

**Factors Influencing Education-
A Study with Reference To Students in Chennai City during
the Period from 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018**

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Abstract

Education is nothing but studying different kinds of subjects to gain knowledge and understanding and trying to apply it in daily life. Education is not only the book knowledge of reading, remembering and writing at the time of examination and answering when questions are asked in the class room. In fact, it refers to the gathering of knowledge to live a happy and contented life. Some views education as a process of facilitating learning, or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs, and habits. The importance of education lines not only the development of intellectual skills and knowledge but also to effective growth and development one's life in particular and the country in general. The Education system prevailing in the country must make students as learners' innovators, scholars, researchers and trainers for future generations.

Education gives us a knowledge of the world around us and changes it into something better. It develops in us a perspective of looking at life. It helps us build opinions and have points of view on things in life. According to Stacey Kazakis Weigler of New Hampshire, "The purpose of education is to develop students' desire and ability to think and learn about the world around them. Further, the purpose is to learn how to develop relationships that will enable students to work with their peers, throughout their schooling and beyond.". This paper deals with the student's views about the education and what makes them to concentrate well in education and also helps them to lead a better life in future.

Keywords

Factors, Influencing, Performance, Preparations, Attitude, Hobby

1. Meaning

Education is nothing but studying different kinds of subjects to gain knowledge and understanding and trying to apply it in daily life. It refers to the gathering of knowledge to live a happy and contented life. Some view education as a process of facilitating learning, or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs, and habits. The methodology of teaching is called pedagogy. Further education is not just to read and write. It is about using it for furthering the knowledge for growth and also to lead an independent life.

2. Literacy and Education

Literacy is the ability to read, view, write, design, speak and listen in a way that allows one to communicate effectively. It shows one's capacity to apply these skills to effectively connect, interpret and differentiate the niceties of the world in day today's life. Education is knowing about the facts of life. Education is not to mug up, but just to understand how to create the world around us and how to sustain it for future generations and how to develop relations for existence in a smooth manner. The role of education is meant for developing something new rather than relying on old innovations. Education is the only way to win the world. It is not about learning life, but education itself is life. It is the key to finding great characters hidden in every individual.

3. Quotes on Education

1. Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. **Nelson Mandela**
2. Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today. **Malcolm X**
3. An investment in knowledge pays the best interest. **Benjamin Franklin**
4. Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself. **John Dewey**
5. The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet. **Aristotle**
6. Change is the end result of all true learning. **Leo Buscaglia**
7. Education is the movement from darkness to light. **Allan Bloom**

8. Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school. **Albert Einstein**
9. The aim of education is the knowledge, not of facts, but of values. **William S. Burroughs**

4. Role of Parents

Education doesn't only mean studies. Education encompasses manners, etiquette, manner of speaking, kindness, love, dealing with problems of all kinds, the ability to think. The role of parents in education is to **motivate** their children in the field of the subject they are interested in so that the child never feels unmotivated or disheartened. The environment a child inhabits and learns from, that is provided by the parents. What the child finally becomes as an adult, is entirely dependent on that environment; and it's the parents who're responsible for providing that environment.

4.1. Showing Support for a Child's Education

According to a research study by **Ronald Ferguson**, "Nearly half of a child's achievement in school can be accounted for by factors outside the school, including parent support". Parents should ensure that the attendance is regular, maintaining a positive attitude towards school matters in general and the study related matters, a sizable part of salary should be earmarked to study-related expenditure, thereby increasing the knowledge of the student, and be a positive role model for the child in helping to shape the child's opinions and attitudes about learning. Another research reveals that, high self-esteem and student achievement are closely interrelated to positive parental involvement in school. It will indirectly motivate the ward to concentrate on studies in order to bring name and fame to the parent's efforts and the place of learning.

4.2 Making a Home a Good Place for Learning

A model library is created and books pertaining to various fields are to be arranged which will be visible to the ward. It must be easily accessible in nature. It should also be ensured that at least some time be given to read the books, or at the most must see the book, and

should have a glance to have a first-hand information about the nature of the books. Regular reading of books in the home should be cultivated and parents shall be an example for that purpose. Parents can also encourage children to read by themselves.

