

Impact of Home-Based Schooling on Child Development

Abstract

Tuba Naeem

Academy of Experiential
Learning

Background: Homeschooling has been a controversial topic in the past years. Some parents tend to favour homeschooling over traditional classroom-based learning. However, at the same time, few educationalists regard homeschooling as a risk to children's future development. The available body of literature in this context is also so far inconsistent.

Aim: The foremost purpose of the present research is exploring the perceptions of various scholars, educationalists, and parents about homeschooling. The prime incentive is to understand what the research says regarding homeschooling and what impacts homeschooling poses on children's development.

Methodology: The current study has been built upon a qualitative research design since it best complies with our research aim and hence is the most suited approach to the given research.

Findings: The outcomes drawn from the review have unveiled that before homeschooling, one should know what to expect from their role as facilitators of their children's education. The most optimal practice is to rationally consider both the optimistic as well as adverse

aspects of homeschooling before electing it as the primary mode of education for your children.

Keywords: *Child Development, Home Schooling, Home-Based Learning, Home-Based Schooling.*

Introduction

Education is imperative for the personal as well as social growth of a person. It is a vital aspect of an individual's life; specifically, how one receives their early education has a decisive influence on that person's future development. It has been identified that parents play an integral role in their child's academic achievement. According to prior researches, parental involvement helps keep a child motivated (Li et al., 2019). Home-based schooling is among the learning methodologies where the children acquire knowledge in their homes from their parents. It involves the educational development of a child in a home-based environment. This sort of schooling has long been a part of the conventional learning settings where parents used to teach their kids at home. However, homeschooling has now gained worldwide acceptance owing to its feasibility and plentiful advantages for both parents and children.

John Holt and Raymond Moore were among the leading scholars who studied and initiated the trend of homeschooling in 1970 (Uddin, 2018). Later on, many other educationalists, researchers, and families started identifying the feasibility and expediency of this approach. In the current times, more than 2 million children in the US are being homeschooled (Dlamini et al., 2021). Embracing homeschooling does not mean that the children would never be allowed to step into a classroom or any other learning setting. Homeschooling simply portrays the idea of creating your children's learning base in a home-based environment without requiring them to attend school.

Home learning environment is an assortment of all you and your family do and the space a kid approaches that influence its turn of events and learning. This incorporates offering the open doors a child needs to play and communicate with books, objects, and regular encounters to assist them with getting a handle on their reality (Lehrl et al., 2020). However, the main element is their support with individuals who give the admiration, safety, comfort, discussion, and optimistic morals that promote that particular kid. A decent home learning environment that supports kids and youngsters to have uplifting outlooks on learning, to be

interested, and trust themselves is nowadays known as Homeschooling. The time that one's family spends talking together is vital for their younger ones' turn of events and prosperity. Family eating times have been demonstrated to be an especially significant time for this, regardless of what they do for a living (Bernal et al., 2019).

Nowadays, it is often seen that more families are going through the homeschooling path as along with academics, it also provides more benefit to them and children who are experiencing homeschooling. Homeschooling also offers advantages like flexibility, productivity, and chances of academic benefits. By homeschooling, parents could firmly construct their children's knowledge base, which will further assist them in future and will stimulate a high confidence level. This is termed schematic play and is considered trivial yet influential in the part of the development of the child (Zhao et al., 2020).

Many researchers have worked on the findings of home-based child care. This is done because many changes have been seen in a homeschooler than in a kid attending an educational institute. These changes are often seen in their academic, social, and personal development. However, it varies widely

between various study subjects (Calear et al., 2022).

Research Aim

Since homeschooling is an extensively investigated issue in the educational context, there is a myriad of literature available that encompasses the breadth of knowledge concerning the adverse as well as optimistic aspects of this approach. The current study aspires to explore what the research says about homeschooling and what are the most typical impacts of homeschooling on child development.

Methodology

The current study surrounds a qualitative research design. In order to grasp the underlying ideas and get an insight into the perceptions of various scholars, educationalists, and parents on the espousal of homeschooling, a qualitative approach was considered most optimum. The researcher has adopted a review design to amass and evaluate the existing body of knowledge on homeschooling and overview the primary notions arousing from the selected studies.

