

THE FAMILY INFLUENCE ON CHILD'S INTELLIGENCE QUOTIENT AND EDUCATION

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Abstract

This study explores the significant role of family influence on a child's intelligence quotient (IQ) and educational outcomes. It examines how various family-related factors, including genetic inheritance, socioeconomic status, parental expectations, emotional support, and cultural practices, contribute to the cognitive development and academic success of children. The research highlights the complex interplay between hereditary and environmental factors, emphasizing the importance of a supportive and enriching family environment in fostering a child's intellectual growth. Additionally, the study discusses the challenges families face, such as economic inequalities, family instability, and the overemphasis on genetic factors, which can hinder the child's educational potential. In addressing these challenges, the study suggests practical roles for parents in supporting their children's education, the importance of collaboration between families and schools, and the need to overcome socio-economic barriers to enhance the educational experience. The findings underscore the necessity of strengthening family contributions to ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive academically and intellectually.

Keywords: family influence, intelligence quotient, education, parental expectations, socio-economic status, emotional support

Introduction

Education serves as a vital tool for transmitting societal values, norms, and knowledge, while also fostering social change and meeting societal needs through formal institutions. However, the foundation of a child's learning and development begins within the family, the primary agent of socialization. The family plays a critical role in shaping a child's initial cognitive, emotional, and social framework through intentional and incidental interactions (Paul-Mgbeafulike, 2023). Before formal education begins, the family's influence helps form the child's intelligence quotient (IQ), which significantly impacts educational performance. This discussion explores how family dynamics shape a child's IQ and influence their overall academic achievements.

A child's life journey begins within the family, which provides the foundational environment for learning. From birth, children acquire behavioral patterns, language, and social skills through their interactions with family members. These early experiences shape their physiological, psychological, and social legacy before they connect to formal education systems (Mattelin et al, 2024). For instance, children develop manners,

language proficiency, and problem-solving skills from familial interactions, which prepare them for the more structured learning environments of schools. Scholars emphasize that the early stimulation provided by families plays a critical role in fostering cognitive growth, especially during formative years (Darmawati & Amin, 2023).

The structure of the family itself has a profound impact on a child's development. The family is generally categorized into nuclear and extended types. The nuclear family, consisting of parents and their children, offers a focused and intimate environment for child development. This structure can be further divided into monogamous families, where one man is married to one wife, and polygamous families, where a man has multiple wives and children (Kulkarni et al, 2024). On the other hand, the extended family encompasses relatives such as uncles, aunts, grandparents, and cousins. Each family type has unique implications for the resources, attention, and socialization opportunities available to children. Research in Nigeria has shown that children in monogamous nuclear families tend to perform better academically due to the concentrated attention and resources provided by parents (Adamu et al, 2021). However, extended families also contribute positively by offering diverse social interactions that enrich a child's cognitive development.

Parental education and socioeconomic status are additional factors that significantly influence a child's IQ and academic performance. Parents with higher educational attainment often create conducive learning environments, engage their children in intellectually stimulating discussions, and provide access to educational materials. These factors collectively foster cognitive growth and enhance school performance (Gerra et al, 2020). Moreover, socioeconomic status determines the quality of resources and educational opportunities available to children. Families with higher income levels can afford better educational facilities and extracurricular activities, which further support a child's intellectual development. Studies underscore the importance of addressing these socioeconomic disparities to ensure that all children have equal opportunities for success (Ellakany et al, 2021).

Emotional and social support provided by families also plays a crucial role in shaping a child's educational journey. Positive family relationships create a sense of security and confidence, enabling children to explore and excel in academics. In contrast, family conflicts or instability can lead to emotional distress, which negatively affects cognitive development and school performance. Scholars have emphasized the need for nurturing home environments that promote resilience and motivation in children. Such

environments help children navigate academic challenges and maintain a positive outlook on learning (Soekatri et al, 2020).

