



RESEARCH PAPER

Preschool Education: Impact on Child's Academic Performance at Grade 5th in Private Sectors

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ABSTRACT

Preschool education was a great challenge for teachers, parents, institutes and also for society. The purpose of this study has to discuss the importance of preschool education and role of preschool education in enhancing the academic performance of student's especially English literacy and mathematics skills. Research has shown that a preschool school child has good academic performance especially in English literacy and mathematics, and this is beneficial for their lengthy schooling and achievements of life. Teachers show a significant part in preschool education process. An indication to show that academic performance is important when children and teachers used in regular exercises'. In this qualitative and tentative study we aim to understand the different types of activities that are performed at grade 5th to enhance the academic performance of preschool child. The conclusions specify that the contributors showed constructive opinion about those children who has been attend the preschool education have good fluency in English literacy and mathematics skills. The remarkable theme that emerged from this study was that the quality of education and role of good curriculum plays an important role for enhancing the skills in children and the point which is needed to be focused is the initial teacher's trainings and continuous professional development initiatives.

Keywords: Academic Performance, Activities, Curriculum, English Literacy, Mathematics Skills, Preschool Education, Teachers Practices

Introduction

Group setting education of the children at the age of 3-5 years old is called preschool education. The early years of the life are very important, during this time period the child learn and feel especially about themselves. Learning has a broad character and is of a multidisciplinary nature in the early years. Thus, this is an easier transition to primary school for those who attend the preschool (Rosen, Wang, &Yelland, 2008).

For the rest of life the early years will be foundational. The opinion of the preschool education experts is that the child who have attended the high quality preschool education will have more experts in their academic performance in getting scores and grades. In the educational journey of the child Preschool education is the initial stage, it refers to contribute in the child's performance like social, emotional, academic include mathematics and English literacy skills before they enter in the primary school (Justice & Vukelich, 2008).the study which have been carried out help to understand the high quality preschool education have long term effect on the child's academic performance especially in mathematics and English literacy skills. The extensive studies which have been carried out on the high quality pre-schools education have long term fruitful effects on a child and especially for those who are weak in studies. Preschool education is considered as katchi class in Pakistan. Five years plane is called Awal adna and Awal aala in public sectors.

Preschool is now focused globally because in recent decades neurobiology and other brain based research have found that during first five years of early life of a child the construction of the brain is fixed. The early five years periods are the most important. For the rest life of a child preschool education is a foundation period. Today among the families and educationist preschool education is a burning topic. Three important reasons that are involved in this process.

- The basis of a child's education is preschool education because skills and knowledge gained during these years will have a significant impact on child's future achievement.
- Preschool education helps to make the passionate lifelong learner, with the help of fun the child's learn confidently.
- Preschool education offers the child a good, encouraging and instructive environment.

The research study shown that learners with preschool experience have greater ranks of academic aptitudes. This course provides students with methods that will aid in the physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development of young children. In Some projects struggles are made to widen this concept of preschool education this study aimed to examine the Preschool education and its impact on child's academic performance in grade 5 in private sectors in district Gujranwala.

Literature Review

For building the nation's important instrument is education. It is an organized training and instructional process that transferred the capabilities, skills and information that is important for the progress of the nation and individual development. The first philosopher Plato see the importance of early education and analyzed its stages.in nursery stage 3-6 years he proposed play way teaching method. Other philosopher explain it according to their own point of view.

Preschool education is the instruction theory branch that formally and informally correlates the education of children turn over the age of nearly eight. Early years improvement can successfully leads the child to passing the consecutive stages of life. Studies shows that high quality preschool education enhance the academic performance of child. The benefit of preschool education observed in later academic career, home and school participation in education. (Khan, Tahir, & Aurangzeb, 2019). Before they sit up the children begin to learn the math. While playing, they use early math concepts, like, differentiate in quantities, shapes and size of concepts in daily life. Critically thinking and problem solving ability develop in children for the success in school and in life. Before primary education, preschool education starts, it trains the children and improve their academic performance and literacy skills. It is an educational opportunities that ready children for learn and schooling. (Justice & Vukelich, 2008). Preschool education is a heart for next schooling (Hurwitz, 2002). Transitional process for formal schooling (White et al., 1996; Louizou, 2011; Aksoy, P and Baran, G, 2010; Spilt et al., 2010; Harel-Fisch et al., 2011; White, 2013; Yeboah, 2014; Phelps et al., 2014; Chan, 2014; Akman, Kent Kükürtcü, Tarman and Şanlı, 2017).

