

Effect of parents-teachers conferences on the achievement of third Intermediate class

Khalid Muften Dagher

A Teacher Training Institute - Baghdad

ABSTRACT:

The present study deals with the effect of parents- teachers conferences on the achievement of third Intermediate class . It has been noticed that some students' parents do not get involved in school activities or support school goals at home .and that will affect on the students' progress . It is very important for students' parents to go to parents-teachers conference . Going to the parents-teachers conferences provide the parents and the teachers opportunities to work together as a team in order to help students in their learning .

The present study consists of five chapters ; the first chapter includes the problem , aims , limits of the study and definition of terms .

Chapter two is concerned with the previous study in the field of home school relationship and parents-teachers conferences .

Chapter three discusses the procedures of the research ; defining the population , sample , constructing the research instrument (questionnaire) , its validity and reliability , in addition to the statistical means used in analyzing the data .

Chapter four deals with the presentation and discussion of the results depending on the results of the questionnaire .

Chapter five involves the conclusions arrived at from analyzing and interpreting the results .

It also includes suggestions deduced from these conclusions which may help the students in their studies

Introduction

The present study attempts to analyze the effect of parents – teachers conferences on the achievement of third Intermediate class.

In our roles as teachers and as parents , we have been private to conversations of both teachers and parents . From talking with many parents , the researcher has gained insights about why some parents do not participate in parents – teachers conferences . In order to include such parents in educational conversations , educators need to understand the reasons that prevent the parents to come to school . This study emphasizes the importance of parents involvement in promoting school success .

This study reveals that the students who do not succeed in school, have parents do not support school goals at home . The researcher hopes that this study will be helpful and useful to all parents and teachers.

Chapter One

1.1 The problem:

During every academic year, most schools in Iraq invite parents to come in for regular parents-teachers conference . This is a standard part of the schools' efforts to build a strong partnership between parents and teachers. In Iraqi educational system ,educators believe that a strong partnership between the home and school will help pupils succeed in school . The educators' views hold that students who do not succeed in school have parents who do not get involved in school activities or support school goals at home .

1.2 Aims of the study

This study aims at determining the reasons of nonparticipation of the parents in parents-teachers conference in Intermediate schools and the effect of parental absence on the achievement of the students in third intermediate class .

1.3 Limits of the study

The present study is limited to the parents who do not participate in the parents-teachers conference in Intermediate schools in Directorate General of education of Baghdad Al- karkh 3 during the academic year 2013- 2014 .

1.4 Definition of term

A parent-teacher conference is a meeting between parents and teachers to discuss the students' progress in school.

Chapter Two

Previous study

Views For Successful Parent-Teacher Conferences:

A parent-teacher conference is a meeting between parents and teachers to discuss the student's progress in school . Parent-Teacher conferences happen in primary , intermediate and secondary schools. This meeting may take place as part of the regular-scheduled conferences held by the school each year . Parents can attend the meeting with the teachers if parents have questions or concerns about their sons . Educators believe that a strong partnerships between the home and school will help students succeed in school (Margaret Finder, 2011:66) .

Teachers welcome input from the parents about their sons , such as information about what the sons like to do or what they are good at . Teachers also understood that each student is different and learns differently . Parents

may provide some insight that will help the teachers work more effectively with the students at school . It is also helpful for teachers to know if the student is experiencing a difficult situation outside of school, such as a divorce, the death of a relative , a medical problem , or anything else that may affect the students' mood or behavior .

Knowing of such changes will help the teachers provide the students with necessary support in the classroom .The information will the teachers give the parents about the students' work , progress , grades , homework , and behavior (George E 2004:88) .

It is very important for parents to go to parent-teachers conferences because going to the parents-teachers conferences provide the parents and the teachers opportunities to work together as a team in order to help the students (Clark . R . M 2009:57) . The parent have an important perspective to share as the parents , the parents know their sons personality , habits strengths , and weaknesses. The teachers , on other hand have been trained professionally in the best methods of teaching.

In our roles as teachers and as parents , we have been private to conversations of both teachers and parents. We began talking with parents in different topics concerning the students. From talking with parents in general and in parents in low in come particular. We have gained insight about why some parents feel unhappy about school settings. In order to include such parents in the educational conversations , we need to understand their barriers. (Moll, l .2002:101) . Discussions about family involvement often center on what families lack and how educators can best teach parents to support instructional agendas of home . Parents have many views for teachers and administrators about ways to promote active involvement . Their views , however , do not always match the role envisioned by educators .