Cultural norms and practices embedded within families further influence a child's intellectual and educational development. For instance, language acquisition begins within the family and forms the basis for formal learning. Families also instill values such as discipline, hard work, and respect, which are essential for academic success. In the Nigerian context, the integration of indigenous knowledge within family settings has been identified as a critical factor in promoting cognitive growth and adaptability (Akhlaghipour & Assari, 2020). This cultural transmission enriches a child's intellectual foundation, equipping them with the skills necessary for navigating both formal education and societal expectations.

The interplay between genetics and environment within the family further highlights its influence on a child's IQ and educational performance. While genetics contribute to a child's inherent intellectual potential, environmental factors such as parental involvement, access to resources, and social interactions significantly shape how this potential is realized (He et al, 2021). Nigerian studies have consistently highlighted the importance of balancing these influences to optimize children's educational outcomes. Addressing challenges such as parental illiteracy, economic constraints, and family instability is crucial for enhancing children's intellectual and academic growth.

The Functions of the Family

The family serves as a fundamental institution with multifaceted functions that shape individuals and society at large. These functions encompass various aspects of life, ensuring the continuity, stability, and well-being of its members.

Procreation: The primary function of the family is procreation, ensuring the continuity of society through reproduction. This biological and social function is critical for maintaining societal structures and fostering cultural preservation (Meijers, 2020).

Socialization: Socialization begins within the family, where children acquire their earliest education through both intentional and incidental interactions. Parents and family members instill societal norms, values, and language, forming the foundation for cultural identity. Children learn the names of objects, develop communication skills, and form habits and self-image based on family practices (Zhu et al, 2023). Through these interactions, they internalize acceptable behaviors, cultural practices, and societal expectations. The family serves as the primary agent in shaping the child's personality, intelligence, emotional stability, and behavioral patterns.

Sexual Gratification: The family provides a legitimate platform for sexual relationships, approved by societal and cultural norms. This function is essential for maintaining societal

order, ensuring that sexual gratification occurs within legally and socially recognized marital unions (McKee et al, 2021).

Educational Function: The family plays a crucial role in sponsoring and supporting children's education, equipping them with the necessary skills to become responsible and productive members of society. Families provide the resources, guidance, and encouragement children need to succeed academically. Lack of educational support often leads to societal challenges, such as unemployment and criminal behavior. Educated families significantly influence their children's ability to acquire knowledge and skills that foster independence and societal contribution.

Social Status: Families are instrumental in defining their members' social status and class. Children inherit the social group or class of their family, which determines their opportunities and societal positioning. The family's status influences access to resources, education, and social networks, shaping the child's aspirations and potential for social mobility (Booyesen et al, 2021).

Economic Function: The family is responsible for providing for its members' economic needs, including shelter, food, clothing, and healthcare. This support extends from infancy to adulthood and often includes elderly and dependent relatives. Families serve as economic units where parents or able-bodied members contribute to the welfare of dependents, fostering stability and self-reliance (Yan et al, 2021).

Guidance and Counseling: Families also play a pivotal role in offering guidance and counseling to their members. Parents monitor and guide their children's career paths, helping them develop suitable skills and make informed decisions. Educated families often provide enhanced career guidance, while God-fearing families instill moral values. Behavioral tendencies, whether positive or negative, are often linked to family upbringing, highlighting the importance of nurturing responsible and well-rounded individuals.

. Intelligence and Intelligence Quotients

Intelligence is the ability to acquire and apply knowledge and skills. It's mental capacity, intellect, mind, brainpower, powers of reasoning judgment, understanding, comprehension acumen, understanding, insight, smartness, alertness, cleverness, brilliance, talent, etc. The intelligent individual is one who remembers his experience, uses his imagination, thinks about his experiences, studies them, reasons about them and finally exercises judgments, Eyeenck (2018). It has been found that a child's mental ratio or intelligence quotient is generally constant. It means that children are dull or bright in early years, they will in normal circumstances be equally dull or bright as they grow up. To obtain an index of the child's brightness when the Stanford – Binet scale is used, the

mental age is divided by the chronological age and the result multiplied by 100 yield a value known as the intelligence quotient

$$\frac{M}{C} \times \frac{100}{1} = I.Q$$

Thus a normal or average three year-old child will have a mental age of three, a chronological age of three and an I.Q of 100. If the same child earns a mental score of four years, his I.Q is 133. If he does better than the normal 2 year olds, his I.Q is only 67. A child aged 5 is found to be 4 on the scale development as far as most 4 year-olds.

