

EVALUATION OF PERCEPTION OF PARENTS PERTAINING PARENTAL ROLE IN PRIMARY EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN IN GWADABAWA, SOKOTO STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The study utilized a descriptive survey involving 279 parents in the study area. The study emphasizes the crucial role parents play in primary education, highlighting specific contributions: Key findings include, payment of school fees (69.9%), transportation (13.6%), Extra lessons (10.4%), Provision of food (11.11%). Equally, the study highlights some key ways to encourage parental participation in primary school children's education: Awareness creation (42.7%); PTA (Parent-Teacher Association) (46.6%); Legislation (10.5%). The study identifies several problems affecting parental participation in primary school children's education, including as follows: Poor awareness of parents (42.3%) cited this as a major issue; Poverty or unemployment of parents (25.8%); and Lack of time of parents (31.9%). Thus, the findings underscore the significance of parental involvement in supporting children's education, aligning with previous studies. The results also highlight the need for strategies to address these challenges and promote greater parental involvement in children's education.

Keywords:

Poor awareness, parents, role, lack time, children, primary education.

1. Introduction

Primary education serves as the cornerstone of a child's academic journey, laying the groundwork for future learning, personal growth, and social development. This critical phase, typically spanning from ages 5 to 11, is a period of rapid cognitive, emotional, and social transformation. During these formative years, children develop essential skills, values, and attitudes that will shape their approach to learning and influence their overall trajectory in life (Sarkingobir & Tukur, 2024). Primary education plays a multifaceted role in a child's development, encompassing not only the acquisition of foundational knowledge in subjects like reading, writing, mathematics, and science but also the cultivation of critical thinking, problem-solving, and social skills. It is a time when children learn to navigate relationships with peers and authority figures, develop emotional intelligence, and begin to understand their place within their community (Gado & Alkammawa, 2017; Amadi et al., 2020).

The significance of primary education extends beyond the classroom, as it sets the stage for a child's future academic success and lifelong learning. A strong foundation in primary education can foster a love of learning, promote self-confidence, and equip children with the tools they need to overcome challenges and achieve their goals. Moreover, primary education plays a crucial role in shaping a child's worldview, values, and attitudes, influencing their ability to contribute positively to society as they grow (El Haq & Apriyanti, n.d.). Given its profound impact, ensuring access to high-quality primary education is essential for individuals, communities, and societies as a whole. By investing in primary education, we can empower future generations with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to thrive in an ever-changing world, ultimately contributing to the advancement of society and the realization of individual potential (Bello et al., 2017; Adjibolosoo et al., 2019; Abubakar & Raji, 2021).

Parents are the cornerstone of a child's educational journey, and their involvement plays a pivotal role in shaping young minds during the formative primary years (Minj, 1999). As a child's first teachers, parents lay the foundation for future academic success, social development, and emotional well-being. The primary education stage is a critical phase where children begin to develop essential skills, values, and attitudes that will influence their lifelong learning trajectory. Parental involvement in primary education encompasses a wide range of activities, from supporting learning at home and communicating with teachers to fostering a positive attitude toward education and providing necessary resources. By actively engaging in their child's education, parents can significantly enhance their child's academic performance, boost their confidence, and instill a love for learning (Angwaomaodoku, 2023).

Moreover, parental involvement helps bridge the gap between home and school, creating a cohesive learning environment that benefits the child. When parents and teachers work together, they can identify and address any challenges or gaps in a child's learning, ensuring that the child receives the support they need to thrive. In this context, understanding the role of parents in primary education is crucial for educators, policymakers, and families alike (Arunraj, 2016; Ceka & Murati, 2016). By recognizing the importance of parental involvement and exploring ways to foster it, we can work together to provide children with the best possible start in life, setting them up for success in their academic, personal, and professional endeavors. The major objective of this paper was to evaluate the perception of parents pertaining parental role in primary education of their children in Gwadabawa, Sokoto State, Nigeria.

2. Materials and Methods

A survey study was conducted to investigate the perception of parents on their role in primary education of children in Gwadabawa, involving 279 parents.

Research Design

Quantitative Research Design was a survey approach was utilized to collect data from parents. Therein, simple random sampling technique was employed to select the participants.

Methods

Data Collection Tool involved a well-structured questionnaire was administered to the parents to gather data on their perceptions and involvement in their children's education. Data Analysis therein involved descriptive statistics used to analyze the data.

3. Results and Discussion

Table 1: Role of Parents in Primary Education of Their Children

Role	Frequency	Percentage
Payment of school fees	170	60.9
Transport	38	13.6
Extra lesson	29	10.4
Provision of food	31	11.11
Community participation	11	3.9

The parental role in shaping the life of children could not be overemphasized. Based on Table 1, the roles include the followings: Payment of school fees (69.9%), transport to and fro to school (13.6%), extra lesson (10.4%), community participation (3.9%) and provision of food (11.11%). The findings are similar to the result of Arunraj (2016) that reported role of parents in students education such as home work; likewise, that of Williams et al. (2002) shows parental involvement in children's education in issues like PTA, fundraising, and learning outside school hours.

Table 2: Ways of Encouraging the Parents on Their in Primary Education of Their Children

Ways	Frequency	Percentage
Awareness creation	119	42.7
Parents teachers association (PTA)	130	46.6
Legislation	30	10.8
Total	279	100.0

Ways to encourage parents participating properly in educating primary school children are many, but, according the finding revealed in Table 2, the ways include, awareness creation (42.7%), PTA (46.6%), and legislation (10.5%). Minj (1999) reported a similar work that included creating more awareness on the importance of parental involvement in children's education. Likewise, Mncube (2020) reported ways of solving parental involvement, including, communication and community engagement.

Table 3: Problems Affecting Parents Participation in Primary Education of Their Children

Problem	Frequency	Percentage
Poor awareness	118	42.3
Poverty or unemployment	72	25.8
Lack of time	89	31.9
Total	279	100.0

Problems affecting or militating the participation of parents in the education of primary school children are more than one. The Table 3 show that the parents perceived problems include, poor awareness (42.3%), poverty or unemployment (25.8%), and lack of time (31.9%). The results is in concomitant with that of Williams et al.(2002) that include lack of time, and work-life balance, illiteracy, among the major challenges affecting parents involvement in children's education.

4. Conclusion

The study on the perception of parents' role in primary education in Gwadabawa highlights the significance of parental involvement in children's academic achievement. Roles of parents are: Payment of school fees, transportation, extra lessons, and provision of food). Ways to encourage participation are: Awareness creation, Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs), and legislation. Challenges found are: Poor awareness, poverty/unemployment, and lack of time. Thus, the study underscores the need for targeted interventions to enhance parental involvement, such as increasing awareness about the importance of parental involvement, strengthening PTAs to foster collaboration between parents and teachers, and addressing socio-economic challenges that hinder parental participation. By promoting parental involvement, we can create a more supportive learning environment that benefits children and enhances their educational outcomes.

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