



RESEARCH PAPER

Moral Development versus Academic Achievement in the Children of Graduate and Under-Graduate Mothers: A Comparative Study

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PAPER INFO	ABSTRACT
Received: February 21, 2022 Accepted: April 10, 2022 Online: April 15, 2022 Keywords: Academic Achievement, Graduate And Undergraduate Moral Development, Parents *Corresponding Author arshad.javaid@ue.edu.pk	The main objective of this study was to compare the level of moral development and academic achievement of the children of graduate and undergraduate mothers. There were 1351 7th grade students studying in thirty eight (38) Boys' elementary schools situated in Tehsil Dera Ghazi Khan. 306 students were selected as a sample of this study through Stratified random sampling technique. A moral development scale was used in order to check the level of moral development in the children of graduate and undergraduate mothers. Similarly, the academic achievement of the children was computed on the basis of their previous results. The results showed that the level of moral- development of the children of graduate mothers was poor but with better academic achievement. On the other way the undergraduate mothers' children were showing better moral development level but with low academic achievement. The study recommended both types of mothers to keep balance while advocating their children about these personas.

Introduction

The role of Parents especially mothers' role is most important in the development and grooming of their children. Mother guides the children to get education and to perform well in curricular and in co-curricular activities. Mother creates a sense of regularity in the minds of their children and makes them aware of the importance of regularity. She trained their children to maintain an order in their lives. She helps their children to learn new things in and out of the school (Magnuson, 2009).

Mother guides their children to learn new things and maintain an order in their lives by making them punctual and regular. Mother knows all the needs like psychological, social and educational needs of their children. So, mother can provide the solution of problems like psychological, social and educational to their children and can guide to perform better in academic and other social activities. Mother can generate creative minds and considered an innovator in the educational life of their children. She has an emotional link with their kids. Participation of mother plays a crucial role in the education of their children. Mothers' involvement in the educational, social and moral development of their children is most important. The researchers also have found a positive correlation between parental participation in children's education and their achievements (Fan & Chen, 2001).

Cabusand Aris, (2017) found that parents' engagement in activities connected to their children's academics, communication with their children, home environment, and children's birth order are all major factors of academic performance. A child's emotional bond to his family, as well as his family's availability of learning and motivation, are all determined by his home environment. Children benefit from having a positive home environment because it gives them peace of mind, which can help them study. Unexpected circumstances, such as economic shock (parents losing their businesses or losing their jobs), unintentional sickness, or the death of a parent, can all have a negative impact on children's educational performance. These consequences are more severe in impoverished civilizations than in wealthy ones. Furthermore, unexpected situations influence female children more than male youngsters (Chase-Lansdale, 2019)

Improvement in the academic tire of each and every student's performance is considered one of the key concerns of every teacher. So, the school teachers use numerous teaching techniques and strategies in order to optimize the academic performance of students. But, the achievements of school going children do not solely depend upon their physical and mental abilities but there are also other key factors that contribute significantly to academic achievements of students. These factors are educational level of parents, social background and family background of students. (Phillipson, 2010)

There is a lot of research on the impact of family background on children's results. (Gutman, Sameroff, & Cole, 2003). Differences in individual results within and across cultures are attributed to socioeconomic variables. Education and financial level of parents are two of the most critical elements in determining the fate of future generations. The economic situation of parents is thought to have an impact on children's educational achievements not only during childhood (Erola, Jalonen, & Lehti, 2016). The social capital of parents is a significant role in job search time, and children with excellent social relationships with their parents are more likely to locate suitable positions (Harkonen & Bihagen, 2011).

Educated parents' children perform better than the uneducated parents' children in the academic activities. The relationship exists between the educational level of parents and the academic performances of pupils. Boussanlègue, Biriziwè, Esso-Mondjonn and Essè (2021) conducted a research and found that parent education has a positive impact on the performance of students. Children whose father or mother is well educated perform better than the children whose parents are uneducated or have little education. The researchers found that there exists a relationship between educational level of parents and academic performance of students.