$$\text{His mental age is 4\% Ratio} = \frac{\text{Mental Age} \times 100}{\text{Chr.Age} \times 1} = I.Q$$

$$\frac{4}{5} \times \frac{100}{1} \% = \text{Ans I.Q} = 80.$$

There are many lists of levels of intelligence or classifications. One of the best-known classifications is listed below:

I.Q	Classification
Above – 140	Genius or near genius
120 – 140	Very superior
110 – 120	Superior
90 – 110	Normal
70 – 80	Borer line sometimes dull, feeble-minded
Below - 70	Feeble-minded
50 – 70	Moron
20 or 25 – 50	Imbecile
Below 20 or 25	Idiot

Due to its complex nature, many factors affect intelligence. Some of the most frequently discussed ones are:

Factors Affecting Intelligence

Intelligence is influenced by multiple factors that interact in complex ways to shape an individual's cognitive abilities. These factors encompass biological, social, and psychological domains, highlighting the multifaceted nature of intelligence development as captured in Figure 2.

Heredity and Environment: The interplay between heredity and environmental factors remains a pivotal determinant of intelligence. While both contribute significantly, heredity is often viewed as a stronger influence due to its foundational role in shaping the brain and nervous system. Genetic predispositions set the potential for intellectual capacity, but environmental factors such as education, nutrition, and life experiences are critical in

actualizing this potential. Despite the ongoing debate on their relative contributions, it is widely acknowledged that intelligence results from a dynamic interaction between these elements, making it impractical to assign definitive percentages to their influence (Muslihudin et al, 2024).

Sex: Sex differences in intelligence continue to be a subject of controversy among scholars. Evidence suggests that girls exhibit greater cognitive advancement during the preschool years, surpassing boys in general intelligence. This trend persists through the pre-adolescent years, after which boys appear to gain a slight edge in intellectual performance. Additionally, research indicates greater variability in intelligence among males, with a higher representation at both ends of the spectrum. This variability is reflected in historical accounts of eminent figures, which predominantly highlight male contributors, as well as statistical records showing a higher prevalence of male cognitive impairments (Karcher & Barch, 2021).