5. The Teacher's Role

Teachers, by keeping the growth of students in education, must give importance to certain aspects. They must be friendly, and cooperative with the students in all respects. A regular time frame should be made known to all so that they will be free in discussing the steps needed in learning well and helping them to reach the pinnacle of success in education in a gradual manner. Teachers should share common interests with the students. Place the student at the center of all communications, making sure that parents understand they are the priority. A friendly and supportive nature of teachers are always remembered and cherished by the students forever.

6. Role of Parents and Teachers

Parents and teachers can both share valuable insights into a child's personality. Teachers can pass on information about how the child manages with a classroom environment and skills which they have exposed through various activities. Right questions with reasonable time to express their views would always go a long way in having a good behavior of the ward. Whenever an opportunity arises, both should encourage with words and actions regarding about a good job done without wasting time and effort. Finally, one of the most important ways to develop and maintain a good parent-teacher relationship is simply by showing appreciation for each other. If a child sees a parent and teacher thanking each other, the co-operative aspect is strengthened.

Qualities Common to Parents and Teachers

Brisk	Compassion	Courageous	Communicative
Confident	Flexible	Guiding	Knowledgeable
Mature	Passion for teaching	Pleasing personality	Well organized

This paper deals with the students' perceptions about the meaning of education and how they are expecting that the same should be delivered to them for a proper understanding of the subjects. How they viewed their

parent's role in shaping their educational attitudes, both at home and in school. Whether teacher's role in educating only or anything beyond that is also aired by students.

7. Objectives of the Study

1. To understand the role of parents' education in developing the learning abilities of students.
2. To evaluate the teachers' attitude and its effects on the growth of students' knowledge in education.
3. To analyze the role of the living atmosphere in promoting education in the minds of students.

8. Research Methodology

The present study is based on primary and secondary data. The primary data is a questionnaire circulated among the parents, teachers, and students. The secondary data were taken from the Annual Reports on education published by the Central Government, State Government, Newspapers and Magazines.

9. Limitations

1. Students studying 12th standard, both boys and girls, and their parents were considered for the present study.
2. The period of study is from 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018.
3. The place of study is restricted to Chennai City only.
4. Both State Board and CBSE students are taken into account.

10. Analysis of Data

With the help of a simple statistical tool, the primary data were analyzed. The primary data were collected separately from the parents, teachers and the students. First, we will see the outcome of data collected from the **Parents**.

Table 1: Education

	Education	Response	%
a.	Degree	140	40
b.	Post graduate	97	28
c.	Professional degree	85	24
d.	Ph. D	28	8
	Total	350	100

(Source: Primary Data – Questionnaire)

The above **Table 1: Education**, which relates to Education of parents, degree constitutes 40 percent, followed by postgraduate and professional degree with 28 and 24 percent respectively. A mere 8 percent shows about Ph. D possessed by the parents. We can easily infer from the above table that all the parents gave importance to education and only some people reached the pinnacle of higher education.

Table 2: Job

	Job	Response	%
a.	Government	137	39
b.	Public Sector Undertaking	58	17
c.	Private	105	30
d.	Own business	50	14
	Total	350	100

(Source: Primary Data – Questionnaire)

In **Table 2: Job**, parents working with the government constitute with 39 percent followed by private with 30 percent. Parents doing own business category constitute with 14 percent and 30 percent related to people working with private organization. The outcome of the table 2 reveals that parents are having peaceful life as the income is assured at the end of every month and free from financial worries.

Table 3: Position

	Position	Response	%
a.	Proprietor	50	14
b.	Chief officer	59	17
c.	Officer grade	74	21
d.	Less than officer grade	167	48
	Total	350	100

(Source: Primary Data – Questionnaire)

The **Table 3: Position**, held by parents in their job profile, less than the officer grade with 48 percent and officer position occupies with 21 percent. The nature of the chief officer and proprietor has gathered with 17 and 14 percent respectively. This table shows that all the parents are having somewhat interest in education and that is being reflected in their respective position held in the organization.

Table 4: Family System

	Family system	Response	%
a.	Nuclear family	52	15
b.	Joint family	298	85
	Total	350	100

(Source: Primary Data – Questionnaire)

The above **Table 4: Family System** reveals the strong position in relation to Joint Family System with 85 percent and Nuclear Family with 15 percent. It goes without saying that the importance of education was being felt to a strong level in the Joint Family System compared to Nuclear Family.

