

PARENTAL EDUCATION AND MOTHER'S EMPLOYMENT TOWARD CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE IN SRI LANKA

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It is generally accepted that parents' educational background and their involvement affect children's achievements and performance in education. Even though the standards of the school or quality of learning methods are high, especially in school educations, the role of parents is vital. In the Sri Lankan education system, the involvement of parents is highly seen since in kindergarten. With the busy life schedules of modern parents and extra tuition patterns, it is complicated to identify the contribution of parental involvement towards a child's performance based on their educational support and employment. This paper was an attempt to move forward on this situation. The main objective of this study was to examine the relationship between parent's education, mother's employment and child's education performance at school level. The population of the sample consisted of 50 students representing grades 7, 8 and 9 who made good performance at term tests during two years of time. Data were collected through questionnaires at the parents meetings and questionnaires were handed over to the respondents personally and they were also briefed about the nature of the research. Questionnaires were based on Lickert Scale and the academic results were collected from the school administration. The study was mainly a quantitative research in descriptive format that used descriptive statistics for the data analysis. Statistical treatment of the data included the use of the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). As per the value of Cronbach's Alpha, the reliability of the study ranked at 0.780 which exposes the high acceptability of the internal reliability of the study. The concise conclusion of the study proved that 76 per cent of the well performance students' parents (both mother and father) possessed a good level of education (passed A/L) and out of this population 14 per cent were graduates (either mother or father). When considering the behavior of mother's employment towards child performance, 71 per cent of well performed students' mothers are employed. Nevertheless the study further found that mothers who are employed in a formal public sector have more time to spend with children rather than who are employed in the private sector. However, the concise conclusion of the study revealed that for the well performance of a child, parents' education level and mother's employment has made a significant influence.