

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES AND PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN SECONDARY EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The paper examined contemporary issues and parental involvement in secondary education administration in Nigeria. The paper reviewed the concepts of contemporary issues and parental involvement. The role of parents in secondary education was discussed in the paper, this include serving as role model to the child, communicating with teachers, attending school events, helping the child with assignments, creating a conducive learning environment at home, etc. The paper further highlighted several issues that hinder parental involvement in education. These include insufficient financial resources to meet the child's needs, challenges in communicating with teachers, difficulties in understanding the curriculum and teaching methods, and limited knowledge or access to technology to help the child with online assignments. The benefits of parental involvement were discussed. These include improved student's academic performance, enhanced social skills and school behaviour, improved self-confidence, and reduced absenteeism, etc. It was concluded that parents should actively support their children's education to help them achieve their educational goals and succeed in other areas of life. The paper suggested that parents should create a supportive learning environment at home to help their child study and complete assignments. In addition, school management should encourage parents to serve in curriculum committee to provide input into school programmes and activities. This would ensure parents understand the curriculum to enable them support their child.

Keywords: Contemporary Issues, Parental Involvement, Students, Child, Academic Achievement.

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INTRODUCTION

There is no gainsaying that parents play a key role in the overall development of the child. Fundamentally, it is the training and leadership of parents that form the character of the child. Butressing this point, Enwereazu (2024) stated that the most significant influence on students' learning, and the main promoter of their education are the parents. In this wise, Ngoun (2012) as cited in Thavrith (2021) argued that students' achievement can be attributed to parental involvement in their study, regardless of their socio-economic background. Therefore, the impact of parental involvement on students' academic achievement cannot be overemphasized. However, Parental involvement in education can be defined as the active participation of parents in the education of their child. In other words, it is the support and guidance given by parents to the child in the course of their educational experience.

Students at secondary school level are faced with several challenges that has affected their academic performance. For example, lack of parental involvement in students' education has been a course of concern among teachers and school administrators as some parents play little or no role in the education of the child, thus, limiting the child's academic success and overall development. Parental involvement in student's education is imperative for student's overall success because the role of teachers in students' development is limited. It therefore behoves on parents to bridge the gap left by teachers, and in fact, complement teacher's effort towards producing a well-rounded child. However, parents are faced with several challenges that have limited their contribution towards their child's education; these range from lack of finance to provide for the child's educational needs, inability to communicate with teachers to ascertain the child's progress, inability to create time for the child's education, and inability to understand the curriculum and teaching methods. Other challenges include limited knowledge or access to technology, and inability to understand school policies and procedures. Furthermore, Lampkin (2022) highlighted other challenges that affect parental involvement, they include, language barrier, cultural differences, staff attitude towards parents, lack of awareness, absence of effective communication, and work conflicts. These barriers to parental involvement have created a huge gap in students' education which has affected their academic achievement and overall development.

To ensure the overall success of a child, parental involvement must be prioritized. By doing so, students in secondary school will receive the support they need to prepare for higher education and contribute to the development of society. To achieve this, parents should attend school events, communicate with teachers, develop a positive relationship with the school staff, and take interest in the child's work and other activities at home. In this case, the home should be made conducive for the child to carry out their assignments and prepare for exams. These measures would ensure the child is adequately supported to thrive in all their endeavours.

CONCEPT OF CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Contemporary issues refer to relevant events, topics or problems that are frequently discussed that affect the society at a particular moment in time. Essentially, these issues affect politics, education, the economy, and in fact, they impact on how the society functions. Vlaaad (2018) defined contemporary issues as any idea, viewpoint, event or topic that is pertinent to the modern world. In the view of Staff writer (2015), contemporary issue is any trend, event, thought, or topic that is relevant to the people, and has an impact on their present lives.

Essentially, contemporary issues are inevitable in our societies today because the world isn't a perfect place, hence the emergence of issues that affect our lives and behaviour. For instance, Nigeria is bedeviled by issues such as insecurity (banditry and kidnapping), corruption, unemployment, inflation, bad leadership, poverty, tribalism, etc. On other hand, the educational sector is confronted by issues such as examination malpractice, cultism, poor infrastructural facilities, indiscipline among staff and students, corruption, poor parenting, inadequate funding, shortage of teaching staff, etc. Contemporary issues are dynamic in nature, consequently, they change as the society evolve, especially because policy makers and the populace strive to ensure they find solution to these problems.

