

The Role of Parents And teachers in The Training/Education of their Children in the Education Zones of Anambra State

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Abstract

The study investigated the role of parents and teachers in the training/education of children in all the educational zones of Anambra State. The study which adopted descriptive survey design was guided by two research questions and one hypothesis. The population of the study consisted of all the six education zones in Anambra State out of which four was selected using stratified random sampling technique. The research instrument was designed by the researcher and titled "Parents/Teachers Roles Educational Instrument" (PTREI). Face validity was certified while internal consistency reliability method was adopted using Cronbach Alpha reliability test which yielded 0.82. Mean and standard deviation were used to answer the research questions and z-test statistics utilized to test the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed among others that parental participation in the training/education of their children is grossly inadequate owing to the economic crunch in the country which plunged many parents into the search for a better living standard. The recommendations made include; that parents should wake up from their slumber and liaise with the teachers in the training/education of their children as they are the custodian of all their assets in future and specifically when they are no more.

Introduction

It is a universal belief that children are the leaders of tomorrow and as it were the greatest investment parents could make. The benefits inherent in children remains inexhaustible all things being equal. This is however dependent on the level of training/education injected into the children. Consequently, children are highly valued and treasured all around the world. In conjunction with the above assertion, Sapungan & Sapungan (2014) reaffirmed that it is a consensus that parents aspire to ensure the improvement and progress of their wards. In the training/education of the children in school, the role of the teachers comes into play. Therefore, it follows that the children's future is determined by the parents and teachers who groomed them in the course of their growing up and/or academic pursuits. The two parties play some kind of synergetic functions in ensuring that the growing child develops mentally, psychologically, socially and physically well so as to combat the challenges of life. Sheridan (2018) while stressing the need for maintaining a healthy relationship between parents and teachers espoused that such optimistic contacts is manifested in the children's academic excellence, social and

emotional well-being. When any of the parties derails, the child's development is mangle. It fervently demands that both parties should work hands-in-glove to ensure a well-developed individual capable of withstanding adverse conditions across life. Sequel to this, this paper tries to examine the roles of the parents and the teachers in the training/education of their children both in character formation and academic detection which transforms their social life and career development.

Apart from the parents playing a fundamental duty in the upbringing of their children, the teachers equally are saddled with lots of responsibilities in that regard. The moment the children leave their home for schooling, the teachers' job begins. They are to build their training on the foundation already laid by the parents. Based on the heels of this development, the foundation laid by the parents determines the teachers' success. When the foundation is poor and jerky, other things added to it must surely collapse thus fruitless. This implies that both hands should be on deck to ensure proper development and upbringing of the children for a brighter future. In congruence with the above assertion, Sheridan (2018) emphasized that student's academic performance is enhanced when the parents and teachers work in synergy.

It is apparent that when parents collaborate with teachers, open up to the teachers on the problem areas of their wards, the teachers will be better positioned to monitor, guide and direct the children aright. Even if the child is an ailing one, the teacher could still assist in adjusting the behaviour of the child to lead a meaningful life. If on the other hand, the child is neglected a minor problem could escalate when not adequately arrested and treated. This is why it is certain that the teachers and parents perform some symbiotic functions thus intermittent visit to the school by the parents is highly extolled in education enterprise.

Who is a child?

The Merriam-webster dictionary defined a child as a young person either male or female who is stuck between an infant and a teenager. The word child is synonymous with a boy, girl, adolescent, teenager and so on. A child is an offspring from two persons of different sex whether legally married or not. More than one child is referred to as children. Children are a special gift from God. It is for this reason that children are adored and cherished. It is a popular opinion that children are the highest desire and source of joy in every marriage. Every child is born into a family from where the training/education and character moulding starts. Character formation no doubt begins from home where the child is rooted. This set of children fall below 18 years and are as such vulnerable and liable to negative influence by the adults they meet as they grow up sequel to this, are expected to be guided jealously to ensure that they do not make erroneous decisions and engagements that could ruin their future.

This is the reason Kiral (2019) contended that parents, possibly the older siblings play remarkable roles in shaping the behaviour of the child. It is therefore surprising that this undying love and affection parent's shower on their kids are not evident in the attitudes of most of the children. The reason could be as a result of improper upbringing. This is prominent even after many years of schooling these kids exhibit all manner of deviant behaviours. Invariably they are still empty both in character and learning thus susceptible to anti-social vices like substance abuse, kidnapping, cybercrime, armed robbery, banditry, arsonist, militancy, assassins and a host of others (Uwaezuoke, 2020).

