Parent 3 added.

According to Kuensel Online (2020), there are more than one in three students who could not study well at home because they are engaged in households' chores during the pandemic.

Theme 3. Lack of Parent's encouragement

This refers to encouragement or praise the child should receive for their strengths and to developing sense of pride and self-confidence. Parents 7 and 8 agreed that

“Lack of parent’s encouragement and moral support may lead children to dislike studying”. Some parents have more time talking with their relatives and forget to teach their children”, Parent 6 and 9 added. Sometimes I just agree to them if they don’t like to answer modules because I am busy also doing chores at home, Parent 6 narrates.

In the study conducted by Miguel et.al (2021), results showed that material and emotional support of the parents were regarded as the primary parental involvement in the schooling at home. Parents need to value continues education and feel the need to adapt in the new normal setting of schooling.

5. Conclusions

The following conclusions were drawn based on the findings as revealed in the research. From the research conducted, the researchers found that parents give support among the children and there are several factors that affect academic motivation. This is quite a big challenge in the success of academic motivation of parents among their children. In conclusion, the research was able to determine the kinds of support that parents give to children and the factors that affect academic motivation. From this perspective, the findings of this study reveal that:

- The parental support being given to children are providing basic needs, moral support, and spending quality time. Students need love and care for them to keep pursuing their dreams and ambitions in life. Keeping them motivated may lead to a more successful life.
- The factors affecting academic motivation are watching or playing online games, doing household chores/tasks and lack of parent’s encouragement. Students who are exposed to playing online games may be distracted in their school tasks and other activities. While doing household chores/tasks may keep them aware of the duties and responsibilities at home. On the other hand, the lack of parent’s encouragement may result to disruptive behavior of children. Students become inattentive and lack initiative to perform well in class.

5.1 Recommendations

After data gathering and making thorough analysis of the findings of the study conducted by the researcher, the following were recommended.

- Parents should continuously provide children’s basic needs, uplift well-being, and spend quality time despite having busy schedules.
- Parents should have proper scheduling of children’s playing online games and doing tasks at home. Moreover, parents should spend special attention among children and develop interpersonal relationship between them. Continuous motivation may lead to higher academic success.
- Children should develop self-discipline in making use of their time. Time-management may be exercised and can be developed into a habit.
- Children should prioritize their studies by doing their activities/tasks given by their teachers. Doing well in school will lead them to a successful life in the future.
- Following their parents’ pieces of advice may contribute to being a worthwhile child and improves academic motivation.

Proposed action plan

Activities	Description	Partner	Timeframe
Develop among children their dedication and hard work	This is based on the theory of Growth Mindset in which the brain and talent are the starting point of success. Through dedication and hard work, children can create love of learning and become resilient that is essential part of great accomplishment.	Parents, teachers, Students	Year round
Encourage open and sincere communication among children/students	This is based on Theory of Reasoned Action (Ajze, Fishbein) in which social influences effect behavior, including beliefs and perceived social norms. Parents must talk to their children every day and be an active listener.	Parents, Teachers, children/Students	Year round
Develop students' habit in reading	this is based on Habit formation theory of William James (1914), by which a behavior, through regular repetition, becomes automatic or habitual. When a student develops the habit in reading, he/she can be able to answer the activities and learn easily.	Parents, Teachers, Children, Students	Year round

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