

The Factors Affecting The Students' Performance: A Case Study of University of Malakand, Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this study is to assess the effect of different factors on the performance of students of University of Malakand. Primary data has been used in this study. Through random sampling students have been selected to collect information regarding the factors responsible for the academic performance of students. By Applying regression analysis it was found that factors like examination system, family size, audio visual aid, in class room and living status of students have significant effect on the academic performance of the students. Therefore, to improve the academic performance of students, the University administration, as well as, teachers, should be provided with the audio video facility in class rooms during lecture; it is also highly recommended that the examination system should be improved and students should be guided to take help from educated persons of their family members. Steps should be taken to improve hostel environment for studies. Political activities should be discouraged in hostels.

Key Words: Students' Performance, Hostel Environment, Political Activities and Audio Visual Aids in Classrooms.

INTRODUCTION

Educational institutes play important role in the development of a nations in every field. Higher education is one of the most important tools for research productivity. In Pakistan, the numbers of both private and public sector universities are playing their role in promotion of higher education. They are working under the umbrella of Higher Education Commission. Sixty numbers of both private and Public Sector Universities are situated in Pakistan. University of Malakand is one of the well-known Universities of Pakistan. It is situated in District Dir (lower) near river Swat. It is getting improved both in research and academic areas. A large number of students are enrolled in different disciplines. They are considered important assets of the university. They are the main power of the nation. Their skills can build the nation. To make them good citizen, their guidance is necessary. Both teachers and parents are responsible for their character building and improving their academic performance. For social and economic development of the country, students should be equipped with good knowledge and skills. Students have also the responsibility to improve their academic carrier and not to waste their time in unnecessary activities. Employers prefer academically strong employees for smooth running of their companies and industries (Danyial et al, 2011).

There are many factors affecting academic performance of the students. According to Marta (2009) factors affecting academic performance of the students are students' admission points, parents' socio-economic status, former school background and academic performance of undergraduate students. Danyial (2011) also pointed out those factors which affect the academic performance of students. They are; parent's education family

students in co-curricular activities. He used Pearson Correlation Co-efficient for testing the relationship of the factors and academic performance of students.

University students are destiny of the nation. Therefore, time should be given to know their achievements. Kirmani (2008) wraps up some results about achievements of the students of higher education. She found that female students recognize academic factor for their achievement more than male students. Furthermore, the role of parents and teacher is very important in improving their academics.

Hijazi (2006) identifies factors which showed students' inelastic behavior toward study along with factors responsible for progress in the studies of students. He investigates factors affecting academic performance of students. Those factors affecting academic performance of students are student's attendance, time allocation for studies, family income, mother's education and mother's age. Other factors like size of the family, gender of students, resident of students and income level of their parents are also responsible for the performance of the students (jabber et al , 2011).

Keeping in view the literature on the students' performance, this study is organized to assess the factors affecting academic performance of the students of University of Malakand. The factor including in this research study are; family income, father's education, family size, parent's motivation, involvement in co-curricular activities, regularity of teachers, interest in subject, watching of television, examination system efficiency, audio video aids in class room, scholarship availed and transportation availability.

METHODS & MATERIALS

A structured questionnaire was designed to collect the relevant information from the students. Simple Random Sampling technique was used to identify students for taking information. For this purpose the students record was collected from the Director, Admissions. This record was considered as sampling frame for the study. One hundred and fifty two questionnaires were collected from the students.

The multiple linear regression model was used for assessing the effect of family size, examination, audio visual aids in class room and hostel/ day scholar on the academic performance of the students. The regression model used in the study is under.

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + u$$

Where Y = academic performance of the students.
 X1 = family size of the students
 X2 = examination system
 X3 = use of audio visual aid in class room
 X4 = living status of students (hostel/ day scholar)
 u = disturbance term

RESULT & DISCUSSION

Total number of 152 respondents was selected for taking information, from different departments. Table 1. Shows the family size of students in the University of Malakand.

Table 1. Frequency distribution of the family size of students.

Family size	No of students	Percentage
4—8	67	46
9—13	64	42
14—18	14	9
19—26	7	5

The table reveal that 88 percent of the students were living in house hold where the family seize was upto 13 members. Considering the examination system of University of Malakand, 127 (82%) preferred the current examination system and the remaining 25 (18%) were not satisfied from the examination system. Audio visual aid in class room is a tool preferred by each and every student. Unfortunately 46 (39%) students had this facility in the class room while 106 (70%) students had no such facility. In the sample size the total number of students living in hostels were 89 (60%) and 63(40%) students were day scholars.

Result of Regression Model:

$$Y = 429.205 + 6.137 X_1 + 46.564 X_2 + 37.529 X_3 - 111.103 X_4$$

(13.44) (3.001) (2.131) (2.081) (-6.467)

.000 .003 .035 .039 .000

R-square= .321

The result of the model indicate that family size (X1) of the students has significant effect on their academic performance. The co efficient of this predictor variable is positive which reveals that the relationship between family size and academic performance of students has positive relationship. Therefore, students having high number of persons in home have good academic performance. It might be due to the reason that the persons of their family might be educated and get proper guidance from them.

Examination system is a major tool for improving academic performance of students. Students are always hard workers if their examination system is good. On the other hand, bad examination system has negative impact on the grade of students. In the regression model coefficient of predictor value is showing positive relationship with academic performance. That is, good examination system has positive impact on improving obtained marks of students and vice versa. The coefficient of the variable is high enough indicating strong relationship with dependent variable students' performance. This variable is significant at 5% level of significance.

Audio visual aids are very short in our universities. The reasons may be high cost of multimedia and hard work for teacher to prepare multimedia slides. The coefficient of audio visual aid is significant in the model. The variable has positive relation with the dependent variable, academic performance of students.

This analysis shows that students living in hostel have low marks as compared to the performance of day scholars. There is negative relationship between the dependent variable and the independent variable. The coefficient is very high, indicating high relationship of the variables. This variable is highly significant at 0% level of significant.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

In this study, factors that were responsible for academic performance of the students of University of Malakand were studied. Four variables are significantly influencing the performance which are family size, examination system, audio visual aid in class and residential status of the students i.e either they are living in hostel or at home during their studies. The performance of students was evaluated by obtained marks in the last examination. In these variables, three are positive, related to the students performance, that are family size, audio visual aids in class room and examination system where the hostel living of students has negative effect on students performance.

It is strongly recommended that variables responsible for low performance of students should be noticed, and remedy should be adapted for the removal of these flaws. This recommendation is important from both administrative and academic point of view.

Students should be guided to get help from the educated persons of their family, as almost in every family educated persons are available. Teachers play their role to motivate students in this regard. Seminars and workshops are necessary to highlight the method of taking help from educated persons.

Audio visual aids should be provided to students. This is the responsibility of administration and teachers. Administration should provide the aids for teachers and the teacher should use them in proper way.

Examination system should be improved by taking necessary steps. Superintendent and invigilators should be dutiful and sincere in all respects.

The most important for improving students' performance is to improve the situation of the hostels. Study environment should be created by hostel authorities. Study room should be arranged for boarding students and if it exist' it should be modified. Time for the studies should be allocated, as it is the requirement for the students living in hostels.

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