

# Understanding the Impact of Family Issues on Children's Academic Performance in Government Higher Secondary School Students with Special Reference to Coimbatore District

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## ABSTRACT

Family plays a crucial role in shaping the academic development of children. Various aspects of the family environment such as the quality of parental relationships, economic status, parenting styles and emotional support significantly influence students' educational outcomes. This study seeks to explore the impact of family-related issues on the academic performance of higher secondary school students. Problems like parental conflict, financial constraints, limited parental involvement and family instability can contribute to emotional stress and distraction, ultimately hindering students' concentration, motivation and academic achievement. Using a descriptive research design, this study adopts a quantitative approach to examine how these family factors affect students' learning and school performance. Data were gathered from higher secondary school students through questionnaires and interviews to identify prevalent family issues and their influence on academic progress. The findings are expected to underscore the importance of a supportive family environment in fostering better educational outcomes. Additionally, the study highlights the need for collaborative efforts among schools, counselors and parents to address family-related challenges that impact students' education. The research employs a descriptive design with a quantitative methodology, facilitating the collection of numerical data regarding students' knowledge and perceptions. This enables objective analysis and interpretation of the findings. The sample comprises 60 higher secondary school students from a selected corporate school in Coimbatore District. The sample size was determined based on time constraints and the accessibility of respondents.

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**KEYWORDS:** Family issues, Academic performance, Higher secondary students.

## INTRODUCTION

Education is fundamental to the intellectual, emotional and social development of children. As the primary social institution, the family provides the essential emotional support, values and guidance that shape a child's growth. However, when families face challenges such as parental conflict, financial instability, divorce, poor communication or a lack of involvement, students' academic performance can suffer particularly during the critical stage of adolescence. Government Higher secondary school students are at a pivotal developmental juncture, simultaneously navigating academic pressures, career decisions and emotional challenges. When family problems arise during this period, they can intensify

stress and anxiety, leading to a lack of concentration. Research confirms that factors like parent-child relationships, the overall family atmosphere and parental expectations have a significant influence on adolescents' academic outcomes and learning behavior. A supportive family environment is instrumental in shaping positive student attitudes toward education. Families that encourage learning provide consistent guidance and maintain healthy relationships help students achieve better academic results. Conversely family conflicts, economic hardship and a lack of emotional support can diminish students' academic engagement and self-confidence. The evidence is clear positive family interactions and

active parental involvement are key drivers of improved academic achievement and holistic student development.

### Definition

#### Family Issues

**Salvador Minuchin (1974)** defined family issues as the conflicts, communication problems, role misunderstandings and emotional tensions that arise among family members and influence the functioning and stability of the family system.

#### Academic Performance

According to **John W. Santrock (2011)**, academic performance refers to the extent to which a student achieves educational goals, usually measured through examinations, grades or continuous assessment.

#### Higher Secondary Students

**National Council of Educational Research and Training (2005)** describes higher secondary students as learners enrolled in the final stage of school education, typically in **Grades 11 and 12**, preparing for higher education or professional courses.

### IMPORTANCE OF CHILDREN'S ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

**Measures Learning Progress:** Academic performance helps to assess the level of knowledge and skills acquired by children during their education.

**Improves Educational Development:** It supports the overall intellectual growth and learning abilities of children.

**Enhances Self-Confidence:** Good academic achievement increases children's confidence and motivates them to perform better.

**Develops Discipline and Responsibility:** Academic activities help children develop habits such as time management, discipline and responsibility.

**Identifies Strengths and Weaknesses:** It helps teachers and parents understand the areas where children excel and where they need improvement.

**Encourages Motivation to Learn:** Positive academic results encourage children to take interest in learning and academic activities.

**Supports Higher Education Opportunities:** Strong academic performance enables children to pursue higher education and specialized courses.

**Improves Career Prospects:** Good academic achievements provide better career opportunities and professional growth in the future.

**Promotes Social Development:** Academically successful children often develop better communication skills and social relationships.

**Contributes to National Development:** Educated and academically strong individuals contribute to the social, cultural and economic progress of society.

### STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The family plays a foundational role in the emotional, social and academic development of children. A stable and supportive family environment can inspire students to succeed in their studies, while family-related problems can significantly hinder academic progress. In recent years, many families have faced challenges such as parental conflict, divorce, financial strain, limited parental involvement, poor communication and work-related stress. These difficulties often create an unfavorable home environment that negatively affects students' concentration, motivation and overall academic performance. Government Higher secondary school students are at a crucial stage of adolescence, marked by academic pressure, career decisions and emotional transitions. During this period family support is especially vital for both academic achievement and personal development. When students encounter family problems, they may experience heightened stress, anxiety, reduced motivation and difficulty focusing on their studies. In the context of Coimbatore district, rapid social and economic changes, urbanization and evolving family structures are reshaping family dynamics and influencing student well-being.

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

**John W. Santrock (2021)** examined the relationship between family environment and academic performance among higher secondary students. The study focused on how family issues such as parental conflict, lack of emotional support and financial difficulties influence students' academic achievement. Using survey methods among higher secondary students, the findings revealed that students from supportive and stable family environments showed better concentration, motivation and academic performance. In contrast, students experiencing family issues often faced stress, lack of interest in studies and lower academic achievement. The study concluded that a positive family atmosphere plays a significant role in improving the academic success of higher secondary students.

**Joyce L. Epstein (2020)** conducted a study on family involvement and its effect on children's academic performance at the higher secondary level. The research examined factors such as parental guidance, communication between parents and children and family support in education. Data were collected through questionnaires and interviews with higher

secondary students. The results indicated that students who received encouragement and academic guidance from their families performed better in school. However family issues such as poor communication, lack of parental supervision and family stress negatively affected students' academic performance. The study emphasized that parental involvement is essential for improving students' learning outcomes.

**Robert Crosnoe (2019)** studied the influence of family background and family-related problems on the academic performance of higher secondary students. The research highlighted that family issues such as economic hardship, parental separation and lack of educational support can affect students' academic progress. The study used quantitative methods to analyze the relationship between family environment and students' academic results. The findings showed that students from stable and supportive families achieved higher academic performance, while those facing family problems often experienced difficulties in learning, lower academic motivation and poor academic outcomes. The study concluded that addressing family issues is important for improving the educational success of higher secondary students.

### Methodology of the Study

#### Objectives of the Study

1. To find out demographic profile of the respondents.
2. To analyze the level of academic performance among Government higher secondary school students.

3. To study the difference between family issues and academic performance of Government higher secondary school students.
4. To assess the impact of family support and parental involvement on the academic performance of students.
5. To suggest measures and interventions to improve students' academic performance by addressing family-related issues.

### Methodology of the Study

**Research design:** The study adopts a descriptive research design to understand how family issues affect the academic performance of higher secondary school students.

**Universe of the study:** The study is conducted in one Government Higher Secondary School in Coimbatore district.

**Sampling:** 60 Higher Secondary School Students were selected for the study.

**Sampling Methods:** Probability Sampling technique: Simple Random Sampling.

**Tools for data collection:** A structured questionnaire is used to collect information about family issues and student's academic performance.

**Statistical tools:** Percentage analysis, Mean, Standard deviation, chi-square test, t-test and ANOVA.

### Finds of the Study

S. NO	PERSONAL VARIABLES	FREQUENCY	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE %
1	Age	15yrs - 17yrs	42	70%
2	Gender	Female	41	68%
3	Educational Qualification	10 <sup>th</sup> and 11 <sup>th</sup>	44	74%
4	Medium of Instruction	Tamil	43	71%
5	Type of family	Nuclear Family	25	42%
6	Father's Occupation	Daily wage / Unskilled worker	40	67%
7	Mother's Occupation	Self-employed	30	50%
8	Monthly Family Income	Below -20,000	39	65%
9	Place of Residence	Semi-urban	35	58%

- **Age:** More than half of the respondents (70%) are between 15 and 17 years old.
- **Gender:** The majority of respondents (68%) are female.
- **Educational Level:** Over two-thirds of respondents (74%) have completed the 10th or 11th standard.
- **Medium of Instruction:** A significant majority (71%) are instructed in Tamil medium.
- **Family Structure:** Less than half of the respondents (42%) come from nuclear families.
- **Father's Occupation:** More than half of the respondents (67%) have fathers who work as daily wage or unskilled laborers.
- **Mother's Occupation:** Half of the respondents (50%) have mothers who are self-employed.

