

Exploring Parental Perspectives on Homeschooling in the Context of Pakistan's Educational System

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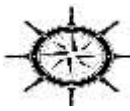
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Abstract

This study explores the parental perspective towards homeschooling in the context of education in Karachi. Using a qualitative phenomenological approach, we conducted interviews with parents who homeschool their children to gain insights into their experiences and attitudes toward homeschooling. Semi-structured questions were used to explore themes such as parental qualifications, awareness about homeschooling, views on traditional schooling, and the challenges faced while homeschooling. Thematic analysis was applied to the collected data to identify major outcomes, including the impact of parental qualifications, awareness, dissatisfaction with traditional schooling, improved academic performance, better personality development, cost differences, and challenges faced during homeschooling. This study sheds light on the benefits and challenges of homeschooling in the context of Education in Karachi and provides insights into parental perspectives on this educational approach. Qualification of parents, awareness of the process, unsatisfaction with school environment and system due to the absence of ethical values, bullying culture, grading and exams, enforced & burdened learning, distracted learning, good social, physical, and psychological effects on the children, cost difference, and good performance in the tests without schools all these are the elements mentioned by the parents for deciding to homeschool their children. Also, they face some challenges like social pressure and extra requirement of parental involvement. The findings of this study may be useful for parents, educators, and policymakers interested in alternative forms of education in Karachi.

Keywords: Homeschooling, education in Pakistan, homeschooling in Pakistan, out-of-school schooling, parents and education, homeschooling in Karachi.



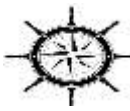
Introduction

Homeschooling has been around for a long time, but today it has a new sense of learning process as a substitute for the traditional educational system. There are different reasons why parents choose this learning process, such as preferring to educate their child at home due to security, morality, religion, etc. Generally, many parents choose homeschooling for their children because they want the best for them. According to Ressler, homeschooling his kids was the most difficult thing to do, but it was certainly the best thing he could give to his children. Research also supports Ressler's explanation of his experience by finding that parents are profoundly involved and efficient, giving their children their beliefs and support by providing them with a complete education outside the educational organization. (Green C. L.-D., 2007). Hence parents are strongly motivated to get absorbed in their children's learning process (Wagner, 2008).

Childcare and development generate the foundation for successive learning and health. A child's life is sensitive to his or her general development. Children need concentration and care throughout different aspects including health, education, nourishment, love, and protection. The initial five years of a child's existence are marked by intensive brain growth and functioning (85%). From conception until age eight, the basis for emotional, intellectual, behavioral, lifelong learning, social, and individual development is established (Syeda Samina Tahira, 2021).

Many nations make significant investments in children's learning progress. Numerous international associations and conferences have also underlined the need of providing children with equitable opportunities for development (Syeda Samina Tahira, 2021). The focus of ECE, on the other hand, is on the overall development of children (Murtaza, 2011). Although homeschooling is more common at early stages but somehow can also be observed even after elementary levels. Wherever parents can involve profoundly in their child's educational and learning process as per their developmental requirements, homeschooling can be there.

Growth is defined as a transformation procedure in which children explore and understand their interactions with people, things, and their surroundings. Learning is also seen as a



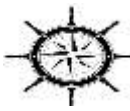
significant attribute of the progressive process and a result of children's growth (Murtaza, 2011).

Homeschooling, which was long seen as a marginal change, is now generally viewed as a normal replacement to traditional education, (Stevens, 2003). Scholars have affirmed: Homeschooling becomes conventional, (Gaither, 2009) and Homeschooling comes over the years because of this trend of homeschooling. It has grown so "commonplace", (Stevens, 2003), the author asserts, maybe a little too with certainty, that "everyone knows someone who is educating a kid at home (Medlin, 2000).

There has been relatively little empirical research on homeschooling, which is identified as the instruction of school-going children at home instead of in public or private schools, (Basham, 2001) (Green C. L.-D., 2007).