CONCEPT OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Parental involvement has been defined as the active participation of parents in the academic, social and emotional development of their child. In this wise, adequate support is given to the child in the course of their education and other endeavours to ensure they achieve their personal and educational goals. According to Wright (2018), parental involvement refers to a parents' involvement in all aspects of their child's education and growth. According to the author, parents get involved in school activities by attending Parents-Teachers Association (PTA) meetings, assisting their child with their homework, participating in academic clinic days, as well as numerous other events that the school hosts. In the view of Abie (2018), parental involvement refers to the state in which parents actively participate in their children's education. In this case, parents involve themselves and are engaged by the school and teachers in the education of their child. From the aforementioned, parental involvement is a genuine and intentional process. In this way, efforts made towards supporting a child's education can be productive and result oriented. As Clinton and Hattie (2013) as cited in Abie (2018) stated, parental involvement encompasses more than just parents asking about their child's academic progress, it also refers to parents actively participating in communication with their child in order to foster a positive relationship that will enable genuine mentoring, leading, and inspiring. It is therefore imperative that parents are fully involved in every aspect of the child's life to ensure they supported to thrive in all their endeavours.

ROLES OF PARENTS IN SECONDARY EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION

The purpose of secondary education is to prepare students for higher education and to be useful to themselves and the society. In this wise, active parental involvement would ensure the child is adequately supported to achieve their educational goals. Therefore, parents have a responsibility to play key roles in their child's education, these include:

Serving as a Role Model to the Child

A role model is someone whose behaviour or success inspires others. In other words, a role model is a person who is worthy of emulation, especially by young people. Parents are usually the first role model for children. They are responsible for teaching the child how to walk, how to talk, relevant values, and how to make positive and rational decisions (Cullatte, 2022). In fact, children subconsciously imitate the behaviour of their parents and caregivers, thus, making them 'role models'. As Carlie (2023) stated, the social quotient of a child is derived from the

interactions with their parents and people around them. Thus, their emotional and mental quotient is shaped by their parent's active involvement and attentiveness. It therefore behoves parents to be good role models by instilling values and skills in the child that would enable them thrive in all their endeavours. Buttressing this point, Wahi (2024) stated that in being a role model to the child, you impart to your child valuable life lessons about the value of education, inquisitive learning, and hard work. Furthermore, the author stated that if the child looks up to the parents, it would be easier to teach them morals, impart knowledge, and assist them become better learners. Similarly, Carlie (2023) stated that as a role model, it behoves parents to teach the child discipline, responsibility, and accountability by setting boundaries, establishing consequences, and teaching morals.

To teach the child morals through role modelling, parents should include children in family meetings and discussions. This way, they can learn how to get along with people in school and collaborate. In addition, parents should establish family rules about behaviour and lead by example. Parents should also keep a positive attitude at all times, they should show respect and kindness in the way they treat people, and resolve conflicts at home in a calm and productive way. These would ensure the child learns positive behaviour and skills that would enable them succeed in school and other endeavours.

Communicate and Collaborate with Teachers

Communication can be defined as the process of transferring information from one person or group to another. Parent-teacher communication is essential for supporting a child's education. This is important because children at the secondary school level require close supervision from parents and caregivers to know their behaviours and school needs. Therefore, parent-teacher communication would ensure parents are brought up to speed with the child's needs and challenges. This way, parents can offer various ways to help their children improve their education.

On the other hand, collaboration occurs when two or more individuals work towards achieving of a common goal. To foster collaboration, Indeed (2024) stated that all parties involved should share ideas and proffer solutions to solve problems. In this way, parents and teachers should work together to assist the child achieve their goals. As Rashid (n.d.) stated, consistent communication enables parents comprehend their child's development, recognize any challenges they might be encountering, and collaborate with educators to provide the necessary resources and assistance for their child's success. Similarly, Loyche (2023) argued that effective parent-teacher communication keeps parents updated on their child's development, and enables them to actively participate in their education. This includes discussing issues and potential problems. The author further stated that by collaborating, educators and parents may create plans to deal with these problems and assist the child in overcoming any challenges they may be encountering. In other words, parent-teacher collaboration would ensure the weaknesses of the child are identified, this way, assistance can be rendered to assist the child overcome their challenges. Additionally, effective communication and collaboration would foster trust and understanding between parents and teachers. It would enhance a supportive learning environment ideal for the students and teachers to thrive.