- **Family Income:** The majority of respondents (65%) belong to families with a monthly income below Rs.20,000.
- **Place of Residence:** More than half of the respondents (58%) reside in semi-urban areas.

### DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO THEIR LEVEL OF FAMILY ISSUES ON CHILDREN'S ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

FAMILY ISSUES ON CHILDREN'S ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE (%)
High	13	22
Moderate	33	55
Low	14	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

#### Interpretation

According to the above table, 55% of respondents have a moderate level of family issues on children's academic performance, 23% have a low level and 22% have a high level.

#### Difference between of personal profile and level of family issues on children's academic performance

Variables	Statistical tool	Value	Result
Age and family issues on children's academic performance	ANOVA	F= .202 P<0.05	Significant
Gender and family issues on children's academic performance	t-test	t = .033 P>0.05	Not- Significant
Education qualification and family issues on children's academic performance	ANOVA	F= .079 P>0.05	Not-Significant
Medium of Instruction and family issues on children's academic performance	ANOVA	F = .310 P<0.05	Significant
Type of family and family issues on children's academic performance	ANOVA	F= .210 P>0.05	Significant
Father occupation and family issues on children's academic performance	t- test	t= .078 P>0.05	Not- Significant
Mother occupation and family issues on children's academic performance	ANOVA	F = .412 P< 0.05	Significant
Monthly Family Income and family issues on children's academic performance	ANOVA	F = .002 P> 0.05	Not Significant
Place of residency and family issues on children's academic performance	ANOVA	F = .201 P< 0.05	Significant

- There is significant difference in the age and family issues on children's academic performance of the respondents.
- There is no significant difference in the gender and family issues on children's academic performance of the respondents of the respondents.
- There is no significant difference in the education qualification and family issues on children's academic performance of the respondents of the respondents.
- There is significant difference in the medium of instruction and family issues on children's academic performance of the respondents of the respondents.
- There is significant difference in the type of family and awareness and family issues on children's academic performance of the respondents.
- There is no significant difference in the father occupation and family issues on children's academic performance of the respondents.
- There is significant difference in the mother occupation and family issues on children's academic performance of the respondents.
- There is significant difference in the place of residency and family issues on children's academic performance of the respondents.

## Recommendations

- Parents should maintain open and supportive communication with their children to understand their academic needs and emotional problems.
- Parents should actively participate in their children's academic activities such as monitoring homework, attending school meetings and encouraging study habits.
- Schools should provide regular counseling services to help students who are facing family-related issues that affect their academic performance.
- Teachers should identify students who are experiencing family problems and provide additional academic guidance and emotional support.
- Educational institutions should organize workshops and awareness programs to educate parents about the importance of a positive family environment for children's academic success.
- Schools should introduce programs that help higher secondary students manage stress and emotional difficulties caused by family issues.
- Families should try to maintain a peaceful and supportive home environment that encourages children to focus on their studies.
- Students facing family problems may require extra academic support such as remedial classes or tutoring.
- Schools and families should work together to monitor students' academic progress and address any problems affecting their performance.
- Parents and teachers should focus on improving students' emotional well-being, as a healthy mental state helps students perform better academically.

## Conclusion

The present study examined the impact of family issues on the academic performance of Government higher secondary school students in Coimbatore district. Factors such as parental support, family relationships, economic conditions and emotional stability influence students' ability to concentrate on their studies and achieve better academic results. The study also shows that students from supportive and stable family backgrounds tend to perform better

academically, while those experiencing family conflicts, financial stress or lack of parental involvement may face difficulties in their studies. In addition, awareness about family issues and effective communication between parents and children are important for maintaining students' emotional well-being.

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