

A Study of Academic Achievement of Senior Secondary School Students

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ABSTRACT

Present society is characterized by knowledge explosion and novelty. Knowledge is fading away very fast. To capture the knowledge, students have to adjust themselves according to the society where scientific development and technological innovations are taking place rapidly. Then try to get new knowledge about new techniques and development which is increasing every day and every moment. In our society achievement is considered as a key to judge one's total potentialities and capacities. There is a main factor which influence the academic achievement of student is study habits. In School, high academic performance has been attributed to students effective study habits. A description of the typology of study habits will be supported by recommendation for techniques of effective study habits. Findings of present study will provide a new direction to teachers, students, parents and policy makers of society.

Key words- *Academic Achievement, Study Habits, Socio-Economic status.*

Education is the process of developing the capacities and potentials of the individual so as to prepare that individual to be successful in a specific society. From this perspective, education is serving primarily as an individual development function. Education begins at birth and continuous throughout life. It is constant and ongoing. The world is becoming more and more competitive. Quality of performance has become the key factor for personal progress. The importance of academic achievement has raised important question. School achievement may be affected by study habits.

The extent of the student's learning in academics may be determined by the grades a student earns for a period of learning has been done. It is believed that a grade is a primary indicator of such learning. If a learner earns high grades it is concluded that they may also have learned a lot while low grades indicate lesser learning. However, many experiences and studies found out that there are also several factors that

would account for the grades. No single factor can be definitely pointed out as predicting grades. It has been interplay of so many factors-genders, IQ, study habits, age, year level, parent's educational attainment, social status, number of siblings, birth order, etc. In fact, almost all of existing environmental and personal factors are variable of academic performance.

Before we proceed, let's define the meaning of study and habit. Study is to buy out the time and dedicate self to application and the task of study which is to become engrossed in a process of learning, practice, enlightenment-education of one's self. Habit is something that is done on a scheduled, regular and planned basis that is not relegated to a second place or optional place in one's life. It is simply done, no reservation, no excuses or exceptions. A habit is simply a behaviour pattern that is repeated until it becomes automatic. The word automatic implies that you perform the habit without thinking much about it. Therefore, study habits can be derived as buying

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out a dedicated scheduled and uninterrupted time to achieve goal.

One of the major tasks of education is to help children to develop the skills which promote a lifetime of learning. In our society achievement is considered as a key to judge one's total potentialities and capacities. There is a main factor which influence the academic achievement of student is study habits.

Socioeconomic status (SES) is an economic and sociological combined total measures of a person's work experience and of an individual's and family's economic and social position in relation to others, based on income, education and occupation. When analyzing a family's SES, the household income, earners' education, and occupation are examined, as well as combined income, versus with an individual, when their own attributes are assessed.

By Dictionary of Education Study Skills means students need a wide range of skills in relation to their course of study. One of the most widely felt need is the need to develop skill of rapid reading. He also requires skill of selection and the ability to pick out the main points of question. Other study skills include ability to use library. The development of study skills can be seen as the student developing his own self techniques.

According to Patel (1978), Study Habits includes

- i Home environment and planning of work
- ii Reading and note taking habits
- iii Planning of subjects
- iv Habits of concentration
- v Preparation for examination
- vi General habits and attitudes
- vii School environment

In School, high academic performance has been attributed to students effective study habits. A description of the typology of study habits will be supported by recommendation for techniques

of effective study habits. The learner's Dictionary has defined study as a mental effort to obtain knowledge. This means that studying is an art of learning which helps the individual not only to acquire knowledge but also the skill and the habit to study. Effective study habit refers to a situation in which a learner studies regularly to achieve maximum success in his school work. Study habit, therefore, refers to learning which leads to the achievement of a learner's goal, through a prescribed pattern of steady behaviour. The inculcations of study habits is beneficial as the learner will know how to meet and solve his problem and able to complete his work effectively and successfully. Learner would have a greater chance to achieve his studies if he developed study habits.

According to her, "good study habits are good assets to learner because they (habits) assist student to attain mastery in areas of specialization and consequent excellent performance, while opposite constitute constraints to learning and achievement leading to failure" (Good, 1998).

Grace Fleming has given tips of study habits. Some of them are:

1. Write down every assignment.
2. Remember to bring your homework to School.
3. Communicate with your teachers.
4. Organize with colour.
5. Establish a study zone at home.
6. Prepare yourself for test days.
7. Know your dominant learning study.
8. Take fabulous notes.
9. Take care of yourself.

Rational of the Study

The modern man is a man of knowledge and experience. Knowledge is the asset of a man who tries to explore the phenomena around his environment. Exploration of knowledge claims a regular study of books in different sorts. All these

things state that an individual should have proper study habits. Study habits are the essence of a dynamic personality. A proper study habit enables an individual to reap a good harvest in future. The present society is a competitive society where the principle of survival of fittest and struggle for existence exists. Pen has become mightier than sword. Hence, a man with proper study habits strengthens the needle of his pen which fetches him reputation, wealth and power.

Academic Achievement:

Academic achievement as the extent to which a learner is profiting from instructions in a given area of learning i.e. Achievement is reflected by the extent to which skill or knowledge has been imparted to him. (Crow and Crow, 1969)

Objectives Of The Study:

Objectives are guidelines which the investigator will keep in mind during investigation .An objective are a collection of words which describes a desired outcome of course.

