

The Relationship Between Students and Teachers and its Implications

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Abstract. Education is a topic that people often discuss in today's society. Since students and teachers spend a significant amount of time in contact, there is an increasing focus on the teacher-student relationship in the education community. This article primarily delves into the types of teacher-student relationships and their impact. Upon reviewing the literature, it becomes evident that, in the past, the relationship between teachers and students exhibited a notable imbalance. Teachers held authority in transmitting knowledge, while students typically served as knowledge receivers. With the continuous development of society, the relationship between teachers and students is undergoing constant change, gradually becoming more equal. Teachers are no longer mere authorities in the classroom but actively engage with students, thereby fostering a positive teacher-student relationship. This positive relationship will not only have a beneficial impact on students but will also elevate teachers' teaching standards. The article also provides specific suggestions on how to cultivate a positive teacher-student relationship, aiming to assist teachers in creating a positive and effective rapport with their students.

Keywords: Student-teacher relationship, positive relationship, education.

1. Introduction

Education is a subject that people have been studying in schools since the past. Although education seems simple, it is, in fact, very complicated. Within the intricacies of education, the relationship between teachers and students plays a key role. A good teacher-student relationship is a dynamic and transformative alliance that goes beyond the traditional roles of teacher and learner. It forms the core of an educational ecosystem where knowledge, guidance, and personal growth come together. The relationships children develop with their teachers after starting school become increasingly important for their academic achievement [1]. This relationship has evolved over time with changes in educational paradigms, transcending traditional boundaries and becoming a catalyst for comprehensive development. A positive teacher-student relationship not only influences students' academic achievements but also has a certain impact on teachers' teaching standards. Therefore, creating a good teacher-student relationship has become a topic discussed by many.

This article primarily explores different types of teacher-student relationships and their impact. Through a keyword search on teacher-student relationships, the impact of teacher-student relationships, and the benefits of teacher-student relationships, about 70,000 results appeared. While most studies focus on the impact of teacher-student relationships on students, there is limited research on the impact of these relationships on teachers. Therefore, alongside discussing the impact on students, this article also explores the influence of a positive teacher-student relationship on teachers. It is hoped that through discussions between teachers and students, a better understanding of the importance of the teacher-student relationship can be achieved.

By introducing different types of teacher-student relationships and analyzing their impacts, this article aims to help scholars, especially teachers who have the most direct contact with students, realize the importance of cultivating positive teacher-student relationships. The article proposes some suggestions with the hope of assisting educators in establishing better teacher-student relationships with students.

2. Different Teacher-Student Relationship and Their Influence

The teacher-student relationship is the fundamental interpersonal bond between teachers and students in schools, representing one of the crucial social connections in the process of children's socialization throughout their entire educational development [2]. In the past educational context, the teacher-student relationship exhibited a noticeable imbalance, with teachers occupying a dominant position and students assuming a passive role. Teachers functioned as lecturers in the classroom, imparting knowledge to students with the expectation of passive absorption, a traditional teaching method known as "teacher-centered learning" [3]. This dynamic shifted teachers into authoritative roles as disseminators of knowledge, conducting the teaching process through systematic and orderly delivery of subject matter, while students' primary responsibilities were to listen to lectures, take notes, and recite information during exams.

The inherent structure of this relationship emphasized the teacher's authority and the corresponding expectation of obedience from students. Interaction and meaningful discussions between teachers and students were confined within this framework, limiting the potential for collaborative learning experiences. The hierarchical nature of traditional teaching methods inadvertently impeded the development of critical thinking skills and discouraged active student participation. As education evolves, there is a growing recognition of the need to depart from this one-sided model. Contemporary educational philosophies prioritize a more balanced and interactive teacher-student relationship, fostering an environment that encourages dialogue, collaboration, and co-creation of knowledge. This shift not only acknowledges the diverse roles that teachers and students can play but also seeks to empower students as active participants in their own learning journeys.

With changes in educational concepts and advancements in teaching methods, the creation and maintenance of a positive teacher-student relationship have gradually become mainstream in education. In this positive teacher-student relationship, activities such as getting to know students better, providing them with choices, and motivating them to become better learners each day are integral components [4]. Teachers are no longer mere knowledge transmitters; they have evolved into good friends of students. This transformation encourages students to actively engage in class discussions, express their opinions, and interact with teachers and peers, thereby improving learning efficiency and academic performance. During their studies at school, students are not only required to master subject knowledge but also to develop critical thinking, innovation, and problem-solving skills.

With the evolution of educational concepts and improvements in teaching methods, the focus of contemporary education has shifted towards cultivating and maintaining positive teacher-student relationships. This paradigm shift signifies a departure from traditional approaches and underscores the importance of mutual engagement and collaboration. As Vanner articulates [4], a positive teacher-student relationship transcends the traditional role of knowledge transfer to encompass understanding students on a personal level, offering choices, and instilling daily motivation for continuous improvement. This transformative approach positions teachers as more than just educators; they are now perceived as mentors and partners in their students' educational journeys.