Homeschooling, explained as the schooling of children of the age appropriate for going to school, at home instead of in public or private school settings (Basham, 2001), has been the focus of minute practical and experimental work. The research that has been done has concentrated on parents' reasons for homeschooling, the academic performance of homeschooled students versus public-schooled students; (Ray, 2000), and the legal application and consequences of homeschooling (Reich, 2002). Since homeschooling is an increasing trend in the United States (e.g., up from 850,000 students or 1.7% of K-12 students in 1999 to 1.1 million students, or 2.2% of K-12 students in 2003 (Daniel Princiotta, 2004); see also (Lines, 2000); (Ray, 2000), it is essential to generate more organized and methodical learning of parents' causes for homeschooling (Green C. L.-D., 2007).

Understanding where parents choose to homeschool may be improved by considering the literature on parental engagement. According to the research on parental involvement, for instance, participation is frequently finest understood as parents' investment of resources in children's learning, comprising parent-child communication about schoolwork, supervising the child's homework, children's educational aspirations, school participation, and contact, and fulfilling the required school supplies (Fan, 2001); (Sheldon, 2002). Employing this concept in homeschooling it is evident that parents who opt to teach their children at home devote a significant number of resources (such as time, effort, money, knowledge, and skills). The literature on parental engagement likewise focuses on the grounds wherefore parents get

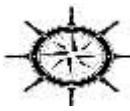


active in their child's schooling, and this study may also apply to the demographic of homeschoolers (Sheldon, 2002); (Joan M. T. Walker, 2005). As an illustration, thinkers, and scholars have claimed that parental participation is frequently prompted by an active role creation for participation, a comparatively solid sense of efficacy for assisting the child's academic success, and also the parent's desirability to schools (Taylor, 2004). Homeschool parents are defined as being very involved in their child's learning and as having a solid sense of effectiveness in promoting the belief systems that they can teach their children and provide them with a complete education outside of a formal school system, which is consistent with this literature. According to some homeschooling literature, parents may choose to homeschool their children if they previously had unfavorable encounters with the public education system (Green C. L.-D., 2007).

Literature Review

It is generally acknowledged that one of the most significant variables affecting students' academic achievement is their passion for studying. It is advised that the emphasis on "teaching" be reduced and that on "learning" be increased in order to maintain and enhance children's enthusiasm for learning throughout this stage of homeschooling (K Ann Renninger, 2015). Through exploratory reading and research projects, kids may learn how to find information and summaries it. To fully use the home setting, it is even preferable if the tasks are created to be related to actual life. Multimedia techniques (such as animated movies, instructional games, and demonstrative experiments) can be used in place of live or recorded broadcasts. Reduce the number of learning tasks since the home atmosphere is not conducive to long-term learning (Rotgans, 2017). To lessen the amount of time spent online, certain things (such as music and fitness) may be taught via enjoyment and family activities (Ernesto R Ramirez, 2011); (Zhao, 2020).

All of these abilities may be acquired by children in a welcoming atmosphere at school, which can only be created by professional and informed instructors. As a result, the role of experts and instructors in early childhood education is complicated, and teachers must constantly update their expertise and teaching methodologies. Teachers must provide themselves with the necessary skills, information, and teaching strategies to be more successful in their careers because of educational, social, and cultural changes. 'Probably nothing in the school has a greater influence on children in terms of skill growth, self-



confidence, or classroom conduct than their teachers' personal and professional growth (Murtaza, 2011).

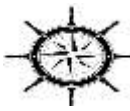
Creating a child-friendly environment involves more than just physical space; it also depends on the attitudes of instructors and students. Instructors should show respect for the children and set a positive tone for the emotional atmosphere in which they play. It is crucial to create a secure environment where children are encouraged to take risks while being assured that they will receive support when necessary. Such an environment can help improve a child's self-efficacy. (Murtaza, 2011).

Self-efficacy is a conviction in one's capability to carry out activities or finish projects in response to presented possibilities. A self-evaluation of one's capacity to plan and execute the tasks obligatory to attain the desired performance is described as self-efficacy. People with a high sense of self-efficacy will perform at their best, whereas those without a high sense of self-efficacy will perform less than optimally. According to several study findings, performance is positively impacted by self-efficacy (Haq, 2022).

The little research that has been done centered on parents' reasons for the homeschooling educational achievement of homeschooled pupils against public-schooled students, and the legal implementations of homeschooling, because homeschooling is becoming more popular in the United States (e.g., from 850,000 students, or 1.7 percent of K-12 students, in 1999, it's critical to gain a more systematic understanding of parents (Green C. L.-D., 2007).

