

Effectiveness of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Education Monitoring Authority in Optimizing Parent-Teacher Council

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Keywords	ABSTRACT
Education Monitoring Authority, Monitoring, Parent Teacher Council.	<i>The purpose of this study is to determine the effectiveness of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Education Monitoring Authority (KPEMA) in optimising the Parent-Teacher Council (PTC). The study is quantitative in nature, and a survey research technique has been applied to collect data. The population of the study is the head teachers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa public sector primary schools (boys). Through a simple random sampling technique, a sample of 224 head teachers of public sector primary schools in District Charsadda are selected for data collection. Five-point Likert scale questionnaires are distributed to the respondents either in hard copy or online via a Google Form link. While both descriptive statistics (percentages and frequencies) and inferential statistics (linear regression) were employed to analyse the data. The study's findings showed that, in regard to KPEMA's efficacy in enhancing the PTC, the majority of respondents disfavored most of the statements, i.e., five out of nine statements. To make the PTC more effective, it is recommended that meetings between monitors and the PTC chairman be held in order to increase PTC effectiveness.</i>

1. INTRODUCTION

The community's and parents' participation in the educational institutions teaching and learning processes makes it possible to improve the quality of education to improve. Community-school organisations are responsible for removing obstacles and advancing education (Govinda & Devan, 2002). To monitor the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa education system, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Education Monitoring Authority (KPEMA) was founded in December 2013. One of the main responsibilities of KPEMA is to visit government-level schools and inform the authorities of the issues they face. KPEMA began monthly monitoring of elementary and secondary schools in March 2014. Each district's monitoring unit head office evaluates the data that the monitors enter into smartphones (Kanwal & Ahmad, 2023). Monitoring systems have enabled administrators to effectively oversee their institutions. The monitoring strategy boosts teacher efficiency and controls indolent teachers, who refuse to do their jobs well (Hafeez et al., 2021). The primary goal of the majority of inspectors is to improve education in schools. It is a mechanism that responds to numerous urgent situations. It needs data that is tested, compatible, and has test results that the institutions may use. Information is generated via monitoring inspection, which also functions as a success indicator and a justification for any setback or success (Porres, 2016). Establishing connections between the past, present and future as well as offering a modern position, policy and future plans are the main goals of the KPEMA (Smith et al., 2011; Samad et al., 2020).

A group of parents and educators that collaborates to raise the quality of education that pupils

receive at a school is known as a parent-teacher council (PTC). Among other topics, the PTC may talk about curriculum, school policy and fundraising. The Parent-Teacher Council (PTC) is one school community that works to enhance academic and financial development in educational institutions (Shakoor et al., 2021). The community can play a significant role in enlightening and motivating people about the objectives. In an attempt to strengthen these schools and guarantee that they provide high-quality education, the government has decided to involve parents in their supervision. In an attempt to raise the calibre of teaching in schools, it was agreed in 2007 to grant the Parent-Teacher Council (PTC) more financial and administrative authority. However, the government finds it challenging to involve parents in the normal school activities to engage the community (Kanwal & Ahmad, 2023).

The foundation of the entire educational system is primary education. Sociologists view this point as a helpful tool for social reform, while educationists see it as the backbone or cornerstone of the entire educational system (Narayan et al. 2023). One of the biggest issues facing the education industry is community non-participation in children's educational processes, which has a damaging and disruptive effect on student success. The aim of the current study is to analyse the effectiveness of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Education Monitoring Authority (KPEMA) in optimising the Parent-Teacher Council.

1.1. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

- To determine the effectiveness of KPEMA in optimizing the Parent-Teacher Council.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Pre-primary education has gained popularity all around the world as a way to keep kids in formal education. It is commonly acknowledged that pre-primary education and early childhood development (ECD) have a significant impact on how well kids do in basic education courses. According to Haque et al. (2013), pre-primary education would help students make a smooth transition to primary school and create the groundwork for lifelong learning. Increasing the availability and quality of children's compulsory education is one of the most promising approaches to eliminating poverty in the medium- to long-term (Ferrão, 2022).

