

A study on the perception and attitude scale of pupils towards home works with a focus on the various causes leading to a negative approach possessed towards homework of class 10 students at little flower school, Guwahati

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Abstract - Home works plays a vital role in the process of a child's academic growth. It is a very familiar term to all the teachers and learners. The area of the research- study chosen by the investigator is about measuring the attitude- level of the pupil towards home-works with an attempt to develop a positive attitude towards the same engaging the pupils more and more towards self – empowerment in doing studies by themselves and utilizing their extra time productively, especially when they are home,with an objective to bring a positive shift in their academic performance and level of self-confidence.

keywords - Homework

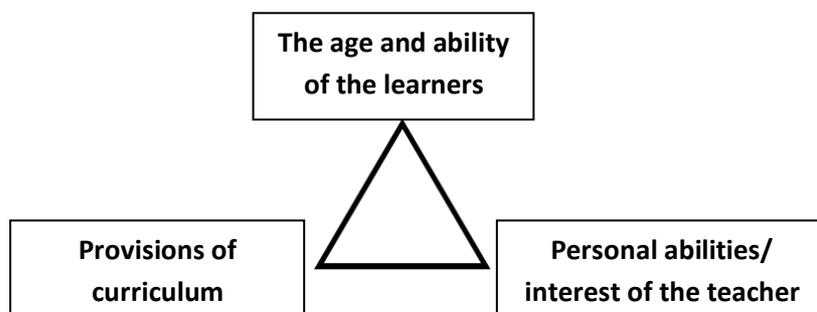
THEORITICAL BACKGROUND OF THE SYUDY

Education is vital process of human life. It has two –fold functions to perform. One is collective in nature,i.e. the upliftment of the society and the other is the development of an individual living in it.

School is the primary formal social institution where a child gets introduced to the process of socialization and self – development. It is the miniature replica of the outer social world which enables the child –learner to get accustomed to the basic social norms, values of life, sense of responsibilities towards self and the society as well, sense of belongingness etc. The social climate at school is composed of peers, educators and mentors, administration-persons etc.

Classroom is a crucial part of the school where the child – learner spends the most important and most of the time in a day. Within the four walls of the classroom, the child receives knowledge, experience and guidance from the teachers and also from friends. The teacher plays the role of a mentor, guide, instructor, leader, supervisor, controller and evaluator whose constant care nourishes the innate qualities of the learners and help them to get grown and groomed in all aspects.

Curriculum play a vital role as a tool to develop the learners and it is the duty of the teachers to follow an effective curriculum, upgrade it if required, so that it can contribute to its maximum to the teaching –learning process. Teachers adopt a pedagogic approach basically focusing on three aspects:-



THE TOPIC OF RESEARCH –the research area:

“A STUDY ON THE PERCEPTION AND ATTITUDE SCALE OF PUPILS TOWARDS HOMEWORKS WITH A FOCUS ON THE VARIOUS CAUSES LEADING TO A NEGATIVE APPROACH POSSESSED TOWARDS HOMEWORK OF CLASS 10 STUDENTS AT LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL , GUWAHATI”.

Meaning of Homework:

Homework is a familiar term in education which is regarded as schoolwork formally assigned for completion outside school – time. Homework is being considered as an essential part of child’s learning. It encompasses a number of activities including revision and preparation for exams or future class-work. It helps the teacher to cope with the people of different work-grades and finishing of the syllabus within a stipulated time period. It is generally given by the teachers to help the student to develop their self- confidence leading to independent learning.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

- Pupils respond negatively in the class being given homework. They express their unwillingness to pursue the homework through their facial expressions and body- languages.
- Pupils don’t complete their homework and are needed repeated reminders on the part of the teachers.
- Even after completion many of the pupils don’t submit the homework on time. Many of them often forget to bring it to the school and are needed to be reminded repeatedly.
- Many amongst the homework’s quality is not maintained well and it can be easily noticed that these have been done without any motivation.
- Pupils who are fully reluctant to do homework. Generally found to be absent from the school/class during the time of submission of the same.
- Negative influence of peers is also another reason of such reluctance. It had been observed that many amongst the pupils deliberately don’t complete or submit their home- work due to peer-influence.
- It had also been observed that many amongst the pupils who wished to perform well in the class and had been really good learners, opt to not to do homework due to peer- influence. Those who are sincere experienced avoidance and negative behavior from few peers in the class. Which is really an emotional issue for them at the stage of adolescence? This had lead to the poor academic performance of many students having good potential.
- Student can’t stand any overload of homework and it leads to frequent absenteeism.

