Primary school students academic achievement among slow learners in relation to their location and management

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Abstract
Academic achievement refers to performance outcomes in intellectual domains taught at school. it represents performance outcomes that indicate the extent to which a person has accomplished specific goals. Achievement signifies accomplishment or gain or a performance carried out successfully by an individual (or) group. Achievement means all those behavioral changes which take place in the individual as a result of learning experience of various kinds. The present study was conducted on 211 slow learners from Ranga Reddy district of Telangana State. The result reveals that there was a significant difference in academic achievement motivation with respect to location, management and family income among slow learners.

Keywords: slow learners, perception, academic achievement

Introduction
Academic achievement represents performance outcomes that indicate the extent to which a person has accomplished specific goals that were the focus of activities in instructional environments, specifically in school, college, and university. School systems mostly define cognitive goals that either apply across multiple subject areas (e.g., critical thinking) or include the acquisition of knowledge and understanding in a specific intellectual domain (e.g., numeracy, literacy, science, history).

Academic achievement (or) scholastic achievement means the attained level at which the student is functioning in school tasks, which is measured by school marks. Academic achievement is of paramount importance particularly in the present socio-economic and cultural contexts. For every individual student there is a variable driving force.

In fact, it is not just a single factor, but a combination of factors that lead students / people to achieve their goals. The fact is that with routine monotony steps in everything seems like stagnant water. It feels like there is nothing new. Achievement signifies accomplishment or gain or a performance carried out successfully by an individual (or) group. Thus achievement means all those behavioral changes which take place in the individual as a result of learning experience of various kinds. Obviously, in the school great emphasis is placed on achievement right from the beginning of formal education.

Slow Learners
Students with below average cognitive abilities whom we cannot term as disabled are called slow learners. They struggle to cope with the traditional academic demands of the regular classroom. Actually slow learners are normal students but the problem is that they are simply not interested in studying under traditionally accepted system of education The school has its own systematic hierarchy which is largely based o achievement and performance rather than ascription or quality.

The school performs the function of selection and differentiation among students on the basis of their Scholastic and other attainments and opens out avenues for advancement, again, primarily in terms of achievement. The students at school are usually trained to accept the hierarchy based on achievement. This helps the child to be released from the family status in certain ways. Students, who are quick and eager to learn most probably, effectively manage academic-related problems in school and consequently obtain higher grades than their peers with lower cognitive abilities.

The factors influencing student's academic achievement are:
- *Student related factors*
- *Teacher related factors*
- *School location*
- *Parental level of education*
- *Family Income*

Socio Economic Status (SES): Socio-economic status is determined by an individual's achievements in education, employment and occupational status and income and wealth.

Recent many studies make it clear that children from low SES families are more likely to exhibit the following patterns in terms of educational outcomes compared to children from high SES families:
- Have lower levels of literacy, numeracy and comprehension;
- Have lower retention rates
- Have lower higher education participation rates
- Exhibit higher levels of problematic school behaviour
- Are less likely to study specialized math's and science subjects;
- Are more likely to have difficulties with their studies and display negative attitudes to school and
- Have less successful school to labour market transitions.

Type of School

Students from independent private schools are also more likely to achieve higher end of school scores. While school related factors are important, there is again an indirect link to SES, as private schools are more likely to have a greater number of students from high SES families, select students with stronger academic abilities and have greater financial resources. The school effect is also likely to operate through variation in the quality and attitudes of teachers. Teachers at disadvantaged schools, for instance, often hold low expectations of their students, which compound the low expectations students and their parents may also hold.

Family Structure: Socio-economic status may also be linked to family structure. As most of the parent families on average have lower levels of income, are headed by parents with lower educational attainment and are less likely to be in the labour force, children from these families are likely to have lower educational performance. Few other factors in sole parent families that are likely to adversely affect educational outcomes of children compared to those from two-parent families are said to include:

- Reduced contact between the child and non-custodial parent;
- The custodial parent having less time to spend with children in terms of supervision of school-work and maintaining appropriate levels of discipline
- The lack of an appropriate role model, especially for males;
- Increased responsibilities on children such as childcare roles, domestic duties which impede the time available for school work and
- The nature of parent-child relationships in sole parent families may cause emotional and behavioural problems for the child.

