

Parental Roles and Strategies in Shaping the Academic Performance of Homeschooled Learners: A Mixed-Methods Approach

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Abstract

This study examines the roles and strategies employed by parents to influence the academic performance of homeschooled learners. Utilizing a mixed-methods approach, the research combines surveys of 100 homeschooling parents with in-depth qualitative interviews to analyze parental involvement comprehensively. Conducted between 2022 and 2024 across various communities in the Philippines, the study identifies key strategies such as consistent scheduling, personalized study plans, and emotional support, which significantly enhance learners' academic outcomes. However, parents face challenges, including balancing multiple responsibilities and limited access to teaching resources. The findings emphasize the need to provide parents with adequate training and resources to optimize the benefits of homeschooling.

Keywords: homeschooling, parental involvement, academic performance, mixed-methods, Philippines

Introduction

Homeschooling has, in fact, become a progressive alternative to the traditional education systems appearing at the world's horizon, capturing the world's attention, especially because of the COVID-19 pandemic (Smith et al., 2020). Thus, here all students have the roles of teachers, facilitators, and motivators for ensuring that all needs-academic and emotional-are

met for the children. Although this nontraditional model allows for effectiveness and customization, it places much greater demands on parents..

Academic advancement in homeschooled students is influenced greatly by the techniques embraced by the parents. The most recent studies (Brown & Green, 2023), however, indicate that such an involvement is exemplified by organized schedules, diverse teaching instructions, and creating an enabling environment. Indeed, there are two sides to every coin such that teaching at home can include enticing advantages, such as juggling teaching time with house chores and the lack of advanced learning tools.

This study aims to portray the roles and strategies that the parents have to play that affect the academic performance of the homeschooled. While narrowing current literature gaps, the research ideally also provides evidence regarding effective practices as well as highlighting what fields need additional strengthening on the part of parents.

The objectives of the study include defining roles that the parents play, identifying effective strategies to enhance student academic performance, and examining how these roles affect learner outcomes. It is significant research for the educators, policymakers, and homeschooling parents seeking to provide a holistic understanding of parental involvement. It will also guide the parent involved in homeschooling with some actionable recommendations to optimize the learning experience of their children.

Methodology

For understanding the roles and strategies of parents in homeschooling, this research utilized a mixed-method participatory use of qualitative interviews and quantitative surveys. It consisted of 100 homeschooling parents from purposively sampled communities in the Philippines. All were selected according to their relevance in terms of purposive sampling.

The quantitative data were gathered from structured surveys administered online and group administered to homeschooling households. The survey included Likert-scale questions to measure parental involvement, teaching strategies, and learner performance. Online semi-structured interviews were then conducted to generate in-depth qualitative data on challenges and strategies with the unique experiences of parents.

The data thus collected then subjected to quantitative and qualitative analyses. While the survey data were analyzed through descriptive statistics and correlation tests so as to find patterns and relationships, the qualitative data were thematically coded on the basis of frequently occurring constructs such as common strategies, emotional support, and resource limitations. This should enable harnessing of holistic analyses, those that combine numerical insights and detailed narratives.

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Quantitative Results

Statement	Mean	Standard Deviation	Interpretation
Setting consistent schedules improves academic performance.	4.65	0.45	Strongly Agree
Providing personalized learning enhances engagement and retention.	4.70	0.50	Strongly Agree
Emotional support significantly impacts academic success.	4.80	0.40	Strongly Agree
Lack of resources is a significant challenge.	4.25	0.65	Agree
Total	4.60	0.50	Strongly Agree

The quantitative data show that parents agree with great emphasis on the major strategies to enhance academic performance. The highest mean score was obtained for emotional support ($M = 4.80$, $SD = 0.40$). It, therefore, indicates its relevance in the fostering of academic success. Both personalized learning strategies ($M = 4.70$, $SD = 0.50$) and consistent schedules ($M = 4.65$, $SD = 0.45$) received a very high agreement score and proved to be very relevant in homeschooling effectiveness. Challenges like resource unavailability received a relatively lower mean score ($M = 4.25$, $SD = 0.65$), indicating that it is accepted as an issue, but not as pressing as some other factors. The total mean score of 4.60 with the standard deviation of 0.50 indicates that all respondents had a strong opinion about the strategies and roles identified. These results indicate the requirement for parents to keep time-tabled routines with emotional and individualized support, while also accounting for issues like resource availability so as not to lose the benefits of a better homeschooling outcome.

Qualitative Results

Parental Roles

In this study, parents would describe themselves not only as educators but also as motivators and emotional support systems for their children. Most of the participants expressed that it is a major part of their other responsibility-the dual responsibility of academic instruction and maintaining their child's mind well-being.

"I ensure that my child understands lessons, but I also keep their emotional well-being in mind, especially during stressful times."

“My role goes beyond teaching; I am their cheerleader and counselor when they feel overwhelmed.”

