

Guidance as Achievement Factor for Secondary School Students-A Study in Karachi Pakistan

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Abstract

Guidance is a process which provides help to a person at every walk of his life. It is not a new concept it is as old as man himself. From the birth of a child this process starts, and ends up to his death. It is a sort of assistance which creates the power of self finding and direction to lead a satisfied life. Guidance is not the solution itself but a help to overcome and solve an individual's problem. Although guidance is necessary at every stage and in nay sphere of human life but its need crucially increases at secondary school level due to the sensitiveness of student's age of this level, which is really precious from educational point of view from the aspect of growth as well. The research includes a detail work on the need of guidance at secondary school level for the better progress, personality development, adjustment and goal achievement of students. The study is descriptive research in nature consisting on data of 300 teachers and students of government schools in Karachi. Findings have supported the need of guidance in schools for better development of students. Researcher has highlighted many issues in her research under the importance of guidance but here the area of achievement is covered by researcher for paper.

Key words: Need, Secondary school, achievement factor, Guidance

Introduction

Guidance is that sort of assistance, which creates the power of self- direction in an individual in order to achieve some goals in life. It helps every individual to help himself/herself to recognize and utilize his/her inner potentialities and capabilities. Guidance is a type of organized and comprehensive program of assistance, which gives the awareness and self-finding quality to a person. S. K. Kochhar (2006) quoted the words of Mathewson; "Guidance is the systematic professional process of helping the individual through education and interpretative procedures

to gain a better understanding of his own characteristics and potentialities and to relate himself more satisfactorily to social requirements and opportunities in accord with social and moral values.”

It shows that guidance is not merely a process of helping anyone but it is a systematic application of different steps involving needy fellow himself (guidee) by giving him/her the proper information of his hidden talent. Furthermore Arther J.Jones (1970) stated that;“Guidance is the help given by one person to another in making choices and adjustments and in solving problems, guidance aims at aiding the recipient to grow in his independence and ability to be responsible for himself.”

Review of Related Literature

The problem to be considered is related to the need of guidance program for secondary school students. In our country this level ranges from 6th to 10th standard. The pupil enters at the secondary school stage when he/she becomes 10+ years of age. Now at this stage he/she faces the several physical and emotional changes in him/her with in a short time period of only 4 years. Mostly at this level a young boy or girl puts his/her first step to the crucial stage of adolescence. His/her body starts to get shape and strength, motor nerve undergoes to stability, emotionally, socially and mentally he/she is also still in developing period. But all simultaneous changes make him frustrated and depressed. Their puberty spurt stage pushes them toward the emotional fragility. Here they behave like an adult and a child simultaneously and their eminent changes suffer them in different complexities. Therefore the guidance of this stage is very important. Along this a young one used to face a number of problems and because of proper guidance they can endure these and save themselves from the personality destruction. These problems may be personal, psychological educational, social, emotional, religious, sexual, vocational, and leisure time problems. Under these heads many minor problems arise, which need proper attention and way to solve. If all these problems would not be given importance they will obliterate the young one’s personality.

Achievement of student is seen during class activities, examination, in co curricular activities and in social behavior.

Class Activities and achievement

Class room is the place of educational activities, where students are getting their objectives and goals of life. Condition of better learning is associated with the quality of adjustment.

Bhatia (2005) says about the adjustment quality that; “The process by which a person changes his behavior to achieve a harmonious relation between himself and his environment and the state of such harmonious relationships”.

Here student most of the time face problems due lack of knowledge, weak adjusted capability, un socialize behavior, lack of co-operation with companions, feelings of superiority, lack of understanding with rules and regulations of institute and class, or may be because of dissimilarity in interest, mental approach and nature of class mates. As result achievement of

student do not found outstanding. Guidance provides support to student in resolving such problems, as guide or counselor can guide student for any or all discussed problems.

