

INFLUENCE OF HOME ENVIRONMENT ON STUDENTS ATTITUDE TO SCHOOLING

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ABSTRACT

Education is the process of passing knowledge and value from experienced to less experienced ones, which has a great value in our society; the schooling process provides adequate support in eradicating illiteracy. The article explored the influence of home environments on student's attitude to schooling, it examines how home environment related issues like parental attitude towards child education, household duties and child labour, family background and stability, family level of income and the quality of parental care can influence students attitude to schooling. A qualitative research method was employed using documented analysis and philosophical inquiry to interrogate the existing literature. The findings revealed that the home environment has the ability to influence student schooling either in a positive or negative way. The paper concluded that home is a key factor and a first course that child will encounter which has a great influence on how the child will be inspired to education hence home should be a motivating factor to encourage student to developed more aspiration to schooling . It was therefore recommended that the parent attitude towards child education should be positive, there should be a reduction in child's labour, family background of the child should accommodate learning and parent should have a stable financial income in other to give the child the best of all education in terms of providing all necessary aids that will facilitate learning and good quality of child care should be adopted in bring up a child.

Keywords: Home Environment, students, Attitude, Schooling.

Introduction

Education plays an essential role in both personal development and the advancement of society by equipping individuals with important knowledge, skills, and values. It is not confined to formal schooling alone but also includes informal experiences and continuous learning that help people grow throughout their lives. Education goes beyond memorizing facts; it helps individuals develop the ability to think critically, be creative, and make ethical choices, which enable them to grow and contribute positively to their communities. Education is defined as a purposeful and organized process through which knowledge, values, skills, and attitudes are passed on and acquired, resulting in learning outcomes (UNESCO). Throughout history, various thinkers have had significant views on education: Socrates believed that education was about uncovering the truths that already exist within each person's mind; Plato saw education as a process that enables individuals to experience pleasure and pain at the right times and that fosters the full development of both the body and the soul; and Aristotle thought education should promote a healthy mind in a healthy body, allowing individuals to develop intellectually, morally, and aesthetically, all of which are essential for true happiness.

The development of positive attitudes and values among young people can be promoted through the formal education system, which provides structured learning environments that support children's intellectual, social, and emotional growth (Mohammed, 2023). In school, teachers serve as guides, responsible for teaching, instructing, educating, training, and managing students, while students gain knowledge and skills. This can occur when teachers demonstrate their expertise and when parents actively participate in their children's education. The process of engaging in formal education, including attending classes and learning, is called schooling.

A student's attitude toward schooling reflects their feelings about going to school, learning, and their overall school experiences. This includes their motivation, interests, and how engaged they are with school activities. According to Albert Bandura's Social Learning Theory, a student's self-efficacy meaning how confident they are in their ability to complete tasks greatly influences their attitudes and learning behaviors. This confidence is developed through observation, interaction, and feedback in the classroom (Schunk & DiBenedetto, 2020). A child's seriousness and involvement in schoolwork are influenced by multiple factors. The home, being the first social environment a child experiences, plays a crucial role in shaping their attitudes toward education. As a result, the home environment significantly affects students' educational development and academic performance (Dong, Cao, & Li, 2022). Other factors, such as motivation, the quality of the learning environment, and the level of social support, also shape students' learning experiences and academic achievements (Moussa, 2023).

The home environment is considered one of the most important factors influencing students' learning in school because children are deeply connected to the home where they grow up. A supportive home provides emotional security and is a place where individuals live and receive love, care, and support. It is the first environment where children begin to grow, learn, and interact with others. According to Bhamani, Makhdoom, and Bharuchi (2020), the home is a key setting where children receive guidance and emotional support from family members, which is vital for their development. Because of this, students are significantly influenced by their home environments as they receive shelter, comfort, and their early experiences of social interaction.

The home environment refers to the conditions and experiences within the family that shape a child's behavior, development, and academic performance. Research has shown that a supportive and stimulating home environment can have a positive impact on a child's intellectual growth and success in school (Skwarchuk, Sowinski, & LeFevre, 2019). Children who are exposed to learning opportunities and encouragement from an early age tend to perform better academically. Generally, the environment in which a child grows up can influence the three main

areas of education: cognitive (thinking and knowledge), affective (emotions and attitudes), and psychomotor (skills and physical abilities)

The environment in which a child resides will determine the level of attitude towards schooling. Therefore, the attitude of the child towards schooling will be greatly affected by the home environment they come from. In other words, for a child to develop mentally, socially, and intellectually, the home environment plays a critical role. This paper discusses and examines the major challenges that can influence students' attitudes towards schooling, which are related to the home environment. Conclusions are made, and necessary recommendations are suggested.

