



# FAMILY SITUATION AND ITS IMPACT ON CHILD'S LEARNING CAPACITY: A REVIEW

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**ABSTRACT:** The system family comprises the subsystems- parents' child subsystem, sibling subsystem, and marital subsystem. All these subsystems are mutually dependent on one another, even the trivial problem within or among these subsystems creates emotional disturbance. The family does not play its entire role in shaping a child's education or learning process but it has its major role in influencing it.

Family background tends to be the harvesting ground where the seeds of encouragement, confidence, emotional intelligence etc. are sown in the young minds. Each and every family contributes its members to the society in order to contribute for its welfare growth and development. In this study, the parental income, parent's education, parents' interaction with students and the parents' unity are taken as the factors for affecting (positively or negatively) a student's learning process. This study would enable us to understand the present scenario and show the way forward for further analysis in which the present study has shown its limited perspectives. The aim of this study is to bring out the factors which seem to be secondary in students' development but happen to be the primary in providing the mental peace which is the root cause for all success or failure in a child's life.

**Keywords** Parental Income, Parents Education, Parents Interaction and Family Unity

## **INTRODUCTION**

Education, the mighty tool in taking away the ignorance in the minds of young people is hindered by many factors but importantly the impact of family situations. The family background which is considered as the two edged sword to develop or destroy a child's life plays its mighty role. The role of the family of a child has its play right from the initial stage of a child's mental health and will become a stronghold in a person's behavior in the later stage either positively or negatively. According to Raashid Iqbal Bhat (2022) Family members have a vital part in their children's education. The method in which a youngster is immersed in a learning environment is determined by his or her family history. A child's academic success also influences his familiar background. The financial stability and hopeful intentions of parents tend to imply a high level of concern about the impact of parental involvement on a child's academic achievement.

There is no doubt in accepting the fact that a nation invests a major portion of investment in the development of human resources. The essence of real benefit will get drifted away by the unseen forces which war against the mental health that operates a person from within. The investment of education in terms of time, money and energy has to be judged by the real outcome, especially the quality of education in terms of knowledge and the skills acquired by the youth from his/her childhood.

## **SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

The study aimed at focusing on the impact of family situations has emphasized the importance of understanding the hidden or undisclosed area of one's exhibited act. Out of the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks- the mental health which is the hidden area, where one is not interested in revealing it out and the others are not showing interest to understand it, has its pivotal role to play in affecting the societal environment to a large extent.

This study is conducted with the aim of finding out the family situation issues affecting the learning process of a child. The factors encompassing the family situation – Parental Income, Parents' Education, Parents' Involvement in children's education are taken as the factors to find out its impact on the learning capacity.

## **LACK OF INTEREST UNDERPINS THE SKILL GAP**

The students who scale up their excellence or come down with their depressive state of mind are mainly and deeply influenced by their parental role or family situation. The study by Janay Boswell Sander & Cari Mccarty (2005) says that psychosocial parent and family factors associated with youth depression are examined and the literature indicates that a broad array of parent and family factors is associated with youth risk for depression, ranging from parental pathology to parental cognitive style to family emotional climate.

Education, a supportive pillar for a nation's development cannot be denied or left unnoticed which will have its severe impact on a country's overall development. Youth is the vital source of blessing in building the nation economically, socially, culturally, technically and in all aspects to be safeguarded both mentally and physically.

## **ECONOMIC CONDITION AND THE DEPRIVED YOUTH**

The study conducted by Bijaya Mallik (2015) youth development in India: does poverty matter? explores the differentials in youth development patterns determined by the economic condition of the household in India. The wealth index is used to glean youth development differentials in the different economic categories of the household. The findings suggest that youth from the bottom 20 percent (poorest) of households are deprived in education, employment, labour force and are not working currently compared to youth from the middle and rich households. This study also reveals the finding that the economic conditions of the family paves the way for discrimination in learning.

The economic condition portrayed here is revealed in the study through the comparative analysis conducted by Xinzhuo, Zhu; Junhua, Shi; Zhihui, Dong (2015) says that the family backgrounds of the entire undergraduate student body of X University and the group of student union cadres shows: the proportion of college students who serve as student union cadres who come from cities and have families with high social status, high family income, and parents with high educational backgrounds is greater than that of college students from the rural areas with families with low social status, low family income, and parents with low educational backgrounds.