Helping the Child with Assignments

The objective of giving assignments to students is to support learning. It is the responsibility of parents to motivate and monitor the child complete their assignments at home. As Carlie (2023) stated, parents can support their child by; reviewing lessons learned in class; teaching them how to carryout projects and assignments at home; assisting them in striking a healthy balance between school and play, and recognizing their accomplishments. In this vein, parents should only guide the child rather than completing the work for them. Helping the child with assignment is imperative because the parent may explain certain concepts or contents to the child better than the teacher. This would foster understanding of the topic and ensure the child thrive in the subject. To further help the child accomplish their assignment, Curry (2023) stated that parents should inquire about, or remind them of any assignments or projects. This will help the child develop accountability and ownership. Additionally, it will encourage responsibility and independence among them.

In assisting the child carryout their assignments and other school projects at home, parents should provide an enabling environment for the child to do their assignments. In this vein, children should be provided with a good and quiet space in the house that is well illuminated and uncluttered. This will ensure the child stay focus and undistracted in carrying out their assignments. From the aforestated, it suggests that students need different levels of assistance and support to aid their education (Curry, 2023). In this wise, parents and teachers should collaborate to guide children towards becoming well-grounded individuals.

Creating a Conducive Learning Environment at Home

A conducive home environment entails providing the right conditions for the child to learn and develop successfully. Thus, it is imperative for parents to provide a safe and supportive home where children can play and explore. Vain (2023) asserted that creating a home where children feel loved and respected, as well as ensuring there are no instances of abuse or neglect all contribute to a safe environment for children. It is therefore essential to have a safe environment at home because children are inherently sensitive, consequently, the condition of the home can impact their well-being. As McBride and Telzer (2020) stated, environments have an impact on children who are sensitive. Thus, negative environments such as a family where there is constant arguing or noise would increase the likelihood of negative outcome such as depression and poor academic performance. However, sensitive children thrive when they are raised in loving and supportive environments like positive homes, consequently, the home would foster a positive environment where children would feel appreciated to achieve their educational goals. Buttressing this point, Carlie (2023) asserted that a loving atmosphere that lets the child make mistakes and learn from them can foster curiosity in them and enhance their development.

To further ensure a conducive learning environment, the child should not be judged when they make mistakes or fail. In addition, Parents should always support and encourage the child to improve. Essentially, the child should find solace at home, this would foster a stable home where children can learn and develop without hindrances.

Being involved in the Child's Activities

One of the ways of participating in a child's education is to be actively involved in their activities. Participating in the child's home and school activities such as art exhibitions, debates, puzzles, reading, drama, cooking, washing, singing, etc. would ensure the child is supported in all their endeavours. In other words, participating in the curricular and extra-curricular activities of the child would foster confidence among them. This way, students would be motivated to attain greater heights in their education and other endeavours. Buttressing this point, Wahi (2024) argued that active parental involvement fosters friendliness and trust between parent and child. According to the author, the greatest ways to enhance a child's learning, problem solving skills, and sense of bonding are through reading, playing games, and solving puzzles. Therefore, parents can strengthen their relationship with the child by offering assistance with homework, online assignment and exam preparations. In fact, participating in the child's activities both in school and at home would foster parent-child bonding. This would ensure children speak up and talk about themselves which would enhance their social and interpersonal skills. This will serve them well both in school and in other endeavours (Wahi, 2024). Furthermore, involvement in the activities of the child would enable parents know the child's needs and level of knowledge in different endeavours. For example, parents can teach their children how to cook, wash dishes, mop the floor, and make their beds. In this vein, mistakes made by the child while carrying out home chores can be corrected by parents because they are actively involved in the children's activities. This would ensure the child is given the right values and support to thrive in all their endeavours.