There is a relationship between early math and the success in life, early math is the strongest predictor for later success. Those children always remain behind their peers in the later grades those have weak math skills. The early math is actually the concepts about the counting, shapes, measurements and patterns. Preschoolers count or compare objects as they play, and explore patterns and shapes.

Age	Development of early math's skill with the passage of time
Infants:	differentiate between small group of objects 1 versus 2

Toddlers:	to label the small quantities use number words such as 1 cat 2 dog
2-3 years	subjects can be counted by touching and pointing
3-4 years	without counting differentiate between the small group of objects as 2, 3, 4 balls
4-5 years	Develop the ability to add or subtract the small group of objects as, 1-2 toys

In a similar series language and mathematics are learned. With the passage of time children language and literacy skills build. The vocabulary, sentence length and sentence complexity improved as time passed. In English literacy children by building their capacity of vocabulary children have ability to express their ideas in words, grammar understanding enable them to make more complex sentence. While in math understanding children recognize and express more complex math's concepts like measurements, geometry and reasoning. (Harris, & Petersen, 2017)

Materials and Methods

Preschool teachers of private sectors who teaches the children those who have attended the preschool education are the population of study. For the purposes of the present study a purposeful sample was selected that fits the following two selection criteria: to be a preschool teacher and have 5 or over years of teaching experience. In order to meet the selection criteria, the recruitment of the participants followed a kind of snowball sampling whereby each participant who volunteered to take part in the study indicated other colleagues they knew might be willing to participate. Five female preschool teachers with extensive professional experience in preschool education and teaching the grade 5 child's who attend the preschool were selected. The participants of the study were assigned the codes from 1-5 the purpose was to hide their identity. Only the assigning codes were used in the study

Data collection for the present study was carried out with in-depth interviews which are particularly appropriate to gather detailed information about people's thoughts. The questions in the interview protocol focused on the topics under study: representations and knowledge about the child's academic performance, and classroom attempts and approaches embraced to increase the youngsters' academic performance. Examples of the in-depth questions included in our interview protocol are.

- 1- What is the perception of teachers about preschool education?
- 2- What kind of activities carried out to support the academic performance process?
- 3- In your opinions a preschool attending child have good English literacy skill like
 - (a) Rich content of vocabulary
 - (b) Competent in listening and talking?
- 4- In your opinions a preschool attending child have good mathematics skill like
 - (a) Addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division and problem solving skill
- 5- Tell the experience based importance of preschool education?"
- 6- What is role of curriculum and quality of education?

According to the participants' convenience the interviews were conducted where they feel easy. The interview time were limited about 15-20 minutes. The mobile recorder were

used for recording the interviews with the permission of the institute and also the participant. The data analyzed through thematic analysis. First the data transcribe word to word as recorded. In this way the rich data and stories were given to understand the themes and sub themes and also useful to understand the participants rich point of view and also stand up the new themes in the study that based on their studies. Following themes and subthemes were added for conduct of interviews.

- Understanding Preschool Education
- Importance of preschool Education
- Activities to support the academic performance?
- English, Literacy and Mathematical Skills
- Role of curriculum
- Quality of Education

Results and Discussion:

This is an exploratory overview of preschool teacher preschool teachers were interviewed who have more than five years' experience to gain the information about preschool importance, English literacy and mathematics activities total seven themes emerged from the interviewed and 3 are used for study.

