

# Importance Of Homework On The Academic Achievements Of The Students At Private Sector Schools Of District Nowshera, Kpk

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## ABSTRACT

The current study focuses on the importance of homework on the academic achievements of the students of the private sector schools and how it leads to the mushroom growth of the private sector schools, especially in district Nowshera KPK. The objectives of the study are (i) To know the relationship between homework and the academic achievements of the students (ii) To find out the association between homework and students' academic achievements at private schools. The quantitative research method was the nature of the study, whereas the sample size is selected through the Uma Sekaran sample size determination table. For this research, the data was collected through stratified random sampling techniques. The data was collected from 159 students of high school students of district Nowshera. For equal gender representation, the researcher selected two girls' schools and two boys' schools. For the sake of good representation, the researcher collected data from the 10<sup>th</sup> class of the concerned schools through structured questionnaires. The data was analyzed through Statistical package for social by applying the chi-square formula for the association. After that, the analyzed data was presented in the form of frequencies and

percentages. The study recommended that homework should be made compulsory and part of the syllabus at all levels as well as that the parent should take interest in their children's work for best outcomes.

**Keywords:** Homework, Education, academic achievements.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The success and quality of any educational institution are measured through academic performance and homework playing a key role in the improving quality of education (Bas et al., 2017). Homework is widely used in educational activities as a learning resource. It seeks to improve students' academic results by giving them opportunities to improve their learning habits and performance. Students, on the other hand, have diverse perspectives on homework depending on their educational levels, beliefs, attitudes, and cultures (Songsirisak, & Jitpranee, 2019). Homework is still a controversial topic for teachers, parents, and children. The major goal of assigning homework is to help students improve the skills they acquire in class, build on their understanding and knowledge, and apply it to future courses. The goal of homework is to improve student's learning skills, increase self-study skills, and encourage parental involvement in their children's education (Trautwein, 2017).

Homework performs a number of functions. Some are educational, while others have behavioral objectives. Teachers may offer homework to allow students to practice specific abilities, but they may also want to assist them to acquire responsibility, perseverance, and time management skills (Epstein and Van Voorhis, 2001). Teachers also offer homework to examine how well students have acquired specific abilities so that new sessions can be planned to fit their needs (Bang et al., 2009; Rodriguez et al., 2014). Homework is a series of chores assigned to pupils by their teachers that must be completed outside of the classroom. Homework can be an excellent approach to supplement learning and play a vital part in improving academic performance. Preparation, practice, and extension are the three types of homework most commonly assigned. It is usually determined by the grade level. Homework should be assigned to students in accordance with the requirements of another class or lesson. Students who complete homework on a daily basis will be better able to follow their studies and their academics will be more stable. Parents should be conscious of their children's study-life balance because other hobbies are vital as well (Planchard et al., 2015). Homework promotes self-improvement and self-control. Students who do their homework on a regular basis not only do better in school and on examinations, but they also develop wider life skills and equate hard work with long-term benefits. It has also been discovered that homework improves parental connections.

### **Homework improves student's skills**

When a student receives homework from his or her teacher, the student attempts to complete it in the most efficient manner possible in order to receive good grades. When pupils put out the effort,

this activity can assist them in improving their memory (Trautwein, 2017). Because the learner is forced to think on his own without much external assistance, this effort also boosts thinking skills. The results of 35 studies demonstrate that there is a positive correlation between homework and achievement in 77% of cases (Bas et al., 2017).

### **Teacher's view of homework**

Teachers assign homework for a variety of reasons. Many teachers advocate homework methods for retaining and learning new skills as well as developing strong study habits, according to their viewpoints on homework. According to the teacher's view, homework leads to developing the skills of self-study, and such skills lead to academic achievements (Trautwein, 2017).

### **Student's view of homework**

Students' perceptions of homework differ greatly from those of teachers. Some primary children showed a favorable attitude toward homework in a qualitative study of elementary student perspectives of homework, notably that it reinforces concepts learned during instructional time (Davidovitch & Yavich, 2017).

### **Parent's view of homework**

In a qualitative research study, elementary parents' perceptions of homework were gathered through structured and open-ended questionnaires. Their findings suggested that parents' responses were mixed. Some parents thought that homework is vital and that more homework should be assigned, while others said that learning should take place exclusively at school and that homework places too much pressure on young pupils. Furthermore, some parents reported assisting their children with schoolwork at home, while others believed it was the responsibility of the student and that parents should not intervene (Davidovitch & Yavich, 2017).

