Predicting the Relationship between Parent Teaching Activities and Emergent Literacy in Preschool Children of Oxford Louise Academy of Dasmarinas using a Correlation and Clustering Analysis

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Abstract

Literacy development is the fundamental factor in the language development of a child. To enhance the children’s language skills, the preschool teachers are challenged to constantly take part in the individual children’s interactions. Since parents are considered the first teachers of their child, it is important to take into consideration how parents can assist on improving the language and acquiring important literacy skills of their children before their children attend to formal schooling.

The main goal of this research is to discover the relationship of the parent’s intervention on the growing preschool children student of a private school in Cavite and the teaching activities. This was done through performing a survey assessment for random samples.

Further, the study on the basis of the evaluation of teachers before the child learning capabilities would aim to forecast students who needs to have intervention classes. This research focuses mainly on the application of the data mining techniques in the academic setting.

Keywords: correlation, clustering, preschool, emergent literacy

1. INTRODUCTION

Perceptively reading and writing are the vital requirements of many schools for the primary or preschooler before transitioning them to grade school level. Usually, at the age of 5 to 6, children in most cases starts to learn to read. However, many kids still do not acquire this important skill.

The significant development of a child greatly happens during pre-school years wherein the child’s brain rapidly and fully developing. Further, during this stage, the self-esteem and moral foundations of the child started to establish. Hence, teacher as well as parents should be guided in facilitating these for the development of the child.

According to a survey, Filipinos age ten and above are literate. They also mentioned that nine out of ten Filipinos whose age are from ten to sixty four were functionally literate[1].
Fig. 1. Reading levels of grade 1 students in the city schools division of Manila.[2]

Literacy starts at home and is crucial to the development of the child capabilities. Learning capabilities of early childhood would involve reading of books, playing educational toys which will stimulate their brains and could have clear grasp of readiness and engagement. Parents interaction to their child would also affect the child’s positive learning experience.

Children has to explore their environment in order to have better understanding of their surroundings, create and discover new learnings based on actual play-based activities. These will eventually leads them to becoming emergent literates and, helps them to naturally acquire the proficiencies needed in school[3].

According to the article of PIA which mentioned on the UNESCO Report, being literate is the ability to read and write[1].While the ability of understanding a plain message in any language is basic literacy. Further, functional literacy is attained when a person has attained basic literacy with numerical skills[1].

A study reported by the U.S. Department of Education, kindergartners coming from low income family has lowest scores in reading and math. While kindergartners coming from high income households got highest scores in math and reading. Further, in terms of math and reading scores, children coming from Asian countries had higher scores than children coming from other races or ethnicities[4].

Differences in child’s skill levels often affects later their overall development in terms of cognitive, language, and academics[5][6].

The goal of this study were to discover the relation of parent’s activities to emergent literacy of the child’s class performance in academics; and to predict who among the preschool students need to undergo summer class due to lack of reading and writing capabilities in Oxford Louise Academy of Dasmarinas Inc.

Oxford Louise Academy of Dasmarinas Inc., (OLA) is a private non-secretariat, co-educational institutional of learning offers early childhood programs in the City of Dasmariñas, Philippines.

II. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

The academic performance of students can be attributed to different factors. Heredity and peer pressure contribute to this. In this research, the researchers uncover the students’ academic performance attributed to parental interventions.

According to social studies researches, a parent’s support and intervention is important to children who are in their preschool years. The children’s early reading and writing experiences should be done at school and at home, with a parent’s help [7]. In a research by Yonson (2016), Filipino parents have willingness to support their children, either in elementary or secondary, in their academics, extracurricular aspects, and as members of the Parent-Teacher Association [9]. Besides a parent’s direct involvement, their permission of their children watching cartoons or child TV shows.

In the academic setting, data mining enables data-driven decision-making for the improvement of educational practice[10]
Data mining has been used for many aspects of education over the years. Following are researches which used analytics and varying techniques of mining students’ academic performance.

Venkatesan and Selvaragini (2017) compared the use of two common algorithms in predicting students’ academic performance: clustering and classification. For classification, they used the algorithms C4.5, k-Nearest Neighbor, and Naïve Bayes. On the other hand, they used Expectation Maximization (EM) and k-Means for clustering. The data they used are from undergraduate and post-graduate students of four private Arts and Sciences colleges in Tamilnadu, India. To predict a student’s academic performance in end semester exams, they used the student details and results in their internal exams. The processes of compartmentalization and bunch grouping are used to process the data in MATLAB and WEKA. The clustering algorithms both got high accuracy – EM: 90% and k-Means: 99% [11].

In the study by Govindasamy and Velmurugan (2017), have used undergraduate and post-graduate students’ details. The authors compared the use of clustering and classification algorithms for data mining in the education industry. The data set is wider than the previous research which now consists of the student’s family details, her environment, and grade results for all academic activities. The researchers decided on four (4) clusters to group the students to distinct, first, second, and fail. EM has 74% accuracy, while k-Means remain with a higher accuracy of 81%. Overall, clustering averaged 82% in accuracy, while classification got 62.7% accuracy [12].