Female's education is important not only because it can make women a productive part of the society but also because it can generate many positive externalities such as improvement in education and health of next generation. The productivity of healthy and educated individuals is expected to be higher and they may be in a position to earn better income (Jger & Holm, 2007). Although the role of mother's education for next generation's education and health outcomes is equally important in rich as well as poor countries yet such role may be even of greater importance in the developing countries where the caring and upbringing of the children is considered a prime responsibility of mothers.

Pakistan is one among the countries where women are expected to be responsible for upbringing of children. This makes the country a suitable case to study the role of

mother's education for children's income and education outcome. By utilizing the household level data of Punjab province of Pakistan, this study aims to investigate that what are the effects of mother's education on the learning and earning of their children.

Material and Methods

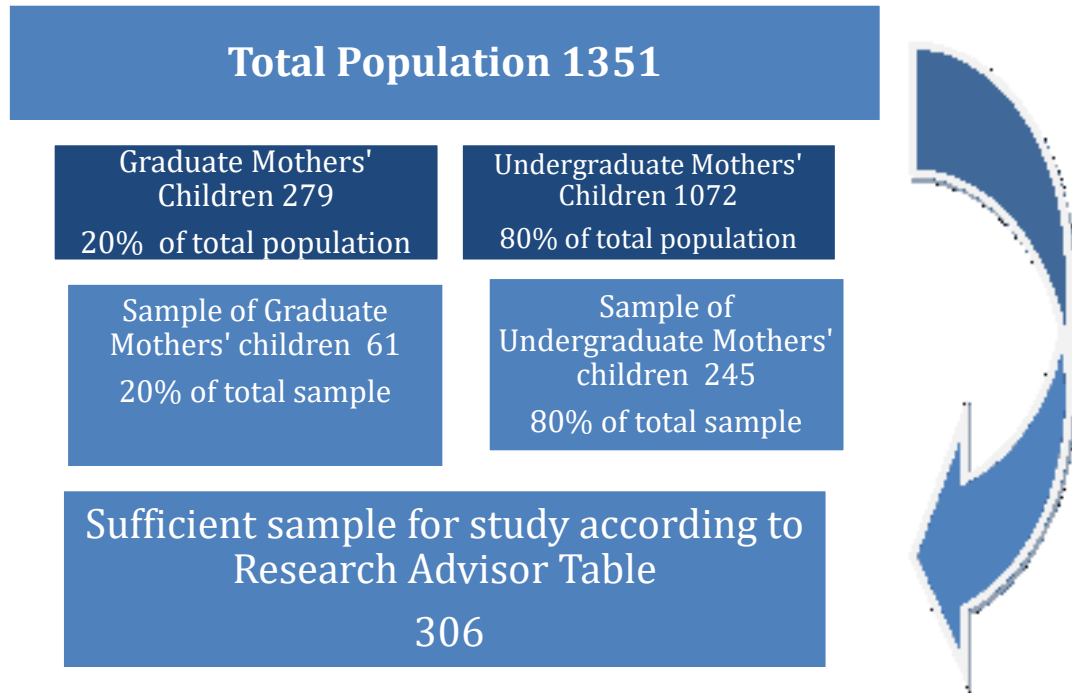
Descriptive research with quantitative design was conducted to determine the level of moral development and academic achievement in the children of graduate and undergraduate mothers. The mothers with qualifications like SSC, FA/F. Sc were considered as undergraduate mothers with qualifications BA/B. Sc/BS, MA/M. Sc and M.Phil were considered as graduates. The academic achievement of their children was determined from the school results and their performance was judged on the school performance scale. All the variables were calculated on five points Likert Scale, from 1 to 5. The mean score was interpreted as;