Various searching strategies have been implemented. The data has been accumulated by cautiously looking through

several databases, websites, and search engines. ScienceDirect, Google Scholar, PubMed, and ProQuest are some of the examples of sites utilised to gather data. Besides, further information was sorted by searching using a conjunction of relevant keywords. Lastly, the included studies were meticulously analysed to offer an insight into the perceptions of the researchers in this regard.

Results and Discussion

Home-based schooling is a growing trend. Parents are more satisfied as they are now more aware of their child's education. This system is accepted by almost all the parents, teachers and also the children. Children enjoy online learning. Traditional schooling tends to burden the child by putting a lot of homework. Home-based schooling puts less burden on the child and gives a way of exploring. It enhances a child's ability to learn new concepts. A concern raised by teachers is that the children will not focus on their studies, and the study rhythm will be disturbed. However, it is stated in one of the research projects that parents can set an example for their children by doing hard work. As for the study rhythm, the parents can set up one of the rooms as a classroom to provide a proper learning environment for the

child. Another way is to set up a virtual classroom where the teacher can easily monitor a child's performance and communicate with the child.

Snyder and Dillow (2015) believed that there was a statistical significance between students for mathematics and science subjects. He emphasised that homeschooled students did their best in mathematics and science than students who took their classes from educational sectors. A researcher B. Ray (2021) disclosed that students who took their academic qualifications from Homeschooling did exceptionally well in a test for their graduates than those who were taking their academic courses from a regular school. The researcher also discussed significant differences between students based on their academic achievements. Aslanidou (2019) researched finding the literacy rate between homeschooled and regular school-going students, and they also demonstrated to check the relationship between homeschoolers and their parents. Their findings concluded that children who spend their early education years with their parents have better academic knowledge and a high literacy rate than regular going school students.

Miller and Lin (2019) examined a study that gave parents a perspective on home-based learning using visuals like photographs in their child's development. They used a digital camera to capture the everyday learning activities of their children and then looked into these photographs for further discussion. They revealed that families with both high and low income did similar activities which involved early learning, although some differences emerged amongst them.

B. Ray (2021) outlined the current stance of homeschooling that is trendy worldwide. Over the past 40-50 years, homeschooling has emerged in many countries after its introduction in the United States of America. He also described the possible outcomes of education, including students' social, economic and academic worth. Forrester et al. (2021) investigated the learning approaches for both teachers and students in a strict lockdown due to the COVID-19 outbreak. They researched on aims and objectives of Homeschooling and how it would be a beneficial opportunity in these times. Their research also pointed out some upcoming likelihoods and surprising consequences caused by Homeschooling. During the pandemic, Thorell et al. (2022) conducted research in which it was

formulated that parents and students experienced some contrary effects in these challenging times. The potential positive effects of homeschooling need to be further discovered. The possible constructive outcomes of homeschooling should be additionally investigated. As underlined by past exploration, self-teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic has offered schools a chance to reevaluate training and think about difficulties as well as any open doors connected with the utilisation of computerised instructing. In any case, it is essential to consider that web-based education can prompt expanded disparities among youngsters, further uncovering those with a low financial foundation to unfavourable impacts. A new report showed that schools had confronted many difficulties during COVID-19 school terminations (e.g., unfortunate accessibility of powerful internet-based stages and unfortunate specialised abilities among instructors).

John Holt's Idea of Homeschooling

John Holt is among those frontline educators who have studied and thoroughly analysed the significance of homeschooling. John did not step into the writing field until he gained profound and extended experience in teaching young children. In the year 1970,

Holt earned significant prominence as one of the nations leading theorists of learning (Sharon Garrett, 2000). In his book *"What do I do on Monday"*, Holt (1970) enlightened several aspects of homeschooling and deliberated on the necessity and worth of this approach. John emphasised that children are curious as they always want to make sense of things and explore how things work. This inquisitiveness is the core from which arises their intentions, cognitive abilities, competencies, and other capabilities that they desire to utilise in finding answers to their queries.

After spending several years in teaching, John reached the conclusion that the contemporary educational system has inhibited the natural desire to learn. Holt further claimed that self-learning had taught him far more than he had ever learned in the classroom. During an interview with Marlene Bumgarner (1980), when John was asked about his philosophy of learning, he responded with the following words:

"Basically that the human animal is a learning animal; we like to learn; we need to learn; we are good at it; we don't need to be shown how or made to do it. What kills the processes are

the people interfering with it or trying to regulate it or control it."