Learning Difficulties and Achievement

Learning is the main issue of achievement which shows the positive or negative response of pupil towards studies. Class room activities are particularly concerned with learning procedures. Students sometimes have difficulties in their learning process. Weak learning results in weak achievements and progress.

As Henry E. Garrett (1964) identified the learning as follows;

“Learning is most frequently thought of as that process which as a result of training and experiences, leads to new or changed responses.”

If student is getting complete knowledge from teacher than definitely he would be able to show a modified character. But if reciprocal condition is faced by student, than surely output of the student will not appreciating and he/she will get problem in adjustment.

These difficulties are related to their subject and understanding, due to weak mentality and unclear visions. They cannot be able to understand the class room teaching process or have problem in adopting the practical implement of this learnt process. It is commonly observed in students that there are some students who show average or below average mental efficiencies in this case student does not absorb the actual matter of teaching process and show slow learning process, failure in 100% successful achievement or unable to show rapid change in their educational behavior. such students who have null concentration ratio in class although they have average IQ level and normal physical body symptoms but show failure in reading, writing, hearing or in solving mathematical problems. This is all due to mental disturbance or tension, improper teaching method, lack of motivation, lower degree of memorization and perceptions, lack of potentialities, unusual scaring of relevant subject or teacher. Deficient educational facilities also propel students to weak learning process. Students may suffer in learning problems also due to the environmental and cultural differences, mental and psychological pressures and discomforts.

Guidance provides help to resolve these difficulties by providing suitable advices to the students according to the circumstances.

Participation in Activities

Guidance procedures are also necessary for proper participation of students in curricular and co-curricular activities according to their own talent and hidden capabilities. Curricular activities are related to subjects and teaching methodologies, if students are not aware of their own capacities and abilities than definitely it is difficult for them to participate in these sorts of activities.

In the words of Chibber (1999) “They will be found wanting in achieving the explicitly spelt out instructional objectives, a failures in examination or tests, poor standards or assignments, unsatisfactory involvement in the academic work by students are some of the noticed problems. These result in improper utilization of the institutional facilities and resources,

unsatisfactory benefits of the efforts of instruction and frustrations to students. Efforts may be made to ensure that problems of the above types solved to the maximum extent.”

Students face unclear situation about the curricular activities, that how they have to participate in them? And what would be their extent of participation? What will prove their abilities along with satisfaction? And how they can score more? For example these activities may relate to assignment completion, project participation, and involvement in queries during class or high scoring in teacher made tests etc. student need proper assistance for all these above mentioned areas, which will certainly conclude the importance of guidance program.

Improvement in results:

Examination is the tool for evaluating or assisting students. Examination results can show the achievement ratio of students that either it is positive or negative. If the learning difficulties are resolved by adequate guidance program than definitely it will increase their achievement graph. This betterment can observe in class test results, monthly results or final term results etc. If proper guidance is provided by the school for resolving the ill results in over all subjects or specific subject than ultimately improvement will be seen in student’s achievement.

Social Behavior:

Students of secondary school stage also found concerned with their social development. They take strong effects of their sociability power. The reflection of this habit can be studied under their circle. They used to show different attitude towards the theory of friendships, previously built by their own self. They want to make new and close relationships. Mostly students of secondary standard meet the age of adolescence that is why they show behavior having complications. Henry Glietman, Alan J Fridlund (2004) discussed adolescence as; “The term adolescence is derived from the Latin for ‘growing up’. It is a period of transition in which children become adults. There are biological changes; a growth spurt, a change in bodily proportion and the attainment of sexual maturity.”

These changes in their body structure sometimes make them shying or in confident. They feel something strange in themselves due to which it could be possible that it will effect negatively on their social development, mostly in cases of improper growth according to age requirement. Although, they show their increasing will and power of socialization with growing age, especially in opposite sex.

This new orientated world needs proper guidance of teachers and elders for understanding and utilization of energies in positive direction. If there is no guidance for such children than due to these problems they may become the prey of maladjustment or delinquency.