The investigator has witnessed the teacher taking due care of the learners and taking efforts to make them maintain positive attitude towards homework understanding its relevance but the result has not been as per the expectation. Therefore the investigator has initiated to make an attempt to go in depth into the issue. Analyzing the reasons that cause negative influence amongst pupils leading them to pose insincerely to deal with homework. This study had been considered by the investigator to be one of the tools to diagnose the problems associated with the study area address those problems and also provide measures to deal with the problems to attain a solution.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To find out the volume of student in the class who are taking homework seriously having a negative attitude the same.
- To find out the volume of students in the class who are not performing and submitting their homework regularly.
- To diagnose and understand the causes behind such negative attitude non- performance.
- To apply corrective measures leading to a transformation of their negative attitude into positive attitude.
- To bring a positive change in the academic environment of the class by transforming non-performance into performance.
- To elevate the quality of homework done by the students.

ACTION HYPOTHESIS

The following hypothesis have been considered to be achieved under the approach of the teacher trainee- “If the causes relating to the negative attitude of pupil towards homework can be diagnosed and thereby appropriate remedial measures can be taken. There would be a possibility to mould their negative attitude into a positive one towards homework”.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research methodology adopted for the study has been described below:

NORMATIVE SURVEY METHOD

The normative Survey Method is that type of method which doesn’t restrict itself just to collect facts and information only. but also aims to promote future development. Since action research is that type of research which is not only based on collecting data and drawing generalizations. But to solve the problem and improve the existing situation. Hence the Normative Survey Method of research has been considered to be effective for this study, therefore has been adopted by the investigator.

The study also involved Observation Method. At the very initial stage of the study. The learner were being deliberately give some homework under two different situations-1st , they had been explained a topic by the concerned teacher and on the same homework was give .2nd ,they had been give some basic question from the lesson following the lesson they had been studying at that time. Here they had to read the lesson by themselves and work on the questions.

The investigator observed the reaction in the class once the homework had been given in both the situations. Certain things had been found in common in their responses in both the situations.

This observation process was followed by the conduction of the survey for collecting data which was followed by the planning and adoption of remedial measures and a post-test analysis thereafter.

Research Design

A research design is the set of methods and procedures use in collecting and analyzing measures of the variables specified in the research problem. The design of a study defines the type and sub- type of methods. The research problem. Hypothesis. Independent and dependent variables, experimental design and data collection methods and a statistical analysis plan. Research Design and data collection methods and a statistical analysis plan. Research Design is the framework that has been created to find the answers of the research question.

Here the design is based on both quantitative and qualitative research design to collect maximum information from the respondents.

Quantitative research is the systematic empirical investigation of observable phenomena via statistical mathematical or computational techniques. It is any data that is in numerical form. This data is collected through questionnaires.

Qualitative research is a scientific method of observation to gather non-numerical data.

Sampling Design

Considering the purpose of the study the investigator has selected Purposive or Subjective Sampling. A purposive sampling is a non- probability sampling that is selected based on characteristics of a population and the objective of the study. Purposive sampling is also known as judgmental selective or subjective sampling. This type of sampling can be very useful in situations when one needs to reach out to a targeted sample of a selected population.

Sample Size:

The Size of the sample is 50 (class x, Section A)

Tools for data collection:

Tools refer to the instruments and items used by the investigator in collecting data from a targeted set of sample to explore new fields and dimensions of the research area. Each tool or technique is appropriate for collection of certain type of evidences or information. It is of vital importance to select suitable instruments or tools. Proper selection of tools will help the researcher to collect the desired data appropriate for collection of certain type of evidences or information. It is of vital importance to select suitable instruments or tools. Proper selection of tools will help the researcher to collect the desired data appropriately and achieve the objectives of the study.

The following tools have been used in this study for data collection:

- Questionnaire –A Questionnaire is a set of questions printed or written with the choice of answers. Devised for the purpose of a survey or statistical study.
- Observation – Observation is a systematic qualitative approach of collecting qualitative data.
- Personal Interview- It is a face to face interface in between the investigator (interviewer) and the sample (individual). It brings lot of problems and hidden reasons in front which is otherwise difficult to find out.
- Counseling and Brain- storming- It is a technique of individual as well as group interaction system whereby the counselor (researcher) attempts to bring about the targeted modification in the behavior and performance of the sample group, which are part of the remedial measures.

Procedure of Data Collection:

For this study primary Data has been collected.

