

Truants' Perceptions of Parental Involvement in Their Education: How Can Parents Assist?

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ABSTRACT Truancy or "skipping school" is not problematic for schools only, but also for families and communities. Children are often not in school where their parents assume them to be and they are not receiving the education which is paid for in the form of school fees and state taxes. This paper explores truants' views of their parents' attitudes towards their education and how this impact on their school attendance and attainment. A thorough exploration of extant research and literature revealed that parental disengagement is becoming one of the major causes of all types of challenging behavioural problems among adolescents, including truant behaviour. In this empirical investigation, a questionnaire was completed by a sample of 300 learners which measured among other, adolescent's perceptions of their parents' interest and involvement in their education. The research findings indicate that the participants, particularly those who featured as classical truants, are of the opinion that their parents/caregivers generally seem to display an unfavourable attitude towards their education. It is recommended that local education and social welfare services provide support for greater parental involvement if they are serious about improving learners' school attendance and performance.