Apparently, when a child is given adequate training at home, the impartation of other attributes which education demands becomes easy thus the child becomes promising and enthusiastic about life and aspire to acquire the right attitude to life thus build up self-esteem and self-actualization. In the absence of good upbringing from home, the reverse is the case. This has become a source of concern to the parents themselves and the society at large.

The Theoretical Framework

The study is anchored on John Locke's (1689) theory on the neutrality of the child's mind at birth which was termed "tabula rasa" which is translated to mean blank slates as cited by Duschinsky, (2012). According to the scholar, the child at birth cannot be said to be good or evil, rather whichever one the child eventually becomes is highly dependent on the people the child comes in contact with. In a nutshell, the adults the child relates with in the environment have a lasting effect on the child's personality development. According to the theory, the child should be taught virtue, wisdom, good manners and learning which is made of ultimate education for the existence of human race. Since the mind is clean and empty, the parents and teachers who are endowed with the training/education of the child have the opportunity of implanting good moral virtues, knowledge, skills and societal norms to the child thereby making the child useful not only to himself but the society at large. The reverse is the case when the child is left unguided, untrained and uneducated thus projecting the child to impending doom. This is the reason for anchoring this study on John Locke's theory.

Parent Roles

Parents are biologically the father and mother of their offsprings called children. In some cases the custodians, guardians and care-givers are also referred to as parents. It is a word used to describe person(s) who are directly in-charge of raising, training and education of the child. Parents are the first contact that children have in their entire life sequel to this are being influenced by their parents in most of the things they do. In agreement with the above declaration, Sunrendra (2017) enunciated the duties of the parents to include:

- a. They teach more with action than words; responsible parents are role models. This is quintessential because children learn more through observation as than words. Parents should therefore put up good behaviours before their children. That which you want them to do, do it yourself.
- b. Enthuse more and condemn less: by encouraging them, self-assurance and reliance spirits is instilled in them. Incessant disparagements could result to dampening their moral, weakening their self-esteem and make them timid thus secretive.
- c. Spare ample time for the kids: by spending sufficient time with children increases their sense of oneness and belongingness. It makes the children to be free in discussing with their parents some pressing issues and sometimes irrelevant issues from where more often than not some relevant points are picked.
- d. Encourage discussions and interactions with the children: Involve the children in family discussions, respect their opinions in some decision as that boost their moral and make them feel accepted.
- e. Teach them morals and ethics void of materialistic tendencies: parents should teach their children moral virtues like greetings, respect, politeness, charity, truthfulness, contentment and so on.

Parents should avoid pretentious lifestyles as it has negative influence on the children. They should avoid comparing their children with their contemporaries as it builds up greed and hatred in them. They should not impose their decisions on their kids. Children should be seen and heard in their respective homes as it helps to build up confidence and resilience in them. Parents should desist from instilling in their wards that money can buy everything and also avoid over pampering of their wards because experience has shown that over pampered children are forever dependent on their parents, jittery and at the mercy of the relatives in case of eventual death of the parents. This is unlike disciplined and hardworking child who is self-reliant and independent when left alone.

The Centre for Parenting Education (2021) was sentient of the dangers of poor parenting on the training/education of the children and espoused that parental roles are of two main types namely; nurture and structure roles which are expected to be in equilibrium to make a vigorous child-rearing. According to the scholar, nurture role is all about the provision of the basic necessities of life like food, shelter, clothing, medical care as well as love and affection. This is imperative because when the children's needs are not met, alternative ways of meeting such need should be made available failing which the children must surely sought for ways of satisfying such which could be unethical. The scholar further expatiated that structure role in parenting deals with leading, correcting, impartation of standards and instituting rubrics and social controls which could be followed up with consequences. Emphasis was however laid on striking a balance in carrying out these roles as too much or too little of each role may be detrimental.

Abraham Maslow (1943) in Babalola (2009) gave credence to the above declaration in his hierarchy of human needs which motivates human behaviour. The lower order needs (physiological, safety and psychological needs) are embedded in the parental responsibilities to their children which determine the children's behaviour. When these needs are met the children are inspired and stimulated to behave in an appropriate manner but when these needs are denied, inappropriate and irrational behaviours take the centre stage. In her own submission, Nair (2018) lucidly put that parental veracious direction cultivates the child's personality. Specifically, the scholar accented that progressive parenting develops children's intellectual capability through collaborations and inspirations. On the contrary, children from dysfunctional family results to juvenile delinquent behaviours in the society and have the tendencies of amplified criminality (Onyekuru & Thompson, 2012) and are accessible for use as bandits, political thugs, assassins and other disruptive behaviours.

