

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN BASIC EDUCATION: PERCEPTION AND POTENTIAL BARRIERS

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to discover the meanings of parental involvement and the barriers influencing parental involvement at Assumption College of Nabunturan – Basic Education Department, in Davao de Oro. The study emphasized parents' critical role in their children's academic journey and overall development, according to teachers. Parental involvement was seen as essential for informing parents about their child's progress, promoting continuous learning, and instilling core values. Five teachers underwent in-depth interviews after purposive selection using purposive sampling and a phenomenological research design. Teachers identified benefits of parental involvement, including ease of implementation, parental support, improved student guidance, and heightened parental awareness of their child's performance. However, they faced barriers such as time constraints, lack of support, communication challenges, and complex family dynamics in encouraging parental involvement. Common barriers for parents included time constraints, attitude differences, low prioritization of education, and work commitments. To address these challenges, teachers used various coping strategies, such as better communication, patience, reduced assignments, and interventions like home visitations. This research stressed the importance of active parental participation and support, highlighting that it requires focused strategies and interventions. Effective approaches included enhancing communication, showcasing student achievements, regular updates for parents, maintaining records, addressing student difficulties, and providing counseling. Understanding teachers' perceptions and strategies could help schools and educators enhance parental involvement, fostering a collaborative educational environment that maximizes student success and well-being.

KEYWORDS: *parental involvement, basic education, teacher perception, barriers, coping mechanisms, insights, qualitative study, phenomenological study*

INTRODUCTION

Establishing effective communication is essential among the key elements for successful teaching methods. Success isn't solely dependent on the efforts of teachers, students, or school administration alone. Instead, it's the result of achieving shared objectives desired by all stakeholders (Hall, N. & Quinn, R. 2014). This viewpoint highlights that educational success necessitates collaboration among multiple parties, going beyond individual efforts to focus on shared goals. To foster effective communication between schools and families, both parties must exchange information, build rapport, and cultivate a mutual relationship.

Previous studies in Turkey investigated teachers' perceptions of parental involvement, focusing on educators' strategies for engaging parents in schools (Aslan, 2016). To grasp teachers' perspectives on parental views, the analysis included reviewing student portfolios, homework assignments assessing student performance, and records of parent-teacher meetings. The aim was to evaluate how parental perceptions influenced the interaction between teachers and parents.

In Manila, Philippines, Bartolome et al. (2020) examined parental involvement in student education through a teacher's perspective, offering crucial insights for incorporating teachers' input into parental involvement initiatives. Their findings emphasized the positive impact on teaching and learning, especially for early childhood educators, underscoring the importance of teacher-parent collaboration in enriching the educational journey for young learners.

While much existing research on parental involvement has concentrated on middle-income backgrounds, this study takes a different approach by exploring how teachers perceive parental engagement and the barriers they face. Teachers at Assumption College of Nabunturan - Basic Education Department consistently note varying levels of parental involvement in their students' academic performance and school-related outcomes. Some educators believe certain parents are overly involved in their children's lives, fostering dependence, while others lack adequate support. Furthermore, some parents have high expectations for their children's education and rely heavily on the school and teachers to meet those expectations. As educators, particularly in a private school setting,

we often encounter what we refer to as 'stage parents.' The researcher observed that some parents struggle to understand their boundaries and responsibilities. Some students progress in their studies due to their parents' intensive involvement, occasionally resulting in less attentiveness to the teacher and confusion during quizzes.

This study aimed to explore teachers' perceptions of parental involvement and its barriers, considering their official viewpoints and experiences. It recognized varying levels of parental involvement, including some cases of excessive involvement, and sought to uncover associated barriers. This research was conducted to gain insights into teachers' experiences, perceptions, and the barriers related to parental involvement.