Strategy:

The methodology which has been adopted by the researcher is Descriptive research. Descriptive research is helpful to get in depth knowledge related to problem in the light of current circumstances.

According to L.R. Gay (1997)

“Descriptive research involves collection data in order to test hypothesis or answer questions concerning the current status of subject of the study.”

Researcher has used the limited population of secondary school teachers of Karachi, Pakistan. From this population sample was collected from the 9 towns of Karachi city. The tools, selected for collecting data were questionnaire, observation and interview. 300 questionnaires were filled by the government secondary school teachers and students each. The data was converted in to statistical expression and judged through the simple percentile method and mean.

Table 1:

Student can show better performance in class through guidance

Items	Mean (Teacher)	Mean (Student)	% (Teacher)	% (Student)
Attentive & Regular	24.8	24.3	96	95
Answer the question	24.5	24.1	96	96
Activity participation	23.5	24	93	97

In the above table it is clearly shown that the mean by teachers and students for required items are (24.8, 24.5 & 23.5), (24.3, 24.2, & 24) respectively while the percentage is 96%, 96% and 93%. Similarly student data is also showing 95%, 96% and 97% positive results.

Table 2:

Student can get awareness of subject through guidance.

Items	Mean (Teacher)	Mean (Student)	% (Teacher)	% (Student)
Increase interest in subject	25	24.5	95	96
Future scope of subject	24.1	24.5	96	97

Better knowledge related to subject	24.2	25.1	98	98
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In the above table it is clearly shown that the mean by teachers and students for required items are (25, 24.1 & 24.2), (24.5, 24.5, & 25.1) respectively while the percentage is 95%, 96% and 98%. Similarly student data is also showing 96%, 97% and 98% positive results.

Table 3:

Student can solve their learning problems by means of guidance.

Items	Mean (Teacher)	Mean (Student)	% (Teacher)	% (Student)
Understanding of subject/lesson	24.5	24	95	96
Cope up with slow learning	25	24.9	94	96
Improvement in reading writing & listening	25.2	24.5	97	96

In the above table it is mentioned that majority of teachers and students are agree with the statement, 95% teachers and students are favoring that guidance can increase the understanding of students related to subject or lesson while 24.5 and 24 mean score is also proving the same. 94% teachers and 96% students have record their views that slow learning problem can be covered by proper guidance while 25 mean by teachers and 24.9 mean by student is supporting the statement. Improvement will be seen in reading, writing and listening attitude of student due to guidance according to 97% teachers and 96% students having mean of 25 and 24.5

Table 4:

Student can show improvement in their exam results due to effective guidance.

Items	Mean (Teacher)	Mean (Student)	% (Teacher)	% (Student)
Better class test results	25	25	97	96

Improved final exam results	24.8	25	95	97
Better achievement of knowledge	23.2	24.2	93	96

Table 4 is showing that student can show better class results 97% teachers and 96% students are favoring the option with mean of 25 and 24.9 respectively, second option is improved final exam results and it is favored by 95% teachers and 97% students while mean of this option are 24.8 and 25. Better achievement of knowledge is possible through guidance 93% teachers and 96% students are saying this and proving it by 23.2 and 24.2 mean results respectively.

Table 5:

Student can get confidence through guidance.

Items	Mean (Teacher)	Mean (Student)	% (Teacher)	% (Student)
Frequent response in class room answering	25.3	24.8	98	93
Sharing of knowledge with mates	24.7	24	94	96
Confidence to participate in co curricular activities	24	23.3	97	95
Confidence of making social relations	25	24	98	96

The above table is showing that students can get confidence by proper guidance process which is proved by obtained data of options related to confidence in class room answering, sharing knowledge, and participation in co curricular activities and making friends. Data is between 98% to 96% from teachers and students and mean is around 24 to 25 of each option.