PARENTAL ATTITUDE TOWARD CHILD EDUCATION

Attitude refers to the way an individual tends to respond to a person, situation, or object either positively or negatively (Albarracín & Shavitt, 2018). It develops through a combination of beliefs, emotions, and personal values that influence how people behave in different situations (Petty & Cacioppo, 2018). In everyday life, attitudes play an important role in shaping how individuals think, feel, and act. In the context of parenting, a parent's attitude can strongly influence a child's educational experiences and outcomes. Parents' attitudes toward education often affect how children approach learning and academic activities. When parents demonstrate genuine interest in their child's schooling such as attending parent teacher meetings, monitoring academic progress, and discussing school experiences the child is more likely to feel valued and motivated to perform well. In addition, practical support from parents can greatly enhance a child's learning environment. Providing educational resources such as textbooks, internet access, a quiet place to study, or additional academic support like tutoring helps create conditions that encourage learning and academic success. In contrast, when parents show little interest in education or express negative views about school, children may lose motivation and develop a poor attitude toward learning.

Sociological perspectives also suggest that family background and social class values may influence how children perceive education. Middle-class families are often associated with values such as ambition, discipline, and long-term planning for educational success, while working-class families may sometimes place less emphasis on formal education. Although these patterns do not apply to every household, they illustrate how parental beliefs and expectations can shape children's attitudes toward schooling and their educational aspirations. Parental attitudes are closely linked to the level of involvement parents show in their children's education. Parental involvement refers to the active participation of parents in their child's learning process, including communicating with teachers, assisting with schoolwork at home, and participating in school activities (Wang & Sheikh-Khalil, 2021). Research indicates that children whose parents are actively involved in their education tend to demonstrate higher motivation and better academic performance (Fan & Chen, 2020). When families and schools collaborate effectively, children benefit both academically and socially because the support they receive at home reinforces what they learn in school. Furthermore, when parents demonstrate that education is important, children are more likely to develop positive attitudes toward learning and set higher academic goals (Jeynes, 2018).

Consistency in parental expectations and values at home also plays a significant role in shaping children's educational commitment. When parents consistently encourage learning and emphasize the importance of education, children are more likely to take their studies seriously and strive to achieve their academic goals. On the other hand, a lack of parental interest in education can lead to reduced motivation and lower academic performance. Emotional support is equally essential in this process. Encouraging children, praising their efforts, and supporting them during challenges can strengthen their confidence and resilience. Research shows that children perform better academically when they believe that their abilities can improve through effort rather than being fixed (Yeager & Dweck, 2018).

Parents who emphasize effort and persistence rather than only focusing on results help children develop a positive attitude toward challenges. In contrast, excessive criticism may lead to anxiety and fear of failure. Effective parenting often involves balancing warmth, encouragement, and clear expectations, which helps children develop responsibility, self-discipline, and motivation to learn (Pinquart, 2019). In addition, strong collaboration between parents and schools further supports children's academic progress and overall development (Hornby & Lafaele, 2019).

The home learning environment also reflects parental attitudes toward education. Children who are encouraged to read, explore ideas, and participate in learning activities from an early age tend to develop stronger cognitive skills, curiosity, and creativity. Early exposure to books and shared reading experiences can significantly improve children's literacy development and interest in learning (Bus, van IJzendoorn, & Pellegrini, 2020). Therefore, a supportive and structured home environment plays an important role in fostering children's academic success.

In conclusion, parental attitude is a critical factor in shaping a child's educational development. Through their beliefs, level of involvement, emotional support, expectations, and the learning environment they provide, parents significantly influence how children perceive education and how well they perform academically. Positive and supportive parental attitudes can build confidence, motivation, and ambition in children, whereas negative or indifferent attitudes may limit a child's academic progress and enthusiasm for learning.

Household Duties and Child Labour

In traditional African families, children often help with household tasks to support their families (Ambetsa, 2016). For girls from low-income backgrounds, however, spending too much time on domestic tasks can make it harder for them to focus on their studies. Responsibilities such as cleaning, washing, ironing, and taking care of younger siblings are important tasks that children are expected to learn and perform. While these tasks can teach discipline and independence, doing too many can lead to stress, tiredness, and a loss of interest in school. Excessive household responsibilities can also cause emotional strain, which can affect a child's ability to concentrate and perform well in class. A child who stays up late doing chores may arrive at school feeling tired, distracted, or even sleepy. This exhaustion can reduce their participation in lessons, lower their confidence, and make them feel unprepared during exams, which may lead to a complete loss of interest in education. Additionally, children who engage in activities like street vending may find it harder to succeed academically. Children who spend a lot of time helping their families often have less energy and fewer hours to dedicate to schoolwork. Research indicates that the organization of a household and the responsibilities children take on at home can strongly influence how they engage with school. Children from structured and supportive families tend to handle homework better and feel more motivated, while those from chaotic homes may experience stress and find it harder to stay focused (Smith, Brown, & Garcia, 2024).