Table 5: Living Atmosphere

	Living atmosphere	Response	%
a.	Friendly	163	47
b.	Cordial	78	22
c.	Adjustable	55	16
d.	Strict atmosphere	54	15
	Total	350	100

(Source: Primary Data – Questionnaire)

As far as **Table 5: Living Atmosphere** is concerned, friendly and cordial nature occupies with 47 and 22 percent respectively. The condition of adjustable with 16 percent and strict atmosphere with 15 percent occupies the last position. For getting good education a congenial and supportive nature are needed and this table provides ample opportunities for that purpose tremendously.

Table 6: Family Status

	Family consisting of	Response	%
a.	Parents	52	15
b.	Parents and elderly people	54	15
c.	Parents, elderly people and relations	140	40
d.	Only a and b	104	30
	Total	350	100

(Source: Primary Data – Questionnaire)

An above **Table 6: Family status** shows that living with parents, elderly people and relations constitute 40 percent, and the other two categories such as parents and parents with elderly people occupies 15 percent each. The next level of analysis is related to **Teachers** and the following table reveals certain important results, and these are detailed below.

Table 7: Teaching Methods

	Teaching methods	Response	%
a.	Simple to understand	198	57
b.	Own methods	108	31
c.	Self-learning methods	19	5
d.	Difficult to follow	25	7
	Total	350	100

(Source: Primary Data – Questionnaire)

The above **Table 7: Teaching methods** show that while teaching the subjects are simple to understand with 57 percent followed by teaching methods are of their own methods with 31 percent. Students with 7 percent mentioned that it is difficult to follow, and 5 percent said that their self-learning methods for the subject's ranks last. We can understand from the above table that one with a passion for teaching alone can innovate in new methods of teaching and making students to be inclined towards learning the subjects.

Table 8: Training Courses Attended

	Training courses attended	Response	%
a.	None	219	63
b.	Only a few	74	21
c.	Regularly attending	40	11
d.	Once in a year	17	5
	Total	350	100

(Source: Primary Data – Questionnaire)

The above **Table 8: Training Courses** attended, a majority with 63 percent has not attended the course, and 21 percent relates to only a few attended the same. Those who are attending regularly show 11 percent and a paltry 5 percent show they attended only once in a year. It is important to take advantage of the new and varied methods that are available for teaching the subjects. The aim is to see that the students are benefited from the real purpose of education, i.e., gaining knowledge for leading a happy and contented life.

Table 9: Salary

	Salary	Response	%
a.	Fully satisfied	54	15
b.	Satisfied	76	22
c.	Poor	95	27
d.	Very Poor	125	36
	Total	350	100

(Source: Primary Data – Questionnaire)

In **Table 9: Salary** shows a sorry state of salary payment. The amount of salary paid was considered very poor with 36 percent, followed by poor with 27 percent. Only people with 22 percent satisfied with the salary paid and fully satisfied with the salary aspect with 15 percent. It is quite natural to see that after all education is to live a life of happiness in nature and that too with financial status is the basis. But for teachers when paid less those who are going to produce a responsible citizen for this country, it is quite important to know by the Government and all educational institutions to pay a good salary to teachers in schools. It is a must and should consider in favor of teachers.

Table 10: Teachers' Attitude

	Teachers' attitude	Response	%
a.	Friendly with all	169	48
b.	Suggestive nature	97	28
c.	Cooperative nature	65	19
d.	Reserved type	19	5
	Total	350	100

(Source: Primary Data – Questionnaire)

In **Table 10: Teachers' attitude**, they are friendly and suggestive nature with one and all in the school occupies with 48 percent and 28 percent. Not only that cooperative nature shows a percentage of 19 and only a meagre category of teachers are having reserved nature with 5 percent. Overall, teachers' attitude shows a mature mind and showing the interest of students and their future to a great extent. The final part of the analysis relates to **Students** and their responses to various questions related to education oriented. These are analyzed in a simple way to understand the main aspects of the questionnaire.

