

A STUDY ON THE FAMILY ENVIRONMENT AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF HIGHER SECONDARY STUDENTS

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Abstract

The present study had been conducted on a sample of 332 students from Higher Secondary students from various schools of Kanyakumari district to find out the association between Family Environment and Academic Achievement of Higher Secondary School students. Random sampling technique has been used for this study. To measure the Family environment of the students "The Family Environment tool" developed by Sunitha (2005) is used. The tool contains a set of 40 statements with two alternatives against each statement representing the two possible ways. YES or NO. The marks scored by the students in their quarterly examination are taken as the measure of academic achievement. The data collected was analyzed and interpreted to draw inference using appropriate statistical methods like mean, standard deviation, Chi Square test and t-test. The results of this study reveal that there is a significant difference between the gender, religion, medium of instruction, locality, type of the school and type of the family in their family environment. Chi Square test reveals that there is a significant association between family environment and academic achievement of Hr.Sec.School students. It may be inferred that family environment influences the academic achievement of the Hr.Sec.Students chosen for the study. As a primary educational institution family has to teach letters, knowledge, skill and trade secret to all its members. Family environment affects the academic children. So parents should try to provide good family environment for their children. Student's academic achievement and their excellence in studies depend mainly on their, family environment which is very much influential in their learning process.

Introduction

A life plan in the future is needed to run a family successfully by thinking about economic condition and age. Couples should have a plan about when they want children and how many children they want. In this world, many people who are not prepared to raise their children bring up children by accident, so they ignore their responsibility as parents and treat their children badly. As a result many babies are sacrificed every year. Next, a good family should think about their living condition including their age and economic condition because the environment of housing and neighbourhood affect the children a lot. Children would want to play outside safely, and they prefer to have their own room when they become junior high school students.

Need and Significance of the Study

In order to improve the quality of education we must develop certain innovative techniques, which will enhance the educational standards. In addition to that from the student's side there must be some important steps, which form the basis for their academic

achievement. Students' needs, interest, abilities, capabilities, their pattern of studying etc. have been neglected for a long time and they were forced to learn the same thing, by the same method, by the same person in the same environment. Here the investigator thought that student's academic achievement and their excellence in studies depends mainly on their, family environment which is very much influential in their learning process. Hence, the investigator has tried to explore the relationship between family environment and academic achievement of the higher secondary students.

Objectives of the Study

1. To find out the significant difference between the Higher Secondary School students in their Family Environment with respect to gender, religion, medium of instruction, locality, type of the school and type of the family.
2. To find out the significant difference Higher Secondary School students in their Academic Achievement with respect to gender, religion, medium of instruction, locality, type of the school and type of the family.
3. To find out whether there is association between Family Environment and Academic Achievement of Higher Secondary School students.

Hypotheses of the Study

1. There is no significant difference between the Higher Secondary School students in their Family Environment with respect to gender, religion, medium of instruction, locality, type of the school and type of the family.
2. There is no significant difference between the Higher Secondary School students in their Academic Achievement with respect to gender, religion, medium of instruction, locality, type of the school and type of the family.
3. There is no association between Family Environment and Academic Achievement of Higher Secondary School students

Review of Related Literature

Bini and sadananthan (2009) conducted a study on home environment and academic achievement among the higher secondary students. The objective of this study is to find out whether there is any significant difference in academic achievement among various categories of higher secondary students classified on the basis of above variables and to find out the correlation between home environment and achievement among the higher secondary students. The sample population considered 300 XI and XII standard students in Tirunelveli District. For the purpose of the data collection, home environment inventory is used. The home environment and academic achievement are positively related. Therefore academic achievement can be improved by improving the home environment.

Ummekulsum (2012) conducted a study on effect of home environment of Secondary school students on their personal values. The objective of this study is to find out the effect of home environment of secondary school students on their personal values and to find out the differences in personal values of Secondary School students of Bangalore from favourable

and unfavourable home environment. A sample of 200 secondary school students from rural and urban schools of Bangalore were selected based on stratified random sampling design.

It revealed the home environment of secondary school students was found to have critical contributions to students achievement not only in academic life but also in life as a whole. In view of this study home environment of secondary school rural and urban student which is one of the main variable influencing the personal values needs to be further studied and it is suggested the development and enrichment of values should be given due attention.

Methodology

Survey method has been used for this study.

Sampling Technique and Sample Size

Random sampling technique has been used for this study and the sample size was 332. Data has been collected from Higher Secondary students from various schools of Kanyakumari district

Selection of Tool

1. To measure the Family environment of the students “The Family Environment tool” developed by Sunitha (2005) is used. The tool contains a set of 40 statements with two alternatives against each statement representing the two possible ways. YES or NO
2. The marks scored by the students in their quarterly examination are taken as the measure of academic achievement.

Analysis and Interpretation

Table 1 t-table showing the significant difference between the Higher Secondary School students in their Family Environment with respect to gender, medium of instruction, locality and type of the family.

