

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

Arina Sabila El Haq¹, Chusna Apriyanti²

^{1,2}STKIP PGRI Pacitan

arinasabilaelhaq@gmail.com, chusna.apriyanti@gmail.com

Abstract

This study uses a descriptive qualitative method to determine the role of parents in involvement in children's education and how children respond to parents' non-involvement in the learning process. The research subjects were junior and senior high school students who were in the adolescent stage, with data collection using Google Form questionnaires on July 28-29, 2024, involving 4 high school children and 3 junior high school children. In addition, data collection used interviews on July 25, 2024, to strengthen the study's results, involving three out of seven children randomly. The parental involvement studied included meeting children's needs, supporting academic and non-academic education, praising, and assisting in problem-solving solutions. Children whose parents were not involved tended to seek solutions independently through textbooks, YouTube videos, or asking friends and teachers, showing the importance of children's independent learning and adaptation. Overall, parental involvement in various aspects is crucial to a child's academic education and personality formation, with financial and emotional support and positive recognition from parents being essential in creating a supportive environment for children's success.

Keywords: *Children's Education, Parental Involvement, Parents' Role*

Introduction

Parents should be directly involved in their children's education. Learning activities for children are not solely the responsibility of teachers and schools; parents must also be involved. The most effective time for learning is at home, as the time available for learning at school is limited. Therefore, parents must spend quality time with their children (Amelia et al., 2023). According to Thalib & Istiqamah (2021), children tend to be more enthusiastic and motivated when they receive positive attention and support from their parents. Morrison (1988) states that parent involvement is helping parents use their abilities to benefit themselves, their children, and the early childhood program."

Parents are the first people to teach education to their children, from toddlers children to adults. The involvement of every parent in their children is very impactful, especially since the family or parents are the first individuals with whom they will interact, as well as individual role models—giving examples for children in their lives. Parental involvement can take various forms, such as providing financial assistance to support their children's development, progress, and needs. Parents should not remain silent about the educational problems their children experience but must play an active role in improving the quality of education in their area. Parental involvement is essential to success in children's education (Ardiyana et al., 2019). According to Schunk, as cited in Ristiani (2015), parental involvement in children's education and forms of responsibility include fulfilling the facilities and infrastructure needed by children, supervising learning activities at home, supervising learning activities at school, and providing motivation.

Apriyanti, C. (2019) states that parental involvement in children's education is crucial. Parental involvement in children's education is divided into three types: behavior involvement, intellectual involvement, and personal involvement (Junianto et al., 2013). In organizing education in schools, the active involvement of parents can be facilitated through various forms of cooperation. According to Coleman, as cited in Arifiyanti (2015), the role of parents in education includes being supporters, teachers, students, advisors, protectors, and ambassadors. Meanwhile, according to Epstein, as cited in Diadha (2015), there are six types of cooperation with parents: parenting education, communication, volunteering, parental involvement in

children's learning at home, decision-making, and working with the community. These forms of parental involvement have been proposed in the theory of overlapping spheres of influence by Epstein (Epstein et al., 2002), which divides the forms of involvement in detail into six types of involvement, namely parenting education (parent education), communication, volunteering, learning at home, decision making, and collaborating with the community.

Parents should pay attention to education because their involvement is crucial in the educational process. While parents may be able to provide satisfactorily for their children's material needs, their academic needs are often neglected. As a result, children are not prepared to become mature individuals, which is the goal of education. Children develop without clear goals and grow without the guidance of definite norms. Children are unsure how to act or behave because their parents never guide or instruct them. This situation is called miseducation. Sometimes, parents do not realize this, so it is unintentional. According to Rahman (2023), parents may fail because they do not know how to educate their children or are too busy.

Parental involvement in children's education is significant because education is essential for everyone to thrive in modern society. Parents increasingly realize the importance of providing the best education for their children from an early age. Parental involvement in children's education has been proven to have many positive impacts, leading to success as they reach adulthood and enter the real social world. The active role of parents needs to be supported by good communication between parents and the school. For example, parents involved in their child's elementary education will see positive effects throughout their child's lifetime. Therefore, the role of parents is as crucial as the roles of teachers and the environment in contributing to children's academic achievements.

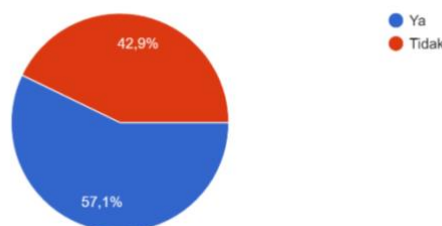
Method

The method used in this research was qualitative, with a descriptive type. The research data focused on the junior high and senior high school levels in the adolescent stage. In adolescence, children begin to experience significant physical and emotional changes. They began to search for self-identity and explore their interests and talents. In this case, parents were important mentors and supporters, especially in education. Education was the primary foundation for shaping children's future.

