

Involve ment of Parents, Family, and Community in Education

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Question No. 4. Please describe how you have involved

parents, families and community in Education.

Parents, families, and community involvement in the process of education plays an important role. Various research studies have been conducted that reveals the importance of families and parents in the early developmental stage of children (Berns, 2012). Parents and family members assist in the early learning process, later whole community is involved in the learning such as educators, schools, various social and community services by supporting the process of education.

According to the research conducted by Van Roekel (2008), community play an important role in the growth and development of children because, these children also play an important role in the community. According to Van Roekel (2008), parents and families can be involved in children's education by research based framework. This research based framework was developed by Joyce Epstein that provides six different strategies to involve parents, family, and community in the process of education of children.

Epstein's Framework on Involvement

- **Parenting.** Assist families with parenting skills, family support, understanding child and adolescent development, and setting home conditions to support learning at each age and grade level. Assist schools in understanding families' backgrounds, cultures, and goals for children.
- **Communicating.** Communicate with families about school programs and student progress. Create two-way communication channels between school and home that are effective and reliable.
- **Volunteering.** Improve recruitment and training to involve families as volunteers and as audiences at the school or in other locations. Enable educators to work with volunteers who support students and the school. Provide meaningful work and flexible scheduling.
- **Learning at Home.** Involve families with their children in academic learning at home, including homework, goal setting, and other curriculum-related activities.
- **Decision Making.** Include families as participants in school decisions, governance, and advocacy activities through school councils or improvement teams, committees, and other organizations.
- **Collaborating with the Community.** Coordinate resources and services for families, students, and the school with community groups, including businesses, agencies, cultural and civic organizations, and colleges or universities.

Source: Van Roekel, 2008, p.2

This community framework provides that parents, family, educators, and community members play their effective role in the development of children through collaborative efforts. This requires integrated efforts and engagement of family, school, community members, and all the stakeholders. There is need to bring improvement in policies, improving research work, building community support, improving conditions of schools, and providing support to families.

References

Van Roekel, N. P. D. (2008). Parent, family, community involvement in education. *Policy Brief*. Washington, DC: National education Association.
http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/PB11_ParentInvolvement08.pdf

Berns, R. (2012). *Child, family, school, community: Socialization and support*. Cengage Learning. <http://books.google.com/books?id=4SbovM1yyMAC&printsec=frontcover>