Mean Score	Interpretation
1.00-1.80	Very poor
1.81-2.60	Poor
2.61-3.20	Moderate/Average
3.21-4.20	High
4.21-5.00	Very High

The academic achievement of children of graduate and undergraduate mothers was interpreted as;

Academic Achievement	Interpretation
0 -25%	Very poor
26-50%	Poor
51-75%	Moderate
76-100%	High

All the students of the 7th grade studying in elementary schools for boys situated in DG Khan Tehsil served as population of the study. The study remained limited to the students of grade 7th studying in boys' elementary schools of Tehsil D.G. Khan. There were 38 boys' middle schools with 1351 students of 7th grade in Tehsil D.G. Khan as per the list provided by DEO (M. EE) District D.G. Khan. There were 279 graduate mother's students and 1072 children's mothers were under graduate. Stratified sampling technique was used to select sample for study. Sufficient sample size for the study was comprised on 306 students in which 61 were graduate mothers' children and 245 were undergraduate mothers' children.



Results and Discussion

Mean score on Moral Development Scale of Graduate Mothers' Children

1	Students stay to be honest with other class mates	2.20
2	Students are trustworthy with others	2.34
3	Students ambitious to do class work first	2.54
4	Students show sympathy for younger and respect for elders	2.80
5	Students feel happy after helping their classmates in academic matters	2.75
6	Students obey the teacher's command at once.	2.53
7	Students seem reluctant to obey the command of their teacher	2.21
8	Students feel happy when they become punctual.	2.31
9	Students accept their mistakes easily.	2.54
10	Students listen when other students give feedback.	2.45
11	Students give up their personal rights with a desire to serve other	2.32
12	Students have the spirit to forgive each others.	2.27
13	Students listen silently when other speaks.	2.65
14	Students make a line when they go from one place to another in school.	2.73

Mean score on Moral Development Scale of Undergraduate Mothers' Children

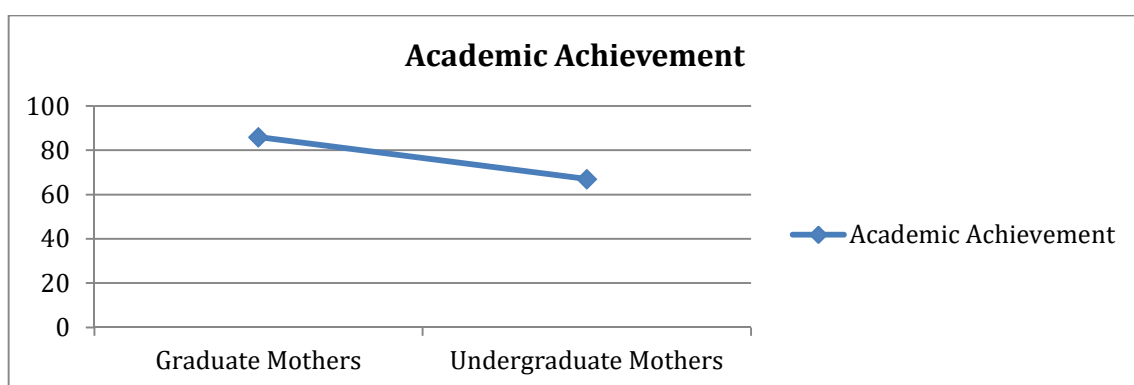
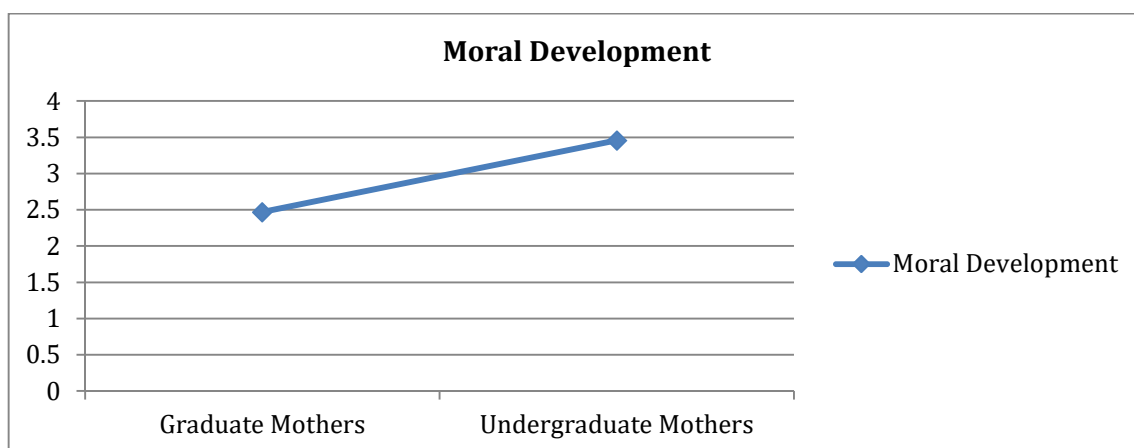
Sr#	Statement	Mean Score
1	Students stay to be honest with other class mates	3.34
2	Students are trustworthy with others	3.34
3	Students ambitious to do class work first	3.11
4	Students show sympathy for younger and respect for elders	3.56
5	Students feel happy after helping their classmates in academic matters	3.57
6	Students obey the teacher's command at once.	3.53
7	Students seem reluctant to obey the command of their teacher	3.21

