

Integrating Family Involvement into Primary School Curriculum in Bangladesh

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Background

Working with educational institutions in both Bangladesh and Canada, I have witnessed how family engagement significantly enhances children's learning experiences. My early schooling at Mount Royal Academy, which prioritized family involvement despite cultural resistance, highlighted the transformative power of such partnerships. Later, as an educator of the IB curriculum, I observed how inclusive practices enrich educational communities. These firsthand experiences, paired with the knowledge gained during my M.Ed., illuminated a critical gap in Bangladesh's primary education system—limited family involvement in traditional schooling frameworks. This realization drives my exploration of integrating family participation into the curriculum to create equitable learning environments and promote positive educational outcomes.

Research Questions & Thesis Statement

How does existing research show that family engagement in primary school education affects academic achievements, learning environment, and overall well-being of learners in various global contexts?

What specific strategies and interventions can be implemented to effectively incorporate family engagement in primary school education in Bangladesh, and how do these measures impact student attendance, academic performance, and overall well-being?

Thesis Statement : I believe family engagement can improve students' academic achievements, lead to a better learning environment with a higher student engagement in classrooms, and ultimately enhance child safety and well-being.

Literature Review

Academic Performance

Family involvement in education significantly enhances students' academic performance, as evidenced by studies in Mexico (Rodriguez-Oramas et al., 2022) and Tanzania (Kimaro & Machumu, 2015).

Regular Attendance

Active family-school partnerships also reduce absenteeism and inspires a culture of shared responsibility for education. McConnell and Kubina (2014) reviewed interventions such as regular communication between schools and families, finding that these strategies significantly improved attendance rates. Engaging families ensures that schools are more inclusive and supportive, creating an environment where children are motivated to attend and thrive schooling.

Overall Well-being & Safety

Family engagement enhances children's safety and well-being by fostering collaboration between families and schools, as seen in programs like sexual abuse prevention education (Wulandari et al., 2022) and school-based initiatives that improve physical and emotional well-being (Reynolds et al., 2003).



