

## Parental Involvement in Education, Challenges and Recommendations for the Future

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### Abstract

Main purpose of this study is to make a general assessment of parental involvement in education and to give ideas of the way of their involvement to the benefit of a better quality of education for children in Albania. Despite the role of parents in education is considered important in official documents and in the daily propaganda, in reality, the parental movement and parental involvement in education is at low levels and does not provide the necessary influence to a better education of children. Projects and programs implemented by foreign organizations have brought positive experiences in the new conceptions and commitment of activities through the application of contemporary methods and approaches in the field of parenting movement. Nevertheless, these experiences are not sent further ahead and now they have remained just as memories of the past. Based on the principle that the fulfillment of the mission of education can not be done only by school teachers, but it needs the engagement of other factors, among them, parents have an irreplaceable role, the study can assess what is already achieved and can propose ways of strengthening the involvement of parents in education in the Albanian territory.

The study was conducted based on the review and analysis of official documentations of the administration and that of foreign organizations. Questionnaires and interviews were developed and later analysed. As a source of the data collection and analysis were round tables/meetings with stakeholders of education. The study points out that the involvement of parents in education is at lower levels than the pace and goals of education reform in Albania. This situation is due to the insufficient awareness of parents about their role and involvement in education, lack of knowledge and skills of parents to fulfill this role and demotivating policies by authorities at central and school levels to realize the openness to parents.

This is also demonstrated by the fact that the experiences of such programs implemented by foreign organizations in Albania had not achieved their targeted sustainability. This study could not have been completed without the assistance and kindness of many people. We wish to acknowledge and express our appreciation of these people for their invaluable contributions. First, we would like to thank the relevant institutions respectively RED and School management/principals that supported us with official documentation. Second, we owe our deepest gratitude to interviewed teachers and parents as well as all others who have contributed substantially to the quality of this study. We are truly grateful for their time, trust, and commitment.

**Keywords:** Involvement, parents, education, involvement ways/methods, projects, sustainability.

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