Attending School Events

Children would be determined to thrive when their parents are involved in their education. Specifically, attending school events like Parent-Teacher Association (P.T.A) meetings, parent workshops, end of year party, concert, etc. would show commitment towards the child's education. In addition, it would foster a cordial relationship between parents and the school community. Consequently, students would have the support and motivation needed for optimal development. Buttressing this point, Premia Academy (2024) opined that school events such as Parent-teacher meeting would give elders (educational stakeholders) a forum to discuss the education, behaviour, and performance of their children. This would ensure parents understand their child's interest and school progress. In this wise, knowledge of the child's behaviour, needs, and academic performance would enable parents to collaborate with teachers to proffer solutions to help the child improve. In a similar vein, Greensprings (2024) stated that keeping track of your child's academic progress, and participating in school events such as sports day, concerts, P.T.A meetings, etc. will motivate the child to work hard. Attending the child's school events also encourages the child to believe in their potentials when they realise their parents have confidence in them. This would foster increased participation in academic work and extracurricular activities.

Essentially, attending school events and making yourself known as a parent would send the message to teachers and the child that you have genuine interest in their education. This would enhance the school climate and foster a sense of responsibility among teachers and students.

Celebrate the Child's Success

Showing appreciation and is an effective way to encourage people and inspire them to succeed. In the same vein, children would be motivated to thrive in their academics and other endeavours when their efforts are celebrated. Essentially, it is the duty of parents to recognize the child's strengths rather than their weaknesses. In this wise, the child's accomplishments no matter the degree should be duly celebrated by parents. This would boost their confidence to perform better irrespective of their environment. As Wahi (2024) stated, one of the most essential things parents can do for their children's education is to recognize and celebrate their accomplishments. It would enhance their capacity to learn, remember information, and inspire them to do better.

Celebrating a child's success should extend beyond academics, they deserve recognition for completing tasks at home as well. Pace (2021) stated that rewarding children solely for academic achievements implies that academic performance is the only basis for a happy life. In this case, children may feel undervalued when judged solely on academic performance rather than their strengths and talent. Therefore, children's individual strengths should be the basis of reward and not just academic success. In this wise, it behoves parents to notice the child's strengths, celebrate them, and nurture what the child is good at (Pace, 2021). From the above, celebrating a child's success at home and in school would boost their self-confidence. Furthermore, it would foster positive behaviour and create a sense of fulfillment among them.

In addition to the roles that parents play in secondary education, they can also encourage reading, criticize constructively, support the child's career choice, monitor their progress, and encourage the child to talk about their problems. This would ensure the child is adequately supported to achieve their goals.

CHALLENGES OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN SECONDARY EDUCATION

Inadequate Finance to Provide for the Child's Educational Needs

Children at secondary school level of education need constant support from parents to meet all their needs. However, due to the current economic situation of Nigeria, low income parents may find it difficult to meet the school demands of their child. In this vein, inability to pay tuition fees, provide school uniforms, pay for home lessons, buy text/note books, provide an enabling learning environment at home, and meet the child's basic needs have created bottlenecks that has hindered active parental participation in the education of the child. This can have a negative impact on their well-being and academic performance. As Cooper and Stewart (2023) noted, students from lower-income homes typically perform less academically, and have worse health than their classmates from higher-class background. This suggests that children from low-income homes may lack the inspiration to thrive in their academics. For instance, inability to access quality medical care due to financial constraints may affect the overall well-being of the child. Low income parents may lack the ability to supervise the child's activities, and may struggle to teach the child social skills needed to thrive in all their endeavours, thus, creating a poor role model for the child. This suggests that financial struggles among parents is an issue that has not only hindered active parental involvement, but has adversely affected children's academic performance and overall success.

Inability to Understand the School Curriculum and Teaching Methods

Curriculum is the collection of lessons and other learning experiences set out by the school for students to learn over a period of time. In this wise, adequate knowledge of the curriculum and methods of teaching would enable parents to guide the child's educational experiences to conform to the expectations of the school curriculum. This would address the diverse educational needs of the child, encourage one-on-one teaching, and foster parent-child bonding. In fact, knowledge of the curriculum would enable parents understand and follow up the educational progress of the child. However, parents are faced with the challenge of understanding the curriculum and teaching methods adopted in instructional delivery. In this case, parents may have a difficult time in participating in the child's education when their support is required. For instance, assisting the child with homework and assignments may prove futile when the curriculum or methods of teaching are not understood, thus, making it difficult to effectively instruct the child at home. Furthermore, inability to comprehend the curriculum may hinder parents from monitoring the child's progress. As Ramanathan (2023) noted, understanding the curriculum and teaching strategies may be difficult for parents, which makes it difficult for them to help their kids with their school work and assignments. This deficiency has created a huge gap in communication between parents and children, thus, limiting the educational success of the child.