8	Students feel happy when they become punctual.	3.31
9	Students accept their mistakes easily.	3.54
10	Students listen when other students give feedback.	3.45
11	Students give up their personal rights with a desire to serve other	3.32
12	Students have the spirit to forgive each others.	3.78
13	Students listen silently when other speaks.	3.65
14	Students make a line when they go from one place to another in school.	3.73

Position of Moral Development and Academic achievement

	Moral Development	Academic Achievement	Status of Moral Development	Status of Academic Achievement
Graduate Mothers	2.47	80-92%	Poor	High
Undergraduate Mothers	3.46	55-75%	High	Moderate

The mean combine score on moral development scale of the students whose mothers were Graduate was 2.47 which showed the poor moral- development of the children. The mean combine score on moral development scale was 3.46 by the students whose mothers were under graduate. This shows the high level of moral development of the students. The academic achievement of undergraduate mother’s children was 55-79% and the academic achievement of graduate mothers’ children was 80-92% that was better than the undergraduate mother’s children.



The educated mother may be more efficient to handle children's behavioral problems by giving satisfactory answers to their questions. These satisfactory answers about the problem may enhance their cognitive and analytical skills. Mother's education level has a positive and significant effect on children's education, home learning environment, and access to good books that enhance their knowledge and sharpen their learning process (Harding, 2015). According to current study academic achievement of graduate mothers' children was very high that was better than the academic achievements of undergraduate mothers' children. The graduate mothers are more conscious about the study of their children and can guide perfectly to enhance the academic performance of their children. The results of study matched with the results of previously conducted studies. Many researchers (Alves, 2016; Eslava, 2016; Kloosterman, 2011; Lugo-Gil & Tamis-LeMonda, 2008; Mistry, 2010) have researched and found that family and school play a dominant role in the academic achievement of students.

Educated mothers are helpful to improve the lifestyle of their children and to develop social capital, which later helps to increase the opportunities in the lives of their children. They also have better ability to bring improvements in the financial status of their children by helping them to find employment. So, mother's education may prove a ladder on which children climb step by step towards the sky of success (Augustine, Cavanagh, & Crosnoe, 2009; Coleman, 1988). The results of study are opposite to the results of study conducted by (Augustine & Negraia, 2018). Because it is not necessary that educated mothers have always positive impact the academic achievement of their children. Such mothers have less time to focus on their children's upbringing. Hence it affects negatively to children's education. The professional responsibilities of women can also negatively affect the child's education and nourishment (Hoque, Khanam, & Nobi, 2017). The results of the study are in line with the results of research conducted by (Mendive, Lissi, Bakeman, & Reyes, 2017) that Mothers with less education and low economic status are likely to assert a negative effect on children's future literacy and economic