### **Homework and academic achievements**

Homework has both academic and non-instructional benefits. Higher grades, greater school performance, and improved skill and information retention are all academic benefits (Davidovitch & Yavich, 2017). Increased communication between parents and instructors, as well as the development of skills such as time management, responsibility, and organizational abilities, are non-instructional benefits of homework (Epstein & Voorhis, 2001).

### **Objectives of the study**

- To know the relationship between the homework and academic achievements of the students
- To find out the association between homework and student's academic achievements at private schools

## Research question

- How home work can play role positively in the academic achievements of students in private-sector education?

## Methodology

In research, the methodology is defined as a systematic approach to resolving a study topic by collecting data using various approaches, interpreting the data, and deriving conclusions from the data. A research technique is essentially the plan for a research or study (Murthy & Bhojanna, 2009). The researcher used quantitative research method for this research activity. Quantitative research is described as a systematic analysis of phenomena through the collection of measurable data and the application of statistical, mathematical, or computational methods. Quantitative research gathers data from current and potential consumers by employing sampling methods and sending out online surveys, polls, questionnaires, and other forms of data collection, the results of which can be represented numerically (Bloomfield & Fisher, 2019).

## Sampling size and sampling technique

The total number of private schools in district Nawshehra is 370 (BISE Mardan), which includes 139 High schools, 119 Middle schools and 112 primary schools. The researcher randomly selects four schools from High schools and the teachers of the concerned classes. Further, for equal representation of gender select two male schools and two female schools. The total targeted population among these schools is 269, including students and teachers. The researcher select 159 sample size by using the sekran sample size determination table. Details of the sample size are as under;

## Detail of the sample size in high schools

Specification			Target population	Sample size
Students	Boys	10 <sup>th</sup>	50	30
		9 <sup>th</sup>	63	37
	Girls	10 <sup>th</sup>	70	41
		9 <sup>th</sup>	57	34
Teachers	Male	13	8	
	Female	16	9	
Total			269	159

### Data collection

For this research study, the researcher collected the relevant data from students and teachers through an interview schedule.

### Data analysis

Data analysis is the most technical job during a research study. For this research study, the researcher analyzed the collected data through statistical package for social sciences (SPSS version 21), by using Chi-square formula.

### Homework

Statement	SA	A	N	D	SD
Homework leads to academic performance and the best results	49 (30.8%)	84 (52.8%)	5 (3.1%)	21 (13.2%)	
Homework improves student's mental level	32 (20.1%)	90 (56.6%)	12 (7.5%)	17(10.7%)	8(5%)
Homework develops learner knowledge	25(15.7%)	103(64.8%)	8(5%)	19(11.9%)	4(2.5%)
Homework help students to complete their work on time which leads to independency	12(7.5%)	74(46.5%)	32(20.1%)	27(17%)	13(8.8%)
Homework is checked properly	5(3.1%)	49(30.8%)	21(13.2%)	65(40.9%)	19(11.9%)
Homework is included in the marks	7(4.4%)	39(24.5%)	31(19.5%)	54(34%)	28(17.6%)
Homework makes the students busy at home	17(10.7%)	71(44.7%)	6(3.8%)	52(32.7%)	13(8.2%)
Homework is an extra burden on students	3(1.9%)	19(11.9%)	22(13.8%)	78(49.1%)	37(23.3%)
Homework improves the thinking and memory of the students	6(3.8%)	71(44.7%)	23(13.8%)	45(28.9%)	14(8.8%)
Do you feel that homework is interesting	12(7.5%)	37(23.3%)	16(10.1%)	55(34.6%)	39(24.5%)

The above table shows data regarding homework and how they are contributing to the academic achievements of the students in the study area. In this regard, different questions were asked from the respondents and they responded differently. The question was asked from the respondents regarding homework that whether it leads to academic performance and best results, 30.8% of the