Possessing fewer economic resources and educational skills to participate in traditional ways, these parents operate at disadvantage until they understood how schools are organized and how they can promote systematic change (Delgado-Gaitor 2014:97) .

Chapter Three

Procedures of the research

3.1 Introduction

This chapter explains the procedures followed in this study defining the population , sample , constructing the research instrument , its validity and reliability , in addition to the statistical means used in analyzing the data .

3.2 Population

Information about the population of this study has drawn from Director General of Education of Baghdad Al- karkh 3. The population consists of all the parents of the students at third Intermediate schools during the academic year 2013- 2014.

3.3 Sample

The researcher has selected his sample as follows ;
Two Intermediate schools from Director General of Education in Al –karkh 3 . The number of the sample is (60) parents . The researcher visits these two schools and meets some parents .

3.4 Constructing the study instrument (The Questionnaire).

Experts in the field of education research maintain that the tool of research is determined according to the nature of the research and its limitations (Borg Call 2001:80) . Since the present study aims at determining the obstacles that prevent many parents from participation in parents – teachers conference .

The questionnaire is appropriate to be used in achieving the objectives of the study . The questionnaire is a suitable means for collecting data in survey study . In order to construct the questionnaire an open –ended questions was used to establish a pool of items relevant to the main of the study.

Four English supervisors were asked two open questions .

Why some parents do not come to school ?

What are the features of successful parents – teachers conference ?

A closed questionnaire is constructed using the information from the open – ended questions and some other sources . The questionnaire consists of (20) items * related to the parents – teachers conference .

3.5 Validity

A common used definition of validity is that " it is the degree to which a research instrument measures what it purports to measures ". (Borg , 2003:115) .

The instrument is valid if it measures accurately what is supposed to measure (Ebel ,1999:66)

The questionnaire has been exposed to a *jury of experts in teaching English .

The Jury does not come by chance (Siegel , 1988:20) . Each jury member is kindly requested to check the appropriateness , and content of each item in the instrument.

(see appends 1)

***Name of the jury**

1. Dr Muiyyad Saed .	College of Education ,English Department .
2.Dr. Muiyyad Naji .	Open Educational College , English Department .
3. Dr. Radha Ghanim .	Teachers College , English Department .
4.Mr. Jaleel Jasim .	College of Art , Al- Mustansirya University.
5. Mr.Karim Al-Jabouri	College of Art , Al- Mustansirya University .

3.6 Reliability

" The consistency of scores obtained by the same person who tested with equivalent form of the test " (Anastas , 1982 : 31) . In order to check the questionnaire reliability , the researcher has chosen two other supervisors to apply the questionnaire , the result has been recorded side by side with the result made by the researcher .

3.7 Final Administration

Having constructed the questionnaire and established its validity and reliability , the researcher distributed the final form among the English supervisors with a certain clarification how to answer it . The researcher handed a copy of the questionnaire to each one in the General Directorates of education in Baghdad.

3.8 Statistical Means

The following statistical Means are used in this study:

1- Percentage , It is used to Point out the Percentages of the parents who do not come to school.

2- Cooper Formula : It is used to find out the judgment of reliability coefficient.

$$\text{Cooper} = \frac{A}{A + D} \times 100$$

3- Fishers Formula , (weighted mean) (Fisher , 1955)

Chapter Four Data Analysis

4.1 Introduction

This chapter is devoted to the presentation and discussion of the results . A questionnaire has been undertaken as the main instrument to fulfill the objective of this study , namely " The effect of the parents- teachers conference on the achievement of the students at third Intermediate schools " . To achieve the objective of this study , Fisher formula has been used to find out the power degree of each items of the questionnaire . Since the mean is (3) , every item gained a weighted mean that less than (3) is considered weak .