Understanding of preschool education

Preschool is very important for every child as in early years students can learn more easily they have fast pace to learn new things and different things and it just like a raw floor u can just induce anything inside the student and with the group of little care it is easy for them to learn as well, and till 5-6 years they can learn different hands on practices which help them foot to enhance their sensory organs in a better way. (T1)

In preschool education we teach the child how to engage, communicate, and do social activities. In short it is a holistic development. (T2)

Very important it is a take start very first step in his life, in whole 16 years education it has 20% part because it is a basic step because they know alphabets, use of sound in his preschool life. It is compulsory and basic because even u r in PhD the childhood memories always remained in your mind. (T4).

Importance of preschool Education

As it is famous proverb "learn by doing" "teach by showing" so preschool is the best example where we can make them by showing different little things and mostly in preschool it is the hypothetical environment that is created for the students so they can have a better understanding of practical things. (T1)

Preschool education is very important because I also experienced it on my own kids' admitted my child in 3.4 years in preschool and in nursery class he is a fluent reader, he knows the sight words, blending words very well and his math's concept like what comes before, after, between, addition, subtractions.(T3)

Preschool education is very important for the child because it is base of a child and quality of education and curriculum must be good it is the demand of the current situation that preschool education must be attended from a good institute. (T2)

Activities to support the academic performance

We search from internet, make different charts, strips, and firstly do our lesson planes and then engage the child in activities e.g. when we teach a topic firstly we do brainstorming of the child. We involve different concept synonym's phonics etc. (T2)

For this school has created the separates lab the Montessori lab which is part of their academic curriculum the activities and it has been successful venture that Montessori lab along with academic activities students can learn in a better way and remember things for a long period of time. (T1).

Preschool things are in touched at primary level like how to sit in the class, how to prepare their notebooks? We touch real life examples preschool activities will carried out at primary level as well as in preschool level but the weightage of the activities increased at level 5. (T3)

English, Literacy and Mathematical Skills

There are different source of EPL exercise (everyday practical learning) which students learn in a better way, hands on practices and hand coordination and other activities that help to increase their vocabulary and their proficiency, their interactions with the students (T1)

Student will have very good understanding related to creative writing, vocabulary, and comprehensive. (T2)

Role of Curriculum

Basically the new modern curriculum is introduce in most of the schools is Maria Montessori. Montessori education according to the 21st century skills there are little equipment's for the students, so they can have hands on practices, they can learn from each other. It is their inside urge to learn new things we don't force students learn from their inner urge and it has been design according to their age the curriculum and different activities help them to learn more easily rather than the lecture method. (T1).

Curriculum is very important if there is activity based curriculum then it will increase the learning of students. Along with curriculum, the target goes to the assessment criteria. (T2)

Quality of Education

But all the child's cannot perform well, the reason of their background. Some child's have good preschool education background but some belong to village area and don't have this skill. Means the quality of preschool education is not much good. We learn the child in class and if we make the assessment according to the books then it will no use. If we know about the paper criteria will be on exploring, critical thinking, develop the skills about 21st century then according to these points we will design our activity. (T3).

Conclusions

As from the findings of study it is concluded that the teachers under study were experienced and understand the importance of the preschool education, they considered the preschool education is a pillar for the child it is a ladder by stepping on it a child will achieved the goals of his life.as the study focused on the academic performance of the students after the detail discussion and analysis of the teachers point of view different activities for improving the English literacy and mathematics was carried out to enhance the child's learning. The previous knowledge that a child gained in a preschool related to the next knowledge and in this way gradually increase the child's literacy and skill. Most

teachers that were included in an interview protocol were agreed that quality of education and good curriculum will enhance the child's learning and skills. So from teacher's point of view and also from literature it was concluded that activity based learning, quality education and good curriculum will enhance the preschooler skill and also the preschool importance.

Recommendation

Since the various revenues of preschool education, it enhance the academic performance of the children in future life. The cooperation of the educators in all this process is important to enhance the children academic performance. Preschool education is limited in urban areas Government should work to enhance the importance of preschool education also in rural areas. The educational administrator may improve the curriculum, policies and programs. In service and pre service training of educators may be organized. School administration may be keenly observe the preschool education classes and also provide good material and quality of education. Government should focus on enhancing the preschool education in government institutes and also improve the quality of education.

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