As per his standpoint, children have the willingness to learn and give sense to their ideas; they are just patient. They have the propensity to tolerate uncertainty, confusion, and ignorance until they become able to answer their questions. However, the current schooling system barely gives them the opportunity to recognise and correct their own mistakes. Even though children can learn more efficaciously this way, educational institutions care more about the appearance of knowledge, not the true understanding. Therefore, by getting familiar with these aspects of schooling, Holt prioritised homeschooling over traditional learning.

Homeschooling vs Public Schooling

There are multiple advantages of homeschooling as well as public schooling. Home schooling might give the impression of a straightforward task; however, things are not as easy as they may seem. Parents have to devote a substantial amount of their time to their child's tutoring and productive development. On the other hand, public schooling does not necessitate any such involvement. Although parents are still

required to take interest in their child's learning, the amount of time and dedication that homeschooling consumes is much considerable.

In the modern-day setting, parents have become more knowledgeable about the distinct modes of learning and various other facets of their child's development compared to the former times. There are numerous causes behind the intensifying inclination towards home-based learning. Public schooling also brought concerns regarding bullying, bad influence, drugs, sexual misinvolvement, and other similar factors that might be attributable to a child's deviation. Moreover, these adverse influences have the tendency to withdraw one's attention from education and make one involved in immoral acts, which are indubitably detrimental to a child's development and future. Therefore, considering these downsides of public schooling, parents are now opting for home-based education as a more favourable strategy.

Apart from curricular learning, homeschooling also incorporates religious factors. Along with the standard education, parents also teach the children their beliefs that the child might not learn in public

schooling. Homeschooling is beneficial since it brings family more closer and makes the shared beliefs stronger. However, home-educated individuals often miss the opportunity to spend that crucial time with their peers and make memories that they can cherish forever.

Strengths of Homeschooling

- *More Accommodating Way of Learning in Emergency Scenarios:* In case of emergency scenarios, like the worldwide crisis that we have collectively experienced, referred to as the COVID-19 pandemic, homeschooling proves to be the most valid and optimal way of learning. Home-based education has increased at a rapid pace during the COVID-19 era (Dlamini et al., 2021). Moreover, in other instances, such as travel, transfer, challenging schedules, shifting from one city to another, and so on, homeschooling is essential to maintain the consistent provision of education to the children and effectively recover the disruption caused by personal life events. Stability in education is imperious as it helps children learn more and learn faster, which is not possible in inconsistent delivery of education (Tan, 2020). Thus, homeschooling is a viable

strategy to ensure that consistency and stability should be maintained in the knowledge delivery.

- *Less Exposure to Bad Gatherings and Corrupt Social Influence:* Home-schooled children often report fewer episodes of exposure to bad experiences. Beyond that, such individuals also have smaller chances of getting involved in bullying, school gangs, violence, and other possible snags faced by the students in school (Becton Loveless, 2022).
- *Learning Seems More Fun:* Owing to the absence of any extracurricular activity or exciting educational exercises in some schools, children might feel overburdened due to heavy workload, which might influence their cognition, and they would also feel exhausted. Educational institutions that remain unsuccessful in organising stimulating and thought-provoking activities for students often fail to boost student engagement in learning, which further gravely impacts children's academic outcomes. This might also lead to a lack of interest in the classrooms and, in turn, result in an adverse influence on their grades. In that case, home-based schooling is a more amusing way of learning. Since children feel more at ease

in the home and are allowed to indicate their own terms, they learn better in such a setting by excitingly doing things. The crucial support and involvement of parents keep them motivated and engaged in learning without getting exhausted due to overwhelming courses. Moreover, children also find more fun in these activities as they can learn in a way they want without caring about the restrictions the schools might impose on them. Hence, home-based learning cultivates kids' creativity, thinking capacity, and other achievements.

