



FACTORS INFLUENCING THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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INTRODUCTION

The world is becoming very competitive. Quality of performance has become the key factor for personal progress. Parents want their child to climb the ladder of performance to as high as possible. This desire for a level of achievement puts a lot of pressure on students, teachers, and school and in general the education system itself. In fact, it appears as if the whole system of education revolves around the Academic Achievement of students, though various other outcomes are also expected from the system.

Academic Achievement

Academic achievement may be defined as excellence in all academic disciplines, in class as well as co-curricular activities. It includes excellence in sporting behavior, confidence, communication skills, punctuality, arts, culture and the like which can be achieved only when an individual is well adjusted. Trow (1956) defined academic achievement as “knowledge attaining ability or degree of competence in school tasks usually measured by standardized tests and expressed in a grade or units based on pupils’ performance”. Good (1959) refers to academic achievement as, “The knowledge obtained or skills developed in the school subjects usually designed by test scores or marks assigned by the teacher”

Need of the Study School education is an important segment of the total educational system contributing significantly to the individual as well as to national development. A good school provides environment conducive for development of cognitive, affective and psychomotor domains for all round development of individuals. The primary function of the school is the imparting of academic skills. Early research on the predictors of academic achievement focused primarily on intellectual and ability factors. There is considerable evidence that intelligence alone does not account for all the variance in academic achievement. Although intelligence is perhaps the still most effective predictors of academic achievement research has shown that social and emotional factors like emotional intelligence, creativity, anxiety, personality, family relationship etc. affect the achievement of students. Hence, it was thought worthwhile to understand the

complete abilities and potentialities of the child before giving him/her education. Creativity is also a very important process for progress and major advances in every field. Research indicates the importance of creativity in student's achievement, career success, personal well being to improve student's achievement and success. It is the basis of all social development and new inventions and discoveries in the field of science and technology. So, the variables Academic Achievement of the students need inquiry for proper understanding of a student.

FACTORS INFLUENCING THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Several studies have been conducted in different countries to assess the factors which contribute to academic performance of students at different levels. A study conducted by *Jayanthi, Balakrishnan, Ching, Latiff and Nasirudeen (2014)* in Singapore revealed that the interest in pursuing a subject, co-curricular activities, nationality of a student and gender affect the academic performance of a student. Additionally, *Sibanda, Iwu and Olumide (2015)* found that, regular study, punctuality in school and self-motivation are the key determining factors which influence students' academic performance. The availability of teaching and learning materials, competency of teachers and the environment in which a school is located have an impact on students' academic performance. Furthermore, students' personality traits, personal goals and motivation as well as the support from teachers and the teacher's level of experience significantly influence the academic performance of students.

The discussion above suggests that academic performance of students is influenced by a combination of factors which includes but not limited to: Parents level of education, socio-economic status, interest in a subject, gender, regular studying, punctuality in class, self-motivation, availability of teaching and learning materials, and competency of teachers, school environment, personal goals, and personality traits. These factors could be classified into student, teacher, school and parents factors. Students academic performance identified major factors associated with low academic performance of Aboriginal students.

2.1. Academic Factors

Academic factors are the factors related to the school and learning environment such as curriculum, courses, school system, and academic supervisor. The relationship between quality of class, students' satisfaction, and academic performance of the students and found that there were correlation between class quality and students' satisfaction and between class quality and the students' academic performance. the factors influencing the satisfaction of the international students in Japanese universities through the survey method

and identified that suitability of curriculum is a main factor affecting the satisfaction of international students studying in Japan.

The academic culture and system of the country as a significant factor that affects international students academic performance. In particular, some international students were found to be lacking in their ability to deal with a certain education technology that their local counterparts were familiar with, so they have to struggle with the local technology to maintain their studying also acknowledged that foreign students, especially students from developing countries, are struggling with unaccustomed technologies used at school such as how to use the online bulletin board, download class materials from the website, or do assignments. the international students that the school communicate better with students about the evaluation methods or the administrative procedures of the university.

2.2. Social Factors

Social factors refer to the factors related to social adjustments such as living environment, social activities, and interpersonal relationships. Online or offline meetings with local communities help international students to adapt the school easily by obtaining various information. The type of residence during college years has no significant effect on 1st-year academic grade for most students and the effect of living environment to student performance. Major-related activities help improve students' academic performance also affirmed that joining in major-related extracurricular activities gives satisfaction to the students and contributes to their academic achievements.

2.3. Cultural Factors

Cultural Factors include familiarity of local culture and local language determinants of low performance among international students in the British universities and observed that the lack of English was an important explanatory variable. The limitation of language skills makes it difficult for international students to adapt to the university. The level of education, income, Korean language ability, intercultural communication experience, and duration of stay are the significant variables affecting foreigner's adaptation, but language ability is the most important variable among them. There is also some local language acquisition substantially affects the academic adjustment of international students.

2.4. Economic Factors

Regarding economic factors affecting international students, Lee (2017) observed that international students who are not in a financially stable condition are suffering from coping with the concerns regarding tuition and living expenses and financial pressure among international students is related to the poor academic

performance. the relationship between economic change and educational achievement and addressed the financial resources such as parents' wealth or income were very slightly related to the educational achievement of their children.

Having a job also influences the academic achievement of international students in a negative way. In some studies concluded that part-time work hurts international students' satisfaction with university life and this might be because the work reduces time to concentrate on their study or research but there is also direct correlation between the academic performance of refugee students who work and study simultaneously to support their family.

2.5. Other Factors

Besides social, academic, cultural and economic factors, some other factors in terms of their personal traits, attitudes or backgrounds are found to affect the foreign students' academic performance. Some innate characteristics of international students as significant factors; in particular, the region of origin were significantly related to international graduate students level as well as gender and age and gender affects the academic performance; female students gain better grades than male students. A student with the motivation and ability to get up-to-date information on the assignment appeared to gain better grades in school.

Thus investigator summarized Several social and cultural issues could be raised that might be caused by the lack of policy. It is necessary to grasp the state of affairs and establish a policy to address the issue at the national level as the numbers of international students and the institutions hosting international students are globally increasing. To ensure the academic success of international students, the government needs to create better academic environment in which those students can adjust well. The government may establish a policy that all universities hosting international students should organize an office dedicated to the better management so that they can help those students properly. Although academic achievement is one of the goals in the host country, it is also necessary for the government to be concerned with the social adjustment and financial stability of international students in order to ensure their emotional stability and quality of life. For instance, local governments are able to enhance communication between international students and the local community and support the international students in practical ways.

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