

**RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE
OF LEARNERS IN AMURIA TOWN COUNCIL, AMURIA DISTRICT**

By

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**A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN PARTIAL
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DECLARATION

I, **Omio Moses**, do hereby declare that this report is my own original work and that it has not be presented to any other University for a similar or any other Bachelors award.

CANDIDATE:

SIGNATURE:.....

DATE:.....

SUPERVISOR APPROVAL

The undersigned certifies that I have read and hereby recommend for acceptance by Busitema University a research report entitled the relationship between parental involvement and academic achievements of learners in Amuria Town council Amuria district as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of Bachelor's Degree in Education primary

NAMES:.....

SIGNATURE:.....

DATE:.....

DEDICATION

I, the author of this research do dedicate it to my children: Deogracious, Ivan, Jonathan, Jamal, Shaban and my last born Asio Shamirah

Acknowledgement

On behalf of my family and on my own behalf I wish to thank the living God the almighty for all that he has enabled me and my family to do every day most especially, I would like to thank God for giving me empirical and pragmatic knowledge to come up with this research.

Sincerely my God you were on the fore front in all the ventures I underwent during the process of producing this research report. I pray for your continued support reign on me and my family.

I want thank all those who gave support towards the production of this research report in whatever ways may the almighty God bless you abundantly.

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Lastly but not least I would like to re- echo that may God bless all of us who have contributed in whatever way we know to the production of this research report, I know it has been difficult to name all of us one by one . For those I have not mentioned their names here I recognize your support with thankful heart.

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ABSTRACT

This research was about the “Relationship between Parental Involvement and Academic Performance of Learners in Amuria Town Council, Primary Schools”.

There were two research questions. Structured Questionnaire, interview schedules and focused group discussions were data collection instruments.

It was found that private primary, not public schools were excelling in primary leaving examination due mainly to parental factors.

The findings of the research will help the educationists, parents and researchers in education fields to reverse the trend in government schools.

Researcher recommends that further investigations be made on how leadership practice and parental role can be improved to benefit all learners.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction and background

This research study was about “Relationship between Parental Involvement and Academic Performance of Learners in Amuria Town Council, Primary Schools.” The period of study was from 2016 to 2019. Amuria Town Council is located in the heart of Amuria district in Northern Uganda. The Town Council is located about forty kilometers North -east Soroti City w. The total population is about 70,000 people- mainly Ateso speaking and a good percentage speak Akarimojong language of the neighboring district.

The natives immigrated into the homeland over 500 years ago probably from Ethiopia or beyond according to history. Their main occupation is mixed farming. Majority of the people are peasants. The major food crops are millet, sorghum, cassava and peas. The people keep cattle, sheep and goats as the main domestic animals. Animal trade is also a major economic activity.

The inhabitants of the area are much interested in education of their offspring. To this effect, Amuria Town Council has basically 5 primary schools of which two are government aided namely Amuria and Kuju primary schools. The other three namely, Jamela Amuria, Marthiel and Amuria Integrated Primary Schools are privately owned. There are also 3 secondary schools, one government school and the rest privately owned.

Amuria Town Council was most suitable for this research study because of the much interest parents have in taking their children to school. The government has tried to improve the welfare of teachers by increasing their salaries, paying teachers on time and providing improved accommodation, the performance of pupils especially at primary leaving examination

One educationist in the area observed that education has continued to deteriorate as reported by distinct education officer despite efforts to fix it. It was also most suitable because of the contrast it provides. There are public and private primary schools operating side by side which extends to performance competitions. Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE) is the main concern.

1.2 Statement of the problem

The problem that made the researcher to carry out this study was the poor performance of learners in the primary schools. It was noted that while government primary schools perform poorly every year, the private counterparts always exceeded generally. The question is why is this so?

Could there be a relationship between parents' active involvement in learning activities of their children and academic performance?

In light of this research study, the relationship between the two variables namely academic performance and parental involvement or negligent was analyzed and a valid conclusion made for relevant action.

1.3 Purpose of the study.

The purpose of the research was to establish the relationship between parental involvement and academic performance (achievement) of the learners in Amuria Town council in Amuria district.

1.4 Specific objectives.

- i. To identify the level of parental involvement in the primary schools learning activities
- ii. To determine the relationship between parental involvement and academic performance of

PLE

1.5 Research questions.

- i. What is the level of parental involvement in school?
- ii. How is parental involvement in school learning related to academic performance?