Aside teaching of morals and norms of the society, parents still have some roles to play in the children's education. It is for this reason that Ezekiel-Heart & Adiele (2010) categorically posited that parental responsibilities entails;

1. Register them in school at the right time.
2. Provision of learning materials to their wards like books, etc.
3. Provision of clothing including school uniforms
4. Motivate and inspire them from time to time.

It is an agonizing situation when parents fail to carry out their roles as expected. Instead of assigning house chores to their wards some parents prefer to hire house helps thus leaving their children untrained. Some are so busy with business engagements that they have little or no time to interact with their children. More so, many parents are so power thirsty that they scold their teachers before their children thus implant the fruit of disrespectfulness and stubbornness in the children. Parents also fail in their duties to catch up with the trend of internet addiction prominent among children. They should not allow the social media, internet and so on to be their children's mentor. It is in this regard that Soegoto & Tjokroadiponto, (2018) identified both the positive and negative effect of internet on student's academic performance. The scholars maintained that it enables them source information for assignment and projects etc. but emphatically pointed out that it can lead to educational backwardness and socially maladjusted behaviour. This is the main reason that parents should guide and redirect the children to focus on educational videos and avoid diverting attention to irrelevant ones. Parents are eager to choose careers for their children without minding their children's talented areas and interests which could result to the children poor performance in school. This could even lead to frustration and confusion in later life.

When parents rise up to their duties on their children utilizing good home training and development through education, the children are better fortified with good moral virtues that enable them to live a responsible life style thus shun anti-social behaviours. On the contrary, when the parents fail in their obligation to train/educate their children, the children grow into a monster that will not only devour the parents and relatives but pose nuisance to the entire nation.

Teachers' Roles

A teacher is one who inculcates skills, knowledge, morals and virtues to the learner in a school milieu. The teacher is the middleman between the learners and the subject matter. Whatever the content of the curriculum is, it is the teacher that imparts it to the learner during classroom interactions. The teacher is therefore a very crucial element in the training/education of the child (Murati, 2015). In his own submission, Gunduz (2016) reiterated that the teacher is the one who instils to the learner the right skills and knowledge and as a result must be will groomed in the subject area as well as possess effective communication skills for meaningful teaching. Succinctly put, the teacher should be fluent in the language of communication during educational delivery process.

Apart from impartation of knowledge and skills, the teachers' roles extend to counselling and guiding the learners as they grow and develop so as to enable them conglomerates their social, emotional and intellectual growth and development (Cleveland Clinic, 2018). This is also in line with Kochhar (2012) when the scholar acknowledged that guidance is not part of academic work of teachers but has to be done by the teachers. When they are not counselled and guided, inaccurate resolutions could be made which in effect, affects them adversely in their entire life. Continuing, Sagepub (2016) identified the teacher's role to include but not limited to:

1. Plan the lesson to be taught in advance with relevant teaching aids.
2. Support and motivate the children orally and emotionally to assist them catch up with learning challenges.
3. Ensure that the assessment questions cover all the three domains of educational objectives.
4. Encourage teamwork among the children so as to elicit their exploratory ingenuity hence proactive in their action.
5. Arranging and managing classroom furniture for the comfort of the student.
6. Monitor students within and outside the classroom especially during break periods.

From the above expression, teacher duties do not only end in instilling knowledge and skills it entails other roles like

- a) Imbibing in them the virtues of honesty, respect, politeness, forgiveness and courtesy.
- b) Guiding on the management of paint-up emotion and hot-temperedness.

- c) Good grooming and proper dressing.
- d) Deal diligently with extroverts and introverts as well.
- e) Inculcating in them how to maintain cleanliness at all times.
- f) Relate with parents from time to time on the progress of the students both academically and behaviourally.
- g) Settling conflicts among them with equity and fair play.
- h) Instil in them the spirit of cooperation and cordial relationship among fellow students and the teachers.
- i) Assign roles to students to build up the sense of responsibility in them.

Similarly, Murati (2015) summed up the teachers' roles in the following words; an instructor, a confidant, counsellor, adjudicator, activist, arranger, paradigm, monitor, restraint, meticulousness and punctiliousness.

Training/Education.

Training is the process of inculcating to the learner, skills, knowledge, norms and ethics so as to enable them to lead a meaningful life. Cambridge dictionary (2021) similarly, affirms that training is the process of learning the skills and knowledge to apply in a specific field of learning. On the other hand, education is the impartation to the learner, skills, knowledge, norms and values that result to permanent positive change in before to enable them to become useful not only to themselves but also to the society where they reside.