Difficulty Communicating with Teachers

Parent-teacher communication is key for students' success. It enables parents to know the child's behaviour and monitor their progress. In the same vein, parents and teachers can collaborate to help the child overcome challenges faced in school or at home. Buttressing this point, Weduc (2024) stated that effective parent-teacher communication is connected to academic achievement and students' individual, social, and emotional development. However, parent-teacher communication has been hindered by several factors, these ranges from language barrier and previous unpleasant experiences. Others factors include time constraint, parents' low socio-economic status, poor educational background, and children's poor academic performance or conduct (Stamatis & Chatzinikola, 2021). These bottlenecks have affected parent-teacher collaboration, thus, limiting the child's chances to develop successfully.

Difficulty in communicating with teachers has created a poor parent-teacher relationship. This has impacted negatively on the school climate, and student's academic achievement. Buttressing this point, Weduc (2024) noted that when there is absence of a positive communication between parents and teachers, it can be detrimental for both parties, as teachers can feel unmotivated, while parents could feel left out and incompetent, thus, limiting the child's progress. Therefore, positive parent and teacher communication should be encouraged. This collaboration can help motivate the child to reach their full potential.

Limited Knowledge or Access to Technology to Assist the Child with online Assignments

In today's world, technology is an essential part of modern education. Essentially, technology can be used to support children's learning. For instance, the use of computers and other devices allows students worldwide to access the internet for information. In this wise, parents can participate in the child's education by providing computers and other related devices to assist

their children with online assignments and projects. As Sheehan (2022) stated, using the internet for homework can strengthen children's ability to use the internet to ensure their success in the future. However, limited knowledge of computer has hindered parental participation. On the other hand, limited access to technology, such as computers, tablets, smartphones, and the internet has negatively impacted parental involvement in their child's education. For instance, homes in rural areas often lack internet access and digital libraries where students can find educational materials. In this wise, parents may possess the skills to help their child, but the inability to access the internet and computers have hindered their participation, specifically in the area of helping the child with online assignments and projects.

Balancing Family Responsibilities, Job Commitments, and the Child's Education

One of the biggest challenges of parenting is balancing work and family life. This is evident as parents take up multiple roles like attending to the children needs, reaching deadlines at the workplace, and completing home chores, such as cooking, cleaning, washing, shopping, etc. In fact, due to the economic situation of the country, many parents now engage in multiple jobs to meet their family's needs. This has resulted in busy schedules and limited quality time with children, thus, making it difficult to participate in the child's education.

Some parents prioritize their careers over their children's well-being and education. This has impacted their participation in their child's education. Consequently, communicating with teachers, helping the child with assignments, and attending school events would present challenges for the parents. As Elbitar (2023) posited, working parents who lead busy lives frequently struggle with time management, which limits their chances of spending quality time with their families. According to the author, lack of quality time affects children's emotional health, cognitive growth, and general relationship with their parents. In this wise, children may feel stressed, unsecured, and neglected as a result of limited parental involvement in their education. However, to overcome this challenge, it is pertinent for parents to set priorities and delegate tasks when necessary. For instance, hiring a domestic staff or housekeeper to assist with household chores can be considered, this way, parents can make out time to participate in their children's education despite their busy schedule.

Lack of Knowledge of the Importance of Parental Involvement

The importance of parental involvement in advancing the education of the child cannot be overemphasized. However, many parents today underestimate their role and the significant impact it can have on their child's life and education. Some parents are focused on paying school fees and meeting other requirements, neglecting the child's overall wellbeing. They believe that teachers and school administrators should instruct children in what they need to learn, thereby pushing their parental roles into the background. Buttressing this point, Greenwood and Hickman (1991) as cited in Gonzalez-DeHass and Willem (2023) stated that some parents fail to participate in the education of the child because they do not value education for their children, or believe that schools should be managed by educational professionals. This mentality has affected parental involvement as children are left to carry out their educational endeavours without the guidance or assistance from parents. Furthermore, Dwyer and Hecht (2001) as cited in Gonzalez-DeHass and Willem (2023) observed that some parents do not feel the need to participate

because of their child's excellent academic record, and other parents may have no history of participating, and see no need to start doing so.