respondents strongly agree, majority of the respondents 52.8% were founded agree, 3.1% responded were founded neutrals and the remaining 13.2% were founded disagreed. It shows that homework ensures academic performance and best results in the private sector schools. Then, the question was asked whether homework improves students' mental level, 20.1% respondents opined that they strongly agree, 56.6% opined that they agree, 7.5% were found neutral, 10.7% shared that they disagree and 5% shared that they strongly disagree. It is argued that homework improves the mental level of the students at secondary level in the private sector schools. similarly, 15.7% of the respondents opined that they are strongly agree that homework and assignments develop learner knowledge, 64.8% of the respondents were founded agreed, 8% of the respondents were founded neutrals, 11.9% of the respondents were founded disagreed and a less number of the respondents i.e. 2.5% were found to strongly disagree. Further, the question was asked that whether homework and assignment help students to complete their work on time which leads to independency, in this regard a less number of the respondents i.e 7.5% respondents were founded strongly agreed, 46.5% respondents were founded agreed, 20.1% were founded neutral as they can decide in favor of agree or disagree, 17% were founded disagreed and the remaining 8.8% were founded strongly disagreed. It shows that homework enables students to accomplish their task on time as well as such task accomplishment on time leads to independency. A less number of the respondents i.e. 3.1% were founded that homework are checked properly, 30.8% of the respondents were founded agreed, 31.2% were founded neutral, 40.9% of the respondents shared that they are disagree and 11.9% were founded strongly disagreed. The analyzed data shows that assignments and homework are not properly checked at secondary level.

Further, the question was asked from the respondents that whether homework are included in marks or not, a less number of the respondents i.e. 4.4% opined in favor of strongly agree, 24.5% shared that they are agree, 19.5% were founded neutral, 34% were in favor of disagree and 17.6% of the respondents were in favor of strongly disagree. Majority of the respondents i.e. 44.7% shared that homework make the students busy at home, 10.7% were founded strongly disagreed, 3.8% founded neutral, 32.7% respondents opined that they are disagree with the statement and 8.2% of the respondents were founded disagreed. A less number of the respondents i.e. 1.9% were founded strongly agreed that homework are extra burden on students, 11.9% were founded agreed, 13.8% founded neutral as they cannot decided in favor of agree or disagree, majority of the respondents 49.1% were founded disagreed and 23.3% of the respondents were founded strongly disagreed. It shows that homework is not an extra burden on the students, rather it is for the mental capacity and academic achievements of the students. A less number of the respondents i.e. 3.8% were founded strongly agreed that homework improve thinking and memory of the students, 44.7% of the respondents shared that they are agreed, 13.8% were founded neutral, 28.9% of the respondents were of the view that they are disagreed and 8.8% of the respondents shared that they are strongly disagreed with the statement that homework improve thinking and memory of the students. Similarly, a less number of the respondents i.e. 7.5% of the respondents were founded strongly agreed that they founded homework interesting, 23.3% of the respondents were founded agreed, 10.1% of the respondents were founded neutral, 34.6% of the respondents shared that they

are disagreed and 24.5% of the respondents were founded strongly disagreed. It shows that homework is not an interesting activity for the students at secondary level.

### Association between homework and academic achievements

Statement		Weak	Below	average	Excellent	Outstandin	Total	Statistics
Homework leads to academic performance and best results	SA	4	31	12	1	1	49	<b>P=0.000</b> <b>X<sup>2</sup>=122.718</b>
	A	1	22	30	27	4	84	
	N	1	1	1	2	0	5	
	D	1	0	0	4	16	21	
	SD	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Total	7	54	43	34	21	159	
Homework improve students mental level	SA	3	28	1	0	0	32	<b>P=0.000</b> <b>X<sup>2</sup>=145.914</b>
	A	1	24	40	21	4	90	
	N	1	1	1	8	1	12	
	D	2	1	1	3	10	17	
	SD	0	0	0	2	6	8	
	Total	7	54	43	34	21	15	
Homework develop learner knowledge	SA	3	22	0	0	0	25	<b>P=0.011</b> <b>X<sup>2</sup>=45.720</b>
	A	2	31	42	24	4	103	
	N	1	0	0	6	1	8	
	D	1	1	1	3	13	1	
	SD	0	0	0	1	3	4	
	Total	7	54	43	34	21	159	
Homework help students to complete their work on time which leads to independency	SA	3	9	0	0	0	12	<b>P=0.000</b> <b>X<sup>2</sup>=123.713</b>
	A	1	30	29	12	2	74	
	N	0	10	12	8	2	32	
	D	3	5	2	12	5	27	
	SD	0	0	0	2	12	14	
	Total	7	54	43	34	21	159	
Homework are checked properly	SA	2	0	0	0	0	2	<b>P=0.000</b> <b>X<sup>2</sup>=175.896</b>
	A	2	33	13	3	1	52	
	N	0	1	11	8	1	21	