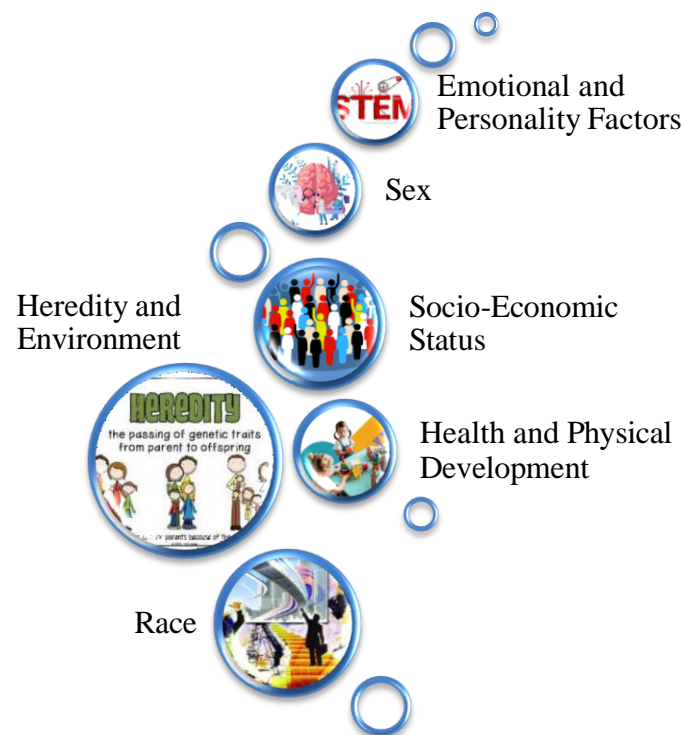


Figure 2: Factors Affecting Intelligence

Health and Physical Development: Health and physical development play a limited role in influencing intelligence. Minor variations in health and physiological maturity are not typically associated with significant cognitive differences. While chronic health issues and malnutrition can negatively impact intellectual development, normal fluctuations in physical well-being are unlikely to have a substantial effect on intelligence.

Emotional and Personality Factors: Emotional and personality traits exert a notable influence on intelligence, particularly in older children and adolescents. Factors such as self-esteem, motivation, and emotional stability can enhance or hinder mental performance. For instance, individuals with high emotional resilience are better equipped to navigate cognitive challenges, while those experiencing emotional distress may underperform in intellectual assessments. Although difficult to quantify, the influence of emotional and personality factors on intelligence underscores the importance of fostering supportive environments for cognitive growth (Marengo et al, 2021).

Socio-Economic Status: Socio-economic status (SES) is another critical determinant of intelligence. Differences in motivation, cultural exposure, and living standards associated with varying SES levels significantly impact cognitive development (Munir et al, 2023). Children from higher SES backgrounds often have access to better educational resources and enriching experiences, which enhance their intellectual capabilities. Conversely, limited access to such opportunities in lower SES families can constrain cognitive potential.

Race: Race has been a contentious factor in discussions on intelligence. Studies reveal that when socio-economic conditions and educational opportunities are comparable, there is no substantial racial disparity in intelligence. This finding emphasizes the role of social and environmental factors rather than inherent racial differences in shaping cognitive abilities. The challenges in measuring intelligence across races further complicate drawing definitive conclusions (Albus, 2024).

The Effects of family on the intelligence quotient of their child

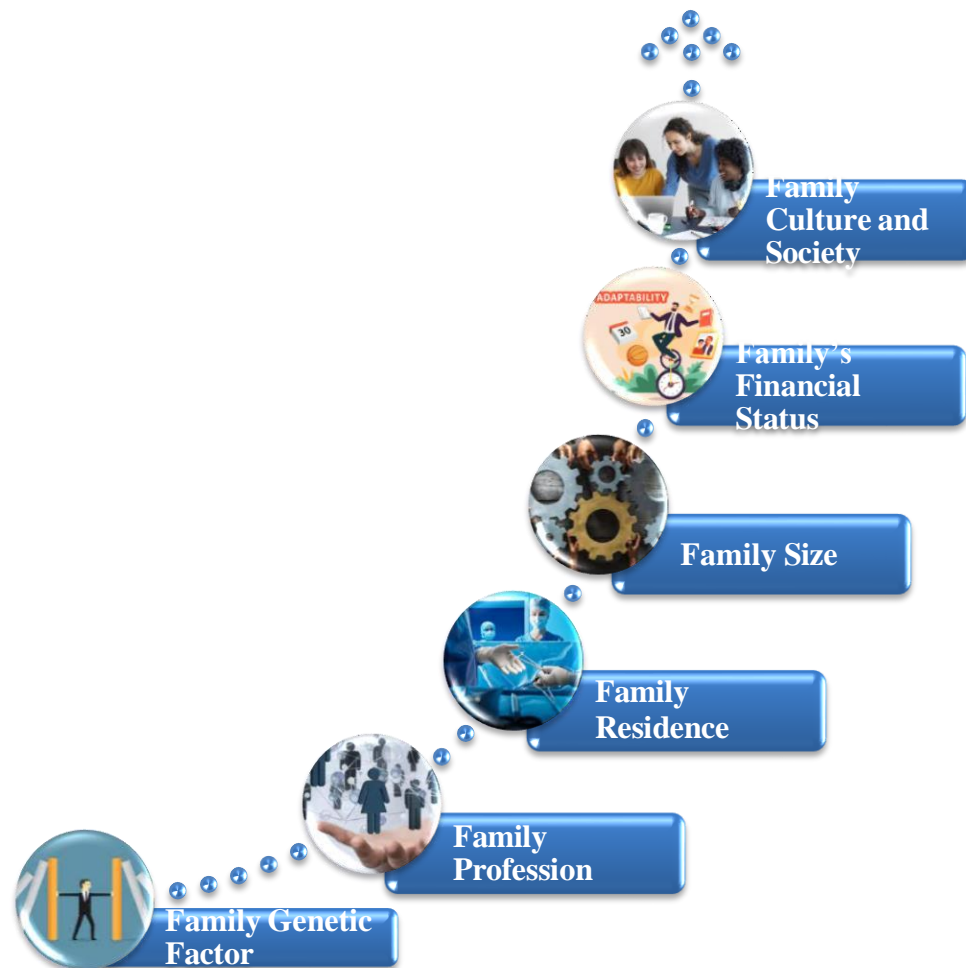
The family plays a foundational role in shaping a child's intelligence quotient (IQ) and overall academic performance. This influence stems from genetic, social, cultural, and economic factors, which collectively determine the intellectual and educational trajectory of the child.

