

ABSTRACT

This study intended to explore the relationship between parents' socio-economic status in terms of occupation, education, assets and income and academic performance of students in science subjects, especially in the rural areas. This study seeks also to determine other factors responsible to the academic performance differences among students. The respondents of this study included 697 students of both senior six and senior three and 20 teachers of science subjects from five secondary schools of Nyamagabe district. This study used both qualitative and quantitative methods. Questionnaires, interview, observation and check lists were used as instruments. Frequency, percentage and Pearson Correlation were used to analyze data. The findings have revealed that the parents' socio-economic status in terms of level of education, parents income, parents occupation, parents assets has a closed relationship to the academic performance of their children in the study area. And other factors such as school environment and natural factors determine also the academic achievement differences among students in science subjects. The researcher recommends to different people namely the government, educational planners, curriculum designers, head teachers and teachers. The government and education planners should plan effectively for its people and put into consideration the socio-economic status of parents, especially in rural areas. The curriculum designer must provide relevant materials corresponding to the program and provide the education which is linked with the socio-economic needs of society. The teachers and head teachers should try to handle learners individually by also considering their socio-economic background. In conclusion, the analysis and interpretation of data gathered using the questionnaire, document and interview have revealed that the parents' socio-economic status in terms parent education, income, occupation and family assets had a close relationship to the academic performance of students in science subjects in the study area. Therefore, the objectives of this study have been achieved.