When children are burdened with too many household chores, they may lose interest in school activities or even withdraw from class participation. Studies suggest that spending long hours on domestic tasks can lead to lower engagement in learning and leave little time for study or completing homework (Lee & Martínez, 2025). These responsibilities can also shape how children view their own abilities. Young people who face constant challenges without support may begin to doubt their ability to improve, while those encouraged to develop a growth mindset are more likely to stay motivated and keep trying (Johnson & Kim, 2025). In families that are financially struggling, children are sometimes expected to work to support the household.

When household duties take priority over school, education may start to feel less important, and some students may even feel disconnected from learning. Research shows that spending too much time on chores can leave children exhausted, limiting their time for socialising, recreation, and learning opportunities, which can impact both their

mental health and future prospects (Lee & Martínez, 2025). Excessive household work can also take a toll on a child's emotional well-being. Stress, anxiety, and fatigue can make it harder for children to concentrate in class. Studies find that family stress and the level of parental involvement in homework can increase negative emotions like frustration and anxiety, which in turn reduce motivation and academic performance (Wang, Li, & Chen, 2024). Contrarily, when schools and families collaborate, children tend to stay more engaged. Positive parental support, clear routines at home, and open communication help students feel motivated and emotionally balanced (Smith, Brown, & Garcia, 2024). However, when family obligations clash with school demands, children can feel torn and disconnected from their education. Finally, how children imagine their future also plays a role.

Children encouraged seeing their abilities as flexible and who have supportive environments are more likely to take control of their learning and stay involved in school (Johnson & Kim, 2025). If children are told that their main role is to help with household work, they may undervalue education and fail to see how learning can help them achieve their goals. Finally, household chores and child labour can influence students' attitudes towards school, but when responsibilities are balanced, they can help children develop important qualities like discipline and independence, which support academic success.

Family Background and Stability

Family background and stability play a significant role in a child's academic performance. Research shows that a child's school achievements are heavily influenced by their home environment. Studies have found that factors such as the educational level of parents, family income, and overall socioeconomic status affect a child's attitude towards learning and their academic success (Guo, 2025; Şengönül, 2021). These family characteristics help to explain why patterns of academic success or difficulty often start long before a child enters school. The home is the first and most important educational setting in a child's life. Recent evidence highlights that children from families with higher educational backgrounds and more resources often benefit from home environments that strongly support learning. These parents are more likely to involve themselves in educational activities with their children, set high academic goals, and make decisions such as where to live that prioritize education (Guo, 2025; Şengönül, 2021). This involvement enables them to track their child's progress, attend parent-teacher meetings, volunteer at school, and advocate for their child's unique needs. These actions help to create a supportive learning atmosphere that encourages a positive attitude towards education. Additionally, highly educated parents frequently use their strong language and cognitive abilities to communicate with their children, read to them, and provide them with diverse learning opportunities. This kind of early stimulation not only improves children's intellectual growth but also helps to build their motivation, self-confidence, and interest in learning. As a result, children of well-educated parents are more likely to appreciate the value of schooling and take an active part in their own learning compared to children whose parents have less formal education (Owoyale Abdulganiy & Olokooba, 2024).

Family Income Level

Family income plays a major role in shaping a child's life. The financial situation of a household influences not just the individual's future, but also the opportunities available for their children to learn, succeed, and reach their full potential. This is especially important when it comes to education and future earnings. Studies show that family income is a major factor in how well a child performs in school. Children from less wealthy families often face barriers to accessing quality education, even though schooling is closely linked to better financial opportunities later in life (Chetty et al., 2019). Research also shows that parents' education strongly influences their children's educational outcomes, highlighting how family background shapes learning paths (Black et al., 2020). Still, the ways in which economic disadvantage affects schooling are complex. Recent studies point out that factor like limited family resources,

neighborhood conditions, and the quality of schools all play a role in creating gaps in academic achievement (Reardon, 2018; Jackson et al., 2021). According to economists, children from poor families face difficulties in getting better education because their parents often cannot afford the cost of school. Parents from low-income families also face many other challenges that make it hard for them to support their children's education. Children from low-income families are more likely to have poor mental health, behavior issues, poor physical health, and problems in their education. Growing up in poverty is often seen as harmful for children. Candice Odgers studied the effects of poverty and the growing gap between low-income children and their peers on the life chances of these children. In developed countries, children from poor families consistently face more challenges in health, education, and overall well-being. It is even harder for children to succeed if they are surrounded by wealthier peers instead of those from similar backgrounds. To better understand how these differences impact educational outcomes, it is important to first understand the role of family income and education.