## PARENTS' EDUCATION A COMMUNICATIVE TOOL FOR THE CHILDREN

The educated parents differ from the uneducated parents in transforming the knowledge to the younger generations and the education of the parents serves as a communicative tool to infuse the knowledge. According to Laura lara & Mahia Saracosti (2019) that there are differences in children's academic achievement between the parental involvement profiles, indicating children whose parents have a low involvement have lower academic achievement. Findings are in line with international research evidence, suggesting the need to focus on this variable too in Latin American contexts.

Jacquelynne S. Eccles ( 2005) in her study she mentions that there is consistent evidence that parents' education predicts children's educational outcomes, alongside other distal family characteristics such as family income, parents' occupations and residence location.

According to Pushkar Maitra and Anurag Sharma (2009) the effect of parental education on school progression varies over the different stages. Mother's education is important at the initial levels, at these levels father's educational attainment has almost no role to play. Father's educational attainment becomes crucial in the decision to continue on to post-secondary levels. These studies show that the education of the parents plays a vital role in imparting the education to the children.

The survey focused on consumer spending on the education of children studying in affordable private and government schools across Tier 1-4 cities in India by India Today and the data shows large gaps in education spending across the country, owing to factors such as expensive options for supplementary education, varying availability of resources, and levels of education of parents. As we move from Tier I to Tier IV, the average spending on education reduces, which influences the equitable access to education in the country (India today April 25 2022).

## INTERACTION OF PARENTS A BINDING FACTOR FOR MANY ACHIEVEMENTS

The considerable time well spent by the parents with the children is the seed sown to wait for the benefits to be reaped in the future to be manifested in many ways of success. At the same time, care must be taken not to spoil the relationship with corrective measures which are not pleased by the children.

Sanjana Kirtan Shah & Preeti Nakhat (2018) had found the results obtained were surprising, in spite of 129 students having an 'A' graded relationship with their parents the results concluded that even the 'A' graded relationship had many flaws and could lead to degradation in the bond. Amongst the 129 students 79 students felt their parents are extremely demanding and 46 felt that they are being symbolically punished. That means that even while the parents tried to maintain and put in their efforts to be fairly positive in the areas like protecting, indifferent, loving, symbolic reward and object reward and very calm in , object punishment, rejecting, and neglecting, they unfortunately failed when it came to symbolic punishment and demanding and ignorantly degraded their fair graded relationship.

Spare the rod and spoil the child is the verse suitable to the younger generations if the rod happens to be the rod of correction and coated with the virtues of understanding, love and affection, which many parents fail to exhibit in times of trouble. Reeta Sonawat (2001) says that the family life and the family's environment also have to be enriched. A strong family unit would promote child development and prevent child destitution. Rosmaria Omar (2017) showed that parental involvement was positively related with achievement motivation and students' achievement which in turns achievement motivation also related to students' achievement.

## PERFECT FAMILY VERSUS UNITED FAMILY

The family does not have to be perfect just it needs to be united. It is the most spoken and least understood saying in the current family scenario as the trivial matters in the family breaks the family and unfortunately the children do not have the solution to bind and mold it to the previous form. In these situations, the children

survive to manage with the situations but they fail to live as they long for the mutual understanding among the parents which are the rare jewels or the lost treasure in many families. The ultimate result (negatively) is exhibited in their relationship and achievements and later on blamed by the society as if it is committed by these innocent minds.

The results of this study by Abdollah Rezaei-Dehaghani et al (2018) showed that students' academic achievement is highly correlated with the performance of their families. Therefore, to improve students' educational status in cultural and educational programs, which are specified for them, family function centered plans should be at the heart of attention.

Yuwei Deng et al (2022) examined the link between stress, depression, and academic performance. It was confirmed that academic and family stress leads to depression among students, negatively affecting their academic performance and learning outcomes. This research provides valuable information to parents, educators, and other stakeholders concerned about their children's education and performance

The impact of family situations can be manifested in any form like the education of the parents, parental income, upbringing of the children, units of the parents etc. All these factors encompass a family inside the four walls through which the external forces cannot drive in and provide the needed corrections.

The nature and type of problems may manifest in different dimensions based on the culture and social factor of the family on which it is built upon. So, the magnitude of the problem varies based on the psychology and the environment in which the child is brought up.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Menggjie Lyu et al (2019) found that the family socio economic status exerts much stronger positive effects on children's academic achievements in the USA & Germany than in China and the structural factors play much smaller roles.

