

ABDULKARIM USMAN
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PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF STUDENTS IN
SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN NAKALOKE
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ABSTRACT

This study examined the extent to which parental involvement influences academic performance of students in secondary schools in Nakaloke Town Council. The objectives were to: establish the influence of parents' monitoring, investigate the influence of parents' provision of basic needs to their children at school and assess the influence of parents' attendance of meetings on the academic performance of students in secondary schools in Nakaloke Town Council. A cross sectional design was used to gather details of information from respondents. Both qualitative and quantitative approaches were used. Data was collected using questionnaires; interviews and document analysis. A total sum of 513 questionnaires was sent to the respondents while 409 were returned. The qualitative data were transcribed and arranged according to the objective of the study, While the quantitative data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics, cross tabulations, Pierson correlation co-efficient and chi-square analysis with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). The major findings indicated that the influence of parents in monitoring academic performance of students was not adequate, the parents' provision of basic needs to their children at school affected the academic performance of students in secondary schools and the influence of parents' attendance of meeting is not adequate in secondary schools where a few parents are actively involved. The study recommended that school PTA and school administrators should visit parents of children who perform poorly and those parents should be told to always monitor their children's studies at school, parents who are known to be consistently monitoring their children's academic performance should be given recognition by the school administrators to encourage other parents to follow suit, parent's should be encourage by the school administration to provide their children with the necessary basic requirement stipulated by the schools, schools should organize fund raising programmes to give opportunity for philanthropists and other individuals to donate towards provision of lunch and other basic needs, government and non-governmental organizations should also assist in the provision of lunch to students in secondary schools and finally, school administrators in collaboration with the PTA executives should encourage parents to attend PTA meetings regularly.