



Determining factors that influence parental decision in the choice of board for their offspring

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Abstract

The current pilot research paper determines the factors that influence parental decision while admitting their children into respective schools for which in total six factors were considered. These factors majorly include distance, quality of school, curriculum, child's skill set and expenses. Data was collected from a total of 96 participants (48 parents, 48 students) using a self-developed inventory. The data analysis was done using Pearson Correlation. The values obtained showed the positive correlation with a value of Pearson correlation coefficient (r) as 0.99. It was found that location was one of the most important parameters when it came to choose of an appropriate board by maximum number of parents

Introduction

According to article 26(1), education is the fundamental right of every child, everybody has the right to knowledge. Erasmus says, "The main hope of a nation lies in the proper education of youth." Elizabeth Warren quotes, "A good education is the foundation of a better future." Education amplifies the difference between what is good or bad. It broadens our persona, as we get a better paying job that can help us make more money and lead a financially stable life. Education aids us in gaining a sense of self and thus allows us to shape the society in which we live. Education is the key to success. It also helps us prepare to face challenges more efficiently. Societies with a high rate of education completion have a lower crime rate, better overall health, and increased civic involvement of citizens. Lack of access to education is considered the root cause of poverty. Receiving education is a must but receiving quality education is a privilege. It is crucial in the development of Self-dependency in an individual. Quality education aims at developing a balanced set of capabilities of children which they require to become economically productive, develop sustainable livelihoods, contribute to peaceful and democratic societies, and enhance the individual well-being.

Children who have attained the age of one or one and a half years are sent to kindergarten. When children are put into schools with a suitable environment, they flourish. This is because the type of environment provided by the school moulds a child's behaviour, inculcates fruitful values, and habits and indulges them in social activities. It is the parents' responsibility to choose the appropriate school for their child as their decision is responsible for his/her/their future and might make a huge impact.

The education in today's time is facilitated by means of various boards which have different curriculums to offer. Each of these boards has its own perks which suit the individuals belonging from varying societal backgrounds.

The parents get to decide which board to pick based on various attributes including socio-economic background, their job profiles, child's needs, and their future preferences. Few recognized boards are elaborated below:

CBSE stands for Central board of secondary education which is commonly referred to as the 'Delhi Board,' available in schools all over India. CBSE curriculum primarily focuses on developing the child's critical thinking skills apart from offering major subjects like mathematics and science. This board emphasizes more on practical knowledge than theoretical one. The weekly schedule includes a few hours allotted for physical activity. CBSE is a nationally recognized board. The knowledge is conceptualized in a way that at the time of exam students do not need to mug up the contents. The class 10 examination is known as All India Secondary School Examination (AISSE) whereas class 12 examination is known as All India Senior School Certificate Examination (AISSCE). Most of the CBSE schools have senior school levels too that are till class 12. Most entrance exams viz. NEET, JEE, CET etc. are based on CBSE's syllabus.

ICSE stands for Indian Council of Secondary Education. These school's certificates have acceptance all over the world. The syllabus is more practical, like CBSE, and the concepts are more rigid. They have a comparatively vast syllabus and students are supposed to study every subject, and emphasize on practical knowledge. The difficulty level of this syllabus is hard. CISCE (Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination). It conducts ICSE Examination for Class X and Indian School Certificate (ISC) Exam for Class XII. This board introduces students to foreign languages and it is a part of their curriculum. It is comparatively seen that ICSE certificates have upper hand in foreign schools and universities

IB is an International Baccalaureate. IB offers high quality programs of education to a worldwide community of schools. There are four IB education programs, all of which are intended to develop students' intellectual, emotional, personal, and social skills. Curriculum is more vast than other boards. Students are supposed to work on individual projects every year. IB curriculum makes students think critically and challenge assumptions.

The state board of education has different syllabi. There are more than 50 state boards in India. State boards focus more on rote learning & focus on regional language, topics & culture. In each state board, the conduction of exams is taken on different days, even in different months. The grading system differs from school to school. The class 10 examination is known as SSC (Secondary School Certificate) and class 12 examination is known as HSC (Higher Secondary school Certificate) Students who are studying for state boards do extra research in order to be able to crack most entrance exams. Certain scholarships and prizes are awarded for students scoring above 85%. The fee structure of this board is not much heavy to pocket as compared to other boards.

Most boards do not have a choice of language as English is the primary and first language that is made compulsory but in case of state board, students may choose either the regional language as their first language and English as secondary. The fee structure of the state board is more affordable than CBSE and ICSE. CBSE syllabus is more student friendly than other boards. IB and ICSE certificates are accepted all over the world, while state board certificates are valid in India.

Based on the board type, parents select a suitable board for their children. This decision is impacted by certain reasons. It is advised that this decision should never be made in a hurry, and a proper study of board system is advisable,

The first factor that is to be considered while selecting school is the distance between residence and school. If a parent finds a good school for their child but it is far from their residence then they will not end up choosing because of the commute time. Location does matter when it comes to school because the child cannot spend 4 hours daily to attend his or her school. Another factor is school expenses or fee structures, not everyone can sustain a large fee structure for a CBSE or ICSE board. Sometimes parents want their child to become a doctor or to qualify for IIT exams, which in turn becomes beneficial as the student grows up. One reason is that one of the parents is employed in the Police or Army and receives state to state transfers. In such cases, Parents prefer an acceptable board that is widely available in India.

