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RESEARCH ARTICLE

CAUSES FOR THE SUCCESS OF HIGH PERFORMING SECONDARY SCHOOLS: A CASE STUDY.

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Abstract

It is a widely known fact that education empowers individuals in the society and when individuals in the society are empowered, they lead to the establishment of developed society and developed society will be developed nation. Hence, if the nation will be progress, there is a lot of need to work from the grass root level, on the system sowing seeds of development. The school need to perform the best, so the students can sustain in the globally competition and face the challenges by themselves. The current study there by becomes essential to identify the causes for the success of school and suggest corrective measures to sustain educational organizational success and contribute to the welfare of the society at large. In the current time when the government is spending heavily on education, striving hard to make more and more people literate, to make more and more children attending the school, it becomes essential to maintain the quality of existing educational institutions. Hence, This study is undertaken to identify the key features of a sample of high-performing secondary schools under various boards to examine how these features compare to what other researchers have found, and to ascertain if these features hold any type of potential for implementation in low-performing schools to improve student achievement.

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Introduction:-

Education is very important among all of us. Education plays a vital role in our life. For living a luxurious or for living a better life, persons should be educated. Education transforms a person to live a better life and even in a social well being. Education is the one that doing something constructive in our better future. It helps a person to show their best work by their mind and spirit. It gives you a lot of knowledge in many aspects. Education plays a very important role in your success in the personal growth. If you have more knowledge, the more you grow. Being educated and earning a professional degree prepares you to be a part in reputed different organizations, companies or institutions. Education helps to determine what is good and what is bad for you. A person who gets well education will become good citizen and more dependable worker. Without education a person is totally incomplete, so education helps to man to think in the right direction and to make a good decision maker. It is the best fundamental way by which a desired change and up-liftment in the society can be taken place effectively.

Different levels of education in the schools like Elementary Education consists of eight years, Secondary Education consist of two years (Grades 9 & 10), Higher secondary Education consists of two years (Grades 11 & 12). (Selected Educational Statistics 2009-10)

Our past president Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam additionally forced the importance of primary education and he says "India's future depends on primary education" and he also says at the seminar titled as "Evolution of the distinctive".

Education is the instrument of developing human capabilities and it also helps to face each scenario. It also helps to develop our knowledge, skills and attitudes. Primary school Education is additionally popularly known as elementary education. The elementary education consists of smaller categories and a lot of variety of academics. These many academics lay robust stress on the scholars who are having issues in learning or memorising things. It lays robust foundation for the scholars to know lots of things in their own life. On primary schooling the age is whatever or wherever students may be absolutely influenced. We should take care concerning our young child's education as a result of educational institution and excellent learning is that the foundation for formal education, it will boost your child's self worth and self confidence, and it will offer your kid the sting they have for long success. Primary education is vital as a result of it will offer our kid to sustain in the competitive world.

Secondary school is important because students would be able to interface with the kind of technology that people need to be able to interface with today, computers and software for example. Typically you need to study at least a secondary education to become computer literate and to interface with the kind of technology that's going to allow for at least a degree of prosperity to take root. So secondary school is very important. It helps to be ethical and moral leaders in developing countries which are well trained. "All education levels are important, but secondary school is important primarily because it seems to be at that level in which people are able to interface with more technology."

Objectives of the study:-

1. To identify the High Performing schools
2. To identify the reasons for success of High Performing Schools.
3. To give the suggestions for sustainability of success of High Performing Schools.

Research Question:-

What are the reasons for success of High Performing schools?

Delimitation of the present study:-

1. The study was delimited to only English Medium schools.
2. The study was also delimited to academic performance in the SSC Board examination and those schools which are better performing in co-curricular activities during the academic year 2015-2017.
3. The study was delimited to Gujarat state board secondary schools, ICSE (Indian certificate secondary education) schools and Central Board of Secondary schools.

Research Design:-

Case study was used here by the researcher as a research design as this will help in collection and presentation of detailed information about a particular participant.

Tools for the Data Collection:-

1. Document study
2. Semi structured Interview
3. Questionnaire
4. Observation

Process of data collection:-

First of all, the researcher took the help of the website from where the information of the schools was available. Then the researcher has made the list of High Performing schools and researcher has also taken the views and suggestions from the academicians regarding the characteristics of High Performing schools. Then the researcher has selected the schools as per the convenient to approach the nearby places and as per permission given by the schools for the data collection. Then the researcher has made the study of documents at the school office. After document analysis, the researcher prepared a list of schools which have above 90 percent result continuously since last three academic years from 2014. The researcher contacted those schools and then selected six such schools which agreed to be part of study and were willing to co-operate for the study. Once the school agreed to be a part of study, the researcher contacted Principal/Director of the school. For the purpose of this study, the researcher used document study, questionnaire, observation, unstructured interviews were used as method of data collection. The

first meeting was an introductory meeting. The researcher explained the nature and purpose of the study with personally meeting so that when the researcher personally meets, the participant is aware of the kind of data needed.