From the foregoing, it could be deduced that education is an umbrella word that encompasses training. In a nutshell, training is an aspect of transmitting education to the recipients. It is actually the mental development which education instils that differentiates man from other animals. This is why Douglass (2019) espoused that the dignity of man lies in his head and it is only education that is meant for its development.

Obviously, training and education are two sides of the same coin. They are processes of bringing out in a child the full potentials and directing it accurately in accordance to the child's inclination and/or talent for the realization of the child's dream. It is truism that every child has innate ability. Education does not only divulge these capabilities but also sharpens them for self-actualization. Consequently, training/education of the children remains an essential tool in the fight against ignorance, poverty, anti-social vices, insecurity and a host of other vices that hinder growth and development in the society. Parents and teachers are therefore liable for the failure of the children as they are their role models, instructors, motivators, trainers and educators of these children who are vulnerable and gullible and only depended on them for sustenance.

Statement of the problem

The alarming crime rate in Nigeria and other countries of the world is so perturbing that people no longer trust or have confidence even in their children, relatives and friends. This is evinced in the wanton killings and maiming of innocent people in the quest to get rich quickly and extol one's social status. The criminal elements involved in all these disastrous acts were once children who received training/education from both their parents and teachers at least to some extent. One wonders what transpired! Could it be that either the parents and/or the teachers are found wanting in the discharge of their duties? It could also be that they are not even aware of their obligations to these children. It is believed that if two parties did their duties judiciously, the crime rate cannot soar so high. These are the problems of the researcher thus constitute the elements of the study.

Objectives of the study

The study is set out to determine the role of parents and teachers on the training/education of their children in Anambra State education zones. To be specific, the study is meant to achieve the under listed objectives:

1. To ascertain the parental roles in the training/education of their children.
2. To determine the teachers' roles in the training/education of the children.

Research Questions

1. What are the parental roles in the training/education of their children in the educational zones of Anambra State?
2. What are the teachers' roles in the training/education of their children in the educational zones of Anambra State?

Research Hypothesis

1. There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of the teachers and the parents on their roles in the training/education of their children.

Methodology

A descriptive survey design was used for the study. The population comprised of all the six educational zones in Anambra State. Using a stratified random sampling technique, four educational zones were picked, from the four selected educational zones, 25 parents and teachers were selected respectively using Taro Yamane's sample size. The respondents were these 25 teachers and 25 parents from the four selected zones numbering 200. The research instrument was designed by the researcher and titled "Parents/Teachers Roles Educational Instrument" (PTREI). Face validity was guaranteed while internal consistency reliability method was adopted to test the dependability of the

instrument using Cronbach Alpha reliability test which yielded 0.82. Mean and standard deviation were used to answer the research questions and z-test statistics was employed to test the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance. Administration of instrument was carried out by the researcher and two research assistants, to ensure that parents of children used are in the same class with the teacher selected. Administration of copies of the instrument was carried out on different occasions when Parents' teachers' Association (PTA) meetings were held. Out of 200 questionnaires distributed, 196 were retrieved and used for data analysis.

Results

The data collected were used for analysis using mean and standard deviation while z-test was also used for the hypothesis.

Research Question

What are the parental roles in the training/education of their children in the educational zones of Anambra State?

Table 1: Showing the opinion of respondents on the parental roles in the training/education of their children in educational zones of Anambra State.

S/N	Item statement	Mean	SD	Remarks
As a parent, I do the following duties in training/educating my ward(s);				
1.	Ensure that my child greets elders.	2.33	1.15	Disagree
2.	Reprimands them when they are rude to people.	2.59	1.10	Agree
3.	Encourages them to be obedient.	2.33	1.45	Disagree
4.	Assign them house chores and ensure they do it.	2.30	0.99	Disagree
5.	Spend quality time with them at home.	2.62	2.62	Agree
6.	Ensure their uniforms are not worn out.	2.58	2.58	Agree
7.	Pay school related fees on time.	2.23	1.04	Disagree
8.	Provide time for their class assignment and assist them in doing it.	2.07	2.07	Disagree
9.	Attend PTA meetings.	2.32	1.16	Disagree
10.	Visit the school intermittently to share my child's identified problem with the teacher.	2.53	1.09	Agree
Aggregate		2.39	0.18	

The result in Table 1 shows that respondents agreed that items 2, 5, 6 and 10 are the only duties they perform to their wards as parents with mean rating ranging from 2.53 to 2.62 and SD of 1.09 to 0.98. On the contrary, the respondents disagreed on items 1, 3,

4, 7, 8 and 9 with the mean rating fluctuating from 2.07 - 2.33 while the SD stood at 1.96 - 1.45 respectively. The aggregate mean yielded 2.3 with SD of 0.18.