Naila Iqbal (2022) found that there is a significant impact of financial stress on student's positivity and their academic achievement. Moreover, family conflicts partially mediate the relationship between financial stress and student's positivity and their academic achievement.

A study was conducted to generate and evaluate a measure of financial stress for undergraduate students and the financial stress is commonly experienced among college students and is associated with adverse academic, mental health, and physical health outcomes. Surprisingly, no validated measures of financial stress have been developed for undergraduate populations (Northern Jebediah J et al, 2010)

The findings of the study by S.K.N. Vellymalay, 2011 indicates a moderate relationship between the parents' education level and the strategies the parents implemented. The higher the standard of parents' education, the higher the educational aspirations held by the parents regarding the academic achievement of their children. In addition, parents with a higher level of education tend to utilise various strategies of involvement at home and at school to foster academic excellence in their children.

Zhanglu Li and Zegi oiu (2018) says it is found that the parents compete for high-quality educational opportunities for their children and better educational opportunities lead to better academic performance. Secondly, parenting behavior and educational support for their children could cultivate children's learning habits and affect academic performance. We also find urban students' academic performance are more heavily affected by their families' socioeconomic status compared with rural students

According to L Stein berg et al ( 1992) The positive impact of authoritative parenting on adolescent achievement, however, is mediated by the positive effect of authoritativeness on parental involvement in schooling. In addition, nonauthoritativeness attenuates the beneficial impact of parental involvement in

schooling on adolescents' achievement. Parental involvement is much more likely to promote adolescent school success when it occurs in the context of an authoritative home environment.

The children raised in more authoritative homes do have a more positive view of authority than children raised in homes where other parenting styles were used. However, the lack of a significant main effect of involvement and the lack of an interaction between involvement and strictness, suggests that strictness is the main variable accounting for the difference in view of authority (Maxson, Thomas Z, 1998)

The main findings of this research indicated that students with highly involved parents had better academic performance and higher test scores in all the subjects compared to students whose parents were not involved in their education. The findings suggested that parents should grow more awareness on the importance of visiting and supporting their children in school. It was also recommended that parents should take an active role in assisting their children's education at school and at home since they are the first teachers of their children (Ibrahima Naite, 2021)

Orchara Elizabeth Moturi Alice et al (2016) found that lack of clear policies in pre schools regarding parental participation; lack of proper mode of communication with their children, poor parent-preschool teacher relationship, unfavourable head teachers' leadership style and illiteracy among parents some of the challenges facing parents in their active participation in education of preschool learners.

According to Claudine L. Bartolome (2021), the result of a recent study demonstrates that family structure has no significant impact on children's academic ability. Other family structure characteristics, such as socioeconomic position, family size, parent education, parental participation, and the like, on the other hand, have a significant impact on enhancing children's academic achievement. As a result, more research and analysis into additional family features is still recommended.

Parental involvement was found to improve academic and emotional functioning among adolescents. In addition, parental involvement predicted adolescent academic success and mental health both directly and indirectly through behavioral and emotional engagement (Ming-Te Wang et al, 2014)

The study looks at the impact of family background on cognitive skills of the children (Srimanta Sarkar et al, 2022). On the basis of primary survey of two districts of West Bengal—namely Bankura and Nadia—and using the fathers' education, occupation and per capita household income as the proxies for family background we have employed multinomial probit and ordered logit regression model for this analysis. The findings reveal that there exists a significant positive association between family background and cognitive skills of the child indicating the existence of poor intergenerational mobility in education in the surveyed region.

## CONCLUSION

The contributing factors for the upliftment of a child in its early stage or a student in his/her youthful stage to be proclaimed as a wall of protection, which is to be built by the parents in bestowing the favour towards their offspring. At the same time the negative impact of these factors has its powerful role and makes them feel stung which will have its repercussions in their actions especially in the learning and understanding process. For the negative impact in the learning process of students' life, the family background or the family members alone should not be criticized; rather the stakeholders of the education must provide these parents and children with adequate timely support needed for them.

The parental income, parents' education, parents spending time with the children and the unit of family might influence the students or a child within their family circle; the supportive hands are needed to uphold these virtues in times of trouble. These supportive hands could be none other than the Government, Educational Institutions, Trade Organisations, Philanthropic Organisations etc. in an extended way as they continue to do at present and undeniably the parents themselves.

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