Homeschooling families are observed both rich and poor, educated, or uneducated. But generally, the usual homeschooled families are well educated and not so convinced with ongoing public schools (Fairchild, 2002).

Homeschooling, or parent-led home-based education, is a time-honored practice in American education that, ten years ago, seemed progressive and "alternative," but is now on the verge of becoming "mainstream." It could be the branch of education that is expanding the quickest in the country. Homeschooling is becoming more popular around the world in several different countries (e.g., Canada, Australia, France, Japan, Hungary, Kenya, South Korea, Mexico, the United Kingdom, and Thailand) (Ray, 2015)

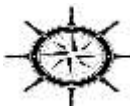


The trend of homeschooling is not exclusive to Americans. Homeschooling has increased recently in a number of other nations, such as Australia, Canada, France, and the United Kingdom (Ray, 2015). Recent studies in the UK suggest that 170,000 pupils, or around 1% of the student body, have attended homeschooling (Emma Smith, 2015). The enrollment and tracking system in the UK is complicated, though, and more families appear to be choosing to homeschool their children (Carpenter, 2018).

It is a collaborative learning process between parents and children to jointly increase the quality of self, according to the viewpoint of parents who have young children attending KCMI. Parents choose homeschooling for a variety of reasons. First, let's discuss how the Indonesian educational system differs from the idea of idealized education for families. The second is the criticism of how early childhood learning is carried out in official institutions. Third, getting inspiration from reading books and articles on appropriate child education on the internet, then apply it to schooling in Indonesia. (Nuhla, Sutarto, & Budiarti; 2020)

Pakistan's education system has been plagued with substandard quality since the country gained independence. Despite this, the educational system, especially basic education, has not undergone significant changes. As a result, Pakistan has the lowest literacy rate in the region, with less than 50% of the population being literate. Moreover, the literacy rate for males is 68%, while for females, it is only 57%, the lowest among the neighboring countries like India and Sri Lanka. The education system in Pakistan has three tiers, namely basic, elementary, and higher education. The one that receives the least money and attention is the foundational education. Because higher education receives the lion's share of educational money, primary education suffers. The basic education industry has been seriously damaged by the government's discriminatory policies. Being the foundation for higher education, primary education must be enhanced if higher education is to be of higher quality. Basic education contributes to a country's economic development in three different ways due to its highest rate of return. Examples include a few Western and Asian developed countries. Particularly, the basic education systems of these countries had a crucial role in the growth of their economies. Primary education increases and enhances people's talents, which increases production in many sectors of life. (Ahmad, 2013).

Many families discover that homeschooling has for a long-time financial advantage despite the initial costs. By tailoring their children's education to suit their needs and interests, for



instance, parents might save money on tutoring or specialized services when homeschooling their children. Additionally, to keep up with their teaching obligations, homeschooling parents may be able to work from home or cut back on their work hours, which would result in long-term financial savings (Fields-Smith & Williams, 2020). While homeschooling is a known approach in Pakistan, there is little research on the subject. This study aims to investigate the parental perspective of homeschooling in Pakistan.

Research Methodology

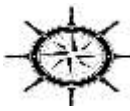
Qualitative research method has been adopted and the technique of Thematic analysis has been used for analyzing data. There are six phases of Thematic analyses according to (Clarke, 2015). Familiarization, coding, searching for themes, reviewing themes, defining, and naming themes, & writing report.

All 6 steps have been considered in regard of data analysis. First familiarization has been done, and the gathered information has been repeatedly considered in order to get a profound familiarization with the received data. After that the appropriate coding process has been applied in order to get all the dimensions of the received data for categorization. Through which the research leads to the theming and sub theming process. Next the review of the formed themes has been done before naming the themes. After going through the profound process, the report has been generated which has been discussed in the study.