Objectives
1. To find the academic achievement of slow learners in relation to their location.
2. To find the academic achievement of slow learners in relation to their management.

Hypothesis
Hypothesis-1: There is no significant difference in academic achievement of slow learners in relation to their location.
Hypothesis-2: There is no significant difference in academic achievement of slow learners in relation to their management

Sample of the study
For the present study, simple random sampling technique was adopted. A random sample of 400 primary school children from over all 16 Government and Private Primary Schools located in Rangareddy districts were selected for the present study, and among the 400 primary school children 211 students were identified as Slow learners for the present study which constituted the sample. Thus, the sample of the study was 211 students.

Research Tools
This study was conducted in two phases

Phase-1
- Identification of Slow learners

- In the phase -1 the researcher was select 16 schools (only 4th standard 400 students) for selection of slow learners based on GLAD test
- After performing GLAD test the students were selected based on the scores of GLAD test. After Completion of the students were identified three categories, i.e, Slow, Moderate and High achievers. From the total sample 211 students were Identified as slow learners, 175 were moderate and few (14) were High achievers.
- For this study from total sample 211 students were identified as slow learners.

Phase-2
The following assessment tools was administer on identified slow learners students who are identified by GLAD test, i.e, 211 students were selected for the study.

The following tools was used in the present study
1. Grade level assessment device for children with learning problems in schools prepared by Jayanthi narayan.
2. Academic achievement test based on the formative and summative assessments.

Analysis and Interpretation
To test the above hypothesis, one way ANOVA was employed to find out the mean score differences among the sample with respect to location, management and family income. Results of the statistical computation were as follows:

Hypothesis-1
There is no significant difference in academic achievement of slow learners in relation to their location.

Table 1: Showing Academic achievement based on location

Location	N	Mean	SD	df	F	Sig.
Rural	62	27.99	22.25			
Urban	149	27.55	20.71	1, 209	1.88	0.17
Total	211	27.68	21.21			

Academic achievement
In Academic achievement, the obtained mean scores by Rural were 27.99 and Urban 27.55. The obtained F value 1.88, with a df 1, 209 was found to be statistically not significant. However, rural students seem to be better than urban in Academic achievement based on the mean scores. It was clear from the above table that F value for slow learners with academic achievement motivation came out to be 1.88, which was not significant.

Hence the hypothesis, which states that 'There is no significant difference in academic achievement of slow learners in relation to their location', is accepted.

Hypothesis-2
There is no significant difference in academic achievement of slow learners in relation to their management

Table 2: Showing Academic achievement based on management

Management	N	Mean	SD	df	F	Sig.
Govt	95	27.90	21.88			
Private	116	27.97	20.70	1, 209	6.961	0.05*
Total	211	27.94	21.21			

Academic achievement

In Academic achievement, the mean score obtained for government and private schools were 27.90 and 27.97 respectively. The obtained F value 6.961, with a df 1,209 was found to be statistically significant.

The obtained F value 6.961, with a Df 1, 209 was found to be statistically significant. The difference in the mean scores, gives the inference that the performance among private school students appear to be better than government school students in Academic achievement which was statistically proved.

Hence the hypothesis, which states that 'There is no significant difference in academic achievement of slow learners in relation to their management, is rejected.

Conclusion

Academic achievement is an identifiable success in the areas of scholarship or disciplined study. The good functioning and effectiveness of any educational system is gauged to the extent that the students involved in the system achieve the objectives framed by the institution or system designed, whether it be in cognitive, conative or psychomotor domain. In general terms, achievement refers to the end product of an educational programme. The goal of every educator, a teacher or an administrator in terms of education is to enhance the cognitive abilities through conducting various activities based on divergent thinking, creativity product abilities, immediately memory span, academic achievement motivation and relevant academic achievement activities. The result reveals that there is a significant difference in academic achievement among slow learners with respect to location and management.

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