

ROLE OF HOME WORK IN ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF CHILDREN OF PRIMARY SCHOOL LEVEL

(A MINOR RESEARCH PROJECT IN HOME SCIENCE)

BY

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1. Introduction:

Primary education is the beginning of formal education in the life of children. Schools no matter private or government run, carry the responsibility of shaping future of children and in turn the nation. Now with Right to Education Act (2009) the Indian Government is committed to provide free and compulsory education to each and every child up to the age of fourteen.

Primary education in India is focused on the main areas like rudimentary reading, writing arithmetic skills some research studies indicated that homework assign to children is very significant from the point of view of their academic achievement. The present study has examined nature, impact and subject specific type of homework given by teachers. It also focused on parent's role in homework.

The title of the research project is, "Role of Homework in academic achievement of Children of primary school level."

Hypothesis of Study:

- Parents play significant role in accomplishing homework.
- Nature of homework influence child understands of specific subject.
- Teacher's role is significant in providing home work.
- Academic achievement is influenced by homework.

Scope of the Study:

This study has covered the primary schools in Nashik and nearby places mostly offering Marathi as their medium of instruction.

For final data collection two schools from each town were selected.

Two Schools were selected from Nashik, Dhule and two schools were selected from Malegaon. Students, parents and teachers were selected as respondents of present study.

Research Methodology

Methodology Adopted in Project:

Present researcher has collected data with questionnaire method of data collection. Separate questionnaires were prepared for students, teachers and parents. They were filled with group administrated questionnaire method. This provided researcher with finely filled up questionnaires.

Following are the schools from which data was collected:

1. Madhavrao Lele Vidhyalaya Nashik.
2. Annasaheb Vaishampayan School, Nashik.
3. Jai Hind Primary School, Dhule.
4. Jai Hind High School, Dhule.
5. Bal VidyaNiketan Primary School, Malegaon Camp.
6. Nadarbai Panditrao Suryawanshi Primary School, Malegaon Camp.

Review of Literature:

The researcher has reviewed almost 100 resources including books, journals websites news papers etc.. Reviews collected on, teachers views on homework, parental involvement, time spend on homework, nature of homework assignment. The libraries visited by the researcher, namely K.T.H.M.College,B.Ed.Library,Yeshwantrao Chavan Maharashtra

Open University Library, Indian Institute of Education Pune, Maharashtra Bal Shikshan Parishad and balshikshan sanshodhan vikas Kendra, Pune, S.N.D.T. University Library Pune, S.M.R.K.B.K.A.K. Mahila Mahavidyalaya Library Nashik has enriched the knowledge and understanding of the researcher. Extensive review of literature on the topic helped in formation of objectives, hypothesis and prepare questionnaire.

Data Analysis and Interpretation:

Questionnaires developed for present study focused on certain aspects. All the three questionnaires tried to fetch answers to whether homework is given in schools, frequency of giving homework, nature of homework, impact of home work on academic achievement of children, parents' involvement in completing homework assignment etc.

Sample included students from class 4th and 5th there were total 358 student respondents, 60 parents and 18 teachers. Subjects selected for study were Mathematics and Science.

Hypothesis 1: Parents role in accomplishing homework is significant.

By analysis of data and applying of statistical tool this hypothesis has proved that parents role is significant in accomplishing homework.

Hypothesis 2: Nature of homework influences child's understanding of a subject

In conclusion one can say that nature of homework and subject understanding are dependent when it comes to homework of Science. For mathematics, nature of homework and subject understanding are independent

Hypothesis 3: Teacher's role is significant in providing homework.

Above discussion leads to prove that teachers role in providing homework activity is significant.

Hypothesis 4: Academic achievement is influenced by homework.

At the end conclusion coming out is homework and academic achievement are independent when it comes to mathematics. Whereas about science, homework and academic achievement are dependent.

Major Research Findings:

- a) 100% students replied that they were given homework.
- b) 99% students stated that they like to do homework.
- c) 57.54% students stated that homework of math was given on daily bases, 26.54% replied that they get math homework after the lesson is over.
- d) 69.55% students stated that homework of science is received after the lesson is over.19.55% had mentioned that they get daily homework for science.
- e) 91.90 % students stated that for math they get homework in the form of problem solving. The exercises given below the textbooks. For Science 67.32 % students replied that they get problem solving exercises from textbooks.
- f) On evaluation and assessment of homework 44.13 % students responded that their subject teachers checked their homework,
- g) Teachers responded that for mathematics they gave problem solving homework
- h) 72.22% teachers assign homework on daily basis.
- i) All the teachers reported they did plan homework assignment.
 - a. On parental involvement in accomplishment of homework 88.88% teachers think parents play significant role in accomplishment of homework.
 - b. 95% parents thought their child completed homework.
 - c. When parents were asked about benefit of homework, 97% reported that homework yields good marks to their children.
 - d. 95% parents thought homework of math was given more often. And 77% parents thought that mathematics homework is problem solving.
 - e. For question of helping their children in completing homework, 70% parents answered affirmatively.
 - f. Parents were asked whether homework was checked by school and 89% responded that checking was done.

Recommendations:

- 1) Training on homework assignments should be provided to teachers.
- 2) Schools should evolve a policy on homework.

- 3) Parents should be oriented and trained for helping children in homework.
- 4) Schools in the slum area should be equipped with ICT so that computer based homework assignment can be provided and children from poor background can also be brought at par of the other children.
- 5) Opportunity for development of Creativity and leisure time for children should have some place in school routine.

Scope for further research:

In Present study, researcher had experienced certain gaps in the area of research on this topic. In India very few studies have been undertaken. The literature review on this topic revealed that the primary school age group has not covered much in the studies. Therefore there is a need to focus this age group as subject area.

It was also felt that since the present research has been undertaken in state board Marathi medium and semi English medium schools, the further studies should be conducted for English medium and other board schools and there is a scope for comparative study.

With all these suggestions and recommendations the researcher conclude this project report on the note that homework which currently is an integral part of school curriculum could be made interactive. It could be turned into a tool which triggers learning, fosters subject understanding and develops liking towards a subject.

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