Interpretations

Obtained data is showing the following results;

- Majority of students and teachers are in the favor of success full guidance program for the students of secondary school level for many reasons, as the age of young's deserve the better direction. Guidance program can help them to sort out their learning problems as it will increase the self understanding, difficulty areas of subject, weak communication and memory or developing interest in subject. When students will get positive thinking and direction about their learning problems by guide or counselor they will definitely able to accelerate their learning process.
- Guidance can also improve the performance of the students in class rooms. Most of the students and teachers are appreciating the concept of guidance for the improved class behavior. It is proved by the research that students can be more attentive and regular in classes and would actively participate in class room activities, which will positively affect their achievement in studies.
- Obtained data is indicating the importance of guidance program for the subject awareness in students. It is fact that some students are phobic of selective subject and teacher or having scary attitude for few subjects and as the result do not show good results in it. Guidance program is useful for increasing the interest of students in specific subject as well as handful related to scope and future outcomes can be given to the students by means of guidance.
- Result of better learning will definitely improve the examination results of students and betterment would be seen in class room, monthly or final term exams. It is the collective statement of selected sample that points or grades will show improvement in student's achievement.
- Data is showing that majority of students and teachers are in the favor of introducing guidance program in schools as due to it students would get confidence by increasing their knowledge related to subject and general life, self reporting of inner talent and hidden intentions. They can work more confidently, share their knowledge with others, and participate in different activities, which will ultimately strengthen their socialization power.

Discussion

Guidance is the assistance of experienced and mature person to the inexperienced and comparatively younger person. It is not dictation but just enlightens the ways to choose the right path. In educational institutes it is necessary to have the proper guidance program for the improvement of students, as their achievement is the achievement of school. Glimpse of student's achievement can be studied under several heads like; by the attainment of

knowledge, increasing participation in curricular and co curricular activities or by the high results.

In our country there is no proper guidance for students in secondary schools of government sector. Generally students face problems during class related to understanding and learning of subject, so their participation in curricular and co curricular activities also not actively found. These problems are considered as hurdles in the way of student's achievement. Ratio of student's achievement at the end of session does not consider hopeful. Knowledge related to several subjects like, English, maths, social studies etc remains nil and students even though do not have enough courage in them to share knowledge or answer the questions related to subjects, just only one way they have to cope up with this solution is rout learning for written test. Students having good memory get marks on this basis while slow learners and weak memory having students fail to prove themselves. Thus majority does not show good results. In these situations students need guidance for the best achievement. The research study proves that majority of students and teachers are in the favor of guidance program for increasing the achievement ratio of students. Around 96% teachers and students are thinking that better performance of students in class room is possible if proper guidance is provided. Guide or counselor will indicate the weak areas of student and elaborate the ways to accelerate the learning attitude, by resolving complexities related to subjects. Through the guidance they can be able to sort out their disliking for specific subjects by highlighting the future aspects, almost 97% teachers and students are favoring it in the light of obtained data. Nearly 97% teachers and students are also supporting the statement that after proper guidance of teachers, students can show betterment in their examination results, either in half yearly, class room test or final exam. Improvement in scores would see by resolving the problems of their failures in exam. This achievement in score and knowledge will definitely increase the confidence ratio of students and they start to rely over their abilities which positively change their personality. Practically students will learn to socialize and prove themselves. Almost 97% teachers and students are also with the statement of confidence building. So there is a great need of implication of an adequate guidance program in the schools of government sector in Pakistan.

Recommendations

For the improvement of educational system and increasing the achievement ratio of students in our country at the end researcher has recommended few suggestions that;

- An adequate guidance program must be launched in all government schools of Pakistan.
- A trained teacher or guide must be there to resolve the student's problems.
- Enough confidence to the students must be given of sharing their personal and educational issues.
- Students must assure about the secrecy of their problem.
- Separate room or cell should be in schools for counseling purpose.

- If availability of separate room is not possible for any cause than a fixed corner free of interruption must be provided in staff rooms.
- If school teacher is assigned as guide than extra allowance must be fixed for him/her while in case of appointment of counselor his/her salary must be declared at teacher's pay scale.

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