Another research of Yassein, Helali, and Mohomad whose main goal was to find out data patterns to predict a student’s academic future. This research was also conducted to let academic stakeholders know what actions to take to improve a student’s academic performance. The researchers used SPSS and Clementine as data mining tools, while course and student details are used for data set. The research introduced the use of 2-step clustering which is the division of data based on similar aspects to get the number of clusters dynamically. They concluded that the most affecting factor in a student’s academic performance are attendance in class, final and mid exam grades. Other affecting factors are personal, socio-economic, and other environmental variable factors [13].

Moucary, Khair, and Zakhem (2011) tries to improve a student’s performance in foreign-language based higher education courses with the use of clustering technique and neural networks. The researchers used a hybrid algorithm of clustering and neural networks to predict the General Point Average (GPA) of students. The result can give a careful advising during registration to maintain acceptable General Point Average and high retention rate. Lebanon use French and Lebanese for their day-to-day conversations. However, on higher educations and due to globalization, English is used for many courses. Students might suffer when they are drastically changed to use English as medium of instruction, instead of using their native language. Neural networks are used by the researchers to predict a student’s GPA based on their performance in English-taught courses and English-related courses.

Gangurde and Sonar (2014) mentioned in their article that there are several techniques of data mining such as classification, clustering, association, prediction and sequential patterns which are used for knowledge discovery from databases[14].
III. METHODOLOGY

This study used quantitative research. The researchers utilized several statistical methods to analyze the relationships between the participants with respect to learning levels of the preschool students. Furthermore, participant demographic information was obtained and incorporated into the analysis process. For purposes of this study, obtaining a sampling of preschool students in OLA, the researchers used convenience sampling as a method of obtaining participants.

The research methods and procedures used in this study are discussed including how data was collected, analyzed and synthesized. A quantitative non-experimental survey design was used for the research design.

As shown in Fig. 2, the Data model that the researchers used is a well-proven and robust methodology called CRoss-InduStry Process for data mining.

![Cross-Industry Process Diagram for Data mining](image)

Business and Data understanding phase is very important at the start of this methodology. All pertinent data and business rules and requirements are initially planned and loaded.

Data preparation phase is the next stage wherein the researchers decide on what are relevant data needed in the data analysis. This also includes data cleansing in which all noise data where removed.

Following this stage is the Modelling phase. The researchers then select the appropriate modelling techniques such as clustering and classification.

Results from mining the data are then evaluated if they adhere to business objects.

Data Mining Method

Data mining procedures are used to build model. In building such model, algorithm should be implemented. There are two basic groups of algorithms: supervised and unsupervised.

The researchers used supervised learning wherein it makes use of training data containing the independent variable and dependent variable. By using supervised learning, the target variable/s can be predicted based on the predictor variables[15].

Data Mining Task

Data mining tasks are very diverse because of the nature of the large database where there could be many patterns to discover. These tasks can be classified as summarization, association, classification, trend analysis and clustering. [16]

Clustering

Clustering is a process of identifying same groups from unstructured data[17]. A cluster is a subset of of similar objects.

Correlation

Correlation is identifying relationships between variables[18].

Data Mining Tool

A datamining tool used by the researchers is the IBM Statistical Package for the Social SciencesStatistics. This is a software package used for analyze statistical data[19].
The researchers used survey forms from the respondents to gather and extract necessary data that are related to the purpose or goal of the survey.

Fig. 3 is the researchers’ sample survey form for parent’s intervention on the child emergent literacy while Fig. 4 shows the Sample survey form the evaluation of the teacher’s prior to child’s learning capabilities.

The researchers have used closed-ended questions surveys which is more efficient in terms of preparation and interpretation. For data gathering and analysis, the sample consist of total 31 preschoolers were selected out of 54. Among them are 13 beginners and 18 kindergarten students.

![Parent's intervention on child emergent literacy survey form](image)

![Sample survey form for the evaluation of the teacher’s prior to child’s learning capabilities](image)

The researchers then identify the type of variables that were needed for the analysis. The different learning approaches are considered independent variables. While dependent variables are the child’s learning capabilities.

![Fig.5. Research Paradigm](image)

In Fig. 5 is the conceptual framework of the study is presented to give of the work to be done. The process is the strategy to be used as generating data using survey or questionnaires which will be distributed in several participants. The possible output or the dependent variable will be based on the participant answers that the researchers evaluated as well.

IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The research was conducted to identify the relationship of having parent intervention prior to emergent literacy of their child regarding of learning capabilities of the students which being evaluated. The researchers selected a sample population of 31 respondents’ parents of students and 2 advisory teachers in OLA. This is to find the relation to parent’s activities to emergent literacy of the child’s class performance in academics; and to predict who among the preschool students need to undergo summer class due to lack of reading and writing capabilities.

