



**Factors Affecting the Academic Performance of Slow Learners:  
a case study of slow learner school in Punjab**

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**ABSTRACT**

Classification of slow learners amongst normal students in a classroom is a tough task because the students having low IQ perform well in extracurricular activities rather than their academics. And there are no predefined rules for the selection of slow learners. But a teacher may point out such students in a regular classroom through his insight and on the basis of academic achievement of the students.

Each classroom comprises of students with different attitudes, backgrounds, interests, and learning abilities. Many of such students carry not just textbooks and other learning equipment but numerous learning issues to their classrooms. These basic variances in learners frequently result in disparities in their academic performance and classroom behavior. These students are always in struggle to keep up with their peers. Such students can be classified as slow learners. It is revealed from different studies that 8 to 9 % of student in primary school have low IQ level and are thus called slow learners. They usually fail to perform well in exams and lastly leave school owing to the low attention from teachers and parents.

The paper aimed at to identify these basic variances in learners which usually cause disparities in their academic performance and classroom behavior of slow learners. Sample selected was through purposive sampling technique, which constitute both male and female teachers of slow learner's schools in Punjab.

**Keywords:** Slow learners, IQ level, academic achievement, academic performance, Teacher and Parents

## 1. INTRODUCTION:

Each classroom comprises of students with different attitudes, backgrounds, interests, and learning abilities. Many of such students carry not just textbooks and other learning equipment but numerous learning issues to their classrooms. These basic variances in learners frequently result in disparities in their academic performance and classroom behavior. These students are always in struggle to keep up with their peers. Such students can be classified as slow learners. It is revealed from different studies that 8 to 9 % of student in primary school have low IQ level and are thus called slow learners. They usually fail to perform well in exams and lastly leave school owing to the low attention from teachers and parents.

Special purpose schools are initiated by the government of Pakistan for education of slow learner under the umbrella of special education. Hence There are various factor involved that facilitate the slow learner to improve their academic performance. The factors are environmental, personal and emotional factors.

Bond with slow learner can be shaped by proper reward, appreciation, affection, increasing value in class, by celebrating their minor successes, having them sit in front lines of the classroom, setting realistic goals, motivating and inspiring them to participate in class activities.

The purpose of conducting this research is to find the different factors associated with the academic performance of the slow learner. Along with it, the method teacher adopts during teaching slow learner with other students in the classroom and help them flourish and nurture, academically. Apart from it, teacher expand their knowledge and

develop the professional practice to improve the learning capacity as well as tackle the learning difficulties of slow learners, on other hand, teachers must communicate with them using their brains and hearts. With appropriate tactics, practices and approaches slow learners can be stirred to yield great results and develop a constructive attitude towards classroom behavior and learning.

Hence There are various factor involved that facilitate the slow learner to improve their academic performance, some of the factors are environmental, personal and emotional factors

## 2. SYMPTOMS OF SLOW LEARNING

Identifying slow learners is an essential issue that must be taken into account by teachers, parents and even administrators because they have to be aware of whether their pupils are slow learners or not, and this recognition has been known through set of signs or symptoms must be carefully observed by both parents and teachers.

- ✓ Short attention
- ✓ Less concentration.
- ✓ Slow reaction time.
- ✓ Confuse with making connection between words and sentences.
- ✓ Problems with memorizing.
- ✓ Less creative and original.
- ✓ They have difficulties with solving problems, reasoning, as well as critical thinking.
- ✓ Problems with speech.
- ✓ Language problem
- ✓ Insufficient vocabulary.
- ✓ Short and grammatically incorrect sentences.
- ✓ Student Conduct.
- ✓ Spelling Mistake.
- ✓ Communication with other students, No self-confidence.
- ✓ Classroom Discussion is limited.

- ✓ Reading problem.
- ✓ Limited cognitive ability
- ✓ Poor memory
- ✓ lack of concentration and attention problems

### 3. FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE LEARNING

- Environmental Factors
  - Home
  - School
  - Class Room
- Emotional Factors
  - Lack of Confidence
  - Negative attitude of parents
  - Dislike Teacher
- Personal Factors
  - Genetic
  - Psychology
  - Educational
  - Physical

### 4. STRATEGIES TO TEACHERS

Slow learning is a problem that exists in almost every school; it requires more responsibility and caring from teachers and parents as well. Unquestionably the professional teacher is the person who knows how to deal with this category of students that needs additional help because these learners have difficulty in some or all learning processes and master them less successfully than their peers at the same age. So, these students need special instructional strategies to overcome their difficulties on learning.