Mothers have a major role in the lives of their children. When children interact with their mothers, they take up on their mothers' morality and ethics, and the process of children's ethical development begins with their mothers and families (Reed, Turiel and Brown, 1996). According to recent research, post-graduate moms are uninterested in their children's ethical development. They were solely focused on their education, and they desired for their children to live a worldly, money-oriented existence. Morality and ethics are instilled in children by their mothers, as well as by the public and repetitious activities they encounter in their daily lives. According to the findings, postgraduate women are uninterested in their children's ethical growth (Kochanska, Aksan, & Nichols, 2003) conducted a research and found that according to socialization theories family context has impact on their social and moral development. Early social experiences in different interdependent contexts such as the family and community are considered fundamental to preschoolers' developing moral knowledge (Dunn, 2014).

According to the current study, graduate mothers did not focus on their children's ethical growth when they were instructed to show sympathy for others and respect for elders. Children with strong moral development spent more time on their homework, always putting out a great deal of effort and attention in their home school work, and as a consequence, they achieved more. Parallel findings were also provided in the study on Some Connections between Increasing Religiousness and Academic Accomplishment in a College Population in Washington, USA (Killen & Smetana, 2015). Children who were involved in

religious activities worked harder than those who worked in non-religious environments. In this study, we found that postgraduate mothers' pupils had a negative response and low moral growth. However, those pupils had the best academic accomplishment. According to (Walberg (1985), respectable people must be given a lot of attention since this may be a goal line for many pupils rather than tremendous academic achievement.

The findings of this study matched those of a study conducted by (Batool&Shehzad , 2019) on scholars' attitudes about moral and ethical ideals in Pakistan. Most of the researchers, according to Batool and Shahzad did not have a proclivity for ethics and morality, most of them did not care about other people's perspectives, most of them blamed others for any mistakes, most of the researchers strongly agreed that it was critical for them to be sensible among their colleagues, and most of them did not speak honestly. The findings of this study were also in line with a study conducted by (Laible & Thompson, 2002), the researcher found that, due to family issues and ethical deprivation, children today lack enough ethical training. (Grace, Evindar, & Stewart, 2003) discovered that mothers play a significant role in the ethical growth of their children. The children's ethical development was managed and strong-minded to an outstanding degree inside the family setting during the educational institution time. When the children were old enough, they should participate in establishing a low-cost logic of ethical obligation. Mothers were held accountable to their leaders as they grew older, and the assistance they received should serve as a great model for their children's ethical and overall development. The winning moms' main goal was to see an increase in the number of pupils who were confidence in their ethical findings.

Conclusion

In the light of the above discussion, it was concluded that the graduate mothers do not focus on the moral development of their children because the aspect of moral development does not lie in their order of preference. According to the results of this study, such mothers only put emphasis on the quantitative aspect/ academic achievement of their children. While the under graduate mothers, on the other hand usually lay emphasis on the moral development of their children and give secondary position to their children academic achievement.

Recommendations

1. Moral education should be planned to integrate and disseminate properly in all the disciplines at Graduate level.
2. Parents should sacrifice proper time for the moral development of their children.
3. The undergraduate mothers should focus on the academic activities of their children.
4. Mothers should focus heavily on acts that lead to ethical transformation in their children, such as encouraging them to speak truthfully, be fair and assist and care for the needy.
5. Mothers should develop the elements of character building in their children like admiration for the elders and should obedient to their teachers, relatives, parents and old age persons.

6. Mothers should display acceptable morals at home because their children usually take effects from their parents.
7. The parents either graduate or under graduate should keep balance between the moral as well as academic achievement of their children.

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