Data Analysis

Qualification of Parents

Qualification of parents reflects in the process of homeschooling in so many ways. As the pedagogues, according to (Collom, 2005), Their key concerns include better educational practices, better learning environments for their kids, and more parental control. Many educators are either professional educationalists themselves or have independently researched and studied educational practices and child development (Luke, 2003). "These parents have firmly held convictions about education, beliefs they feel strongly enough about to practice at home with their children," the statement reads. The Pedagogues' "curriculum" typically consists of fostering children's inherent creativity and curiosity, exploring their interests, and utilizing community resources (Luke, 2003); (Taylor-Hough, 2010)



Awareness of the Learning Process

There are various ways to learn. Often, parents who decide to homeschool their kids research various and efficient teaching methods. Parent's perceptions of their capacity to support their children's academic success are referred to as parents' self-efficacy. In the scenario of independent study, parents' hand over control of learning to their children, allowing them to choose the subjects they study and the teaching methods they like.

Unsatisfied School Environment

- Absence of moral and ethical values

Some parents claim that they decide to homeschool their kids because of real consideration for the establishment of their morals and personality (Carson, 2009). As the respondents have mentioned their dissatisfaction regarding the values given by the schools, which tends to the decision of homeschooling their child. Values indicate the ethical, moral, or familial justifications for homeschooling that a parent may have. These various viewpoints all revolve around the parents' conviction that other educational options fall short of meeting their child's religious, moral, or familial demands (Green C. L., 2005).

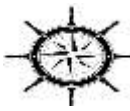
- Bullying

Because to the physical violence, drug and alcohol abuse, psychological torture, and inappropriate and immoral sexuality linked with schools, create a safer atmosphere for kids and teens while also instilling in them a specific set of principles, values, and perspectives (Ray, 2015).

Unsatisfied School System

- Grading and Exams

The competition and rivalry that characterize traditional schools, as well as how this competitiveness affects kids' growth Nevertheless some parents are concerned about their children's education in public schools (Carson, 2009). Customize or individualize the curriculum and learning atmosphere for each student. With which accomplish more academically than in schools. Also use pedagogical methods other than the ones in practice in institutional schools (Ray, 2015).



- Enforced and burdened learning

Learning tactics such as "mastery learning techniques" urge pupils to master content before moving on to the next lesson. These kinds of teaching methods stress the importance of concepts being fully understood by pupils as opposed to simply getting through a textbook or project in order to finish it (O'Connor, 2007); (Gann, 2018).

- Bored and Distracted learning

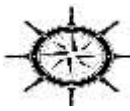
Gatto had a lot of serious grievances regarding the regular forms of obligatory education and public institutions. His main worries were the high levels of boredom in schools, which affected both students and teachers, as well as the childishness that was fostered by preventing kids from reaching their full potential in terms of leadership, cognition, and inner thought life. The outcomes Gatto wants to see in children would not always come from just replicating the typical educational environment in the home (Taylor-Hough, 2010). Any homeschooling approach, for instance, might increase Gatto's outcomes of developing children's maturation, direction, and exploration by using Charlotte Mason's concepts about concluding academics in the morning and then giving the afternoon free time for discovery and "unschooling." (Taylor-Hough, 2010).

Impacts of Homeschooling on Child Personality

- Socially

According to results from the Children's Self-confident Behavior Scale and the Piers-Harris Children's Self-Concept Scale (PHCSCS), homeschooled children are more socially adjusted than their regularly educated counterparts (CABS). Homeschooled kids are more confident in themselves. Homeschooled children are reportedly more self-assured than their regularly educated counterparts (Blok, 2004). On evaluations of social maturation, the only distinction between homeschooled students and those who attended traditional schools was that the parents of homeschooled children thought their kids had superior social skills than those who joined traditional schools. In other words, parents of children who were homeschooled and those who attended public schools gave different assessments of their kids (Carson, 2009).

- Psychologically



The much more fundamental demands in mankind are physiological ones. Because they are the most fundamental requirements for human survival, physiological demands take precedence in a person's existence. Humans crave safety to be free from the threat of harm. This is the demand for security and defense against harm to one's body. Humans crave safety to be free from the threat of harm. This is the demand for security and defense against harm to one's body. For instance, the existence of insurance, health benefits, and pension benefits in a business gives the staff a sense of security to carry out their duties (Haq, 2022). While homeschooling almost each of the factors supporting a good psychological impact on a child is being preserved and hence maintain a good psychological outcome throughout.