This research discussed the influence of parental involvement in children's education. The research took data from the point of view of parents and children, which explained children's responses to parents' concern for education and parents' awareness of children's educational needs. In data collection, a questionnaire with a Google Form was given to respondents to fill out. In addition, to sharpen the research results, the research used interview techniques with respondents to determine the child's response to the perceived influence of parental involvement in children's education. The research data were collected and used for data analysis, which went through the process of sorting data, then presenting data, and concluding.

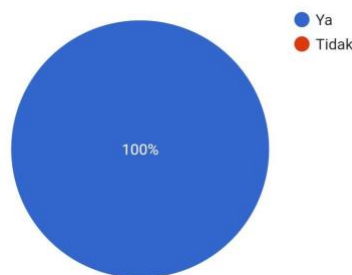
Finding and Discussion

The role of parental involvement in children's education



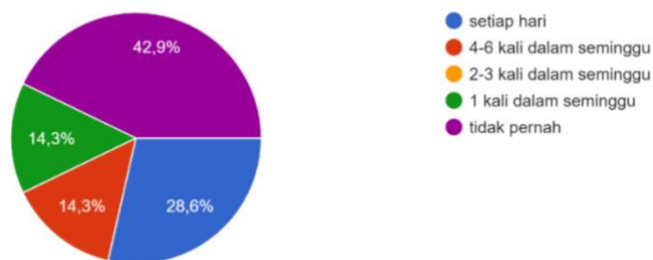
Picture 1. Percentage of Parents Take the Time to Help with Their Child's Homework

The percentage diagram above indicates that 51.1% of children have parents who take the time to help them with their schoolwork. On the other hand, 42.9% of children have parents who do not assist with schoolwork, meaning these children complete their schoolwork independently. As children grow, the independence they develop, once reliant on parental support, evolves into a more self-sufficient behavior. According to Epstein, J. L. (2001), research consistently shows that parental involvement in education is associated with higher academic achievement and better school behavior. Parents who dedicate time to assisting their children with schoolwork create a supportive learning environment, promoting academic success.



Picture 2. Parents Provide Their Children’s School Needs.

The diagram above illustrates that parents fully meet their children’s learning and school needs, with a percentage of 100%. These needs include monthly school fees, school uniforms, and facilities such as bicycles, motorbikes, school bags, textbooks, and stationery. On average, parents understand and address their children’s needs. Every parent strives to do their best for their child. By fulfilling these needs, parents strongly support their children’s education, recognizing its importance for their future. Stable economic conditions of parents can be a significant factor in meeting these school-related needs, which positively impacts the child’s future. With adequate financial support, children can focus better on their studies without worrying about limited resources. According to Jeynes, W. H. (2005), parental involvement, including financial support for school-related expenses, is consistently linked to better student achievement. Parents who ensure their children’s educational needs are met—such as providing school fees, uniforms, and study materials—significantly contribute to their children’s academic success.

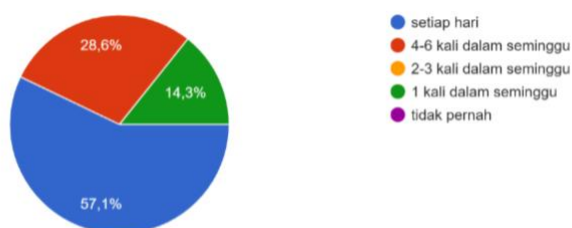


Picture 3. Parents Praise Their Children

The pie chart above indicates that 42.9% of children never receive praise within a week. Parents who do not give praise and rewards may be unaware of the importance of positive recognition in a child’s development or may believe that children do not need frequent praise to build strong character. Meanwhile, 28.6% of children receive praise from their parents every day. These parents believe daily positive recognition is vital for fostering their children’s confidence and motivation. They actively seek out aspects of their children’s efforts and behavior to appreciate each day.

Additionally, 14.3% of children receive praise from their parents 4-6 times a week. Parents in this group recognize the importance of praise and rewards but may face challenges that prevent them from providing it daily. Nonetheless, they strive to consistently give positive recognition. Another 14.3% of children receive praise only once a week from their parents. Various factors, such as parents' busy work schedules, contribute to the infrequency of praise. Parents heavily occupied with work may have less time to praise their children.

According to Gottfried, A. E., & Gottfried, A. W. (2010), children who consistently receive praise are more likely to maintain high levels of intrinsic motivation, which is crucial for long-term academic success and personal development.



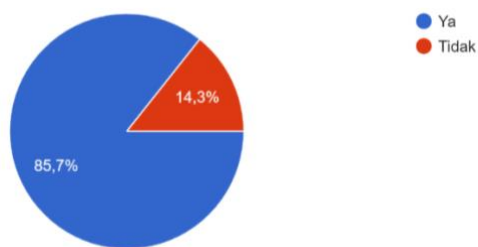
Picture 4. Parents Ask Their Children About School Activities

The pie chart above shows that 57.1% of children have parents who regularly ask about their activities at school. This reflects a high level of parental concern, which can positively impact children's motivation to learn, build their confidence, and encourage them to be open. When parents consistently show this level of care, it can benefit the parent-child relationship by fostering closeness, openness, and effective communication. It also allows parents to monitor their child's well-being and development better.