Pakistan takes a lot of interest in quality education, and it believes that education is the only effective way to change society. Making informed decisions requires the establishment of an impartial, independent inspection apparatus that visits schools and gathers data (Ali & Hussain, 2020). There are eight members of the school's community council. Parents, the school's principal, stakeholders, retire, and other significant individuals make up this group (Yunas et al., 2021). They play a crucial role in the educational process by helping children resolve disciplinary issues and achieve greater academic success. To support schools and their families, they collaborate with school administrators and make use of the resources that are available (Shakoor et al., 2021; Adelman & Taylor, 2006). Involving the community in school and student issues improves the quality of education. Community service reduces obstacles to children's education. It encourages learning and aids in the enlightenment of society's less knowledgeable individuals (Clinton & Hattie, 2013). According to Hussain and Naz (2013), it is crucial to include the community in the educational process to prepare them for their future roles. Parent-teacher councils can support the growth of schools when all parents demonstrate an interest and involvement in school-related matters. An effective monitoring system aids in the development of educational institutions (Smith et al., 2011).

Parent-Teacher Councils' (PTC) primary goal is to connect parents and their communities with schools to foster cooperation in various aspects of school management (Shah et al., 2024). Community efforts aim to ensure school attendance, improve teaching and learning, retain dropouts, reduce absenteeism, provide financial support for deserving students, monitor construction, watch teacher performance, collect funds, maintenance of school buildings, and implement plans (Fiore, 2021). The involvement of parents in their children's education is regarded as the foundation of educational institutions' established policies and overall strength. Parents are also inspired by the school's teachers, who urged them to participate in school-related activities, offer creative suggestions and assist the administration in enhancing their kids' education. While parent participation enhances the decision-making process, all school-related activities are particularly important (Hornby & Lafaele, 2011; DeHass, 2005; Hafeez and Atta, 2021). Goal-checking, infrastructure improvement, asset acquisition, employee identification, motivation and guidance are also crucial for enhancing educational institutions. It ensures efficient monitoring, qualitative and quantitative teaching, training standards, teaching activities, and sustainable financial use (Hafeez et al., 2021; Rahman & Rauf, 2021).

Reports from screening officers' control visits were previously recorded and forwarded to the appropriate department. As a result, there was a greater chance of human error in the data and unnecessary delays. That's why the Independent Monitoring Unit (IMU) was created in March 2013 to support data-driven school surveillance. During data collection, field data is immediately moved to a central repository using active tablets for cellular data (Khan et al., 2018; Nawaz et al., 2019); Ali et al., 2019; Samad et al., 2020).

Change is the result of monitoring. There are checks and balances in place at the administration. Parents and teachers put in significant effort to collaborate on the basis of a school's common good, creating social welfare for society, and this marked the beginning of the new era of PTC culture (Shah et al., 2024). Both concepts can improve the capacities of both teachers and pupils and are connected to one another. To handle the various situations at the school level, a capable personality and a system that is regularly monitored are required (Hafeez et al., 2021). Monitoring and inspection practices enhance the quality of education. School councils have not made significant efforts to monitor student attendance (Ullah et al., 2021). Additionally, Samad et al. (2023) stated that school councils continue to be ineffective at encouraging parents to enrol their kids in school. This shows why a large number of children are not registered in any school and why the Punjab government has not yet achieved its goals. While there are encouraging signs of growth in elementary school enrolment, school council monitoring practices did not lead to these outcomes. The government's policy of reducing teachers from schools with low student enrolment has resulted in an increase in enrolment, which has been driven by head teachers and teachers (Samad et al., 2023).

Teachers and head teachers have therefore worked to boost enrolment to preserve teaching positions in schools. Urban and rural school councils for boys and girls showed the same outcomes. They need to be strengthened; in metropolitan areas, they are somewhat effective in monitoring how the funds are being used. School councils are still ineffectual in rural areas. While in certain institutions, keep an eye on how funds are raised and spent. In the majority of schools, concerned council members simply sign the registers at the head teachers' request (Mahmood et al., 2020). Hussain and Naz's 2013 study revealed that PTC meetings are scheduled at the appropriate time. The study also claimed that, despite their obligation, PTC was not increasing student attendance (Hussain & Naz, 2013).