The researcher saw the documents at schools offices and then the researcher gave some questions (Questionnaire) to the teachers regarding the infrastructure facilities of the school, enrolment rate of the students, family background , training programs attended, teaching learning method , co-curricular activities and healthy practices and so on..

Then the researcher also used semi-structured interviews for the information. The researcher interviewed all the six of the principals at their offices, teaching staff were interviewed at their staffrooms. Students were interviewed in their classrooms. The researcher also interacted individually to some of the students who were found moving from one place to another during school visit. To encourage participants to share more details during the interviews, the researcher listened attentively. During the course of the interviews field notes were taken to help the researcher more effectively grasp what was observed, experienced, perceived, and reflected during and after each interview in the field. The researcher met the teachers and principal twice or thrice depending upon the need.

The researcher randomly visited the house of some of the students to observe the conditions in which they live and interacted with their parents. The researcher prepared the field notes of what the researcher saw, heard, experienced and thought on the field. These field notes of data were further analyzed to get the understanding of the case.

Then the researcher also used questionnaire for the verification of the information which were not getting from semi- structured interviews. The questionnaire was also made for the Principal, teachers and parents. They responded/filled out very well.

Then the researcher used the observation as a tool for information. The researcher observed some of the documents during the visits to school. Documents such as school register, daily lesson plan diary, projects- assignments given to the children, photographs of the annual day function, sports day and co-curricular activities photographs, competition, advertisement for enrolment of the students were studied. The researcher randomly observed some of the classes in each school to understand the teaching learning process. The teacher whose class was to be observed was not informed beforehand.

If the researcher while preparing the case felt later on that some information is missing or needed further clarification, she used to note down and contacted the concerned person telephonically.

Data Analysis:-

For data analysis, whatever gathered data, were read number of times. The data were closely examined in order to find constructs, themes that can be used to describe and explain case. The major themes which emerged are Reasons for the High Performance and measures. Each Case was analyzed under these major themes. Students' Profile, Teachers' profile, school profile.

Major Findings:-

Teachers:-

1. Teachers do the action research to get the solutions of the problems which he/she faces in teaching -learning activities.
2. Teachers also take interest in their studies and they also personally give them help to increase the result or achievement. Teachers also take extra classes or remedial sessions by which they clarify the concept clearly and improve the result.
3. In these kind of schools, various pedagogies for the instruction use by the teachers to cater the needs of the students such as storytelling, discussion method, review of articles or books, using flash card or cue card, interaction between students and teachers, extempore speech on various topics, poem recitation, seating arrangement with brilliant students, remedial sessions, cooperative learning, constructive method, group discussion , laboratory or demonstration method and peer tutoring and so on...
4. In these schools, home work is also assigned to the children and checked or monitored regularly by the teachers.

Students:-

1. Students attend extra classes which are organized by their teachers.

2. Most of the students have reading, speaking in English and Mathematics skill by which they sustain with the global competition.
3. Most of the students come from nearby areas of the schools and those students come from the far area of the schools, they are facilitated by school bus or van.
4. These students have interest in knowledge gaining and they are interested to become something in their life.
5. Most of these students have literate parents who have completed minimum graduate level study. Therefore, they understand the importance of education and encourage their children to go to school.

Parents:-

1. Parents have high expectations about their child's study. They also spent enough time behind their child's study. They want their child goes to the top level of the education and become some famous personality in their life.
2. Environment at home is good and supportive for studies.
3. Most of the students' socio-economic background is middle class or higher middle class who can afford the fees of these kinds of schools.

Schools:-

1. In these kinds of schools, absenteeism and drop out ratio of the students is very less or rare.
2. There are different subject clubs or Houses or Ministries or Hobby clubs are going on in these schools wherein various activities carried out such as guest speech, seminar on E-content development, Social Science Exhibitions, subject wise workshops etc...
3. Before entering into primary schools, most of the schools arrange entrance test or competency test for checking the abilities of the students and then according to their scoring, the school provides some special measures to the students to improve their ability or capability.

Conclusion:-

After representation of the different cases of secondary schools, we may conclude from above mentioned findings and discussion that there are number of factors, which affects school's performance. Within last decade, most of the research studies have notice that schools have to focus on their development under whole education system. In addition, we can conclude that these features also would be helpful to the policymakers for the sustainable improvement of the result of the schools. So according to the needs and demands of the society, we have to provide new healthy practices by which we cater the diversity of the students. There is lot of need to monitor and employed improvement efforts. We should also commit that to make own learning, constructivist knowledge and skilled members and it would be great key for the success.

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