On the other hand, 28.6% of children have parents who ask about their school activities 4-6 times a week. While these parents still show interest, their level of involvement might be impacted by other responsibilities, leading to occasional lapses in communication. Sometimes, parents may be too busy to inquire regularly.

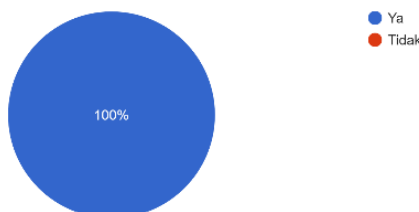
Additionally, 14.3% of children have parents who rarely ask about their school activities, doing so only once a week. This could be due to parents' hectic work schedules, leaving little time for interaction at home. For example, suppose parents leave for work early in the morning and return late at night. In that case, their time at home might be limited to rest and primary family care, with little opportunity for conversation or interaction. Another factor could be parents' lack of awareness of the importance of regular communication with their children about school. Fulfilling children's psychological needs, such as feeling heard and supported, is crucial, and this is best achieved through regular communication.

According to Epstein, J. L. (2001), parental involvement in children's education, including regular communication about school activities, significantly contributes to students' academic success and emotional well-being. Parents who frequently inquire about their children's school experiences help create a supportive and engaging learning environment, which boosts children's motivation and confidence.



Picture 5. Parents Help Their Children to Find Solutions to Problems

The pie chart above shows that 85.7% of parents help their children find solutions to problems. This is good news; the higher the percentage, the more concerned parents are about their child's condition. It is not only material needs (e.g., School clothes, books, bags, etc.) Parents need to pay attention to the child's inner needs (psychological), such as love, emotional support, and attention. Parents will not know how much of a burden their children have at school or in their friendships if they do not ask and talk to their children. 14.3% of parents do not help their children find solutions when facing problems. According to M. C. Smith & L. M. Johnson (2022), parents who lack confidence in their problem-solving abilities or face high stress levels may struggle to support their children when dealing with issues effectively. The effectiveness of parental involvement can be significantly impacted by the parent's emotional state and perceived competence in handling complex situations.



Picture 6. Parents Support Their Children's Extracurricular Activities at School.

Extracurricular activities are outside the regular school curriculum designed to develop children's talents and interests. Examples include scouts, PMR (Red Cross Youth), badminton, volleyball, drumming, and dance. According to the percentages provided, parents support their children's participation in extracurricular activities at school. This support is vital as it helps mentally train children and allows them to explore their talents in various fields. Parental support in these activities is crucial for a child's overall motivation and development, providing the extra encouragement they need to reach their potential beyond the classroom. Involvement in extracurricular activities not only enables children to explore their talents but also enhances their social skills and self-confidence. Therefore, the parents' role is significant in motivating and guiding their children through these activities, as Miller & Brown (2022) emphasized. Additionally, parents play an essential role in shaping their children's character, as Apriyanti (2021) noted.

Children's Responses to Parents Who are not Involved in Learning

Children's attitudes towards dealing with learning challenges when parents are not involved can be observed from the interviews conducted on July 25, 2024. Three respondents were interviewed. When asked whether they seek help from their parents when encountering difficulties in learning, Respondent 2 mentioned that they do not immediately ask their mother for help but first look for solutions in textbooks. YouTube videos also serve as an alternative resource to facilitate the learning process.

On the other hand, Respondent 3 mentioned that they seek references from Google and ask their classmates for help. If they are still confused, they turn to their teachers at school for further clarification. Parents cannot always assist their children with homework due to various

factors. One significant factor is the difference in educational backgrounds, as the time gap between the parent's education and the current education system can be substantial. This, coupled with the continuous evolution of education, may render parents' knowledge outdated, limiting their ability to provide adequate support.

This disparity in educational experiences may further constrain the ability of parents to help their children with homework. As educational methods and content change, parents' knowledge may become less relevant, impacting their capacity to offer meaningful assistance. This gap underscores the importance of ongoing educational development and communication between educators and parents to bridge the divide and enhance student support at home (Cavanagh, S. (2004)).

When asked whether they prefer to study with their parents or independently, all three respondents indicated that they choose to study independently. As children grow older, they become more adept at understanding and managing their rights and responsibilities. Each child has a unique approach to learning, including how they address academic challenges. This growing independence is particularly evident as they take on more responsibility for their schoolwork and navigate academic issues on their own, as highlighted by Berk, L. E. (2018).

Conclusion

Overall, parental involvement in various aspects is significant for children's academic education and the formation of children's personalities. Financial support, emotional support, and positive parental recognition are crucial in creating a supportive environment and encouraging children's success. In addition, children will independently solve learning difficulties with the help of textbooks, peers, YouTube video tutorials, searching on Google, and asking teachers.

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