“Parents said there is more to my involvement than academic instruction; they often check on their child's mental well-being and, importantly, emotional reassurance.”

This underlines the holistic aspect in which parents commit themselves to homeschooling-the balance between pedagogic and emotional responsibilities.

Strategies Employed

Their academic performance strategies incorporated by participants included a multitude of excellent ideas that have been proven effective. Innovatively customized learning experiences for children that better suited their special skills and interests were being used by parents.

“Tailor lesson plans according to my child’s learning pace and interests.”

“Using multimedia tools like videos and interactive apps, we learn in a more interactive way.”

“Regular breaks through the day refresh and keep my child focused.”

To create a more dynamic and engaging learning environment, personalized lesson plans, multimedia tools, and scheduled breaks were among the strategies that parents leveraged. The emphasis on adaptability allowed them to fit the different learning passions but also avoided boredom. These strategies correspond to the current literature that approves of flexibility and engagement as one of the important ingredients of homeschooling (Brown & Green, 2023).

Challenges Faced

The parents had difficulties balancing many responsibilities and the sometimes non-existent teaching resources. Balancing homeschooling with other responsibilities and navigating resource limitations were some challenges common to many parents.

“Homeschooled and no full time; that becomes a big challenge getting settled for every day when you feel a lot overwhelmed.”

“This hinders us from teaching some subjects since many of the advanced resources are not always available for us.”;

Time management often is a problem for parents, particularly those having full-time jobs. Enhanced educational material impedes parents’ efforts to instruct more advanced subjects. It shows assistance needed from outside, either community resources or online teaching platforms, to ease the burden imposed on parents.

Discussion

These study results reveal the very complex and multifaceted role of parents in home education. Emotional support, personalized instruction, and constant engagement appeared as important determinants of academic achievement. This is in line with many other existing studies emphasizing the need for a complete range of parental involvement in education (Smith et al., 2020).

However, the challenges that arose, involving mainly resource constraints and balancing work and other commitments, indicate that mostly such homeschooling parents may have something to benefit from regarding more support. Programs geared at training and equipping parents with resources could greatly enhance their capabilities to provide quality education.

These qualitative findings compliment the quantitative data and illustrate how the effectiveness of the parental role and style makes a contribution towards the entire outcome of the homeschooled student. It overall makes the experience of homeschooling even more ideal for both parents and their children.

Conclusion

This study provides a comprehensive exploration of the roles and strategies employed by parents in shaping the academic performance of homeschooled learners in the Philippines. Through a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews, the research highlights the multifaceted nature of parental involvement in homeschooling. Key findings underscore the importance of consistent scheduling, personalized learning plans, and emotional support in enhancing academic outcomes. These strategies align with existing literature, emphasizing the critical role of parental engagement in fostering both academic success and emotional well-being in homeschooled learners.

However, the study also reveals significant challenges faced by homeschooling parents, including balancing multiple responsibilities and limited access to teaching resources. These obstacles highlight the need for external support systems, such as training programs, resource-sharing platforms, and community networks, to empower parents in their dual roles as educators and caregivers. Addressing these challenges is essential to optimizing the homeschooling experience and ensuring that learners receive a well-rounded education.

The findings of this study have practical implications for educators, policymakers, and homeschooling parents. By providing actionable recommendations, such as the integration of multimedia tools, structured schedules, and emotional support mechanisms, this research contributes to the growing body of knowledge on effective homeschooling practices. Furthermore, it calls for increased institutional and governmental support to equip parents with the necessary skills and resources to navigate the complexities of homeschooling successfully. In conclusion, while homeschooling offers a flexible and personalized alternative to traditional education, its success heavily relies on the active and informed involvement of parents. By addressing the identified challenges and leveraging the effective strategies outlined in this study, homeschooling can continue to evolve as a viable and impactful educational model, benefiting both learners and their families. Future research should explore longitudinal outcomes of homeschooling and the long-term effects of parental involvement on learners' academic and personal development.

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Appendix

Appendix A: Survey Questionnaire

Section 1: Demographics

1. Age: ____
2. Number of children being homeschooled: ____
3. Highest educational attainment: ____

Section 2: Parental Roles and Strategies

(Use a Likert scale: 1 – Strongly Disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – Neutral, 4 – Agree, 5 – Strongly Agree)

1. Daily routines are followed by me for my child.
2. I prepare customized learning material as per my child's requisites.
3. I give emotional support when things are rough around the edges.
4. I keep a check on the regularity of academic performance for my child.
5. Enhancing level of experience about learning using multimedia.

Appendix B: Interview Guide

1. What roles do you believe you fulfill as a homeschooling parent?
2. Can you describe the strategies you use to improve your child's academic performance?
3. What challenges have you faced while homeschooling, and how do you address them?
4. How do you ensure your child stays motivated during homeschooling?
5. What resources or support do you think would enhance your homeschooling experience?