4.2 General Results

General remarks could be set about depending on the results of the questionnaire . First of all , the students whose parents do not participate in parents – teachers conference have got lowers marks in the final examination during the academic year 2013-2014. And parents who do not participate in parents-teachers conference have got higher effect on the achievements of the students at third Intermediate schools. The difference between parents who do not participate and those who participate is that those who do not participate have not recognized that they are a critical part in their sons' education

Table (1)

Shows the items of the parents- teachers conference arranged downwards according to the weight means

Item No	Range order		Weighted Means
7	1	Students who do not succeed in school have parents who do not get involved in school activities .	
10	2	The absence of the parents means non caring about their son's progress in school .	
6	3	Some parents do not get involved in conference do not feel confident in school settings .	
9	4	The parent's financial concerns a major obstacle to participation in conference.	
4	5	Parents-teachers conference is helpful to know a difficult situation outside of school .	
16	6	Some parents do not come to school because they have no time.	
20	7	Few parents have medical problems prevent them to come to school	
3	8	Parents may provide some insight that will help the teachers work more effectively with the students at	

		school .	
11	9	The parents knew their son's personality , habits , strengths and weaknesses.	
12	10	The conference is also an opportunity for parents to ask questions about their sons progress.	
13	11	The conference will be more efficient and productive if the parents do some preparation beforehand.	
1	12	Educators believe that a strong partnership between home and school will help students succeed in school .	
8	13	Parents-teachers conference may discuss the students' progress , grades , homework ,and behavior .	
14	14	Through the conference , the teachers should know about students' home life ,changes in the family , habits and hobbies.	
15	15	Some parents fear of appearing foolish or being misunderstood their son' academic standing .	
18	16	Some parents ask about the participation of the students in class discussions and activities.	
17	17	The parents ask about any unusual behaviors of their sons in school.	
19	18	Parents will provide information about what their sons like to do or what they are good at .	
18	19	The parents ask their son's what their strongest and weakest subjects are.	
19	20	Some parents ask about the types of tests and evaluation will the students have to take this year.	

Chapter Five

Conclusions and Suggestions

5.1 Conclusions:

General remarks could be set about depending on the results of the questionnaire . First of all , some parents do not have any useful idea about the parents-teachers conference .

The obvious difference between the well- educated parents who look for their sons and the other parents who do not care about their sons' education .

This means that the nonparticipation of the parents in the parents-teachers conference has got highly affected on the achievement of third Intermediate class. It can be conducted that the absence of the parents has affected the students' progress in schools .

5.2 Suggestions

The researcher suggests the following studies

1. A study aiming at determining the effect of the home school relationship on the students' achievements in primary levels .
2. A study aiming at determining the effect of the family life on the school achievement .
3. a study aiming at determining the effect of the parents – teachers conference on the achievements of the students at sixth preparatory school .

References:

- Anastasi, A . D , Psychological Testing Macmilan Publishing Company
New York , 2002 .
- Borg , Call , Educational Research , An Introduction Longman New
York , 2001 .
- Clark , R . M , Family life and school Achievement, Chicago
University,
Press, 2002 .
- Delgado- G , Involving parents in the schools, American Journal of
Education 100, : 20-40 , 2014 .
- Ebel , H , Schooling and Family , Longman , New York,1999 .
- George , E , Insiders and outsiders the classroom, Oxford University
press, 2004 .
- Margaret , F Can city schools be saved ? New York press ,2011 .
- Moll , L , Bilingual Classroom studies and community analysis
,New-
York press, 2002 .
- Seigel , S , Y , Non parametric statistics for the behavior science ,
New-
York , 2001 .

Appendix (1)
TO : The jurys' member

Dear Sir :

The researcher intends to conduct a study entitled "Effect of parents-teachers conferences on the achievement of third Intermediate class". As you are experts in teaching English , your opinions are of great value in passing judgment on the validity of the Questionnaire items required in parents-teachers conference . Please tick the suitable items \ or unsuitable ones by putting () mark in front of each one . Please write your notes above the items that require adaption , omission ,or addition .