It is evident from literature that much work has been done on analysing the effectiveness of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Education Monitoring Authority (formerly named the Independent Monitoring Unit). Most of the studies have been carried out at either the elementary or secondary level. Primary-level education is the foundation of the education system. So, it is needed to analyse the effectiveness of the monitoring body at the primary level.

2.1. RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS

- **Ho:** The KPEMA has no significant effect in optimizing the Parent-Teacher Council.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

The study was quantitative in nature, and a survey research technique was applied to collect data. All of the male head teachers of the Charsadda region government primary schools were the population of the study. Through the Yamane Sampling Formula (Cohen et al., 2017), a sample of 224 head teachers was chosen. While collecting the data from the population, a simple random sampling technique has been utilised. To gather data and responses about the research variable, a survey questionnaire using a five-point Likert scale was used. The initial draft of the questionnaire was provided to experts, in which 6 members reviewed the questionnaire for its validity, and not a single statement was rejected. The refined questionnaire was distributed physically and also using online Google Forms for data collection from the targeted respondents.

4. RESULTS

The results were divided into two main portions. The first part was comprised of the descriptive analysis of all the variables used in this study. The aim of this presentation was to give a detailed idea about the nature of data.

The second part was comprised of hypothesis testing. The research hypothesis was tested through its null hypothesis. For statistical analysis of the hypothesis, linear regression is applied in order to investigate the effect of KPEMA on optimising the Parent-Teacher Council. The alpha level for hypotheses was set at .05. The data are presented in separate tables.

4.1. Descriptive Statistics

The below table shows the numbers and frequencies of the variables of the study.

Table No.1: Descriptive Results Regarding Teacher Council Effectiveness

Item No	Statements		SD	DA	N	A	SA
1	Monitors regularly check PTC meetings register	Count	3	10	22	129	60
		N %	1.34	4.46	9.82	57.6	26.8
2	Monitors regularly check PTC funds utilization reports	Count	2	16	18	144	44
		N %	0.89	7.14	8.04	64.3	19.6
3	PTC funds are properly utilized because of monitoring	Count	8	58	66	62	30
		N %	3.57	25.9	29.5	27.7	13.4
4	PTC meetings are arranged regularly	Count	10	47	50	84	33

	due to monitoring	N %	4.46	21	22.3	37.5	14.7
	PTC has become active in increasing	Count	18	69	76	51	10
5	students' enrollment in your school	N %	8.04	30.8	33.9	22.8	4.46
	because of monitoring						
	PTC has become active in decreasing	Count	19	76	63	54	12
6	students' dropout rate in your school	N %	8.48	33.9	28.1	24.1	5.36
	due to monitoring						
	Due to Monitoring PTC reports	Count	22	71	62	63	6
7	teaching and non-teaching staff	N %	9.82	31.7	27.7	28.1	2.68
	absenteeism						
	Parents take active part in your school's	Count	39	101	44	28	12
8	activities as a result of monitoring	N %	17.4	45.1	19.6	12.5	5.36
	Monitors meet the Chairman of PTC	Count	53	79	49	32	11
9	regularly	N %	23.7	35.3	21.9	14.3	4.91

SD: Strongly Disagree, DA: Disagree, N: Neutral, A: Agree, SA: Strongly Agree

As stated in Table No. 1, the values presented in the analysis of agree (A) and strongly agree (SA) are both cumulated; strongly disagree (SD) and disagree (DA) are both cumulated into a single value, while neutral (N) values are presented in their original form. In item 1, 84% of respondents agreed with the statement that monitors regularly review the PTC meeting register, while 10% were unclear. Of the respondents, 6% disagreed. In reference to item 2, 84% of participants expressed agreement with the statement that PTC money utilisation reports are routinely verified by monitors, whilst 8% disagreed and 8% expressed uncertainty. According to item 3, 41% of respondents agreed with the statement that PTC money is being used properly because of monitoring, while 29% disagreed and 30% remained neutral in deciding. Regarding item 4, 22% of participants expressed uncertainty, 52% concurred, and 26% disapproved that PTC meetings are regularly arranged due to observation. Regarding question 5, 27% of participants expressed agreement with the statement that PTC has been actively involved in boosting student enrolment in your school due to observation, whereas 34% of participants expressed uncertainty. 39% of those surveyed disagreed. According to question 6, 42% of respondents disagreed, while 29% agreed and 29% were doubtful that PTC has actively decreased student dropout rates at your school as a result of monitoring. Regarding Item 7, 42% of participants expressed disagreement, 31% agreed, and 29% were unsure about the fact that monitoring PTC records absences from both teaching and non-teaching staff. Item 8 states that parents actively participate in school events because they are supervised. Of the respondents, 62% disagreed with this statement, 18% agreed, and 20% were undecided. Item 9 showed that 59% of respondents disagreed, 19% agreed, and 22% were unsure about the assertion that monitors meet with the PTC chairman frequently.