Family Genetic Factor: A child's intelligence is significantly influenced by genetic inheritance from the parents. Genes, carried through ribonucleic acid (RNA), determine physiological, psychological, and emotional traits, including brain development and cognitive abilities. The structure and functioning of brain tissues are genetically programmed, underscoring the hereditary basis of intelligence. Consequently, the intelligence quotient of children is often reflective of the genetic contributions of their parents (Šerman et al, 2022).

Family Profession: The professional background of the family significantly impacts a child's intellectual growth. Children from families with educated professionals, such as doctors, lawyers, and professors, benefit from an environment that promotes intellectual engagement and values education. These families are more likely to provide intellectual

stimulation, resources, and mentorship that enhance academic performance. Conversely, children from less educated families often face limited educational support, which can hinder their cognitive development (Jukarainen et al, 2022).

Family Residence: The location of a family's residence plays a crucial role in shaping a child's educational opportunities and intellectual development. Families residing in urban areas typically have access to better schools, educational resources, and extracurricular opportunities. In contrast, children from rural areas may face limitations due to inadequate educational infrastructure and fewer opportunities for intellectual engagement (Gaugler & Mitchell, 2022).



Family Size: Family size directly affects the resources available for a child's education. In large families, limited financial and emotional resources are often distributed among numerous children, resulting in insufficient support for educational needs. Conversely, smaller families are better positioned to allocate adequate resources, fostering better

educational outcomes and intellectual development (Baranowska-Rataj & Matysiak, 2022).

Family's Financial Status: A family's socio-economic status is a strong determinant of a child's educational quality and attainment. Higher financial status enables access to quality education, learning materials, and extracurricular activities, which collectively enhance a child's cognitive abilities (Steiber et al, 2022). Children from low-income families, however, often face challenges such as school dropout, poor nutrition, and limited access to educational resources. These challenges adversely affect their IQ and academic performance.

Family Culture and Society: Cultural values within the family and society influence the emphasis placed on education. Families that prioritize education create an environment conducive to learning and intellectual growth. However, some cultures focus on traditional practices such as farming and fishing, placing less value on formal education (Nwanmuoh et al, 2024). This cultural orientation can limit a child's intellectual development and academic achievements.

Educational Impact of Family Influence

The family's influence on a child's education plays a fundamental role in shaping academic outcomes and aspirations. Through parental expectations, emotional support, and cultural practices, the family provides the foundation upon which children build their educational experiences. Each of these factors intertwines to affect children's motivation, engagement, and overall performance in school. Parental expectations significantly influence academic performance. When parents hold high expectations and communicate these effectively, they inspire their children to pursue ambitious academic goals. Such expectations serve as a motivating force, driving children to put in the effort needed to excel in their studies. Parents who set clear educational targets and show confidence in their children's abilities foster resilience and perseverance (Yunusa et al, 2022). Conversely, families with low expectations or a lack of involvement often inadvertently discourage children from aiming high academically. Structured family environments that emphasize the importance of education and encourage participation in academic activities create a conducive atmosphere for learning. Studies suggest that these expectations help align children's efforts with achievable goals, resulting in improved academic outcomes.