Teachers are considered as individuals who spend most of the time with such students, thus have a bigger responsibility than any other individual. However, the first step is to recognize them and help them to successfully accomplish their academic performance.

- ✓ **Teaching slow learners:** Teachers should be aware of the principles of teaching which include taking into consideration the level of the learner. Furthermore, the new information must relate to the old one, and teachers must respect the capacities of the learners (one idea at time) in addition to the variation of teaching techniques and methods in order to suit learners' learning styles and level as well. In short, the teacher must have an objective of what he is teaching (set goals) and recognize the effective strategies of successful teaching.
- ✓ **Encouragement:** The teacher should not just rely on average students by encouraging and praising them because of their good achievement. However, he must also encourage the slow learners and support them instead of punishing them all the time and stop considering them as stupid and useless.
- ✓ **Motivation:** Motivation is the key of success that's why teachers should take it into account because students have to be urged to learn. Experience proves that the failure of students caused by poor motivation. Therefore, effective teacher is who sets high goals for his teaching and develops structured plans to achieve those goals. What is important in teaching is how to make it interesting and challenging at the same time.
- ✓ **Ensuring physical and mental health:** Teachers have to control their learner's physical and mental

conditions in order to recognize whether they impact students' learning or not. For instance: learners who have poor eyesight, they can't see the black board clearly. As a result, they can't understand and concentrate in addition to those learners who have learning disabilities which make them lazy to read or write. So, teachers must talk with the administration to bring a doctor to school to diagnose those learners and treat them as soon as possible.

- ✓ **Environment of classroom:** Teachers have to manage of the place where learners should feel comfortable and relaxed which is the classroom including the light, the black board, the chairs, the tables, the walls etc in order to avoid everything may annoy students to learn.
- ✓ **Friendly relation with students:** Building a friendship relationship with them is very important factor that helps students to learn because they feel that they are interested and break down their shyness, also they feel more comfortable and start respecting the teacher.
- ✓ **Using easy language in explanation:** The language of teachers must be understood by everyone that's why it must be easy and simple in addition to that the teacher must break down difficult tasks and activities as well as giving more time to slow learners to think and react politely even if they are incorrect.
- ✓ **Grouping slow learners with average students:** Collaborative work is very

effective in learning because students usually prefer to learn together in order to learn from each other

- ✓ **Use of humor in teaching:** Providing activities that give more fun to the lesson is very successful and useful way that helps students in order to be well understood and easy to remember as well.
- ✓ **Extra time to help slow learners:** The good teacher is the person who helps his learners as much as he can. Why not he looks for extra hours to interact with those slow learners and providing them with simple activities and trying to understand the reasons behind their weaknesses if possible.
- ✓ **Repetition:** Since slow learners take more time to understand and they have poor concentration, teachers have to explain and saying things over and over. Repetition helps concepts to be more concrete. In this regard, the teacher has to be more intelligent by putting posters on the wall of classroom whenever the child lost his concentration, he automatically remembers what the rule is or what the activity talks about.
- ✓ **Meeting with parents:** Teachers discuss with them their students'' problem with learning and trying to make their relationship stronger because it influences child's achievement. It is really important to interact with student's parents and develop a good connection with them by encouraging them to be partners in educating their students.
- ✓ **Counselor or social worker at school:** Teachers have to ask the administration to bring a counselor or

a social worker at school in order to let students always under control.

## **5. STRATEGIES TO PARENTS**

- Provide secure environment
- Communication with students
- Provide them good nutrition
- Planning and time management
- Take care of their physical health
- Establishing trust and friendship
- Be patient

## **6. CONCLUSION**

Mostly, parents and teachers contribute to child's growth and development; in which both teachers' preparation and parental support help students learn effectively. I proposed numerous strategies and recommendations to both teachers and parents in order to assist their students who are slow learners.

Conclusively, students' academic success is related to their parents' encouragement and support that's why they have to create a home learning environment for them. On the other hand, the teachers also represent a sense of recognition, understanding, guidance, and assist to those learners. In short, alert teacher and a diligent can make a big difference in the child's life and future as well.

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