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**PARENT - TEACHER RELATIONSHIPS AT A SECONDARY SCHOOL :  
PARENT AND TEACHER PERCEPTIONS OF THEIR OWN AND EACH  
OTHER'S ROLE IN THE FUNCTIONING OF THE SCHOOL.**

A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree

of Master of Education.

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## ABSTRACT

This study compare the perceptions of parents and teachers on parent-teacher relationships at a secondary school.

A random sample of 320 parents were drawn on the basis of their ethnic classification. All the teachers at the school participated in the study. The findings were analysed by comparing:

- (1) The total parent responses with the teacher responses.
- (2) Within the parent group according to ethnicity and
- (3) within the parent group according to socio-economic status.

The results indicate that there was a general agreement between and within the groups but also some important differences concerning how they perceive their own and each others' role within the school. One of the most significant findings was that the teachers' willingness to participate in the specified school activities was lower than their actual involvement. The opposite result was obtained for the parents. The reason for this could be traced to the parents' and teachers' attitudes. A survey and analysis of their attitudes are also included.

It was generally concluded that although the school structures are efficient there needs to be an evaluation of their effectiveness in realising the objectives they were designed to achieve.

## CONTENTS

	ABSTRACT	
	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	
<b>CHAPTER ONE</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	
	Overview	1
	Principles Governing Parent - Teacher Relationships	2
	Objectives of this Research	3
	Operational Definitions	4
	Organisation of this Thesis	5
	Response To A Felt Need	5
<b>CHAPTER TWO</b>	<b>LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	6
	Trends Towards Greater Parent Involvement In The Schools	7
	Importance Of Parent-Teacher Relationships	10
	Parent Relationship with Teachers	11
	Teacher Relationship with Parents	16
	Parent Involvement in Secondary Schools	17
	Contradictions in Parent-Teacher views on Education	18
	Barriers to Parent-Teacher Relationships:	20
	Conflict Resolution in Parent-Teacher Relationships: Aspects to Consider	25
	<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>28</b>

<b>CHAPTER THREE</b>	<b>RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHOD</b>	<b>30</b>
	Defining the School's Community	30
	Sample Selection	30
	Data Collection	33
	Questionnaires	33
	The Interview	35
	The Pilot Study	36
	The Main Survey	37
	Interviews with Parents	40
	Analysis of Data	40
<b>CHAPTER FOUR</b>	<b>RESULTS</b>	<b>41</b>
	<b>Participation in School Activities</b>	
	Actual Participation	41
	Parents' and Teachers' Declared Willingness to Participate in the School's Activities	45
	Actual versus Declared Willingness to Participate in the School's Activities	48
	<b>Attitudes of Parents and Teachers</b>	
	Attitude Towards Report Evenings	53
	Attitude Towards Parent Support Group	58
	Attitude Towards Parent Involvement in the School	61
	General Attitudes Regarding Parent-Teacher Relationships	63

	<b>Barriers Preventing A Closer Parent-Teacher relationship</b>	<b>68</b>
	<b>Other Barriers To Close Parent-Teacher Relationship</b>	<b>71</b>
	<b>Role of Parents In The School</b>	<b>76</b>
	<b>Methods of Improving Parent-Teacher Relationship</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>CHAPTER FIVE</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>81</b>
	General Conclusions	81
	Recommendations	85
	Limitations of this Research	87
	Suggestions for Further Research	87
<b>APPENDICES</b>		
	<b>A. Tables</b>	<b>88</b>
	<b>B. Figures</b>	<b>120</b>
	<b>C. Questionnaires</b>	<b>123</b>
	<b>Interview Schedules</b>	<b>153</b>
	<b>D. Parent Support Group: Objectives</b>	<b>155</b>
	<b>Massey High School Charter</b>	<b>158</b>
	<b>E. Letters</b>	<b>168</b>
	<b>F. Data Sheets</b>	<b>173</b>
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		<b>242</b>