Thank you for cooperation

Researcher
Khalid Muften

(Appendix 1)

Parents-teachers conference

		Suitable	Un Suitable	Modification
1	Educators believe that a strong partnership between home and school will help students succeed in school .			
2	Parents will provide information about what their sons like to do or what they are good at .			
3	Parents may provide some insight that will help the teachers work more effectively with the students at school .			
4	Parents-teachers conference is helpful to know a difficult situation outside of school .			
5	Parents-teachers conference may discuss the students' progress , grades , homework ,and behavior .			
6	Some parents do not get involved in conference do not feel confident in school settings .			
7	Students who do not succeed in school have parents who do not get involved in school activities .			
8	Some parents fear of appearing foolish or being misunderstood their son' academic standing .			
9	The parent's financial concerns a major obstacle to participation in conference.			
10	The absence of the parents means nancaring about their son's progress school.			
11	The parents knew their son's personality , habits , strengths and weaknesses.			
12	The conference is also an oppportunity for parents to ask questions about their sons progress.			
13	The conference will be more efficient and productive if the parents do some preparation beforehand.			
14	Through the conference , the teachers should know about students' home life ,changes in the family , habits and hobbies.			

15	The parents ask about any unusual behaviors of their sons in school.			
16	Some parents do not come to school because they have on time.			
17	The parents ask their son's what their strongest and weakest subjects are.			
18	Some parents ask about the participation of the students in class discussions and activities.			
19	Some parents ask about the types of tests and evaluation will the students have to take this year.			
20	Few parents have medical problems prevent them to come to school			

Appendix (2)
Parents-teachers conference

		Highly desired	Desired	Some What desired	little desired	Not desired
1	Some parents fear of appearing foolish or being misunderstood their son' academic standing .					
2	Students who do not succeed in school have parents who do not get involved in school activities.					
3	Some parents do not come to school because they have no time.					
4	Few parents have medical problems prevent them to come to school.					
5	The parent's financial concerns a major obstacle to participation in conference.					
6	The absence of the parents means non caring about their son's progress in school .					
7	Educators believe that a strong partnership between home and school will help students succeed in school .					
8	Parents –teachers conference may discuss the students' progress , grades , homework ,and behavior .					
9	Some parents do not get involved in conference do not feel confident in school settings .					
10	Parents –teachers conference is helpful to					

	know a difficult situation outside of school .					
11	Through the conference , the teachers should know about students' home life ,changes in the family , habits and hobbies.					
12	Parents will provide information about what their sons like to do or what they are good at .					
13	Some parents ask about the types of tests and evaluation will the students have to take this year.					
14	The parents ask their son's what their strongest and weakest subjects are.					
15	Some parents ask about the participation of the students in class discussions and activities.					
16	Parents may provide some insight that will help the teachers work more effectively with the students at school .					
17	The parents knew their son's personality , habits , strengths and weaknesses.					
18	The conference is also an opportunity for parents to ask questions about their sons progress.					
19	The conference will be more efficient and productive if the parents do some preparation beforehand.					
20	The parents ask about any unusual behaviors of their sons in school.					

أثر مجالس الآباء والمعلمين في تحصيل طلاب الصف الثالث المتوسط

م.م خالد مفتن داغر

معهد إعداد المعلمين / بغداد

الملخص:

تتناول هذه الدراسة "أثر مجالس الآباء والمعلمين في تحصيل طلاب الصف الثالث المتوسط" ، وقد لوحظ أن بعض أولياء أمور الطلبة لا يتدخلون في الأنشطة المدرسية أو دعم الأهداف المدرسية في البيت التي من شأنها التأثير على تقدم الطلاب.

من الضروري جداً لأولياء أمور الطلبة الحضور الى مجالس الآباء والمعلمين أن الذهاب الى مجالس الآباء والمعلمين يمنح كلا من الآباء المعلمين فرصاً للعمل سوية كالفريق الواحد لغرض مساعدة الطلاب في تعليمهم.

تتكون هذه الدراسة من خمسة فصول ، يتضمن الفصل الأول المشكلة والأهداف وحدود البحث وتعريف المصطلحات.

أما الفصل الثاني؛ فيتناول مراجعة الأدبيات (الدراسات السابقة) ذات الصلة في علاقة البيت بالمدرسة ، أما

الفصل الثالث يناقش إجراءات البحث ، تعريف المجتمع ، العينة أداة البحث (الاستبيان) مصداقية البحث فضلاً عن الوسائل الإحصائية المستعملة في تحليل البيانات.

الفصل الرابع يتناول عرض النتائج ومناقشتها اعتماداً على نتائج الاستبيان ويتضمن الفصل الأخير النتائج التي

خلصت إليها الدراسة من تحليل النتائج وتفسيرها ويتضمن كذلك الاقتراحات التي تم استنتاجها من البحث والتي تساعد الطلاب في دراستهم.