Beyond expectations, emotional support from family members plays a critical role in motivating children to learn. When parents and caregivers demonstrate genuine interest in their child's education and provide encouragement, they create a sense of emotional security that helps children face academic challenges with confidence. A supportive family environment enables children to develop positive attitudes toward

learning, improving their focus and problem-solving skills. On the other hand, children who experience emotional neglect or excessive criticism may suffer from low self-esteem, which can adversely affect their academic performance. Evidence shows that emotionally supported children are more likely to engage actively in school activities and achieve higher levels of academic success (Oriji et al, 2023).

Cultural practices also significantly shape a family's influence on education. Families that regard formal education as a pathway to upward mobility often instill strong educational aspirations in their children. Such families encourage academic pursuits and emphasize the importance of schooling over traditional practices like farming or trade. This cultural prioritization ensures that children develop a sense of purpose and commitment to education. In contrast, cultures that focus on vocational or traditional roles may limit children's aspirations, emphasizing skills that align with cultural norms rather than formal education. In Nigeria, where cultural diversity is pronounced, such variations in family values and priorities often determine the educational opportunities available to children (Ohanyelu, 2022).

Additionally, the extended family system prevalent in many Nigerian communities can influence educational outcomes. This system often provides additional support, such as mentorship or financial assistance, reinforcing the value of education within the family. However, in cases where cultural norms undervalue formal education, children may struggle to find motivation or support for their academic endeavors (Olubela, 2021). The family's impact on education transcends providing material resources, encompassing emotional, motivational, and cultural influences that shape children's academic and lifelong learning attitudes. High parental expectations, emotional support, and culturally driven aspirations collectively create a foundation for academic success. Recognizing these interconnected influences is crucial for ensuring equitable educational opportunities for all children.

Challenges of Family Influence on Child's IQ and Education

The influence of family on a child's intelligence quotient (IQ) and education is profound, but several challenges hinder its positive impact. These challenges include economic inequalities, family instability, and the debate over the relative importance of genetics and environmental factors in shaping cognitive abilities. These factors often interrelate, creating barriers to a child's optimal intellectual and educational development. Economic inequalities significantly affect children's access to learning opportunities, which impacts their cognitive and educational outcomes. Families with limited financial resources struggle to provide their children with quality educational materials, access to schools with adequate facilities, or extracurricular activities that enhance cognitive growth (Garutsa & Owolabi, 2024). Children from low-income families

often face challenges such as poor nutrition, inadequate healthcare, and limited access to stimulating environments, all of which are crucial for brain development and learning. Such disparities create an uneven playing field, where children from wealthier families are better equipped to excel academically. Studies indicate that economic deprivation not only affects school performance but also has long-term implications for IQ development (Onikoyi, 2023).

Family instability, including divorce, separation, or frequent conflicts, disrupts a child's emotional and psychological well-being, which can negatively impact cognitive development and academic achievement. Children from unstable homes may experience chronic stress, which affects their ability to focus, retain information, and solve problems. Moreover, family instability often reduces the level of parental involvement in a child's education. Parents preoccupied with resolving conflicts or managing life changes may struggle to provide the emotional and academic support that children need. This instability also contributes to a sense of insecurity, further impairing a child's ability to thrive intellectually (Agbaje et al, 2021).

The overemphasis on genetics as the primary determinant of intelligence also poses a challenge, as it can overshadow the importance of environmental factors. While genetic predisposition plays a role in shaping a child's cognitive abilities, the environment significantly influences how these abilities are developed and expressed. Families that prioritize hereditary explanations for academic outcomes may neglect the need to create stimulating environments for their children (Owolabi, 2023). This imbalance can result in underutilization of a child's potential, as cognitive growth depends on factors such as access to educational resources, parental guidance, and exposure to diverse learning experiences. Nigerian scholars emphasize the need for a balanced perspective, where both genetic and environmental influences are recognized in supporting children's intellectual and educational growth.