Research Question

What are the teachers' roles in the training/education of their children in the educational zones of Anambra State?

Table 2: showing the mean and standard deviation of the opinion of the respondents on the teachers' roles in the training/education in educational zones of Anambra State.

S/N	Item statement	Mean	SD	Remarks
As a teacher, I perform the following roles in the education/training of the students;				
1.	Give emotional support.	2.51	1.03	Agree
2.	Arrange their seats and manage their sitting position.	2.70	1.06	Agree
3.	Monitor the students during break.	2.18	1.05	Disagree
4.	Teach morals like honesty, etc.	2.48	1.22	Disagree
5.	Inspect their teeth, uniforms, hair, fingernails, etc.	2.75	1.03	Agree
6.	Supervise classroom clean up exercise.	2.63	1.18	Agree
7.	Report progress of the students to their parents.	2.33	1.15	Disagree
8.	Encourage teamwork among them.	2.87	1.07	Agree
9.	Fair and firm in my dealings with them.	3.15	1.02	Agree
10.	Ensure that my specific objectives are based on Gloom's taxonomy of educational objectives.	3.20	0.66	Agree
Aggregate		2.71	0.39	

Table 2 shows that the respondents agreed that items 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10 are the roles teachers perform in the training/education of the students with meaning rating ranging from 2.51 to 3.2 and the SD from 1.03 to 0.66 accordingly. It is on Items 3, 4 and 7 that the respondents disagreed with the teachers' roles with mean and standard deviation ranging from 2.8 to 2.48 and SD of 1.05 to 1.22 in that order. The aggregate mean and SD stood at 2,7 and 0.39 correspondingly.

Hypothesis

There is no significant difference between the mean rating of the teachers and the parents on their roles in training/education of their children.

Table 3: Mean, SD and z-test of difference between the mean rating of the teachers and the parents on their roles in the training/education of the children.

Participants	S/N	N	Mean	SD	D/F	Z-cal.	Z-crit.	Sign. Level	Remark
Parents	1.	96	2.39	0.18					
					195	7.423	1.96	0.05	Significant
Teachers	2.	100	2.71	0.39					

Table 3 shows that the z-calculated is 7.423 which is greater than the critical z of 1.96 at 0.05 level of significance, the hypothesis tested is thus rejected, there is significant difference between the mean ratings of the teachers and the parents on their roles in the training/education of the children.

Findings

Based on the result presented above, the findings revealed that teachers carry out their duties in the training and education of the children more than parents do. These teachers do through giving the students emotional support, good sitting arrangement and ensuring that the objectives of the lessons are achieved among others. In other to overcome learning challenges, students need some emotional support and encouragement so as to enables to them build trust and confidence in themselves. This is in line with Sagepub's (2016) earlier observation that children require emotional support and encouragement to enhance their self-worth. In like manner, Kochhar (2012) & Murati reaffirmed that children should be guided and counselled to avert incorrect choices of action and decisions that could deface their whole life.

The second finding of the study is that most parents do not carry out their obligations in the education/training of their children and this has resulted in poor academic performance and moral decadence among the Nigerian youth. This is in affirmation with what Sunrenda (2017); Soegoto & Tjokroadiponto, (2018) observed that parents should teach their children moral virtues like greetings, respect, politeness, charity, truthfulness, contentment, moderate internet use and so on while Maduagwu and Nwogu (2006) posited that parental roles include sending their children to school and providing all the relevant aids to the good learning outcome. This stands to instill in them the sense of belongingness and self-confidence which in turn positions them well in readiness to learn not only for academic excellence but also vibrant and promising Nigerian youth for a greater tomorrow.

Conclusion.

Based on the findings of this study, it was concluded that the parents are lacking in their duties in the training/education of their wards and this has continued to pose a hindrance to both their academic pursuit and their social life thereby making them vulnerable to some anti-social vices prominent in recent times. This calls for the parents to arise and expedite actions on the moulding up their wards into useful individuals that will continue to be proud ambassadors wherever they find themselves. These children are more precious than any investment on the planet earth.

Recommendation

Following the finding of this study, the researcher recommended as under stated;

1. Parent should endeavour no matter the type of engagement to ensure that their children are taught moral values and societal norms of the society as well as support their education to make them have a good interpersonal relationship that makes for peaceful co-existence.
2. It is also recommended that parents and teachers should corroborate in the training/education of their children so as to produce citizens who are worthy both in character and learning.

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