

SCHOOL SELECTION CRITERIA FOR PARENTS- A SURVEY-BASED APPROACH

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Abstract, *The quality of education is a significant element to develop a nation. A research based on survey method has been conducted to discover the causes of increasing admissions attitude of parents in private schools and to analyze the standards of private educational institutions. The research was designed on survey method by using comprehensive questionnaires for students, parents and teachers of private schools. Data was taken from the teachers, students and parents by questionnaires. Three private schools of district Dera Ghazi Khan were nominated for data collection. The questionnaires were containing 12 items for students, 19 items for parents and 9 items for teachers. The data was tabularized, interpreted and evaluated for results. The collected data was analyzed by percentage formula. The findings of research indicate that curriculum, facilities, teacher's abilities, motivation to the students and examination systems of these private schools is adequate for most of the parents.*

Key Words: Parents approach, Private institutions, Facilities, Satisfactory, Dera Ghazi Khan

I. INTRODUCTION

A solemn encounter of the current age is to promote the morally developed, sensible and responsible citizens (Hafeez et al., 2020). The education is most important and basic accomplishments in all social cultures because sustained survival of a humanity rest on mainly on the transmission of its inheritance to the young generation. The education develops and cultivates a nation and builds up structure for all the improvements in society. The education is a procedure that is related with the transmission of information. The private institutions are the important features of education structures across the globe (Hafeez et al., 2020). Many researchers including (Jackson & Bisset, 2005 and West, 2001) concluded that the status and examination results of private schools are crucial elements guiding parents' school selections. The researchers (Van Pelt et al., 2007) indicated

that the parent's level of schooling and social status are the main causes in choosing the private schools. (Hafeez et al., 2020) stated that the family background status is an important factor for the parents to select the private schools. Dronkers & Peter (2003) identified the dissimilarities between private and public schools. They concluded that the school environment is one of the most important factor for the selection of schools.

Review of Literature

The main causes impelling parents' choice in selecting private schools for their children are discussed below.

Social Contextual

Catsambis, (1998) investigated the parental involvement in educational activities. By applying various involvement indicators, he concluded that the various social factors including socio-economic, education of the

parents, profession, and income status are the main factors for selection of schools. Rehman et al., (2010) conducted a research to find out the reasons of selecting private schools of parents. They found that the main factors for selecting private schools are the social status of parents, family background, income level, the number of family members, education level and academic performance of school.

Family Income

Family Income is the main aspect for selecting the schools for the children education (Rehman et al., 2010). Dronkers & Avram, (2010) argued that wealthy people having high level of education mainly select the private schools for their children education.

School Curriculum

The syllabus taught in the private schools may be different from the public schools. Mostly the parents choose the private institutions that are pre-defined. Van Pelt et al., (2007) concluded that parents who select pre-defined institutions play a vital role for the development of moral values, confident, hardworking and many other characteristics in their children.

Facilities and Environmental condition of school

Smith, (2000) proposed that environment and facilities provided in the school are the key factors for the parents to select the school. The school building also play a vital role for the children to learn with the concentrate and can get their goals. The school building is a place where all the activities of the learning, organization and management are happened. If a school has a building in good condition, then it may be proven a good place for the educational activities. (Rehman et al., 2010) concluded that quality of education greatly

depends on the environment provided in the school. Peterson & Llaudet, (2006) argued that school facilities had large effect on the performance of students.

Performance of school

The environment and performance of the school has a close link. If the school has a good environment, then it effects on the students' performance. Berry, (2002) conducted a research to check the impact of school environment on students' performance for higher level education. He concluded that the schools that have a healthy environment have high academic performances.

Application of computer tools

Most of the private schools used audio visual aids in the class rooms. The use of computer tools have large impact on the students' performance. The objectives to conduct this survey based research are (i) To determine the causes of growing admissions approaches in private schools. (ii) To find the community level of parents of students reading in private schools. (iii) To evaluate the standard of private schools.

II. METHODOLOGY

Three private institutions The City School Dera Ghazi Khan, DPS Dera Ghazi Khan and The Educators Dera Ghazi Khan were selected for this research.

Tools of Research

The quantitative data was collected by using Questionnaires and Interview.