It is evident from the aforesaid that some parents have failed to see the importance of their involvement, hence disassociating themselves from the child's education. Lack of parental involvement has created a gap that has resulted in poor academic achievement, poor study habit, and low motivation. To overcome this challenge, teachers and school administrator must emphasize to parents that their involvement, regardless of the extent, is crucial for students' overall success.

Lack of Trust

Many parents today are careful about the educational institution of their child. This is as a result of past negative experiences with staff and poor relationship with teachers and school management. For example, frequent complaints about the child's poor academic performance or behavioral issues can negatively influence parents' perceptions of the school. In this wise, parents may feel uncomfortable attending school events because of the stigma associated with their child's delinquent behaviours and poor academic performance. Buttressing this point, James (2024) stated that when parents have to visit school constantly due to their child's behaviour, they may feel guilty about their parenting abilities and believe that the world is judging them. This stigma has negatively impacted parents' ability to attend school events and communicate with teachers; this could jeopardize the parent-teacher relationship and negatively impact the well-being of the child.

To overcome this challenge, schools should regain parents' trust by informing them about their children's achievements in the classroom. This way, parents may see the good in their children instead getting negative feedback from the school about their children. On the other hand, parents should refrain from judging their children or comparing them to their mates. This would ensure the child is encouraged to thrive despite their challenges.

BENEFITS OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN SECONDARY EDUCATION

Students will Achieve Higher Grades in Tests and Exams

Children whose parents are actively involved in their education are more likely to achieve higher grades in exams and test. This is because they have the support from parents and caregivers. For example, regular parent-teacher communication and attending parent-teacher meetings would enable parents know the child's educational needs and progress. On the other hand, teachers can be aware of the child's challenges and behaviour at home. This way, parents in collaboration with teachers would proffer ways to help the child improve since their problems have been identified. Buttressing this point, Jordan (2021) stated that a study revealed that children's performance in reading and mathematics increased when teachers had in-person meetings with parents, sent useful materials home, or spoke with parents about the child's problems areas. In addition, monitoring the child carry out their assignments, providing an enabling learning environment, and celebrating their success would ensure the child is motivated to thrive in their education.

Student Absenteeism will Decrease

Absenteeism among students is often caused by lack of parental involvement. It affects the short-term and long-term educational goals of students. It is common among students who have academic difficulties, health related issues, socio-economic challenges, family issues, and students who suffer bullying. However, with parental involvement, when the child is faced with challenges that can disrupt their schooling, parents can swiftly intervene to help the child overcome these challenges. This way, parents can monitor the child's health, check for assignments, monitor their attendance and track their progress. In addition, attending school events, communicating with teachers, and participating in the child's activities will keep parents abreast of their child's behaviour and needs. This will ensure that the child takes their studies seriously because they are closely monitored.

Essentially, parental involvement is crucial for fostering students' commitment to their education because they have the support of parents who are willing to solve their individual and school-related problems.

It Will Lead to Better Behaviour, Enhanced Social Skills, and Increased Adaptability

Parents are seen as the first role model for children. Their involvement in the child's activities both at home and in school is crucial for shaping their character and enhancing their overall development. Essentially, active parental involvement in the education of the child would enable parents identify any negative behaviour in the child. This allows parents to guide their children by instilling positive values and discouraging negative behaviours. Active parental involvement would ensure children learn valuable skills and behaviour at home that will help them succeed in different endeavours. For example, active participation in the child's activities would ensure they are meaningfully engaged to learn valuable skills like communication, teamwork, collaboration, listening, self-control, patience, etc. In addition, children can learn positive behaviour at home by engaging in chores and other activities that will teach them cooperation, diligence, responsibility, problem solving skills, etc. As Jordan (2021) posited, several studies points towards the idea that parental involvement in the education of the child has a significant and positive effects on their classroom behaviour and social skills. In other words, positive behaviour among students would foster a positive learning environment and improve their interpersonal skills. In this wise, parents should endeavor to participate in the child's activities both at home and in school to ensure improvement in the child's attitudes and social behaviour.

