

REASONS FOR PARENTAL PARTICIPATION IN CHILDREN GROWTH.

Formal education is one major way that children learn and develop, in this digital age. The learning trajectory begins well before children enter school, and once children are attending school, they continue to learn at home and in the community.

Education process has many Stakeholders involved; Learners themselves, Parents/guardians, Siblings, Relatives, School administration, Head teachers, Boards of management, Teachers, Heads of departments, Religious leaders, Environment and Society.

Among all these, the key ones are the learner, the teacher and the parent/ Guardian, and they should work as a team to ensure good results and resounding development of the learner. If the key stakeholders neglect their roles or they are not aware of their roles, then academic performance is seriously affected, which in turn affects the entire life of the individual learner.

What we all need to learn and understand is that, Education is more than schooling, but schooling is part of education, therefore what happens in our schools is not enough to bring up an all-round Person, other trainings as explained later in this book are important.

By definition; Education in its general sense is a form of learning in which the knowledge, skills, values, Virtues, beliefs and habits of a group of people are transferred from one generation to the next through storytelling, discussion, teaching, training, and or research.

It means that Education entails overall growth of an Individual and all the aspects listed below need to develop positively as a person grows through life.

- Intellectually,
- Emotionally,
- Spiritually,
- Physically,
- Ethically,
- Socially,
- Morally,
- Creativity and Innovation

Any experience either positive or negative that has a formative effect on the way one thinks, feels, or acts may be considered educational.

A school offers Schooling process, which ensures intellectual growth, although it also touches on the other aspects, but the critical mandate of the school is to offer the Curriculum set by the government in order to ensure intellectual growth.

Remember, Education needs Schooling, and that schooling defines one's future career and employment/Entrepreneurship aspects. Education sums it all.

Without proper Education, Even with proper schooling, There is always a disconnect either in Career, employment acquisition. Family values or in entrepreneurship, Most learned people are out there miserable, Due to lack of Creativity and Innovation, among many other virtues. Most retired people in old people's Homes went through Schooling process but they missed on life education- There is disconnect somewhere!!! We should check out on that fact as we work on developing the lives of our children.

As we focus more on the schooling process, as parents we also need to learn that we have a major role to play so as to ensure proper education in all the other aspects for our children to grow optimally.

Most learners have gone through School up to university, but they are in a closed box, and cannot think beyond it, who will teach our children virtues of Creativity and hard work if not us, parents.

The school years define the formative Developmental stage of the children and this period is very important. This can be explained by an African Proverb Says “A twig is shaped when it is young” When it is old, nothing can be done to it.
For a Child to grow well in all the aspects, the parent is a key player.

Research shows that parents’ involvement in the Education of their children has a greater impact in their schooling and development goals.

We cannot afford to leave the parenting role to the teachers, as parents, we need to wake up and play our roles very well. All parents are partners in their children's education, and all parents have a place in their children's schooling, regardless of their own education or economic status.

It is important for parents to be fully involved in the schooling process of their Children at any level of Education, The parents should be in the lookout for any bad or good development in their children, They should work harmoniously with teachers, school administrators and all the other stakeholders, to ensure the children are brought up in responsible way and keep improving in their performance.

In summary;

- Parents should motivate, inspire their children and Set high education and academic goals for them. Tell them that success is possible, that they will benefit later in life from doing well in school, and that their families and their teachers expect them to do well. Help them to develop a sense of pride in their identity, both personal and cultural.
- Parents should take their children to places where they can learn positively and not places they learn negative values. Find out about story times at the library and bookstores, and about children's events at museums and community centers.
- Although a parent's role in their children's learning evolves as kids grow, one thing remains constant: we are our children's role and learning models. Our attitudes about education can inspire theirs and show them how to take charge of their own educational journey.
- Parents play a critical role in providing learning opportunities at home and in linking what children learn at school with what happens elsewhere. By participating in and facilitating diverse learning experiences and activities outside the school, parents become an important factor in children's overall learning and education.

Considered broadly, parental engagement consists of partnerships between families, schools and communities, concerned parents should be aware of the benefits of engaging in their children's education.

International research has shown that parental engagement (of various kinds) has a positive impact on many indicators of student's achievement, including:

- Higher grades.
- Enrolment in higher level programs like colleges and universities.
- Higher successful completion of classes,
- Lower drop-out rates,
- Learner's motivation in their studies.

Beyond educational achievement, parental engagement is associated with various indicators of child's development. These include:

- More regular school attendance,
- Better social skills,
- Improved behaviour,
- Better adaptation to school,
- Increased social capital,
- A greater sense of personal competence and efficacy for learning,
- Greater engagement in school work,
- A stronger belief in the importance of education.
- Creativity and innovation.
- Entrepreneurship development.
- Talent development.
- Career development.
- Leadership skills acquisition and development.

In summary, A Parent can be defined as,

P-PARENT.

A-APPRECIATIVE.

R-RELIABLE.

E-ENCOURAGING.

N-NOBLE.

T-TOLERANT.

Parents need to take their parenting role seriously; they need to learn to appreciate their children and all other stakeholders involved in the schooling of their children, they have to be reliable and encouraging irrespective of their situations. They need to be noble and tolerant too. Focusing on changing the behaviour of their children for better.

"You are the reason why he exists on this earth. You don't have the right to abandon him just because he's inconvenient or has trouble in school."

Michael Crichton.



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