

## Extent to which Parental Nurture Impacts on the Academic Performance of Secondary School Students in Okpe Local Government Area Delta State

By

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### Abstract

The paper investigates the influence of parental guidance on the academic performance of secondary school students in Okpe Local Government Area (LGA), Delta State. The study has determined the extent to which parental nurture, attention to academic progress, and care impact the academic performance of students. The research method employed was a survey, and a questionnaire was used as the research instrument. The study findings revealed that parents have a significant influence on their children's academic performance, and parental guidance is a critical aspect of effective parenting, which encompasses elements such as nurture, attention, care, rewards, and discipline. The study recommended that parents should take a leading role in supporting their children's education since they are the primary educators and the initial socializers who expose children to the academic and social world. Parents should set high and realistic expectations for their children's educational achievements, as these expectations can motivate their children to perform well academically.

**Keywords:** Nurture, Guidance, Academic, Performance, Discipline

### Introduction

The family is the primary social institution one is born into. In this context parents, include biological and adoptive parents, guidance and custodial grandparents. A child is born into the world and acquires everything through its life span. Primary knowledge of what is wrong and what is right are learnt through the parental instruction and advice from a young age. Through constant parental guidance that one's life is shaped and also defines what one is about to become. The degree to which the parents do the same also matters and the characteristics seen in the children as a result of this guidance also varies from one child to another with variation in the degree. To set it in the right track, one child may need constant guidance while another may get infected because of constant intervention (Mahaffy, 2014). With parenting rights comes responsibilities. Responsibly nurturing and caring for the child has a massive impact on the child's growth and development as well as their academic performance. Instilling the values of the family and sharing the practices of religious beliefs and their children and monitoring the child's activities and behaviour, while encouraging age-appropriate autonomy are key aspects to this guidance. Parental guidance can be defined as the influence of a child's father and mother or guardian on the child's life with the purpose of

supporting the youngster in making better decisions, integrating into society and enhancing performance.

For Wamala, (2013), strong parental participation improves school discipline and help students make greater academic in the classroom. The level of parental guidance has important impact for children's academic achievement. Parental guidance is a strong pillar that must be set in every child's upbringing. Parental guidance also encompasses all about the well-being of children, young people and future parents. What is fostering this well-being can of course be very different. One family may experience certain activities as supportive, another family may wish for other forms of educational guidance (Khan & Malik, 2019). Parental guidance is a key dimension of effective parenting. incorporating constructs such as parental nurture, parental attention, parental care, attachment, acceptance, cohesion and love (Jacob & Leonard, 2014). In general, research has it that greater parental guidance predicts better adolescent functioning and fewer adolescent problem behaviours in a range of domains, including alcohol misuse (Barrera & Li 2016). Longitudinal research on parent-child involvement also indicates that low level of such involvement are indirectly associated with later adolescent alcohol and other drug use, through poor parenting nurturing and involvement in deviant peer friendships (Ary, 2019). In the past, several scholars are interested with the poor academic performance of students. Their study revealed that various factors are responsible for scholastic failure of students, such as low-socio-economic background, student cognitive abilities, school related factors, environment of the home, or the support given by the parents and other family members (Khan & Malik, 2019). Generally, schools are considered as places which provides appropriate learning environment for the child but the importance of parents and community cannot be ignored. Parents, adult family members and siblings contribute significantly to various components of personality of the child particularly and in improving his/her academic performance. The pivotal role of parents still continues as it has been recognised by the teachers and parents themselves that they are essential for complete development of the personality and career of their children. Given the above, the study seeks to investigate the impact of parental guidance on the academic performance of secondary school students in Okpe Local Government Area of Delta State

### **Research Questions**

This research question was raised to guide the study.

Does parental nurture impact on the academic performance of Secondary School students in Delta State?

### **Research Methodology**

This paper examines the Extent to which Parental Nurture Impacts on the Academic Performance of Secondary School Students in Okpe Local Government Area Delta State

Hence, this paper outlined and discussed in details the methods and procedures used in carrying out the research. The paper thus covered the following.

### **Research Design**

The descriptive survey research design was adopted for this study. The design was selected in order to get the opinion of secondary school students in Delta state on the subject topic.

### **Population of the Study**

The population of this study is about 400 (four hundred) senior secondary school students five (5) public schools in Okpe Local Government Area of Delta State .

### **Sample and Sampling Techniques**

The samples for this study is five secondary schools selected from public schools in Okpe local government area in Delta state. The sampling procedures adopted the random sampling techniques for the selection of 20 students each from the five schools under the study making sampling size of 400(four hundred).