Addressing these challenges requires deliberate efforts from families, educators, and policymakers to ensure children receive the support they need for their cognitive and academic development. Providing equal learning opportunities through scholarships, improving family counseling services, and raising awareness of the interplay between genetics and the environment are vital steps. Families must also recognize the value of creating stable and nurturing environments that support intellectual and educational aspirations.

Implications for Enhancing Family Contributions

The influence of family on a child's education is profound and multifaceted, with several implications for enhancing family contributions to educational success. Parents play an essential role in shaping their child's academic development by providing support,

guidance, and encouragement both at home and in the school environment. One of the primary ways parents can support their child's education is through active involvement in school activities, such as attending meetings, assisting with homework, and fostering a positive and structured learning environment at home (Nnubia et al, 2024). This involvement helps build a strong foundation for academic success. Studies have shown that children whose parents actively engage in their education tend to perform better academically, as parental engagement boosts motivation and reinforces learning (Kehinde et al, 2021). In addition to academic support, parents also contribute to the development of critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and a love for learning by encouraging curiosity and intellectual exploration.

Another important factor in enhancing family contributions to education is the collaboration between families and schools. This partnership ensures that children receive the maximum support in their educational journey. Schools benefit from involving parents in various school activities, governance, and decision-making processes. Such collaboration strengthens the relationship between home and school, ensuring that teachers and parents work together to address any academic or behavioral issues a child may face. Regular communication between teachers and parents is vital for tracking a child's progress and identifying areas that require improvement (Aruah, 2022). For example, parent-teacher meetings and school events offer opportunities for parents to engage with educators and contribute to decisions that affect their child's academic success. When parents and teachers work in tandem, children are more likely to feel supported, which leads to better performance and overall well-being (Ugwueze et al, 2022). Schools can further enhance this collaboration by offering workshops or resources for parents, helping them understand the best ways to support their children's learning at home.

Addressing the socioeconomic barriers that many families face is also crucial in ensuring that all children have equal access to educational opportunities. Families from lower socioeconomic backgrounds often encounter challenges such as limited access to educational resources, extracurricular activities, and even basic needs like nutrition and healthcare, all of which are essential for academic success. These barriers can hinder a child's cognitive development and ability to perform well in school. Therefore, schools and policymakers must work together to provide additional support to disadvantaged families. This can include offering scholarships, grants, and free educational materials, as well as providing access to programs that address the broader needs of children, such as nutrition, healthcare, and mental health services.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the family plays a critical and irreplaceable role in shaping a child's intelligence quotient (IQ) and educational outcomes. The research underscores that both genetic and environmental factors, deeply influenced by family dynamics, significantly contribute to a child's cognitive development. As internalizing the writ-up, one must conclude that intelligence quotients of a child's education is almost 80% inherited from the parents. It is not easy to blame a child's poor performance as such without making reference to the family's traits. Though, other factors outside the family traits have their own role to play in the intelligence of the child. Parental involvement in education, through setting high expectations, providing emotional support, and fostering an enriching learning environment, directly impacts academic success and intellectual growth. Additionally, the family's socioeconomic status, cultural values, and overall stability are pivotal in determining the educational opportunities available to a child. Although challenges such as economic inequalities, family instability, and the overemphasis on genetics may hinder the potential contributions of families, the study highlights several strategies to enhance family involvement in education. These strategies include empowering parents with the knowledge and resources to actively support their children's learning, fostering collaboration between schools and families, and addressing socio-economic barriers that limit access to educational opportunities. Ultimately, strengthening the family's role in a child's education is vital for the holistic development of the child, ensuring that every child, regardless of background, has the opportunity to reach their full intellectual and academic potential.

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