

## **The Role of the Environment in Promoting Students Academic Achievement**

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### **Abstract**

*This study aims to identify the most important social factors that affect educational achievement. The qualitative descriptive analytical approach was used in this study, this approach describes the phenomenon as it is, then analyzes it. The study reported that the most effective factor on educational achievement is the family, society, school and If the student belongs to a certain social economical level, this has a great impact on the surrounding circumstances in school and relations with his colleagues. This will lead him/her to more achievement and success also found that the geographical environment is not a main factor in scientific achievement compared with the social environment.*

**Keywords:** educational achievement, students' environment

### **Introduction**

Often the results of the academic achievement could be an important index to the positive or negative nature of the student's environment which can affect directly the academic achievement that helps the student to obtain these results in any time or place. It is very important to examine and analyze this academic achievement process, according to many factors attached to it, because if we realize that we can also know what hinders this process, study the appropriate methods and ways to avoid these obstacles.

At educational meetings a familiar sentence is often said, “ the social circumstances of the family” because it affect superiority or deficiencies, as they do not appear separately from these social, economic, or educational contexts, which form the ultimate climate to the educational Excellency or shortage. The most important factor is the family, its cultural level, potential, and its capacity to help the students in educational attainment.

In a survey by Colangelo & Dulmark about the studies of the families in which there are superior students, it shows that these families encourage the creativity and freedom of the students by giving them the opportunity to decide positively for themselves in different issues, for example: the school, teachers, mental activities , and the parents participation in school or outdoor activities.

Many researchers stated that raising the child to be independent from parents, this will to develop their capabilities and hence resulted in superiority especially in university education. Becker (1990) pointed to the importance of the social and economic level on school achievement. He said that, if we want to study the different variables in academic achievement, we should separate the social and economic effects, because these are very important factor in academic achievement.

Students come to school from different social, economic, and cultural levels. Every level has its own values, behavior, and directions which affect the child surrounding circumstances, his relations with other students and the motivation to learn.

**Statement of the Problem:**

The academic achievement is an issue which we can look at it from different angles, because it affects the learner's future. In recent years the attention is increased with the studies and research that show the affect the of the social, economic and cultural factors on academic achievement. So researchers concentrate on the learner's social, economic, and cultural background to remedy and overcome them.

One of the characteristics of the learning outcomes in Arab countries is the decline of learning achievement. So the phenomenon of learning insufficiency resulted on repeating classes and disturbing education. This is the most problems that affect the Arabic education, as Unicef Organization stated that students who repeated classes in 1995 in ten Arabic countries was 1,036,110, and this refer to deterioration in education quality. Many studies refer to the factors behind it, The most important factor is the social one which is not studied as adequately as it should be.

**Study Questions:**

1 – What are the most social factors that is connected to education achievement ?

There are some questions attached to this question as flowing:

- a – What is the effect of the school environment on students achievement?
- b – What are the social variables connected to the education level of the family?
- c – What are the social variables connected to the family construction?
- d – What are the social variables connected to the economical and social level?

**Objectives of the Study:**

The study aims:

- 1 – To introduce a close profile about the environment surrounding the students, and how it affects the students learning achievement.
- 2 – To limit the most social variables connected to learning achievement.

**Methodology of the study:**

The descriptive approach was used to state the characteristics of a certain phenomenon which depends on collecting data, analyze, and interpret the results.

**Literature Review:**

Academic achievement is the perfection of knowledge and skills which the student can posses after exposing to different experiences in one or more subjects, it can be measured by the capabilities to comprehend academic subjects and lessons through oral or written exams.

The goals of the academic achievement:

- 1- To state whether the student can be transferred to the following stage.
- 2- To determine the type and profession of the student.
- 3- To recognize the individual capabilities of the student.

Studies assured the relations between good achievement and positive tendency to school. The social and economic status of the student affects his tendency towards academic achievement. The concentration will be on secondary stage, because it is the mid stage between elementary and university stage and the student is experiencing puppetry with its changing behavior, so there is a need for social worker.

The importance of school study stage is:

- 1- General preparation of life.
- 2- Scientific preparation to continue university learning.

In addition to that there are the following:

- 1 –Behavior in teenage
- 2 –connection with society problems.
- 3 –age phase 4 –social and civilization progress.

The factors that affect student's academic achievement, most researchers assure that more than 75% of the factors are unknown. But the researcher refers to the environmental factors specially social ones, ( family- school-society-----). Recent trends become more affected with psychological and cognitive side of performance.

The general school environment and the student strain case affect the education achievement. The good friendly school environment is very important to learning motivation. When the student feels his colleagues respect and admiration, this could make him/her more active and productive. On the other hand if the student feels that he is not popular this can make him hate school and hence will not achieve any success. The researcher divided these factors to:

#### 1 – Subjective factors:

Which concern the student divided to cognitive and psychological factors (anxiety, lack of self confidence, hatred of a particular subject).