1.6 Scope of study

In the geographical scope, the study was carried out only within Amuria Town Council. Four primary schools were chosen for the study. These were two government aided primary schools namely, Amuria and Kuju primary schools studied. The private ones were also two - Amuria Integrated and Marthiel primary schools.

The contents of the research focused only on education issues at primary school level in which the focused group were primary seven classes in the four schools. The content of the study covered the relationship between parental involvements in pupils' academic performance in selected primary schools.

The time scope of the study was five years from 2015 to 2019. The beginning year 2015 was important because it marked the beginning of the rise in academic performance of private schools and decline in strength of government aided schools named above.

Others factors such as availability of text books, meals and administrative skills were also looked into to verify the findings and check reliability and validity of the outcome.

The findings of the study were drawn from a period of 5 years, that was from 2015 to 2019 and study took 5 months from the date of approval of this research proposal to final report.

1.7 Significance of the study.

The findings of the study will benefit other researchers and academicians who are curious to know the state of education in Amuria district. It will boost the existing collected information about the way children learn.

It will also be of importance to education planners within and outside the region in their work to ensuring that no child is left behind in education.

Parents, guardians, humanitarian organizations and children's rights activities will draw a lot of information from this study to use to for the benefit of learners within and outside the district.

Lastly the findings of the research shall have a lot of value for comparative study and analysis with other places within and outside the country.

1.8 Limitations of the Study.

The researcher met a number of challenges in the process of carrying out the study. Firstly, the school leaders did suspect that researcher was a government informer who wanted to find out how primary school grants were misused. The researcher overcame this challenge by presenting and explaining the letter of introduction from the university.

Secondly, as Amuria is a town council many travellers go in and out of the area. Due to the problem of the pandemic, some respondents feared close interaction; and it was also not safe for the researcher to interact closely with any person. This challenge was solved by using mobile phone because even the questionnaire could be contaminated with virus.

Thirdly, time was limited due to change in the program of university education calendar in the country. Working day and night to code, classify and write the report findings was the solution to time crises.

1.9 Theoretical Framework

The researcher consulted and documented information about the topic of researcher from a number of authors and thinkers. From available literature, one theoretical perspective comes out very clearly. In Uganda parental involvement in the education of their children was not obligatory before the introduction of Universal Primary Education (UPE) in 1997. They could participate in planning and assessing achievement levels of their children through annual attendance of Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) meetings. Some few could check their children's exercise books in the evenings or during holidays.

However from 1997, parents were required to contribute materials such as pens, pencils, meals and health welfare. The tuition issue was and still is the duty of parents to pay in full.

Whereas parental involvement is not a mandate in public education, it is not the case in private institutions. Researcher found through both direct experience and research that in Amuria, the parents of private primary schools of Marthiel and Amuria Integrated are active and deeply involved in academic and general welfare of their children while in school.

From ordinary observation, their involvement seems to be giving fruits. Supporters of parental involvement in education affairs of their children were found to have been many according to the literature reviewed. They are the Stanton-Salazar, Kim, Homes, R. S, Sheridan, and Ranson among others.

The Social Capital theoretical framework also emphasizes and supports the need for adults to participate in a more active role in the lives of children. Data from the studies supports a significant difference when there is a genuinely supportive relationship between an adult and pupil, and a system is in place that is designed to support that relationship between parents, teachers and children for their academic performance to be achieved in primary schools.

Whereas there are scholars who think parents have duty to get directly involved in school to support their children's education activities, there is another group that does not support the view. This group claims that the work of teachers and administrators in the school, availability of necessary scholastic materials are adequate conditions for good academic results. Supporters of this view are: Ferguson, J.S Grant, Topor D, Keane, Ezewu, Owen and Shelton, T.

This category of educationists supports organized conducive learning environment theory of learning as most important. This is called the Intrinsic Theory of learning. They argue that even when parents get involved (extrinsic motivation) the motivational capacity of learning environment cannot be undermined because they provide personal or internal motivation to the learners. Therefore from the views available, researcher used two theoretical frameworks namely, Social capital theory and Intrinsic Theory of learning to evaluate the research questions and make valid conclusions and recommendations.

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