Research of Related Literature

Research Questions

The following research questions served as a guide for this study:

1. What are the perceptions of the teacher participants regarding parental involvement?
2. What barriers did the teacher participants encounter regarding parental involvement?
3. What coping mechanisms do the teachers use to deal with the barriers encountered in parental involvement?
4. What are the teachers' insights into parental involvement and potential barriers?
5. What program can be crafted based on the findings of the study?

Scope and Delimitations of the Study

The focus of this study was to explore the coping mechanisms, barriers, insights, and teachers' perceptions of parental involvement and potential barriers. The participants in this study were the five Teachers from Assumption College of Nabunturan – Basic Education Department, Nabunturan, Davao de Oro, chosen as a sample size sufficient to represent the entire population. In-depth interviews were utilized for data collection, with each interview lasting a maximum of 45 minutes. The researcher took approximately four months to complete this study, from the preliminary stages until the end.

The study did not measure the effectiveness, advantages, or disadvantages of parental involvement but rather focused on coping mechanisms, barriers, insights, and teachers' perceptions of parental involvement and potential barriers.

Given the current situation of its locality, the researcher followed the minimum health protocol and minimized contact with the participants, using only a one-on-one, in-depth face-to-face interview as a means of collecting the data. The duration of the study took place in 2022–2023, second semester.

METHODS

This study employed a phenomenological research design to delve into teachers' perceptions of parental involvement and potential barriers. Phenomenology, a qualitative approach, focuses on describing how individuals respond to specific phenomena. By adopting this method, the researcher aimed to eliminate preconceptions and biases, allowing for an exploration of experiences, knowledge, and emotions related to parental involvement. The study investigated coping mechanisms, barriers, insights, and teachers' perspectives on parental involvement.

In addition, the study used purposive sampling to select its participants, with five individuals ultimately taking part. The data was gathered through in-depth interviews conducted by the researcher, which were recorded for later analysis. The sample size of 10 participants met the recommended range of five to 25 for qualitative studies using the phenomenological approach, according to Creswell (2007).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

IMPLICATION FOR PRACTICE

Based on the findings, the following implications for practice are offered.

The Importance of Parental Involvement to the Education of Students. It could be reckoned that the research participants underscored vital implications for teachers in fostering parental involvement to enhance students' education. Regular communication with parents is crucial for fostering a deeper understanding and commitment to a child's education. Teachers should provide resources and activities for parents to engage in at home, reinforcing classroom lessons and promoting a comprehensive learning experience. Parents play a crucial role in cultivating values and character traits, and teachers should collaborate with them to reinforce these values. A collaborative partnership with parents, considering cultural backgrounds and family dynamics, can enhance academic performance and holistic development, contributing to the overall success and well-being of students.

On Benefits from Parental Involvement. The research findings presented several significant implications for teachers seeking to optimize parental involvement in their students' education. The study suggests that teachers can easily integrate strategies to engage parents in the learning process without significant barriers. This encourages teachers to adopt approaches such as regular communication, at-home review sessions, and collaborative decision-making. Parents' willingness to offer resources and attentive listening allows teachers to collaborate closely, tailoring educational experiences to each student's unique needs. This collaboration allows for a customized learning environment. Parents' increased awareness of their child's performance allows for collaborative goal

setting, tailored interventions, and targeted support. Teachers use parental guidance and review to align lesson plans with at-home review, enhancing the learning experience.

Ways in which Teachers Collaborate with Parents for their Students' Education. The research findings spotlighted several key implications for teachers seeking to enhance parental involvement in their students' education through collaborative efforts. The study emphasizes the importance of transparent and regular communication between teachers and parents regarding students' academic performance. Teachers can use methods like progress reports, meetings, or digital platforms to keep parents informed about their child's progress and areas for improvement. The study also emphasizes the need for ongoing dialogue, open lines for addressing concerns, and inviting parental input. Regular updates on curriculum changes and resources engage parents actively in their child's learning. This inclusive approach fosters a sense of belonging and strengthens collaborative partnerships, ensuring consistent support for students and a positive educational experience.