Furthermore, active participation in the education of the child would ensure the child learns adaptability. An adaptive individual may quickly modify their expectations and move on to new situation without experiencing worry or anger. Adaptability skills would ensure children are empowered to withstand life's challenges, thus, enabling them to achieve their goals (Kirk, 2022). In this wise, parents can teach the child how to control their reactions when faced with strong emotions like anger or excitement. Similarly, when the child is faced with a problem, parents can discuss the problems with them and provide solutions to overcome them. This would enhance the child's critical thinking skills when faced with a challenge. Therefore, parental involvement in the activities of the child would ensure they learn adaptability which is key for success beyond the classroom.

Students will Graduate and Pursue Higher Education

Active parental involvement in the education of the child will ensure the child completes their secondary education. In this vein, the rates of truancy, failure, laziness and dropouts among students will be reduced, therefore, giving the child the opportunity to thrive in their education and other endeavours. To buttress this point, Jordan (2021) asserted that school success rates rises when parents participate in their child's education. According to the author, there will be reduced dropouts, fewer poor grades, better rates of high school graduation on time, and more enrolment in advanced courses. In fact, children will be motivated to advance their education after secondary school because they have the support from parents. Therefore, to motivate students to complete secondary education and seek opportunities for higher education, parental involvement is key to support them achieve their educational goals.

Students will Develop Motivation and Self-Confidence

Self-confidence refers to the belief in one's self and abilities. Parental involvement in the activities of children would ensure they develop the confidence and motivation to carry out their responsibilities and other challenging tasks. In this case, children can learn how to cope with mistakes or failure when they occur in the course of schooling and other endeavours. Self-confidence would enable children express themselves and participate in classroom activities. Therefore, celebrating their achievements, helping them learn to do new things, monitoring them carryout their assignments, attending school events, communicating with teachers, being a good role model, and appreciating their strengths will ensure they develop the confidence to thrive in all their endeavours. Buttressing this point, Beyond Blue (2024) asserted that building confidence in children would ensure they are motivated to engage in more positive activities, more likely to engage in positive relationships with people, and become happier and successful adults. From the aforesaid, it is evident that parental involvement is key to having a confident and motivated child that is ready to thrive in their environments.

CONCLUSION

Parents are essential to their child's overall development and success. They play key roles to help the child thrive in their education and other endeavours. Parental roles in a child's education include being a good role model to the child, helping the child with assignments, creating a conducive learning environment at home, attending school events, celebrating the child's success, etc. Parental involvement in the child's education would improve their academic performance, reduce absenteeism, and improve their social skills and behaviour. However, several issues today have hindered parental involvement, this include inadequate finance to provide for the child's school needs, inability to understand the curriculum and teaching methods, difficulty communicating with teachers, and limited knowledge or access to technology. These problems have created a significant gap in the education of the child, thus, limiting the success and overall development of the child. It therefore behooves on parents to support the child's education to ensure they achieve their educational goals and thrive in other endeavours.

Suggestions

To foster parental involvement in education, the following suggestions are made:

- Parents should provide a conducive learning environment at home. In addition, routines and schedules should be established at home to give the child time to read and complete their assignments. This would ensure the child is supported to thrive in their education and other endeavours.
- Parents with busy schedule should consider the services of a home tutor. This would help the child boost their confidence, overcome learning obstacles and improve their academic performance.
- Parents should endeavour to attend school events like parent-teacher meetings. This would create a platform for parents and teachers to meet and discuss issues such as the curriculum and other concerns affecting the school and the child.
- Parents should endeavour to communicate with teachers periodically to know the behaviour and progress of the child. This would ensure that parents and teachers collaborate to help the child improve in areas where they need support.
- Parents should regularly ask their child about their day at school. This will foster trust and strengthen parent-child relationship as the child will be delighted to inform their parents of their needs and challenges in school.
- School management should encourage parents to serve in the curriculum committee to provide input into academic and non-academic programmes of the school. This way, parents can understand the curriculum to enable them know how to support their child.
- Principals should enlighten parents on the importance of parental involvement. It would ensure parents are motivated to participate in the education of their child.

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