- Physically

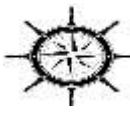
According to the respondents of the research, physical children being homeschooled are more active as they don't have any burden of school activities, they have flexible time of their own in which they can learn and play at their own pace.

Cost Difference

As to almost 80% of the respondents, there is a huge cost difference between homeschooling rather than going to traditional schools. Even some of them were supporting their statement with such sentences as “huge difference, homeschooling is way cheaper”, “Homeschooling required your creativity rather than money, so it is extremely economical as well.”, “Homeschooling has the attribute to go as per your budget, you can spend as much as you want, but if it comes to normal schools this could not be applied.”

Performance in Standardized Tests

Research has examined the academic performance of homeschooled students to those in traditional schools, and on average, such studies indicate that homeschoolers perform well academically (Blok, 2004). Homeschooled pupils outperformed traditionally schooled students in all areas and grades, according to research on academic achievement. According to the literature, homeschooled students achieve academically on par with or even better than their peers who attend public or private schools. Analogies of academic proficiency frequently include data from the same standardized tests taken by kids in homeschooling and traditional schooling. So these studies typically contain more capable students with more preventive variables, these results ought to be taken with some caution (Carson, 2009).



Challenges

- Social pressure

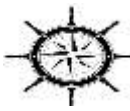
Within society, people are asking homeschooling parents various questions and then even describing the high possibility of failed outcomes of this schooling procedure. Which sometimes creates a lot of pressure on the parents who decided to homeschool their children. As per respondents around 70% of respondents have faced this pressure.

- Extra requirement of parental involvement

In general, parents who homeschool their children are also responsible for teaching them, supervising their academic work, and organizing the academic equivalent of extracurricular activities for them. To adequately manage their child's academic and social education, they frequently also think that they should interconnect with other home-schooling parents in home-school support groups — as well as with the child about his or her progress. These responsibilities call for the parent who is homeschooling their child to be able to commit a large amount of their day to organizing, instructing, and monitoring the child's learning (Green C. L., 2005). Obviously, when parents are providing the schooling structure at home, they need to get extra involved with their children which leaves them almost no time for themselves, this was mentioned by some respondents.

Discussion

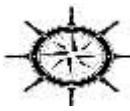
Involvement of parents in a child's education in homeschooling is evident. Homeschool parents are usually more educated than the national norm. Ages of homeschooling children varies usually from early childhood to seventeen years, but in some cases even there are higher ages of homeschooled children (Fairchild, 2002) . With the expansion of teaching and learning strategies used in a homeschool environment, the current increase in the proportion of students who are homeschooled as well as the diversification in the methods and activities used by parents to homeschool have the potential to have a significant impact on parents, students, and their communities (Murphy, 2014). Yet, there is a dearth of high-quality research on the teaching and learning methods applied in a homeschooling setting. Most of the parents are not satisfied with the traditional school system, as well as school environment. Also, this has been evident that homeschooled children are performing well on standardized test, even the academic performances of homeschool children are not less than the school



going children. Social, psychological and physical impact on a child of homeschooling seems to be very positive. The intellectual and social results of homeschooling, as well as parental motivation, have been the main topics of research in this area (Kunzman, 2013). Research that looked at the everyday academic activities of homeschooling parents reveal that they frequently use a variety of teaching pedagogies and activities for their pupils. (Hanna, 2012). Surely after spending a lot of time with their children parents left with no time for themselves and still encountering a lot of social criticism specially from those who are not well aware of the homeschooling concept.

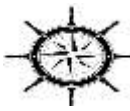
Conclusion

As a reflection of this research, this can be concluded, that parents who decide to homeschool their children make their decisions based on different elements. Those elements can be described as the factors which could be the triggering elements for the parents considering their child's education on bases other than the parents who decide to send their child to school for education. those elements can be defined as the qualification of parents who decides to homeschool their child and the awareness about the concept of homeschooling. Moving to the next element the satisfaction level of the parents seems to be so low regarding the school system and environment, as they feel there is an observable absence of moral and ethical values in school, as well as the existing bullying culture in school is also the element which is included in the list. Moreover, the cost difference is also very huge as well as their children performing well on standardized tests without going to school also gives the parents confidence in their decision in homeschooling their children for their education and learning.



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