Barriers Teachers Experienced in Preventing Parents from Becoming Involved in their Students' Education. The research shedding light on the barriers teachers encountered in engaging parents in their students' education unveiled crucial implications for educators striving to overcome these challenges. Teachers have implemented flexible communication methods to accommodate parents' busy schedules and improve access to information. They have also established programs to enhance parental involvement, offering non-traditional hours and convenient learning resources. Teachers have also aimed to foster inclusive relationships, fostering a welcoming environment for diverse family backgrounds. They have also proactively fostered positive connections through regular communication, seeking parental input, and showing empathy. This collaborative effort not only promotes a partnership between teachers and parents but also enhances the educational experience for students.

Most Common Barriers in Getting Parents Involved in their Child's Education. The identification of the most common barriers hindering parental involvement in their child's education offered crucial insights that could guide teachers in overcoming these challenges. Teachers should offer flexible communication channels for parents, addressing time constraints and cultural differences. They should use various platforms or schedule meetings to accommodate busy schedules, promoting easier access to information and involvement opportunities. Teachers should also emphasize the importance of parental involvement in academic success and student well-being. Clear boundaries should be set for parental involvement, promoting independent learning and supportive roles. Teachers can offer alternative involvement methods, such as digital platforms or at-home learning resources, to accommodate work-related commitments. These practices help teachers proactively address barriers, fostering a supportive environment for meaningful parental involvement in education, enhancing academic outcomes and contributing to students' holistic development.

Ways Used in Communicating to Parents Regarding Involvement in School. The findings that highlighted various communication methods used to engage parents in school involvement carried significant implications for teachers seeking to enhance parental participation. Consistent and informative communication is crucial in education, with teachers using written mediums like letters, messages, and emails to share student progress updates and parental contributions. Real-time engagement through chat, call, and text-based communication is also essential. Face-to-face interactions, such as regular meetings or workshops, foster meaningful dialogue and collaborative decision-making. Integrating these communication approaches allows teachers to meet diverse parental preferences, fostering a comprehensive engagement strategy that improves student outcomes and fosters a supportive educational environment.

Ways Used in dealing with the Barriers Encountered in Parental Involvement. The implications drawn from the various ways used to address barriers encountered in parental involvement offered valuable guidance for teachers aiming to foster stronger engagement with parents. Teachers should be considerate and flexible in accommodating parents' limitations, fostering a supportive environment. Proactive communication is crucial, providing regular updates on a child's progress and school activities. Minimizing tasks requiring extensive parental involvement is also important. Intervention strategies, such as tailored support and home visitations, can help overcome barriers. These practices foster a more inclusive, supportive, and collaborative relationship with parents, promoting enhanced parental engagement and contributing to student success in a conducive learning environment. By incorporating these practices, teachers can create a more supportive and understanding environment for their students.

Coping Strategies Used in Dealing with Barriers Encountered Relating to Parental Involvement. The implications derived from coping strategies used to navigate barriers related to parental involvement offered valuable insights for teachers seeking to enhance engagement with parents. Teachers should adopt an empathetic approach to address the challenges parents face in their education. They should explore various communication methods to ensure parents receive crucial information about their child's progress, school events, and educational resources. Regular homeroom meetings can foster open dialogue and collaboration, allowing parents to voice concerns and offer suggestions. Teachers should also conduct assessments during school hours to reduce parental assistance and monitor students' progress. Emotional regulation is crucial, and teachers should use strategies to manage emotions during interactions with parents. By integrating these practices, teachers can proactively address barriers to parental involvement, fostering an inclusive partnership with parents, promoting enhanced parental engagement and student success.