The data during the pre- test is collected by distributing questionnaire among the students of the targeted class under study. The questionnaire includes questions which are closed –Ended in nature. The student were given necessary instructions before filling up the questionnaire and the investigator ensured that the students fill up the same out on their own without being influenced by others. The same set of questions had been given to the same batch of students after the remedial measures were taken by the investigator. Thereafter a comparative analysis between the responses had been made to derive at the conclusion.

Questionnaire based responses analysis:

Before distributing the questionnaire, the investor ensured that students give their responses absolutely being free from all sorts of prejudices doubts and influences. To bring a better psychological connection in between the students and the questions, the investor preferred to begin the questions with “I” instead of beginning with “you”, as this was expected to support to generate honest responses. All the questions were

FEEDBACK/ OPERATIONAL:

a) PRE- TEST ANALYSIS:

At the pre- test level, the investigator simply applied the primary data collection procedure based on personal observation and interaction with students (sample) and their parents as well. Also the sample- group was provided with a small questionnaire having a set of 10 questions which helped to bring out the perception and attitude level of the group of students towards homework.

After collecting data on the following three methods, the investigator made a simple analysis based on the findings:

▪ Observation
▪ Questionnaire based data collection
▪ Interaction based data collection

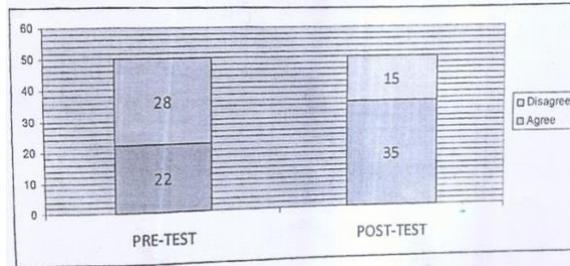
Graphical Representation of the analyses

Since the survey was conducted on the same experimental group (sample) twice, pre-test and post-test on the same set of questions, it becomes relevant and genuine to figure out the changes in the responses collected during the post-test period over the responses collected during the pre-test period.

A comparative analysis of the responses obtained from the same group of respondents during the Pre-test and Post-test has been shown diagrammatically as under. The responses, based on each item of the questionnaire have been shown individually.

1. Statement I like receive homework from my teachers in class

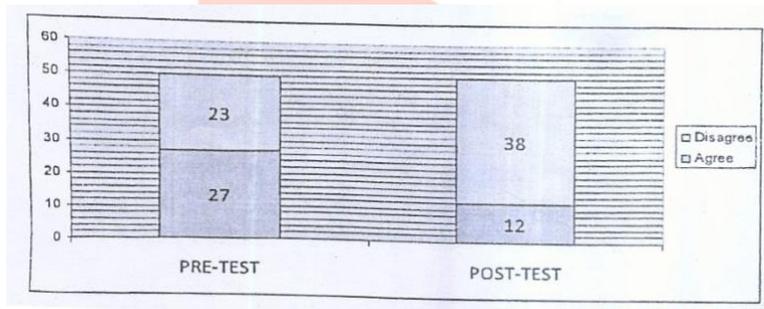
	Pre-test	Post-test
Agree	22	35
Disagree	28	15



REMARK: There is a positive change in attitude towards homework.

2. Statement Homework is just a waste-of time

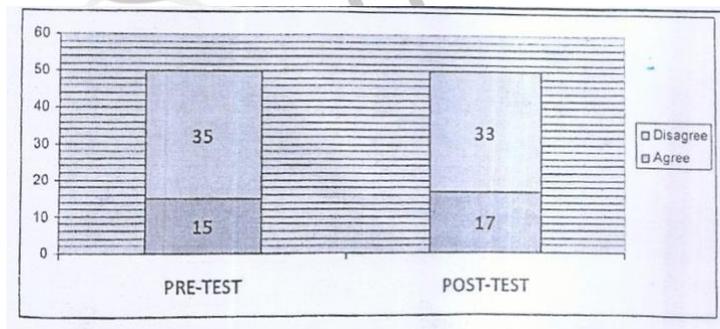
	Pre-test	Post-test
Agree	27	12
Disagree	23	38