### **Research Instrument**

A questionnaire titled: the Extent to Which Parental Nurture Impacts On The Academic Performance Of Secondary School Students in Okpe Local Government Area Delta State was used for the study. There are two parts to the questionnaire. Section A comprised questions that talks about the respondents' demographic information, whereas section B contained questions that inquired about the respondent's psychographic information, which was necessary in order to answer the research questions in this study.

### **Validity of the Instrument**

The method used in establishing the validity of the instrument is both construct and content validity. The construct validity was used because of the educational level of the respondents and their psychological make up in terms of a problem facing them. The content validity that is also used, helped to focus on the problem so that the researcher will not deviate from the approved topic.

### **Reliability of the Instrument**

To establish the level of reliability of the questionnaire, the test and re-test method was used. The instrument was administered again to the same group of respondents to find out its reliability

**Procedures for Data collection**

Face to face communication was used to collect data for this long essay. In other words, hardcopies of the questionnaire were handed to the students in secondary schools in Okpe local government area on a one on one basis. There was no need for research assistants as the researcher was very dedicated to ensuring that all copies of the questionnaire were disseminated and recovered in a precise manner. Furthermore, those who were unable to complete the questionnaire and return it in the spot were allowed up to three days to complete and return the copies of the questionnaire.

**Method of Data Analysis**

The descriptive and inferential and statistical method was used in this research and basic percentage and frequency table were used to accomplish this. This is due to the fact that descriptive statistics condense data to level that is intelligible and relevant, allowing for more straight forward interpretation. The conclusion produced from the presentation and interpretation of the data gathered served as the basis for the analysis conducted version 21 of the statistical package for social program (SPSS) was used to analyze the coded information the formula for the sample percentage calculation was:

$$\frac{\text{Number of respondents}}{\text{Total number of respondents}} \times \frac{100}{1}$$

**Presentation of Results and Discussion of Findings**

**Analysis of Research Questions**

**Research Question 1:** Does parental nurture impacts on the academic performance of secondary school students in Okpe Local Government Area Delta State?

**Table 1: Extent to which parental nurture impacts on the academic performance of secondary school students in Okpe Local Government Area Delta State**

S/N	Variables	Yes	No	Neutral	Total
1	Parental nurture impacts my academic performance	240 (60%)	140 (35 %)	20 (5%)	400 (100%)
2	Academic discipline from my parents facilitates my academic performance	300 (75%)	90 (22.5%)	10 (2.5%)	400 100%
3	My parent’s involvement in my academics reinforces my academic performance	330 (82.5%)	70 (17.5%)	0 (0%)	40 (100)
4	Lack of education is a reason my parents finds it difficult to be involved in my education	245 (61.25%)	155 (38.75%)	25 (6.25 %)	400 100%

Source; Field survey, 2023

Data on **table 1** disclosed that 330(82.5%) respondents who are the majority of the study said yes to the fact that parent's involvement in my academics reinforces students' academic performance. 70(17.5%) of the respondents saying No to the fact that parent's involvement in my academics reinforces students' academic performance. More so, table 1 showed that parental nurture impacts on academic performances of secondary school students is high. The impact of the data on the table 6 is that parental nurture impacts on the academic performances on secondary school students. Findings from the study showed that parents have significant impact on their secondary school student's academic performance.

### **Conclusion**

In today's civilisation, education is a critical tool for change and one of the finest things a country can do for her population is to provide appropriate and relevant education for its citizens. This is especially true because education is a powerful weapon against ignorance, sickness and poverty. As well as a way of developing educated, responsible and hardworking citizens and a rich society.

According to the conclusions of the research, parents may have an impact on their children's academic performances in secondary school. Parental care, attention to academic progress and nurture are all important in the impacts may have on their children's academic achievements. As a result there is a strong link between parental guidance and secondary school students' academic accomplishments, as parents are more likely to encourage their children's academic success. Secondary school children who get encouragements and inspiration from their parents do better in school than students who have unsupportive parents. Parental care, nurture and attention to academic progress towards their children's academic advancement are the main explanations for the observed difference in performance.

### **Recommendations**

The research provides the following suggestions based on the finds of this study.

1. It is important for parents to diversify their sources of incomes so as to afford to send their children to school and obtain higher academic results.
2. Parents should be made aware of the importance of parental guidance in deciding their children's academic progress in schools, particularly in the light of the fact that majority of male students are opting out of school to pursue career in business. Parents should be actively engaged in both supporting and overseeing their children's academic work at home.
3. Students should devote significant attention to their studies at home, since the amount of effort they put into their studies at home has an impact on their academic performance.

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