4.2. Inferential Statistics

Regression analysis is a statistical technique for building a model and analyzing the connection between the independent and dependent variables (IV). Its aim is to determine the degree of relationship between two or more variables. This is assisted by the use of hypothesis testing (Saunders et al., 2009).

Table No.2: Regression Analysis Results

Hypothesis	R	R Square	F (1,222)	B (Constt+KPEMA)	Std. Error (Constt+KPEMA)	Sig
Ho	0.839	0.705	529.413	-2.948	1.376	0

The hypothesis investigated the idea that KPEMA monitoring had no appreciable effect on Parent Teacher Council efficacy. The Parent Teacher Council's dependent variable, efficiency, was regressed on the predictor variable, monitored, in order to test hypothesis Ho. This table indicated that Ho had a R value of 0.839, above the threshold of 0.4, indicating a positive relationship between KPEMA/monitoring and the PTC's active participation. With an R Square of 0.705, it could be seen that 70.5% of the variation in the activity level of the Parent Teacher Council could be explained by monitoring. The results, which were statistically significant ($F(1,222) = 529.413$, p value = 0.000, which is less than 0.05), so rejected the null hypothesis Ho.

4.3. Findings

The data clearly showed that the KPEMA performed exceptionally well in examining the meeting register of PTC and evaluating the PTC funding utilisation reports. The KPEMA was not very effective in increasing student enrolment, decreasing dropout rates, reporting the absence of teaching and non-teaching staff in schools, making the parents active participants in the school affairs and facilitating meetings with PTC chairs.

5. DISCUSSION

The current study focused on the effectiveness of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Education Monitoring Authority in optimising the Parent-Teacher Council. No literature was available which would show the effectiveness of KPEMA/IMU on enhancing the Parent-Teacher Council. According to the findings of the current study, most of the head teachers thought that KPEMA has improved the PTC in areas such as the conduction of the PTC meetings on a regular basis, enhancing students' enrolment in schools, checking and utilising reports and PTC fund proper utilisation. Still, there were some areas where the KPEMA had not optimised the PTC, like reporting staff absence, reducing students' dropout ratio and meeting with PTC chairmen. The null hypothesis was rejected because the p -value was less than 0.05, indicating a statistically significant result. It showed that there was a significant effect of KPEMA on optimising the PTC.

6. CONCLUSIONS

Despite being highly successful in many areas, KPEMA (the monitoring department) remains ineffective in certain areas. According to the current study's findings, KPEMA has not been more successful in functionalising the PTC, and more effort in this particular area is required before the PTC can be genuinely regarded as a community representative organisation.

6.1. Implications and Recommendations

The KPEMA currently in use for public school monitoring has thoroughly been reviewed in the current study. The study is helpful for monitoring head teachers and administrators in primary schools that are run by the government. The results of the study

shed light on how head teachers view new issues with monitoring and supervision. This study provides stakeholders with reliable information to enhance the current educational monitoring system. The study's findings may help in future studies into how the government assesses authority in girls' elementary schools.

In order to evaluate the overall quality of the teaching and learning process, it is recommended that the District Monitoring Officer (DMO) and the Data Collecting and Monitoring Assistant (DCMA) make three random school visits per month. Further, they must pay particular attention to student academic achievement rather than just the attendance records of the instructors. According to the findings, the Parent Teacher Council (PTC) must be given the appropriate amount of weight so that the community may fulfil its obligations. The obligations and functions of the Parent-Teacher Council (PTC) and its function as a community representation should be the subject of future studies.

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