REMARK : There is a positive change in attitudes towards homework

3. Statement I am intellectual, homework has very little role to play to develop my intellect level.

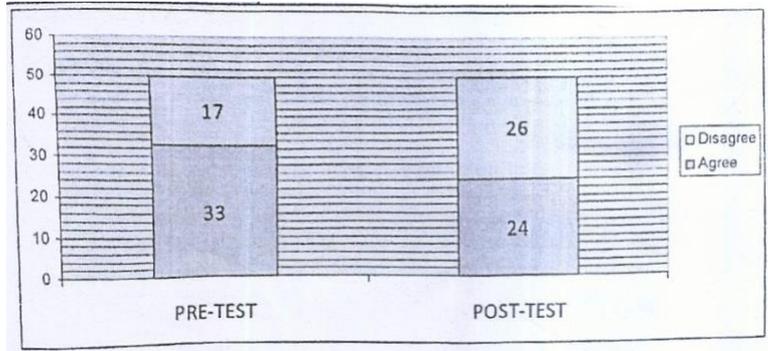
	Pre-test	Post-test
Agree	15	17
Disagree	35	33



REMARKS: There is a positive change in attitude towards homework.

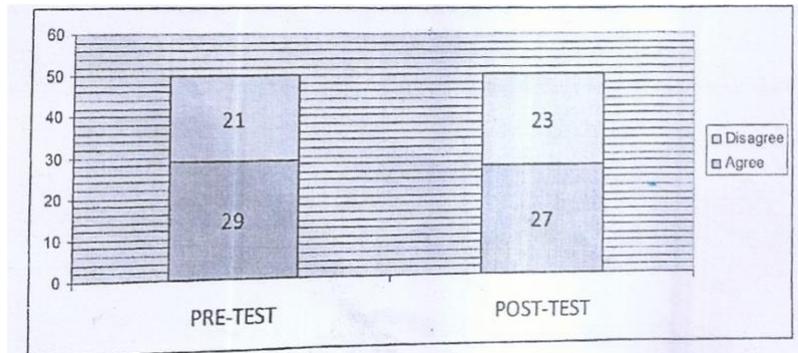
4. Statement Homework hampers my study-time and study-plan.

	Pre-test	Post-test
Agree	33	24
Disagree	17	26



REMARKS: There is a positive change in attitude towards homework.

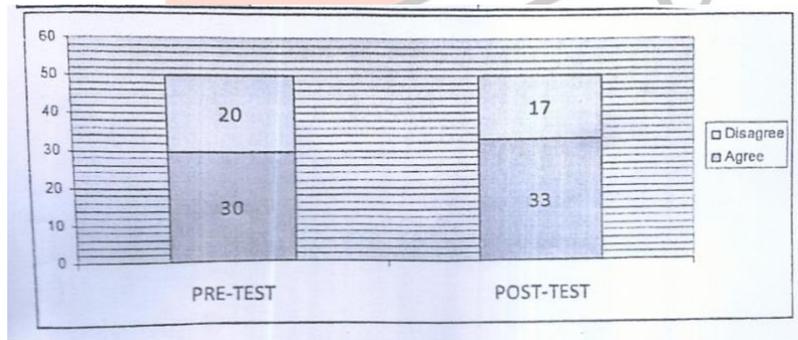
	Pre-test	Post-test
Agree	29	27
Disagree	21	23



REMARKS: Though still the negative responses are more than the positive ones, yet it has been observed that there has been a positive shift in attitude towards homework as the responses agreeing to the statement that doesn't endorse a positive towards homework, has come down from 29 to 27 and the other side that endorses positive attitude has risen from 21 to 23.

5. **Statement I need homework to develop the habit of practicing.**

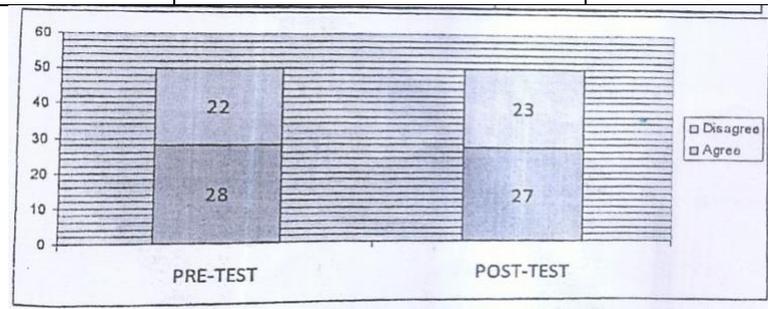
	Pre-test	Post-test
Agree	30	33
Disagree	20	17



REMARK : There has been a positive shift in attitude towards homework.