Sample size

The sample nominated for survey study contained students, the teachers and parents

of children studying in selected private schools. Three private schools from Dera Ghazi Khan were nominated randomly. 25 parents, 10 teachers and 25 students from each private school were nominated. Hence the size of sample was 180 people from three private schools. Questionnaires were circulated in all selected schools of Dera Ghazi Khan. 5 days were given to the respondents to fill the questionnaires.

IV. RESULTS ANALYSIS

The results were analyzed with tables on the basis of percentage formula.

Results and Discussion

Abbreviations: SA (Strongly Agree), A (Agree), U (Uncertain), D (Disagree), SD (Strongly Disagree)

Evaluation and Presentation of Parent's Questionnaires

Table 1: why have you chosed this private schools?

Level	For Good Educatio n	For good Statu s	Only Optio n
Frequency	52	15	08
Percentag e	70	20	10

Table 1 shows that 70% parents have believed that they have chosen this private school for good educational performance while 20% parents for good status and only 10% of the parents have the only option.

Table 2: This private school financially affordable?

Level	Easily Afforda ble	Barely Afforda ble	Not Afforda ble
Frequen cy	17	49	09
Percenta ge	22	66	12

Table 2 shows that 66% parents directed that financially this private school is barley affordable while 22% parents can afford it easily and 12% parents cannot afford it.

Table 3: Private schools welcome parents

Level	Yes	To Some Extent	No
Frequency	65	10	00
Percentage	87	13	00

Table 3 shows that 87% parents agreed with the statement while 13% parents have believed to some extent and no parent is against the questionnaire.

Table 4: Parents visit the school?

Level	Once a month	After every Exam	Once a year
Frequency	16	54	05
Percentage	21	72	07

Table 4 shows that 21% parents visit the school after a month while 72% parents after every exams and 7% after a year.

Table 5: The syllabus is state of the art and up to date?

Level	Yes	No	To Some extent
Frequency	48	20	07
Percentage	64	26	10

Table 5 shows that 64% parents believed that the syllabus is state of the art and up to date and favors the statement while 10% parents agree to some extent and 26% parents are not agreed.

Table 6: The syllabus is according to your child's goals and talents?

Level	Yes	No	To some Extent
Frequency	58	14	03
Percentage	77	19	04

Table 6 shows that 77% parents believed that the syllabus of the school is according to the child's goals and talents while 19% parents are not agreed to the statement and 4% parents are uncertain.

Table 7: The syllabus is comprehensive for parents?

Level	Yes	No	To some Extent
Frequency	63	6	06
Percentage	84	8	08

Table 7 shows that 84% parents agreed to the statement that the syllabus of these private schools is comprehensive while 8% parents

are uncertain about the statement and 8% parents are not agreed.

Table 8: The performance of this school is superior than others?

Level	SA	A	U
Frequency	25	30	12
Percentage	33	40	16

Table 8 shows that the performance of school is superior that others according to 73% parents while 16% parents are uncertain and 11% parents are not agreed with the statement.

Table 9: The school has good environment?

Level	SA	A	U	D	SD
Frequency	26	35	07	07	00
Percentage	35	46	10	09	00

Table 9 shows that 81% parents are pleased with the environment of school while 10% parents are uncertain and 9% parents are not pleased with environment of school.

Table 10: Is school clean, green and well planned?

Level	SA	A	U	D	SD
Frequency	35	34	06	00	00
Percentage	47	45	08	00	00

Table 10 shows that 47% parents are strongly approved that the environment of the school is green, clean and well planned while 45% parents are just agreed and 8% parents are

uncertain. The most of the parents are satisfied with the environment of the school.

Table 11: Is environment of the school safe and secure?

Level	SA	A	U	D	SD
Frequency	20	49	06	00	00
Percentage	26	66	08	00	00

Table shows that 92% parents are satisfied with the school safety and 8% parents are uncertain about the statement.

Table 12: The class has ideal size?

Level	SA	A	U	D	SD
Frequency	05	21	11	11	14
Percentage	07	29	14	14	14

Table 12 shows that only 7% parents strongly agree with the statement that the class is ideal and 29% parents are agreed with the statement, 50% parents are not satisfied with the statement while 14% of the parents are uncertain about the statement.