## LIST OF TABLES

### TABLE

1. Ethnic Classification of Form 4 to 7 Students.
2. Target Population and Sample Selection :  
Parents of Students in Forms 4 to 7.
3. Parent Questionnaire Returns (according to Ethnic Classification).
4. Parent Questionnaire - Percentage of total returns by  
Socio-Economic Status (SES).
5. Actual Participation in the School's Activities :  
Parents and Teachers
6. Actual Participation in the School's Activities :  
According to Socio-Economic Status (SES)
7. Actual Participation in the School's Activities :  
According to Ethnic Classification (Parent Sample).
8. Rank Order of Actual Participation : Teachers,  
Parents and Parents According to Ethnic Classification.
9. Willingness to Participate in School's Activities : Parent Sample.
10. Willingness to Participate in School's Activities : Teacher Sample.
11. Parents' Declared Willingness to Participate in the School's Activities.
12. Teachers' Declared Willingness to Participate in the School's Activities.
13. Rank Order of Declared Willingness to Participate :  
According to Socio-Economic Status.
14. Rank Order of Willingness to Participate in the School's Activities :  
According to Socio-Economic Status.

15. Willingness to Participate in the School's Activities :  
According to Socio-Economic Status Classification  
(Parent sample).
16. Willingness to participate in the School's Activities :  
According to Ethnic Classification (Parent Sample).
17. Attitude towards Report Evenings : Parents and Teachers.
18. Attitude towards Report Evenings : Parents according  
Socio-Economic Status.
19. Attitude towards Report Evenings : According to Ethnic  
Classification,
20. Attitude towards Parent Support Group Meetings :  
Parents and Teachers.
21. Attitude towards Parents Support Group Meetings :  
According to Socio-Economic Status.
22. Attitude towards Parent Support Group Meetings:  
According to Ethnic Classification.
23. Attitude towards Parent Involvement in the School :  
Parents and Teachers.
24. Attitude towards Parent Involvement in the School :  
Parents according to Socio-Economic Status.
25. Attitude towards Parent involvement in the School :  
According to Ethnic Classification (Parent Sample).
26. General attitudes regarding Parent-Teacher Relationships :  
Parents and Teachers.
27. General attitudes regarding Parent-Teacher Relationships :  
According to Socio-Economic Status.

28. General Attitudes Regarding Parent Teacher Relationships :  
According to Ethnic Classification.
29. Contact with Board of Trustees : Parent and Teacher Sample.
30. Contact with Teachers : Parent Sample.
31. Contact with Parents : Teacher Sample.
32. Relationship with Teachers : Parent Sample.
33. Teachers Awareness of Parent's concerns that affect  
children' s learning. (Parent Sample).
34. Barriers to Parent Involvement in the School :  
Parent and Teacher Sample.
35. Barriers to Parent Involvement in the School : According to Ethnic  
Classification (Parent Sample).
36. Barriers to Parent Involvement in the School : According to  
Socio-Economic Status.
37. Level of Communication between Parents and Teachers :  
Parent and Teachers Sample.
38. Level of Communication between Parents and Teachers :  
According to Ethnic Classification (Parent Sample).
39. Level of Communication between Parents and Teachers :  
According to Socio-Economic Status (Parent Sample).
40. Initiating Communication between Parents and Teachers :  
Parent and Teacher Sample.
41. School Support for Links between Parents and Teachers :  
Support for this Principle : Teacher Sample.

42. School Support for Links between Teacher and Parent :  
Teacher Learning New Skills (Teacher Sample).
43. School Support for Links between Parents and Teachers :  
Changing Attitudes (Teacher Sample).
44. School Support for Links between Teacher and Parent :  
Courses to strengthen Relationship (Teacher Sample).
45. Length of Stay in New Zealand (Parent Sample).
46. Marital Status : Parent Sample.

## LIST OF FIGURES

### FIGURE

1. Actual Participation in the School's Activities :  
Parents and Teachers.
2. Actual verses Declared Willingness to Participate :  
Parent Sample.
3. Actual verses Declared Willingness to Participate :  
Teacher Sample.
4. Actual verses Declared Willingness to Participate :  
High SES Parents.
5. Actual verses Declared Willingness to Participate :  
Middle SES Parents.
6. Actual verses Declared Willingness to Participate :  
Low SES Parents.
7. Actual verses Declared Willingness to Participate :  
European Parent.

8. Actual verses Declared Willingness to Participate :  
Samoan Parent.
9. Actual verses Declared Willingness to Participate :  
Maori Parent.
10. Actual verses Declared Willingness to Participate :  
European-Maori Parent.
11. Actual verses Declared Willingness to Participate :  
"Other" Parent.