Photo by ISD, 2023

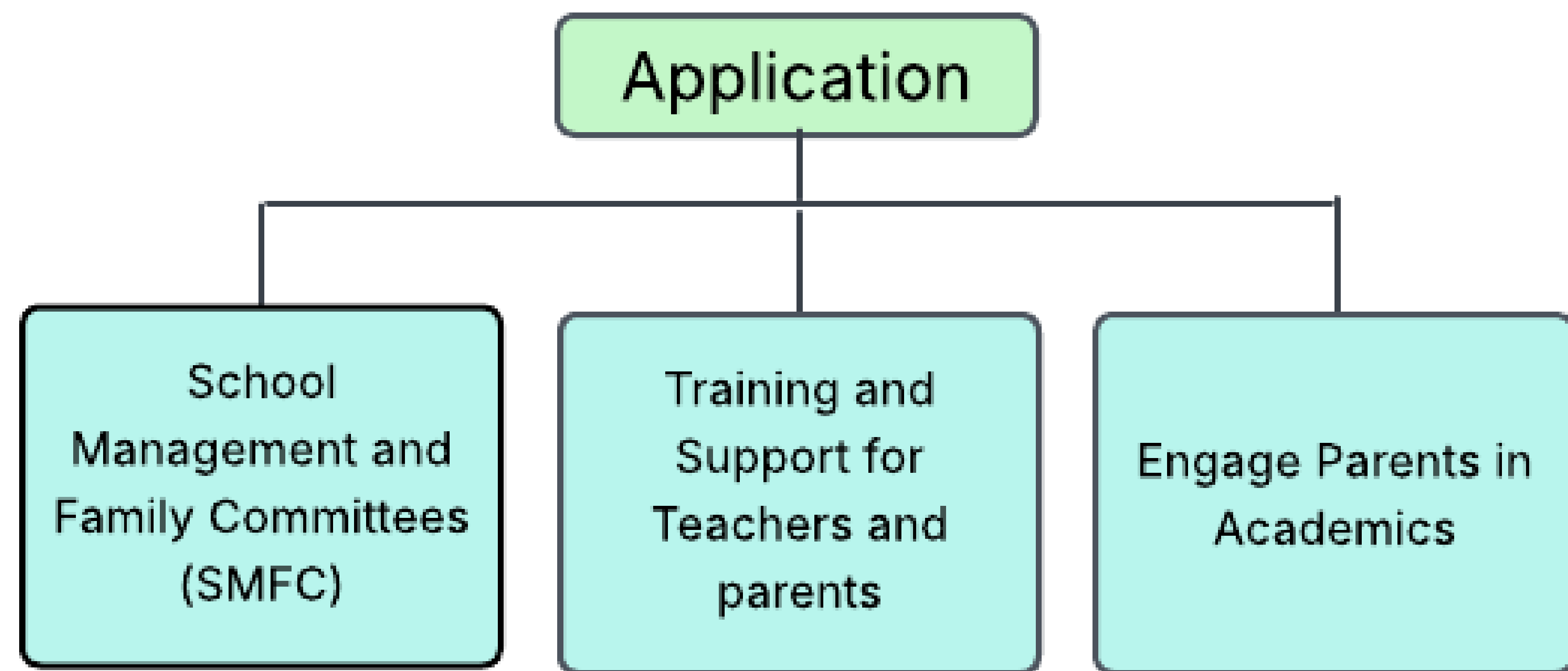
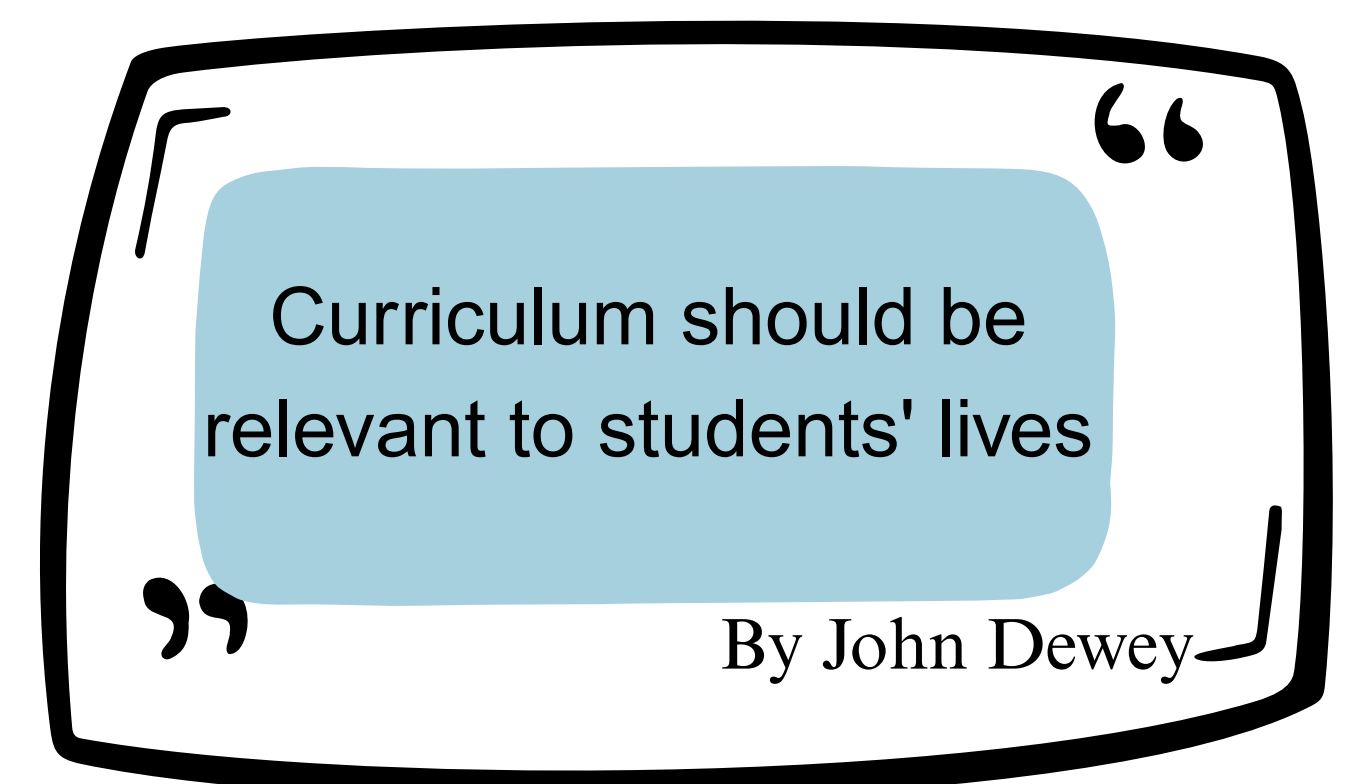


Photo by The Daily Star, 2018



Global Scenario



British Columbia Early Learning Framework (2019) highlights families as primary caregivers, emphasizing collaboration between educators and families to nurture a child's well-being and belonging.

Families and Schools Together (FAST) Program, a globally implemented initiative fostering trust, collaboration, and shared responsibility, leading to improvements in academic performance and social-emotional well-being (Valentine et al., 2019).

Finland's Approach to Family Engagement is parental involvement in decision-making and regular communication with educators ensures cohesive support, contributing to Finland's high global education rankings (Määttä & Uusiautti, 2012).

Parent-Teacher Consultation Programs are initiatives strengthen communication and shared goal-setting between parents and educators, enhancing student progress and fostering collaborative educational environments (Yousef & Maria, 2023).

Summary

My research explores the transformative potential of family engagement in primary school education, emphasizing its ability to enhance academic achievements, improve child well-being, and foster inclusive learning environments. Drawing on global examples, such as digital tools and welcoming physical spaces (Smith, 2022) and inclusive policies (Biswas & Ahsan, 2023), the study highlights strategies to bridge gaps in family-school collaboration within the Bangladeshi context. These approaches aim to provide sustainable, inclusive, and equitable education systems that empower children and communities across Bangladesh.

Implications

- Utilize digital tools for effective family-school collaboration.
- Provide clear policy guidelines and teacher training.
- Ensure inclusivity for families of all backgrounds.
- Leverage affordable resource access in Bangladesh.

Acknowledgement:
All of my educators
My Husband
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References

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Photo by UNICEF, 2021