Variable	Category	N	Mean	S.D	t	p value
Gender	Male	168	21.28	10.17	0.39	0.00
	Female	164	25.78	4.69		
Medium of Instruction	Tamil	75	22.77	4.23	0.00	0.39
	English	257	23.71	9.09		
Locality of the school	Rural	166	20.10	9.56	0.41	0.00
	Urban	166	26.90	4.67		
Type of the family	Joint	34	22.58	11.82	0.00	0.49
	Nuclear	298	23.60	7.75		

F table showing the difference among Hindu, Christian and Muslim students in their family environment

Source of Variation	Sum of Squares	DF	Mean Square	F	Sig
Between Groups	277.998	2	138.999 67.626	2.055	.130
Within Groups	22248.999	329			
Total	22526.997	331			

F Table showing the Difference among the Government, Aided and Private School Students in their Family Environment

Source of Variation	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig
Between Groups	5363.076	2	2681.538	51.400	0.00
Within Groups	17163.921	329	52.170		
Total	22526.997	331			

Since F value is less than 0.05, null hypothesis is rejected. Hence there is a significant difference among Government, Aided and Private school students in their family environment.

Type of the school	N	Mean	Std. deviation
Government	138	23.51	4.26
Aided	91	17.90	11.92
Private	103	28.43	4.30
Total	332	23.50	8.24

t- Table showing the significant difference between the Higher Secondary School students in their Academic Achievement with respect to gender, medium of instruction, locality and type of the family.

Variable	Category	N	Mean	S.D	t	p value
Gender	Male	168	3.64	1.35	0.741	0.45
	Female	164	3.53	1.25		
Medium of Instruction	Tamil	75	4.92	0.358	0.00	0.00
	English	257	3.00	1.22		
Locality of the school	Rural	166	4.01	1.13	0.012	0.00
	Urban	166	3.16	1.31		
Type of the family	Joint	34	3.00	1.015	0.001	0.00
	Nuclear	298	3.66	1.319		

F table showing the difference among the Hindu, Christian and Muslim students in their Academic Achievement

Source of variation	Sum of squares	df	Mean square	F	Sig
Between groups	4.581	2	2.290	1.346	0.262
Within groups	559.708	329	1.701		
Total	564.289	331			

F table showing the difference among Government, Aided and Private school students in their Academic achievement

Source of variation	Sum of squares	Df	Mean square	F	Sig
Between groups	144.037	2	72.019 1.277	56.381	0.00
Within groups	420.252	329			
Total	564.289	331			

Type of the School	N	Mean	Std. deviation
Government	138	4.34	1.091

Aided	91	3.27	1.007
Private	103	2.85	1.278
Total	332	3.59	1.305

The mean value of the Government school students is higher than the mean value of Aided and Private school students in their academic achievement.

**Chi –Square table showing the Association between
Family Environment and Academic Achievement**

Family environment and Academic achievement	Degrees of Freedom	Calculated ‘t ² ’ Value	Remarks at 5% Level
	4	0.023	S

From the above table , if the ‘ χ^2 ’ value is less than 0.05, then the statistics is considered to be significant .Since the Significant value is 0.023 ,there is a significant association between family environment and academic achievement of Hr.Sec.School students.

**Results and Discussion based on
Family Environment**

The ‘t’ test result reveals that there is significant difference between the male and female in their family environment. Female students are better than the male in their family environment. This may be due to the fact that the closeness of female students to their parents and family members are better than the male students. Male students give more importance to their peer group.

The ‘t’ test result reveals that urban higher secondary students are better than rural higher secondary students in their family environment. This may be due to the fact that the social environment of urban higher secondary students is better than rural higher secondary students. Urban higher secondary students are exposed to better opportunities in life. They are highly supported and take care by their parents.

The ‘F’ test result reveals that Private higher secondary school students are better than Government and Government Aided higher secondary school students in their family environment. This may be due to the fact that more students prefer private schools out of craze of studying in English medium. They may be highly motivated by their parents and they are exposed to various media.

Academic Achievement

The ‘t’ test result reveals that there is significant difference between Tamil medium and English medium higher secondary students in their academic achievement. Tamil medium higher secondary students are better than the English medium higher secondary students in their academic achievement. This may be due to the reason that Tamil medium higher secondary students are blessed with various opportunities to expose their talents in their mother tongue and if any problem arises in these circumstances they have the capacity to solve it in a systematic way.

The 'F' test result reveals that Government higher secondary school students are better than Government Aided and Private higher secondary school students in their academic achievement. This may be due to the reason that rural students go to Government higher secondary schools only. Thus the rural students show much courage, initiative and freedom to express their thoughts in their family. Nowadays teachers in government schools work with much involvement aiming at a good result.

Association between Family environment and Academic Achievement

Chi Square test reveals that there is a significant association between family environment and academic achievement of Hr.Sec.School students. It may be inferred that family environment influences the academic achievement of the Hr.Sec.Students chosen for the study.

Conclusion

As a primary educational institution family has to teach letters, knowledge, skill and trade secret to all its members. Family environment affects the academic children. So parents should try to provide good family environment for their children. Student's academic achievement and their excellence in studies depend mainly on their family environment which is very much influential in their learning process.

Recommendations

1. The parents should find out their children's hidden potentialities and activate them.
2. Parents should maintain a good relationship with the teachers to know their children's behavior, performance, interest etc.
3. Parents should motivate their children by giving rewards.
4. PTA meetings should be conducted at least once in a month.
5. Seminars, workshops and periodical trainings should be organized for parents.
6. Parents should be given awareness on better family environments.
7. Family tour should be organized periodically.

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