Resources Found to be Helpful in Addressing the Barriers Encountered to Parental Involvement. The implications drawn from resources identified as helpful in addressing barriers to parental involvement offered valuable guidance for teachers aiming to foster stronger connections with parents. The article emphasizes the importance of collaboration within the educational community, particularly with school principals and colleagues. Teachers should seek support from administrators and fellow educators to engage parents effectively. Private discussions with parents should be emphasized, fostering open dialogue and understanding individual concerns. Patience is crucial for building strong relationships, and teachers should communicate with guardians. Minimizing tasks requiring extensive parental involvement promotes independent learning, while organizing school activities encourages parental participation. By addressing barriers to parental involvement, teachers can foster an inclusive, supportive, and collaborative relationship, leading to enhanced parental engagement and student success.

Insights Gained on Parental Involvement. The insights gleaned on parental involvement offered valuable guidance for teachers seeking to optimize collaboration with parents in their students' education. Active parental involvement is crucial for a child's development, as it supports not only academic progress but also holistic growth, social skills, emotional well-being, and values formation. Teachers can communicate this to parents, establishing consistent disciplinary measures and fostering student accountability. Open communication and mutual understanding are essential for effective parental involvement. Teachers can facilitate dialogues, share insights, and develop targeted interventions to address specific challenges. By integrating these insights, teachers can foster a more collaborative, supportive relationship with parents, enhancing parental engagement and contributing to students' overall development and success, enriching the educational experience for all involved.

Strategies Found to be Effective in Promoting Parental Involvement Despite the Potential Barriers Faced. The implications drawn from effective strategies in promoting parental involvement despite potential barriers offered significant guidance for teachers seeking to enhance collaboration with parents in their students' education. Effective communication is crucial in education, with teachers using various channels to keep parents informed about their child's progress and achievements. Teachers also showcase students' achievements through activity plans, fostering parental pride and motivation. Consistent updates to parents are essential, and teachers maintain records of student progress. Proactive support is essential, with teachers engaging in conversations with parents to identify and address challenges. Counseling and student interventions are also essential, involving parents in meeting their child's educational needs. These strategies help teachers overcome barriers and boost parental involvement, leading to improved student achievement, well-being, and overall educational success.

SUGGESTIONS

In as much as the study was limited to the responses of the teachers in Assumption College of Nabunturan – Basic education Department, Poblacion Nabunturan, Davao de Oro, future research implications are examined as follows: First, different parent groups attending the same school might be chosen for future studies. Second, to study the same phenomenon of comprehending parental participation, a different study with a similar focus may be carried out in a different area. Third, it could be worthwhile to re-interview the research participants and informants to discover if their perceptions of parental participation have evolved over time. Fourth, a private school served as the study's site for elementary and junior high education. Investigating the similar occurrence in public schools could be the subject of future study. Lastly, the study's conclusions are evaluated through the eyes of the five-year teaching veteran informants and research participants who were chosen from among the teachers. Another research could be conducted to find out the understanding of parental involvement among the teachers who are less 5 years in teaching field of Assumption College of Nabunturan – Basic Education Department.

CONCLUSION

This research emphasizes parental involvement's crucial role in education, as perceived by teachers, including keeping parents informed, promoting continuous learning, and instilling values. Teachers also acknowledge benefits like ease of implementation, parental support, improved guidance, heightened awareness, and better individual student attention through collaboration. Despite recognizing these advantages, teachers and parents encounter barriers like time constraints, support gaps, work commitments, communication issues, and complex family dynamics. Teachers employ strategies like increased consideration, heightened tolerance, regular updates, and reduced assignments, along with interventions such as home visits and improved communication. Valuable resources for addressing these challenges include seeking support from school leaders and colleagues, private discussions with parents, patience, and organizing school activities.

In conclusion, it emphasizes the importance of active parental support for positive child development and discipline. A two-way process requires focused strategies, including effective communication, showcasing student achievements, regular progress updates, maintaining records, addressing student challenges, and providing counseling and interventions. In addition, it provides valuable insights into the significance of parental involvement and its associated benefits and challenges. By understanding teachers' perceptions and strategies, schools and educators can work towards enhancing parental involvement and creating a collaborative educational environment that maximizes student success and well-being.

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