The objectives of present study are:

1. To study the study habits of senior secondary school students in Mathematics.
2. To study the study habits of senior secondary schools students in Mathematics on the basis of sex.
3. To study the study habits of senior secondary school students in Mathematics on the basis of locales of residence.
4. To see the Academic achievements of senior secondary school students in Mathematics on the basis of sex and locality of their residence.
5. To determine relationship between the study habits and academic achievement in Science of students at senior secondary level.

Hypothesis:

Hypothesis is the presumptive statement of a proposition or a reasonable guess based upon the available evidences, which the researcher seeks to prove through his study. A research hypothesis is the statement of expected relationship between two or more variables.

In view of the above objectives, the following hypothesis will be emerged as:

1. There will be no significant difference between boys and girls in study habits in senior secondary school students in subject.
2. There will be no significant difference between rural and urban in study habits in senior secondary school students in subject.
3. There will be no significant relationship between academic achievement of boys and girls and study habits of senior secondary school students in subject.
4. There will be no significant relationship between rural and urban locale students in academic achievement in senior secondary school students in subject.

Research Methodology:

Research methodology involves the systematic procedure by which the researchers start from the initial identification of the problem to its final conclusion.

Population And Sample:

The population of the present study is all secondary school students of Haryana. The sample has been defined as a miniature picture of the entire group of aggregate from which it has been taken. Sample is both necessary and advantageous. The stratified random sampling method was used. In the present study sample size was 100 students only involving 50 boys and 50 girls and 60 urban students and 40 rural students.

Table 1

Mean score of study habits of secondary school students on the basis of sex

Group	N	M	S.D	t-Value	Level of significance
Male students	50	60.9	7.8	0.48	Not Significant
Female students	50	60.4	6.4		

Table -2

Mean score of study habits of secondary school students on the basis of locale of living.

Group	N	M	S.D	t-Value	Level of Significance
Urban	50	59.43	7.9		Significant at 05 Level
Rural	50	61.88	6.0	2.47	

It is observed from the table 1 that mean scores of study habits of male students and female students come out to be 60.96 and 60.41 respectively. Standard deviation of the means of both cases is 7.8 and 6.4 respectively. The t-value at 0.01 and 0.05 levels are 1.96 and 2.58 respectively. The calculated t-value found to be 0.48 significant at both levels. It indicates that the difference in study habits of male and female secondary school students is insignificant. Hence, male and female secondary school students have equal study habits. Thus, the earlier stated hypothesis, "There exists no significant difference in study habits of male and female of secondary school students" is accepted.

It is observed from the table 2 that mean scores of study habits of urban students and rural students come out to be 59.43 and 61.88 respectively. Standard deviation of the means of both cases is 7.9 and 6.02 respectively. The t-value at 0.01 and 0.05 levels are 1.96 and 2.58 respectively. The calculated t-value found to be 2.47. It indicates that the difference in study habits of male and female secondary school students is significant. Hence, urban and rural secondary school students have not equal study habits. Thus, the earlier stated hypothesis no.2, "There exists no significant difference in study habits of male and female of secondary school students" is rejected.

Main Findings:

The main findings of the present study are given below:-

i. The results of academic achievements of secondary school students in Mathematics revealed that most of the students were average achievers.

ii. There was significant difference (at .05 levels) between the study habits of male and female secondary school students. The mean scores of both the groups indicated that female secondary school students had better study habits than male secondary school students.

iii. The study habits of urban and rural secondary school students were found to have no significant difference. It reflected that urban and rural secondary school students had equal study habits but the mean scores of both the groups revealed that urban secondary school students had better study habits than rural schools.

iii. There is a significant positive correlation between the study habits and academic achievement of secondary school students in Mathematics. Thus it indicates that those students have good study habits their academic achievement in all subject will be good.

iii. The socio economic status of urban and rural secondary school students was found to have no significant difference. It reflected that urban and rural secondary school students had equal SES but the mean scores of both the groups revealed that urban secondary school students had better SES than rural schools.

iii. There is a significant positive correlation between the urban-rural and boys-girls in Socio Economic Status of secondary school students in Mathematics. Thus it indicates that those students have good SES.

Educational Implications:

The most outstanding characteristics of any research are that it contributes something new to the development of the area concerned. Keeping these objectives in mind the investigators has found out the educational implications of the study. Generally, it is proven fact that the study habits of the learner enable him to take active part in the teaching learning process. If students are aware of their study habits, they can willinially improve them in the learning process. Thus knowledge of study

habits of study habits can help the teacher as well as learners immensely to improve the teaching and learning, thereby resulting in effective result since study habits of individuals cover mainly reading habits, learning habit, memory, time schedule etc.

Conclusion:

In this study there was significant relationship between academic students. A result of study reveals that if student have good study habits then academic achievement will be better. It is usually noticed student lack good study habits they do not know how to make notes, how to study, not to take notes from the teachers lecture if students are taught how to take and make notes and how to study, they can be benefited a lot and it will affect the teaching academic achievement of students. If teachers have knowledge habits then they can plan teaching accordingly by adopting effective teaching methods update with the latest knowledge and information of subject area concerned, help students by inculcating the value of study habit, so that their learning achievement of students become optimum and they can succeed academically. The present scholastic achievement of students has impact upon the future learning of different subject' area. If a teacher as well as students aware of about the proper study habit, they can use it by providing feedback for bringing improvements in academic achievement and learning.

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