- *Mental Wellbeing:* Since parents are always around their children mostly all the time, they can quickly sense whether a child faces anxiety, depression, or any other brain-challenging illness. Additionally, unlike schools, parents will always give priority to their children's mental and emotional health and would always prefer a good teaching strategy that should not burden their cognition or make them distressed.
- *Better Social Development:* Growing up in a close family supports healthy communal acquaintances. Parents, grandparents, siblings, or relatives can be a child's role models. Parents can look after the behaviour of their kids, coach

them properly and also look into the matter which is causing them trouble. Moreover, growing up in a family-surrounded environment also upsurges their social involvement and develops them better as a part of the community.

- *Improved Physical Health:* Homeschooling can also benefit a child in their physical being because it will help them to spend extra time on leisure activities like playing outside, connecting with dance and sports, spending more time in nature, etc. If schedules are planned accordingly, they could acquire proper sleep, have their meals on time, and do other tasks more actively.
- *Beneficial in Special Circumstances:* A parent can keep homeschooling their children despite moving from one place to another. Children can experience other home issues like handling any illness of a sibling, grandparent, etc. sometimes. Spending time with each other is more necessary than just focusing on academics. Families work better if any events don't clash, so any conflicts are also not being made. When a family goes through a crisis or any painful situation ascends, homeschooling can be a way that will help them to heal and suffer in their way (Megan, 2022). Hence,

homeschooling is also beneficial to enhance their understanding of familial and other surrounding issues

Drawbacks of Home Schooling

- *Limited Chance to Participate in Sports and Extracurricular Activities:* Children who are homeschooled have fewer opportunities to participate in sports and extracurricular exercises. Even if parents can design numerous exciting activities for their children, they cannot offer them the same environment that they might experience in the presence of their same-age peers. Although some districts have the allowance for home-educated children to partake in school-related extracurricular activities, the likelihood of these occurrences is hardly ever.
- *Adverse Influence of Demotivating Factors:* Parents might have to over-explain themselves whenever they would come across questions about choosing to homeschool their kids. This could also gradually reduce their interest towards this approach, and they may lack the motivation to teach their child according to the ongoing world.
- *Inadequate Resources and Technological Gaps:* Compared to public educational institutes, homeschools usually lack the

majority of technological tools and resources that are a necessity in the contemporary era. In other cases, if a homeschooler has access to desirable resources and an adequate internet connection, they lack the right environment, capability, and disposition to utilise these resources effectively (Lamb, 2020). Many schools have given the data that some homeschoolers do not have enough equipments, and few of them even lack skills and experience. Thus, if households have low income and a dearth of educational material and knowledge, the parents cannot properly facilitate learning for children.

Hence, it is the duty of every educational institution and homeschool intervention to analyse the conferred challenges so that children's potential growth should not be negatively influenced by these factors (Badri et al., 2018). Becton Loveless (2022) also stressed that parents must know what to expect from their role while homeschooling their children. Thus, before homeschooling, parents must consider the downside of this approach so that they can thoroughly observe the entire situation before indicating their choice of schooling.

Conclusion

Like any other topic, homeschooling also has some potential pros and cons that one has to retain before dedicating their favour to either of the schooling systems. In case of not having appropriate and sufficient resources to fulfil the schooling demands, parents must reconsider their choice of homeschooling their kids. The inefficiencies and hinders that homeschooling might induce to someone's cognitive abilities, their self-esteem, and personality must not be disregarded while picking it as the elementary mode of education for children. This mode of learning demands parents' persistent devotion and consistent efforts to optimistically develop their kids and efficaciously construct their thinking and knowledge base. For this reason, parents should definitely have a firm commitment and determination to assist their kids with their learning journey. However, being a parent, if one is not confident about their ability and resourceability to adequately deliver knowledge to their children in a way they deserve, then it might be optimal to abandon the thought of homeschooling for the better of their kids' future development.

There are a welter of ways for teaching and delivering education that are not just limited to home or public schooling. To the best of our belief, parents should surely home school their kids for a particular age;

however, in order to bestow their children an opportunity to construct their self-esteem and amplify their learning experience, parents must allow them to interact with the over-the-horizon educational paradigm, so that they can move parallel with the evolving demands of the upcoming times.

Instead of confining the children to homeschooling, parents should allow them to discover the endless world of knowledge and satiate their queries by solving the unsolved mysteries and exploring the unexplored without being restricted to any boundary in the educational realm. Thus, parents should determinedly and prudently indicate their route since one wrong decision can cost a great deal to the child's future development.

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