6. **Statement I am busy with tuitions, hence won't get much time to do my homework.**

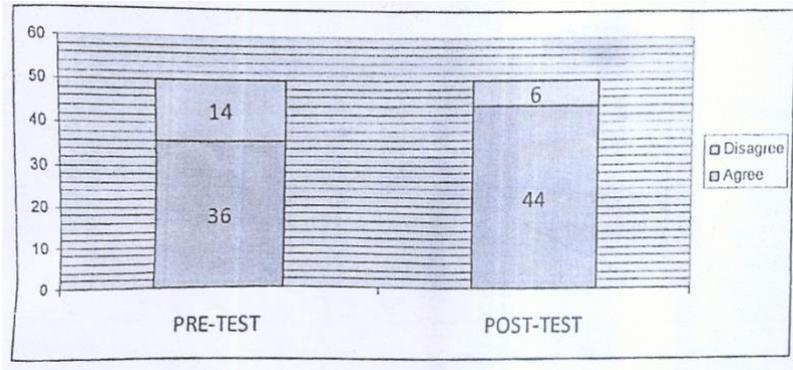
	Pre-test	Post-test
Agree	28	27
Disagree	22	23



REMARKS: Though still the negative responses are more than the positive ones, yet it has been observed that there has been a positive shift in attitude towards homework as the responses agreeing to the statement that doesn't endorse a positive attitude towards homework, has come down from 28 to 27 and the other side that endorses positive attitude has risen from 22 to 23.

7. Statement Homework allows me to apply my knowledge I had acquired at the classroom.

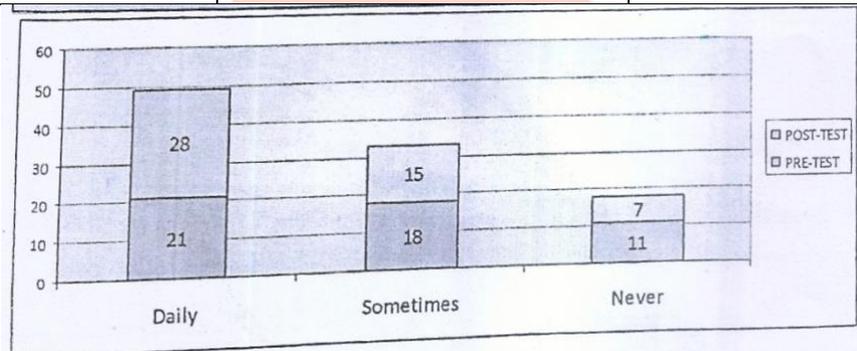
	Pre-test	Post-test
Agree	36	44
Disagree	14	6



REMARKS: There has been a positive shift in attitude towards homework.

8. Statement I do/will do my homework.

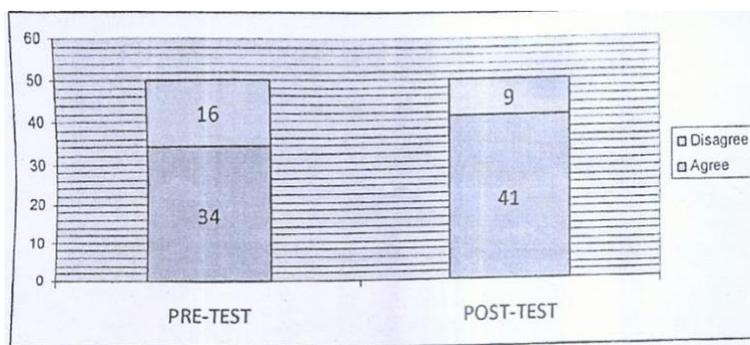
	Pre-test	Post-test
Daily	21	28
Sometimes	18	15
Never	11	7



REMARK: Even though there exist few negative responses post test also, yet few negative responses have been converted into positive ones.

9. Statement Homework allows me to revise my lessons

	Pre-test	Post-test
Agree	34	41
Disagree	16	9

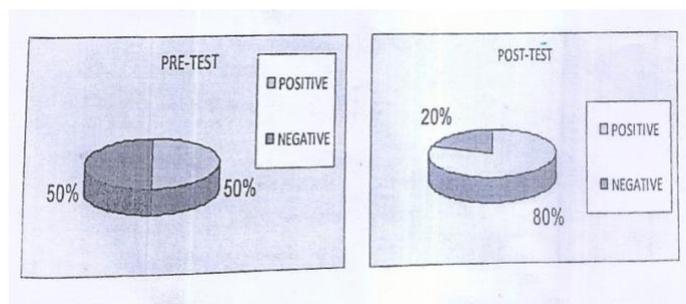


REMARKS There has been a positive shift in attitude towards homework

10. ATTITUDE TOWARDS HOMEWORK REFLECTED BY THE 10 ITEMS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE BASED ON THE OVERALL RESPONSES.