Table 13: The school has trained and qualified teachers?

Level	SA	A	U	D	SD
Frequency	32	38	05	00	00
Percentage	43	51	06	00	00

Table 13 shows that 94% parents are satisfied with the teacher's qualification and training and 6% parents are uncertain about the statement.

Table 14: Are teachers committed to their profession?

Level	SA	A	U	D	SD
Frequency	32	38	05	00	00
Percentage	43	51	06	00	00

Table 14 shows that 94% parents are satisfied with the teacher's commitment to their profession and 6% parents are uncertain about the statement.

Table 15: The teaching style of the teachers is good?

Level	SA	A	U	D	SD
Frequency	45	23	07	00	00
Percentage	60	31	09	00	00

Table 15 shows that 91% parents are agreed with the teaching style of the teachers while 9% parents are uncertain about the statement.

Table 16: Examination system of this school is good?

Level	SA	A	U	D	SD
Frequency	23	41	06	05	00
Percentage	30	56	08	06	00

Table 16 shows that 86% parents are agreed with the examination systems of school while 8% parents are uncertain about the examination system and 6% parents are not satisfied with examination system of the school.

Table 17: The students get good positions and grades in examination?

Level	SA	A	U	D	SD
Frequency	35	33	03	04	00
Percentage	46	44	04	06	00

Table 17 shows that 90% parents agreed with the statement that the students of this school get good positions and grades in the examination and 6% parents are not satisfied with the statement.

Table 18: The private schools develop leadership and confidence qualities in the students?

Level	SA	A	U	D	SD
Frequency	29	41	03	02	00
Percentage	38	55	04	03	00

Table 18 shows that 93% parents are satisfied with the statement that the private schools developed leadership and confidence qualities in the students and only 4% parents are uncertain about the statement and 3% parents are not satisfied with the statement.

Table 19: This school is building up English language skills?

Level	SA	A	U	D	SD
Frequency	09	44	12	10	00
Percentage	12	59	16	13	00

Table 19 shows that 71% parents are satisfied with the statement that the private schools are developing English language skills in the students while 16% parents are uncertain about the statement and 13% parents are not satisfy about the statement.

Evaluation and Presentation of students' Questionnaires

Table 20: Admission test was taken at the time of admission?

Level	Yes	No
Frequency	75	00
Percentage	100	00

Table 20 shows that 100% students agreed with the statement.

Table 21: The classroom has conducive environment?

Level	SA	A	U	D	SD
Frequency	00	58	05	12	00
Percentage	00	78	06	16	00

Table 21 indicates that 78% students agreed that the classroom has conducive environment and 16% student disagreed with the statement.

Table 22: Furniture is complete?

Level	SA	A	U	D	SA
Frequency	14	49	08	04	00
Percentage	18	67	10	05	00

Table 22 shows that 85% private schools have enough furniture.

Table 23: There is library in school?

Level	Yes	No
Frequency	75	00
Percentage	100	00

Table 23 indicates that 100% schools have library facility.

Table 24: Meetings between teachers and parents are held in school?

Level	SA	A	U	D	SD
Frequency	15	45	11	04	0
Percentage	20	60	14	06	0

Table 24 shows that 80% students agreed that meetings are held between teachers and parents in the school while only 6% students are not agreed with the statement.

Table 25: Teachers use audio, video aids during lecture?

Level	SA	A	U	D	SD
Frequency	14	42	09	10	00
Percentage	19	56	12	13	00

Table 25 shows that 75% students agreed that the teachers use audio, video aids during lecture, 12% are uncertain about the statement and 13 don't agree with the statement.

Table 26: Homework is given?

Level	Yes	No
Frequency	75	00
Percentage	100	00

Table 26 shows that 100% students agree that homework is given.

Table 27: Homework is checked regularly?

Level	Yes	No
Frequency	75	00
Percentage	100	00

Table 27 shows that 100% students agree that homework is checked by teachers regularly.

Table 28: Teacher encourages the discussion in classroom?

Level	SA	A	U	D	SD
Frequency	16	38	09	12	00
Percentage	21	50	12	16	00

Table 28 shows that 71% students agree that their teachers encourage them for discussion in the class while 12% students are uncertain about the statement and 16% students don't agree about the statement.