Table 11: Performance

	Performance	Response	%
a.	Outstanding	115	33
b.	Very good	95	27
c.	Good	89	25
d.	Average	51	15
	Total	350	100

(Source: Primary Data – Questionnaire)

The above **Table 11: Performance**, shows the results of students' performance in the class. Nearly 33 percent opined outstanding and very good with 27 percent. A percentage of 25 goes towards good performance and an average with 15 percent. In fact, good performance goes with the congenial atmosphere at home, followed by parent's education and their attitude towards children. Not only that the method of teaching the subjects by the teachers are also paved the way for good performance of the students.

Table 12: Friends

	Friends	Response	%
a.	Supporting nature	150	43
b.	Importance given to education	113	32
c.	Creative nature	72	21
d.	Minimum level	15	4
	Total	350	100

(Source: Primary Data – Questionnaire)

In **Table 12: Friends**, most friends are supportive nature with 43 percent followed by 32 percent with the importance given to education by friends. Some friends are creative nature with 21 percent and 4 percent with minimum friends' role in education. All signs of the positive nature of friends will go a long way in getting good knowledge which will form the basis for the future. These things are attributed to the lineage of family tree added with a good education of parents.

Table 13: Future Planning

	Future planning design with	Response	%
a.	Parents	135	39
b.	Teachers	109	31
c.	Relations	46	13
d.	Friends	60	17
	Total	350	100

(Source: Primary Data – Questionnaire)

The above **Table 13: Future Planning** of students' life, Parents with 39 percent and Teachers with 31 percent are occupying a prominent place in shaping the future of students' life. Relations and Friends are sharing with 13 percent and 17 percent respectively. This table gives a glimpse of Family status and its role in future planning of students' life to a greater extent. Cooperative the attitude of parents and sincerity of teachers goes to a great extent in molding the future life of students.

Table 14: General Attitude

	General attitude	Response	%
a.	Friendly	248	71
b.	Reserved	102	29
	Total	350	100

(Source: Primary Data – Questionnaire)

The above **Table 14: General Attitude** of students', friendly attitude gets a maximum of 71 percent and 29 percent to the reserved attitude of students. Again, the family background, parent's education, work status and general attitude of parents in supportive nature shapes the attitude of students which will naturally help in having a peace of mind. This will enable them to concentrate on education and thereby gain adequate knowledge for happy living in this fast-changing world.

Table 15: Methods of Preparing

	Methods of preparing	Response	%
a.	Own method	85	24
b.	Guided by parents and Elders	105	30
c.	Teachers	125	36
d.	Relations	35	10
	Total	350	100

(Source: Primary Data – Questionnaire)

In **Table 15: Methods of preparing** for exams and other tests, the methods showed by the teachers gained with 36 percent and 30 goes towards parents and elders. Their own method preparation occupies 24 percent and that of relations goes to the last with 10 percent. It is not a wonder to see that teachers with dedication in teaching and showing a keen interest in the growth of students' life coupled with parent's nature and education plays a dominant role in the method of preparation.

11. Findings of the Research Study

1. Most of the parents who were considered for the study, are well educated and working with decent position and getting a regular salary enough for happy living.
2. Since the family system consisting of elderly people in the Joint Family System, most of the decisions and directions will naturally be an experienced and well-motivated one.

3. In so far as teachers are concerned salary status is not worthy to mention.
4. Passion for teaching makes them to follow simple methods for teaching the subjects to the students and takes everything easy in all matters and moving in a friendly way with all, in and outside the campus.
5. Parents education, work, and the living atmosphere at homemakes students to perform well in subjects and able to get good friends.

12.Suggestions

1. As teachers are the backbone for the progress of a student's life, they must be paid a decent salary. Sending them to attend various training and refresher courses will further their knowledge about the teaching methodology and will make students learn in a better way.
2. Parents should realize the importance of education in this perplexed world and should pay more attention towards it. Under any circumstances, a calm, congenial and supportive nature be made available for learning purpose.
3. Students must give their ears to parents and elders suggestions as far as their future and education is concerned. They must learn to conquer listening and patience skills in order to excel in studies and future bright life.
4. Value education should be given importance in the school curriculum by planners of education.

13.Conclusion

Education plays a prominent role nowadays. Towards these parents, teachers and students must understand their own importance in the society and avail the benefits bestowed by the education. Life will be a smooth sailing once the education got in the right directions. The Future belongs to the one who realized and learned the lessons from the mistakes of others.

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