	Pre-test	Post-test
POSITIVE	5	8
NEGATIVE	5	2

TOTAL	10	10
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FINDINGS of the study:

- During the pre-test phase, most of the respondents revealed a negative attitude towards homework (date has been shown earlier).
- Out of 10 items in the questionnaire, around 50% revealed a negative attitude and negative perception, many of the which turned into positive ones later.
- The diagrams in table 11 clearly show that during the Pre-test period 50% of the responses on ten of the items of questionnaire reflected a negative attitude towards the homework, whereas at the Post-test period 80% of the responses show a positive attitude towards homework. This is due to the remedial measures taken after the pre-test data collection, which proves the effectiveness of the remedial measures.
- During personal interaction sessions with the respondents, it was found that the primary reason behind such negative attitude is the lack of time and motivation. Students, being extremely busy with studies, tuitions etc., find a difficult in manage time for homework.
- Usage of smart phones and peer-influence are two of the major causes, which keep the students possessing a casual, passive and negative approach towards homework. They don't study on a regular basis, as a result, the workload increases and they are unable to cope up later.
- Many had admitted honestly that as they have to go for tuitions they feel that their preparation is done and no separate homework from school is needed.
- Many of the parents also take a confusing stand dealing with their words where the necessity of homework is to be highlighted before the children.
- Many of the parents and students feel that homework increase the burden on the students and make them more tensed towards studies.
- Many stay absent from school for escaping homework submission.
- During the period when remedial measures had been undertaken, it had been observed that the students paid keen attention towards it and reacted positively.
- During the Post-test feedback collection, it had been observed that many negative responses turned into positive ones.

SUGGESSTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Homework is a very essential tool for the academic performance, especially at the school level. The importance of homework has already been discussed earlier. However, to make homework as an effective tool to bring academic progress of a student, it is required that they must accept and understand its importance. Few steps or measures can be taken to deal with problem under study. These are:

- Regular motivation and encouragement is to be given to the learners. Career orientation programme should be organized to guide the students' thinking towards a positive direction leading to academic progress and the importance of homework is to be highlighted.
- Parents and teachers should work hand-in hand for the student's progress and study related matters.
- Value-based programmes should be organized where students can be briefed and motivated about following certain basic values for life such as doing duties as young scholars, obeying the teacher, parents, not escaping any duty as a student etc.
- Teacher should stay approachable to her students giving them the required space to clear their doubts on the subjects, if any and help them doing their homework at required.
- Activity-based homework is preferred to be given to the students.
- Homework size should not be heavy and it should be capable of being completed in short time.
- Teacher should check the homework on time and return the copies to the students correcting the errors if any as soon as possible.
- Students should not be punished or scolded badly for doing the homework wrong. The teacher should instead appreciate the students for coming the homework recrtifying the mistakes in the homework done, if any.
- The class- captain should be more involved and vigilant towards the performance of the whole class and should herself set an example of sincerity by submitting the homework on time.

CONCLUSION

A favorable learning environment always bears a positive impact on students all round development and growth. Education and studies are the primary areas of necessities in a student's life. In Sanskrit, there is a famous say rather a Shiake which is "Chhatranang Adhyanang Tapah" which means that the only duty of a student is to study and learn. Therefore, it is obvious that to lead a happy and successful life in future, students should take studies seriously and sincerely. The role of class work and home work can't be over emphasized in this regard. Especially homework plays a very important role in utilizing students time effectively where they are made compelled to think productively, it makes the students self-depend. The benefits off homework have already been discussed earlier.

Now-a-days, due to hectic study schedule, completion over talents and academic progress, involvement in extra-curricular activities, wasting time on electronic gadgets etc. have been the prime cause for making the students possess and escaping behavior towards class work and homework, especially the later as the teacher is not there to monitor while working on a homework.

Hence, proper remedial actions and behaviors are required to be taken by the school teachers, parents and also the students themselves in order to recognize the value of homework and get the maximum benefit from it.

This research project had been of high benefit to a trainee teacher as it helped in diagnosing the problems related to homework which is a very common problem at schools now-a-days. As few remedial measures had been taken in a short time span leading to a positive outcome, it is expected to generate high value in future in terms of more sincerity amongst the students towards studies and homework and contribute to the academic growth of the students and the school as well.

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