Sometimes parents move to another country for a job, in such circumstances the choice of IB schools is ideal for parents. Many times, a child from the countryside moves to the city, for better educational opportunities, in such cases to maintain consistency of board such decisions are made.

Not every child is the same, each of them has different interests and skills, considering their aspiring interest, an appropriate board is chosen. Sometimes parents are unable to fulfil their own childhood dreams, in this case, they unconsciously push their dreams onto their children. So, they particularly select a specific board which shall lead children to achieve it. It is assumed that if you learn something in your mother tongue, you tend to understand it

quickly and remember it for a longer time. This is another reason why parents choose the state board which offers a choice of language. If parents need their child to gain practical knowledge and attain an ability for critical thinking, they choose CBSE.

There is always a chance to change the board if a child is facing problems in his regular school. There is a facility where you can change your board just as you can change your school. Making children comfortable for learning is an important goal.

Overall, such factors are considered while introducing a child to the education system. To discover these factors this research is being conducted. There are times when a student from the state board feels inferior when he is open to the new world. He sometimes faces hard times socializing. Children have no such decision-making capacity as their parents, so all the decisions about them are taken by their parents. The aim of this research is to find out how the decision made by parents regarding educational boards affects the present and future of their children. The research aims to take responses from both parents and students, to understand their views.

Review of literature

Ellen B. Goldring and Kristie JR Phillips (2008) found that parent involvement is an important indicator of whether parents consider sending their children to a private school. It was noticed that they considered differences in background, including race, socioeconomic status as well as educational attainment.

Lynn Bosetti (2004) argued that parents invest in a mixture of rationalities while selecting a school for their child. He explored concerns like logic, values, concerns that affect the parental decision making in the selection of an elementary school for their children.

Noor Alyani Yaacob, Mariana Mohamed Osman, Syahirah Bachok (2014) dealt with four factors from eight factors that were identified. The four factors included, syllabus, school, environment, and facilities that were provided. This research was conducted using a self-administered, close ended questionnaire.

Uchitelle, Susan; Nault and Richard L. (1977) studied the school choice behaviour of Colledgeville parents who lived within three optional attendance zones and who were sending their children to the Colledgeville schools for the first time. This study was done by survey method in which interviews intended to determine choice of board using any criteria, the procedure of selecting school and what criteria parents considered to make their final decision.

Methods

The hypothesis of this study was, “Determining factors that influence parental decision in the choice of board of their offspring.”

Sample

Research was conducted based on the factors that involved distance, quality of school, curriculum, child’s skill set and expenses. Comparative study was conducted between parents and students. Total 96 individuals attended this study out of which 48 were parents and 48 were students.

This research was conducted online with the help of Google forms. Individuals were asked to fill out google form. This test comprises statements related to factors like distance, quality of school, curriculum, child’s skill set and expenses.

Instrument

The tool that was used for conduction of this study contains a total of 38 questions with three options each, these options included ‘Yes’, ‘Maybe’ and ‘No’. A score of 3 was assigned to ‘Yes’, 2 for ‘Maybe’ and 1 for ‘No’.

Ethical considerations

Participants were approached personally for the fulfilment of self-developed inventory. They were ensured that their responses were going to be kept confidential and were only used for research purposes.

Statistical Analysis

Pearson Correlation was used for statistical analysis to test the hypothesis.

Discussion

The pilot research aimed to find the factors that influence the parental decision in the choice of board. The factors that were considered while conducting the study are location, quality of school, curriculum, child's skill set and expenses. Responses from participants belonging to different board systems were considered.

The response for factor location suggested that participants prefer a school which is nearby and provides transport facilities but they do not prefer a school which is located near any industrial area. Quality of school is a very important aspect that is to be considered while choosing school. Parents are more concerned about the ranking and quality of school than its location. The responses suggest that the preconceived ideas of the board were considered before choosing an appropriate board for the child. Along with this, parents were more concerned about the curriculum offered by the board system.

While choosing a board parents were least concerned about their child's skill set. The yearly cost required for fees was one of the least considerations. The miscellaneous factor included religious beliefs and past experiences of a school. Participants are more inclined towards school where one of their relatives, friends or themselves have studied. They are most likely to prefer a school which fulfills their needs, regular reports from school, tests and assignments in regular intervals.

The Pearson Correlation was calculated to be 0.99 between parents and students which showed highly positive correlation between the two groups. It suggests that these two groups are strongly related to one another and the changes made in one can be reflected in the other.

Hence, we can infer that participants are most concerned about the quality of education that is provided by school. The least thing that parents consider while choosing a board is a child's talents or the skills that child possesses. Another factor that makes a huge impact on choice of board is curriculum provided by schools. The extra-curricular activities that are conducted and the life skills that are offered are also child centred curricula.

Conclusion

The current pilot research paper found that certain factors such as location, quality of school, curriculum, child's skill, and expenses were some of the major parental factors in determining the choice of board. The quality of education is the most important factor when it comes to the choice of board by parents. Parents need their children to have a quality education and for which parents are ready to pay the required amount. Parents are more concerned about the educational quality rather than the location of school. Many parents prefer a school where they have already studied or someone they know belongs to the same school. Child's skill set is not considered in a lot of cases. A lot of times preconceived ideas of board systems influence parental decision in choice of board for their children.

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