	D	2	20	19	21	3	65	
	SD	1	0	0	2	16	19	
	Total	7	54	43	34	21	159	
Homework are included in marks	SA	3	4	0	0	0	7	<b>P=0.000</b> <b>X<sup>2</sup>=138.445</b>
	A	0	27	10	1	1	39	
	N	1	3	15	11	1	31	
	D	1	19	17	15	2	54	
	SD	2	1	1	7	17	28	
	Total	7	54	43	34	21	159	
Homework make the students busy at home	SA	3	14	0	0	0	17	<b>P=0.000</b> <b>X<sup>2</sup>=125.589</b>
	A	1	27	29	12	2	71	
	N	0	0	0	6	0	6	
	D	3	13	14	14	8	52	
	SD	0	0	0	2	11	13	
	Total	7	54	43	34	21	159	
Homework are extra burden on students	SA	3	0	0	0	0	3	<b>P=0.000</b> <b>X<sup>2</sup>=178.399</b>
	A	0	19	0	0	0	19	
	N	0	12	10	0	0	22	
	D	1	21	31	21	4	78	
	SD	3	2	2	13	17	37	
	Total	7	54	43	34	21	159	
Homework improve thinking and memory of the students	SA	3	3	0	0	0	6	<b>P=0.000</b> <b>X<sup>2</sup>=114.985</b>
	A	1	31	25	12	2	71	
	N	0	7	7	7	1	22	
	D	3	13	11	13	6	46	
	SD	0	0	0	2	12	14	
	Total	7	54	43	34	21	159	
Do you feel that homework are interesting	SA	3	9	0	0	0	12	<b>P=0.000</b> <b>X<sup>2</sup>=106.892</b>
	A	1	22	12	1	1	37	
	N	0	3	5	7	1	16	
	D	0	17	24	12	2	55	
	SD	3	3	2	14	17	39	
	Total	7	54	43	34	21	159	



The above table shows the association between homework and academic achievements. In this regard, a high significance association of ( $P=0.000$ ) was founded between homework that leads to academic performance and best results and academic achievements. It shows that homework ensures the best result of the students and such result leads to academic achievements at secondary level. Similarly, a high significance association of ( $P=0.000$ ) was founded between home leads to mental health of the students and academic achievements. The analyzed data shows homework leads to mental health of the students which ensures academic achievements. A less significant association of ( $P=0.011$ ) was founded between homework to improve learner knowledge which improves academic achievements. Results of the primary data show that homework is not effective as it does not improve learner knowledge. Further, a high significance association of ( $P=0.000$ ) was founded between homework help students to complete their work on time which leads to independency and academic achievements. Homework is checked properly at secondary level which shows a high significance association of ( $P=0.000$ ) with academic achievements. It shows that proper checking of home is the factor which leads to academic achievements and performance. Similarly, a high significance association of ( $P=0.000$ ) was founded between academic achievements and homework are included in marks. It shows that homework are the parts of exams which improve academic performance and achievements at secondary level. A high significance association of ( $P=0.000$ ) was founded between academic achievements and home and assignments make the students busy at home. The analyzed data shows that homework engages the students with study and shows a positive impact on the academic achievements of the students. Similarly, a significance association of ( $P=0.000$ ) was founded between academic achievements and homework are an extra burden on students. Moreover, a high significance association of ( $P=0.000$ ) was founded between academic achievements and homework to improve students' thinking and memory of the students. It shows that improvement in students' thinking and memory are the factors that lead to academic achievements. A high significance association of ( $P=0.000$ ) was founded between academic achievements and homework. It shows that students are taking interest in the home work which leads to academic performance.

## **Conclusion**

The current study focuses on the importance of homework and their role in the academic achievements of private schools in district Nowshera. The study also focuses on how homework at secondary level ensures quality results and improves academic performance of the students. Results of the primary data show that homework leads to academic performance and best results. Similarly, homework improves student's mental health and knowledge of the learner as well as improves academic achievements at secondary level. Further, the analyzed data reveals that homework is checked properly and included in marks. Moreover, homework improves thinking and memory of the students which leads to high academic achievements and performance. Similarly, homework and related indicators show significance association with academic achievements and performance.

## Recommendations

- On the basis of the study it is concluded that homework should be made mandatory at government and private schools at all levels (Primary, Middle and high) as well as make it purposeful to deliver and include new and innovative things and provide an opportunity for students to discuss the issues in which students are interested
- It is recommended that the parents should also take interest in home work and to ask from their children's that what skills and knowledge they learn from the home work.
- A criterion should be developed regarding the amount of homework for the purpose to not overburden on the students as well as to complete it on time and learn more things.

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