Parental Involvement: The Effect of Home Visits on Academic Achievement, Discipline, and Attendance of High-school Students in Three Public Schools in Georgia

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In this study a causal comparative methodology was used for the purpose of investigating the effect of home visits, as a component of parental involvement, on high-school students’ academic achievement as measured by the Georgia High-school Graduation Test, discipline as measured by discipline referral-free days, and attendance as measured by daily attendance records. A qualitative inquiry with an interview methodology was also employed to look at parents’, students’, and teachers’ perceptions of the home visit program’s effect upon student academic achievement, discipline, and attendance. This multiple-method study involved three high-schools in southwest Georgia, with a total quantitative study population of 600 students. Stratified random sampling was used to select the 30-member experimental group who received home visits and the 30-member control group who did not receive home visits. Data was analyzed using a one-way MANOVA, which revealed significant differences between the two groups on the three dependent variables. The overall Wilks’L of .63 was significant, $F (3, 56) =16.56, p< .001$. As a post-hoc test, a discriminant analysis showed that Wilks’ lambda was significant, $L = .53, c2 (3, N=60) = 35.86, p< .001$, indicating that the overall predictors differentiated among the dependent variables. Eighteen subjects for the qualitative study were randomly selected to form groups of students, parents, and teachers associated with the experimental and control groups. Their responses, which were recorded, transcribed, coded, and analyzed by the researcher, revealed that participants found the home visits to have a positive effect upon student academic achievement, discipline, and attendance. Home visits were found to
have a significant effect on student academic achievement, discipline, and attendance. Students, parents, and teachers also confirmed the positive effect of home visits on student academic achievement, discipline, and attendance. The future research recommendations include broadening the study population to include more subjects of a more diverse background and working to improve the consistency of the quality of home visits.