Table 29: Individual attention is given?

Level	SA	A	U	D	SD
Frequency	21	32	12	10	00
Percentage	28	42	16	14	00

Table 29 shows that 70% students agree that individual attention is given to them while 16% students are uncertain about the statement and 14% students don't agree with the statement.

Table 30: English language skills are being developed by this school?

Level	SA	A	U	D	SD
Frequency	26	38	06	05	00

Percentage	35	50	08	07	00
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Table 30 shows that 85% students agreed that English language skills are being developed by these schools while 10% students are uncertain about the statement and 10% students don't agree about the statement.

Table 31: School has regular and good examination systems?

Level	Yes	No
Frequency	75	00
Percentage	100	00

Table 31 shows that 100% students agreed that school has regular and good examination system.

Evaluation and Presentation of Teacher's Questionnaires

Table 32: School is at proper location?

Level	SA	A	U	D	SD
Frequency	07	20	03	00	00
Percentage	23	67	10	00	00

Table 32 shows that 90% teachers agreed about the statement that these schools are situated at proper location while only 10% teachers are uncertain about the statement.

Table 33: School building is satisfactory?

Level	SA	A	U	D	SD
Frequency	04	20	06	00	00
Percentage	13	67	20	00	00

Table 33 shows that 80% teachers agreed with the statement that school building is satisfactory while 20% teachers are uncertain about the statement.

Table 34: Does the Principal regularly visit the classrooms?

Level	SA	A	U	D	SD
Frequency	10	20	00	00	00
Percentage	33	67	00	00	00

Table 34 shows that 100% teachers agreed with the statement that principal visits the classrooms regularly.

Table 35: Shortage of teachers in school?

Level	Yes	No
Frequency	02	28
Percentage	06	94

Table 35 shows that 94% teachers agreed with the statement and 6% teachers are not agreed with the statement.

Table 36: Teachers of this school are well qualified and trained?

Level	Yes	No
Frequency	29	01
Percentage	97	03

The table 36 shows that 97% teachers of these private schools are well qualified and trained accordingly.

Table 37: Application of A.V. aids in classrooms for teaching?

Level	Yes	No	To some extent
Frequency	21	00	09
Percentage	70	00	30

Table 37 shows that 70% teachers agreed with the statement that they use A.V aids in classroom for teaching while 30% teachers utilize A.V aids to some extent.

Table 38: Lesson is planned before class?

Level	Yes	No	To Some extent
Frequency	27	00	03
Percentage	90	00	10

Table 38 shows that 90% teachers agreed with the statement that lesson is planned before taking class while 10% teachers planned their lessons to some extent.

Table 39: Classes are being taught according to qualification and subjects?

Level	Yes	No	To Some extent
Frequency	28	00	02
Percentage	94	00	06

Table 39 shows that 94% teachers agreed with the statement that the classes are being taught according to the qualification and subjects of the teachers.

Table 40: Principal encourages the staff on good results?

Level	Yes	No	To Some extent
Frequency	27	00	03
Percentage	90	00	10

Table 40 shows that 90% teachers agreed with the statement that principal encourages the staff on showing good results while 10% teachers have said to some extent.

V. CONCLUSION

A survey based research has been conducted to find out the reasons of increasing parent's approaches for selecting private schools for their children at primary level. The results of survey indicated that there are many reasons to select the private schools. Some of the reasons are discussed here. The most of the children's parents are pleased with the performance and environmental conditions of schools. The school buildings are safe and secure. The syllabus of these private schools are satisfactory. The teachers of schools are well qualified and trained accordingly and committed to their performance. According to majority of the parents the class size is ideal and examination system is regular and effective. The students of these private schools get good positions and grades in the examination. Most of the parents agreed that these private schools develop English speaking and learning skills, leadership qualities and confidence in the students. The fee package of schools is high according to the most of the parents. The syllabus is according to the student's goals and talents. So these are some of the cause which attract parents to select the private schools for their children. There are also some recommendations (i) The fee of students must be decreased so that parents can easily

afford. (ii) Teachers must be facilitated according to their hard working and their salaries must be increased.

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