**Distribution sampling**

**Type of Predictor (Beginner, Kindergarten levels): Teaching method/learning approach/Teacher evaluation**

To get the Frequency distribution table (FDT), here’s the formulas: \( K = 1 + 3.322 \log n \), \( R = \) highest – lowest, \( C = R / K \). The dataset results were done through SPSS software.
Where \( N = 13 \) for beginner and \( N = 18 \) for kindergarten level.

**Table I. What teaching method used?**

*(Beginner level)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Valid Percent</th>
<th>Cumulative Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traditional approach</td>
<td>38.5</td>
<td>38.5</td>
<td>38.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interactive approach</td>
<td>30.6</td>
<td>30.8</td>
<td>61.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Through learning center</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>76.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letterboxed</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table I. shows that most of the parent applies the traditional approach in a way of teaching their child for early literacy.

**Table II. How does the student in reading skills? (Beginner level)**

In table II, is the reading evaluation of the teachers among 13 beginners. One of them got very poor reading skills.

**Table III. How does the student in writing skills? (Beginner level)**

Table III shows that 46% got fair in writing skills while 2 among 13 got good ratings.

**Table IV. How does the student in numerical skills? (Beginner level)**

In table IV, one out 13 children has very good performance in numerical skills and two of them might be having difficulties.

**Table V. What teaching method used?**

*(Kindergarten level)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Valid Percent</th>
<th>Cumulative Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traditional approach</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interactive approach</td>
<td>38.9</td>
<td>38.9</td>
<td>72.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Through learning center</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>83.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No intervention</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table V shows that most of the kindergarten parent applies the interactive approach in a way of teaching their child for early literacy. Three of them have no intervention done for teaching their kids.

**Table VI. How does the student in reading skills? (Kindergarten level)**

In table VI, three among 18 students being surveyed got very good in reading skills.

**Table VII. How does the student in writing skills? (Kindergarten level)**

In table VII, three among 18 students being surveyed got very good in reading skills.
In table VII, shows the highest percentage has on good criterion which means most of them have a good writing skill.

**Table VIII. How does the student in numerical skills? (Kindergarten level)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Valid Percent</th>
<th>Cumulative Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Valid</td>
<td>56.00</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>56.00</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>11.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>61.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>22.22</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>83.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very good</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In table VIII shows that 3 out 18 students outstand in numerical skills while fair criterion got the highest percentage.

**Correlation/Clustering matrix result**

**Table IX. Correlations Matrix**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>What score does the kid got from teachers' evaluation?</th>
<th>What score does the parent being applied?</th>
<th>What score does the child’s passing score prior to learning evaluation by their teachers?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent Correlation</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.31</td>
<td>0.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sig (Tailed)</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In table IX shows the traditional approach has a strong positive correlation to child’s passing score prior to learning evaluation by their teachers.

Fig.6 shows that traditional approach has a high number of being used for emergent literacy of their kids while the lowest is enrolling their kids through learning center.

The Fig.7 indicates that 65% of the total 31 of both beginner and kindergarten students sampling has passed the evaluation and 8% need to undergo summer class and 3% of it has failed the evaluation might repeat the school level to complete the requirements to pass in next school level.

**Table X. Initial Cluster Centers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clusters</th>
<th>Cluster 1</th>
<th>Cluster 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. What type of learning approach does the parent being applied?</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Learning capability</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Gender</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Preschool level</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In table X, it has clustered into 2, and the variables selected being analyzed, which learning approach 1 is the traditional approach while 4 is no intervention, learning capability 5 is very good satisfaction rate while 1 is very poor, gender 1 is male and 2 is female, preschool level 1 is beginner and 2 is kindergarten level.
In table XI, the clusters values were being changed on the final clustering method wherein the value 3 on learning approach is the through learning center. Then 3.9 values indicate fair ratings while 2 is poor.

Table XII. Distances Between Final Cluster Centers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cluster</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.620</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In table XII shows the two clustering being analyzed and it has same values of 2.620.

Table XIII. Number of Cases in each Cluster

Table XIII shows the cases in each cluster in total of 31 out 54 sampling. Cluster 1 has 20, while cluster 2 has 11.

V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

In this study, the researchers have used the qualitative methodology to compare the predictive power of clustering algorithm and the correlation analysis. The researchers were able to demonstrate the technique using k-means clustering algorithm. On a data set of Oxford Louise Academy of Dasmarinas Inc., (OLA) 31 out of 54 preschool students were evaluated to produce the numerical interpretation of the results. These models predicted (1) the relation of parent’s activities to emergent literacy of the child’s class performance in academics; and (2) who among the preschool students need to undergo summer class due to lack of reading and writing capabilities.

Therefore, clustering algorithm is used to monitor the students’ performance in an educational institution. It also enhances the decision making of academic planners in monitoring the behavior of the learner and predicting the learning intervention that the parents can use to improve their child learning skills.

In conclusion, a traditional method of intervention is being used for emergent literacy of their children. This type of intervention strongly affects the students’ academic performance positively.

REFERENCES


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