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## **The Effect of the Socioeconomic Status on the Academic Students Performance. A Case Study of an Iraqi College Students**

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### **Abstract**

*The socio economic status of a student has been proved to have an effect on the student's performance in general and the academic performance in particular. The current study is to explore the validity of such idea ( could be a fact) taking into consideration that the researcher's hypothesis is that the social economic status (SES) has no correlation on the student's performance. The population of the study is the students of the College of Basic Education, Diyala University, English Department. While the sample of the study is sixty 3rd class students.*

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## المخلص

الحالة الاجتماعية والاقتصادية للطالب طالما اثبتت بان لها تأثير معتبر على اداء الطالب بشكل عام و الاداء الاكاديمي بشكل خاص. الدراسة الحالية بصدد اكتشاف مدى صلاحية الفكرة ( تكاد تكون حقيقة بالنسبة للكثير من المعنيين) اخذين بنظر الاعتبار ان الباحث يفترض ان الحالة الاجتماعية والاقتصادية للطالب لا تأثير لها على ادائه. اختار الباحث طلبة جامعة ديالى – كلية التربية الاساسية- قسم اللغة الانجليزية كمجتمع للدراسة و ستين طالبا و طالبة من المرحلة الثالثة كعينة للدراسة.

## Introduction

Success in performing any task would be in need for factors that lead the person to accomplish. The factors could be intrinsic and extrinsic that the nature of the task would determine the type of the supporting factors. The extrinsic factors refer to surrounding factors such as the environment, the economic conditions, the work conditions etc.. while the intrinsic factors refer to the inner abilities and trends of the person such as the motivation, interest, mental capability etc.. Successful performance at the academic stage of a student is a significant task that requires the supporting factors to meet the goal. As one of these factors is the socio economic status (SES) of the student. It has been highlighted in many studies related education as having a clear relation to the achievement of the student. The relation is that the higher (SES) the better performance can the students achieve and verse versa. The reason behind the idea (a fact according to many specialist) is that the high (SES) students can obtain the means that assist them doing well at the academic study such as technology, transport from and to university, using laboratories, etc.. But the researcher saw that such assisting means in no longer difficult to obtain even for the students of the low (SES) at least in Iraq since the population of the study is an Iraqi College. So the researcher hypothesized that (SES) doesn't have an effect on the students' performance.

## Research Question:

Does the social economic status (SES) have an Effect on the student's academic performance?

**Hypothesis:** the researcher hypothesize that the (SES) has no effect on the performance of the students.

## Aim of the study:

The aim of the study is to investigate the effect of (SES) on the academic performance of the students.

## Methodology:

As above mentioned, the population of the study is the College of Basic Education, English Department. The sample is sixty male and female students. The researcher relied on the average of the grades of the students as to determine

their academic performance. So he divided the students into three groups; high performance, middle performance, and low performance. Then a structure questionnaire was conducted to know the social economic status of the students to see if there is a relation. As the aim of the study is to know the effect of SES on the academic performance, the researcher chose the population of College of Basic Education as he works at the college and then, it would be easier and to collect the required data. The sample of the study is sixty students from 3<sup>rd</sup> class English Department. The students were both male and female. A questionnaire has been conducted to know the income, the job, and the education level of the students' parents. The students were classified into three groups; high grades, middle grades, and low grades. So the papers of the questionnaire were submitted to the students and then collected separately as to see the results of the SES of each group. The researcher relied on the average of the second class grades of a student as to determine the academic level of the student. The results of each group was shown in tables as the below:

The results of the high grades students				
The family income	The mother education	The father education	The mother job	The father job
The results of the middle grades students				
The family income	The mother education	The father education	The mother job	The father job
The results of the low grades students				
The family income	The mother education	The father education	The mother job	The father job

## Review of literature.

### Academic performance

It is defined as the extent to which a student would meet the educational goal at the university stage. The academic performance is said to be significant for several reasons; it can stand as a benchmark for the learning success at university, it could be an indicator of the appropriateness of the teaching-learning process, and it help students obtain good habits and attitudes that, in turn, take part in meeting the goal of education Saifi, S., & Mehmood, T. (2011).

### Socioeconomic Status

Socioeconomic status is said to refer not only to the individual income. It would include the life-style, the social prestige, the parents success in their career, the manner of a person connectivity with the external world etc (Markus Broer, Yifan Bai & Frank Fonseca). concerning the economic aspect of socioeconomic it is categorized into three levels; high, middle, and low according to a norm that specialists relied on that:

1. High refers to the income more than enough for the person or the family (in this study the income of 5 million IQ and above is more than enough).
2. Middle refers to the income that is enough (from 2 to 5 million IQ is enough).
3. Low refers to the income that is less than enough (less than two million IQ is less than enough).

About the education side of socioeconomic status, there are three levels:

1. Illiterate: it refers to uneducated people (don't read and write). In this study this level is referred to as 1.
2. Middle education: refers to people who obtained education that ranged from elementary to high school. In this study this level is referred to as 2.
3. Academic: refers to BSc, MA, and PhD. In this study this level is referred to as 3. The classification of the mother job is as follows:

1. House wife: referred to as 1
2. Laborer: referred to as 2
3. Government officer: referred to as 3
4. Manager: referred to as 4
5. Higher: referred to as 5

The classification of the father job is as follows:

1. Laborer: referred to as 1
2. Government officer: referred to as 2
3. Manager: referred to as 3
4. Higher: referred to as 4

#### **The SES and the Academic Achievement(AA)**

According meta-analysis method, SES have been proved to have a clear effect on the academic achievement. The relation is said to be the highly the SES is the better academic achievement can a student accomplish. The studies attributed the reason to:

1. The high SES Students can have better teaching aids that, in turn, enhance their academic achievement.
2. The high SES students are, to a good deal, open minded due to the ability to travel and be exposed to different social environments and cultures.
3. The high SES student are being raised in an educated home atmosphere which affect the philosophy of the family concerning the significance of education (Purwanto. 2002).

**Findings** After the study had been conducted, the findings were as below:

The results of the high grades students				
The family income	The mother education	The father education	The mother job	The father job
Middle	2	2	3	2
The results of the middle grades students				
The family income	The mother education	The father education	The mother job	The father job
Middle	2	2	3	2
The results of the low grades students				
The family income	The mother education	The father education	The mother job	The father job
Middle	2	2	3	2

According to the above results of the study, the SES of the different levels of the students' performance groups was the same in relation to the students' academic performance. So it is apparent that the SES didn't have an effect on the academic performance of the students. The researcher attributed the reason to the availability of the students' needs regardless of their SES. For instance, as one of the students' needs is the internet connection which has been available for, almost, all Iraqis; the poor or the rich. Concerning the social aspect of the students; their living in the city or the village, it is the other factor that has not been effective ( as it was) for the easier means of communication and transportation and then, then difference between the city and village is very slight rather than no difference. The other factor that is supposed to have effect on the students' academic performance is the parents education and jobs. According to the study there was no considerable correlation which the researcher couldn't attribute such an issue to a possible reason so he recommended to be researched.

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