Family income directly influences whether a child can access school and how well they can do in the future. Family income can be measured in different ways, such as through wages, parental education, neighborhood location, and access to resources. In this study, family income is measured using wage and salary income compared to educational levels. The question is whether a family's income level determines the level of education a child will receive. By understanding the differences in income and the cycle that continues in society, we can better understand how family income affects education. Educational achievements affect the future income levels of the next generation. Education is expected to be a tool that breaks this cycle and gives everyone an equal chance. Since education is supposed to level the playing field, the study below explores whether this is actually happening or if it is not working as intended. Children from poor families often cannot attend school because of financial problems. As a result, they may stay in poverty, and the cycle continues.

The Quality of Parental Care and its Impact on Children

The qualities and needs of a child that are supported at home play an important role in how they feel about school and how well they do academically. When parents notice and encourage their child's natural strengths like curiosity, creativity, problem-solving, and social skills they can create a home environment where learning feels natural and fun. Studies show that kids whose parents actively support their interests tend to feel more confident and motivated in school, and they often develop stronger creative and problem-solving skills (Lee et al., 2024). Simple everyday activities can make a big difference. Reading together, having thought-provoking conversations, or playing educational games not only boost learning but also show children that their curiosity and effort are valued. Research finds that this kind of family involvement supports both academic growth and social emotional development (Zhou & Wang, 2024). Emotional support is just as important. Children who feel safe, loved, and appreciated at home are more likely to take risks, participate in class, and stay motivated. Consistent parental encouragement and time spent together help children perform better academically while also promoting confidence and emotional well-being (Martínez et al., 2023).

When parents respond to their children's mistakes with patience, celebrate their achievements, and pay attention to their feelings, it helps kids become more confident and resilient. Feeling supported at home encourages children to keep trying even when learning is challenging, which boosts their motivation and positive attitude toward school (Smith et al., 2024). Parents also help children develop important social and behavioral skills that make school life smoother. Teaching kids to take responsibility, manage their time, work well with others, and follow rules helps them stay focused in class and build good relationships with teachers and classmates. Research shows that when parents are actively involved at home, children tend to do better academically and feel more emotionally secure (Zhou & Wang, 2024). There's often debate about childcare, especially in societies where mothers are expected to handle

most of it. But studies show that both parents play crucial roles in supporting a child's growth and school success. Children who get guidance, encouragement, and help from their parents develop better study habits, self-discipline, and motivation all key ingredients for doing well in school (Martínez et al., 2023).

On the other hand, children whose parents are not involved may struggle more, lose interest in learning, or perform poorly. Children with supportive parents often enjoy school, finish their homework on time, attend regularly, and participate in class. Those without support may have a harder time keeping up, which can hurt both their grades and self-confidence. Parental involvement also affects behavior in school. Children whose parents monitor and guide them at home usually behave better in class, pay more attention, and perform better academically. Children with parents who are not engaged may act out, have a negative attitude, or struggle with schoolwork. This shows that when parents are involved, children not only do better academically but also develop good habits, a positive attitude, and respect for learning.

Conclusion

The influence of home environment can affect student's schooling in a negative way as a result of failure in performing the responsibility of parenting, parent attitude disposition towards child's education, too many house duties on students or over labour can as well affect the students in his/her educational pursuit, family background and stability can affect the students disposition towards schooling. Furthermore, the level of parental influence can hinder students in learning due to inability to provide sufficient materials to aid student learning in school due to the low income level of the parent. The child must be given adequate care for him/her to have interest in schooling. All these in positive conditions will favour the student to have interest and perform maximally in education.

Recommendations

In line with the influence of home environment on student's attitude to schooling, the following measures were suggested.

- 1 Full compliance and good parental attitude is necessary to developed students mindset and remain focus in studies, parents perspective on school will definitely have impact on the child schooling.
- 2 The students should help their parent and engage in house chores in the right time that will not affect the study time and school activities.
- 3 The parent should try as possible not to allow the background to limit the children schooling, educated ones should give support in knowledge and personal development while the less educated ones should have alternative plans, employing child personal tutor to help their inabilities.
- 4 The family financial income should be stable and regular enough to give the children quality education. All students should be motivated by the parent and provide all necessary aids that will help them to learn effectively in school.
- 5 The parent should support the children morally, academically, emotionally and gives other quality support that can train the mind to have interest in schooling.

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