Body factors (sickness, dynamic shortage, headache, vision impairment). Saeed Taima described the factors affect students: They are: motivation, ambition level, and general satisfaction to the study, positive views about the teaching institution, the positive customs to study and learn and personal experience. These factors could be connected by two ways:

#### Psychological reasons:

Doctors said that difficulties in learning are due to biological reasons , the genetic factors is the main reason, also the nerve factor, because there is a connection between the damage of the cerebral sovereignty and learning difficulties. Studies among war victims who recessed head injuries showed that they cannot work in certain jobs for these injuries, also infections, sickness and disease before and after birth affect learning process.

#### 2 – Organic and Chemical reasons:

From these factors, malnutrition, inflammation of the middle ear, sensitivities and visual problems, drug therapy.

Malnutrition, growth retardation integration between sensation, due to lack of protein. ( 129 ) child checked when they were 6 years old, they suffered from lack of protein , and they were compared with a group of other children who do not practiced these problems. The performance of the first group was less than the second group in 8 out of 9 subjects.

#### 2 – Family Factors:

There are many factors which affect the student's achievement:

##### 1- Family Stability

The stability of the family affects the students achievement, many students who have low level of achievement, belong to families suffer from problems and differences, or socially broken, also the cruel treatment from one of the parents towards their children. These factors affect directly the student's psychological status, and aptitude to learn.

##### 2- Economic and Educational level

Many studies about different societies clarified that there is appositive connection between scientific achievement and the family economic and educational level. The children in cultural educated level gain more chances in academic achievement. On the other hand, children belong to low economic and education families, their achievement is below average. This is because the parents in the first group will encourage their children to study by guiding, directing and helping them if they need that.

The economic role of the family affects the students' level of learning. Because they can provide all the students requirements, and create the adequate atmosphere for them to study and do their homework only not occupied by other things, but most families whose economic level is below average demand their sons to do other jobs , for example farming , cattle breeding or other work. So they are occupied with providing the family with food or money and thus lead to inadequate educational achievement.

#### 3 – School Factor:

From observation and the students statements during the interview, there are many reasons that effect negatively educational achievement. Teachers cruel treatment to the students, intimidating the child from failure, teachers reliance on memorization when explaining lessons, crowded classes, not providing an appropriate environment for activities, difficulties in school subjects, the impact of peers cynicism and non-equal discussions.

School factor play an important role in the child achievement. The teacher who does not own cultural personality can make the students hate the subjects. Because he/she is incompetent, also the relation between the teacher and the students has its impact in hating or liking the subjects or the school. The relation between the students themselves has a great influence on their achievement, if all the group were against one student, this will lead to neglect and harassment, and hence the student will leave school as a result of that.

So from above we can divide the reasons behind negative achievement to reasons connected with the school and reasons attached to the teacher.

The relation between the family and the educational system:

The role of the family does not differ from any other institute in transferring cultural heritage, training and educating the individual skills and experiences. Education aims to provide a happy life for individual as “Luk” see it.

Plato also believes that education is concern on forming members to make justice in society. So everyone in the society should be treated according to his potentials and how to exploit it to form the social system. The role of the family cannot be denied for planting values and forming behavior to prepare the good citizen or to teach the education behavior. Education means humanitarian work, and also concern with means and good goals in the life of the beginners it will be the first and dangerous institute which has great impact on continues educational process.

Education is a social process that aims at building individual characters, so they can form group life, so it is a process of learning and teaching.

Behavior and cultural patterns of the society, because every community has its reactive group.

The reaction group should form good co-operation between school and family, to produce relations and love for achieving the education goals through:

- 1- Direct communication between school and parents.
- 2- Parent's participation to introduce their notices and support to school.
- 3- School should inform parents about their son's behavior inside the school.
- 4- Parent's participation on religious, patriot, or cultural occasions.

So school and family are seen as one institution, every one complete the other. This will help to achieve education and learning goals.

### **Results:**

1 – The most effective factor on educational achievement is the family and society. The economical cultural level of the family can help the student to further extend in providing the student with the appropriate environment for educational achievement, based on positive interaction between student and his parents and brothers. All these factors lead to excellence.

2 – The families of the excellent students encourage their concerns and cognitive activities by providing the adequate freedom for the students, so they can decide for themselves positively towards school and teachers.

3 – If the student belongs to a certain social economical level, this has a great impact on the surrounding circumstances in school and relations with his colleagues. This will lead him/her to more achievement and success.

4 – School is the supporting climate to the family, because the student stays there more than half day and is going to be affected with the teacher and his colleagues. The teacher is directly responsible about the students positive and negative sides. The colleagues are the parallel line to the student, they are very important to the student motivation and behavior.

5 – The geographical environment is not a main factor in scientific achievement compared with the social environment.

### **Suggested Recommendations:**

- 1 – Teachers should consider the individual differences between students.
- 2 – Lessons reviews and note taking lead to enforce understanding.
- 3 – Assignments and homework enforce the students study.

- 4 – The student should know the skill of transferring pictures, diagrams, models and charts to mental images enable him/her to understand school subject.
- 5 – Cooperative learning.
- 6 – Setting goals and feedback.
- 7 – Generate ideas and test hypotheses.
- 8 – Take advantage of prior knowledge and link it to new knowledge.

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