Within this framework of positive teacher-student interactions, educators actively seek to better understand their students, offer them choices, and inspire them to develop as learners every day. This relationship transcends the boundaries of traditional classroom settings, transforming the classroom from a mere space for teachers to teach and students to learn into a more equal partnership between teachers and students. Students can participate more actively in class discussions, express their own opinions, and contribute unique ideas. The active involvement of students in these discussions, increased interaction with teachers, and collaboration with peers serve as catalysts for enhanced learning efficiency and improved academic performance. This contemporary education model emphasizes the development of critical thinking, innovation, and problem-solving skills. As active participants in the learning journey, students are equipped not only with in-depth knowledge but also with essential skills that prepare them for the complexities of the real world. In essence, positive

teacher-student relationships are the cornerstone of holistic education, creating an environment where students thrive not only academically but also in developing important life skills.

In education, the teacher-student relationship plays a critical and integral role, serving as a key factor in the broader learning experience. Using the comprehensive research results of Hagenauer et al. as an example, numerous studies have emphasized the instrumentality of positive teacher-student relationships [5]. These relationships are not merely incidental but are considered powerful catalysts exerting pervasive influence on key aspects of the educational field. Of particular note are the clear correlations between these relationships and key indicators such as learning outcomes, effective classroom management, and significant reductions in student absences, all of which were highlighted in academic surveys.

However, the repercussions of a positive student-teacher relationship transcend academic parameters. As Tormey elaborates [6], their influence permeates the broader experience of higher education, leaving an indelible mark on educators and students alike. This impact is reflected in the creation of a dynamic and engaging learning environment where mutual respect, trust, and open communication flourish. Recognizing and nurturing these positive relationships are essential elements in developing and maintaining an environment that is conducive not only to academic excellence but also to the overall growth and fulfillment of the individual within the educational environment. In essence, cultivating positive student-faculty relationships is an important component in building a rich and transformative journey through higher education.

3. Influence of Teacher-Student Relationship

The teacher-student relationship is an integral cornerstone of students' learning and personal lives, and its impact is multifaceted, extending far beyond the classroom. First, strong teacher-student relationships play a key role in improving students' academic performance. This is promoted by embodying rigorous teaching attitudes, possessing rich subject knowledge, and implementing effective learning methods. Teachers with these qualities become catalysts for students to master complex topics and achieve commendable learning outcomes. Furthermore, the impact of positive relationships extends beyond the realm of instruction; it also includes elements of care and encouragement.

A positive teacher-student relationship is not only the cornerstone of students' positive development but also a catalyst for improving teaching effectiveness. The far-reaching impact of this relationship extends beyond the immediate academic realm and permeates the teaching realm, creating an environment conducive to excellence in teaching. Better teaching is also a result of positive teacher-student relationships [7]. In the test of positive teacher-student relationships, educators find reservoirs of motivation and inspiration, pushing them to improve their teaching methods and adapt to different learning styles, constantly innovating their own approaches. In this dynamic relationship, mutual communication between teachers and students benefits not only students' academic pursuits but also enables teachers to become facilitators of knowledge, creating a symbiotic cycle of growth and enrichment in the educational ecosystem. Viewed from this perspective, it is clear that positive teacher-student relationships extend far beyond individual interactions and contribute to a collective enhancement of the teaching experience.

3.1. Student Academic Performance

The teacher-student relationship has a direct and profound impact on students' academic performance, extending far beyond the mere transfer of knowledge. As Vanner illustrates [4], positive relationships between teachers and students serve as a catalyst for improved learning outcomes, not only promoting the absorption of information but also fostering confidence and active classroom participation. This symbiotic relationship, rooted in trust, becomes a reinforcing cycle that strengthens organically as academic performance improves [8]. This strong connection, characterized by mutual understanding, enables teachers to fully grasp students' learning dynamics. As a result, educators can

skillfully help students refine and adjust their learning goals and expectations in a timely manner, ensuring continuous academic progress.

Teachers play a vital role in providing academic support. They can offer guidance and assistance in various ways, such as delivering thorough explanations in class, carefully marking assignments, and providing individual tutoring. This multifaceted approach goes beyond creating an environment conducive to academic advancement; it acts as a catalyst for cultivating positive teacher-student relationships, thereby impacting students' intrinsic motivation to learn [9]. In mutually supportive teacher-student relationships, students gain access to important educational resources and develop a genuine interest in learning. This heightened enthusiasm not only yields immediate rewards, such as improved academic performance, but also lays the foundation for sustained interest and passion, exerting a significant impact on their future ambitions.

Furthermore, the positive impact of strong teacher-student relationships extends to attendance, a key factor in academic success. As highlighted by Waterford.org [9], nurturing relationships between teachers and students can mitigate absenteeism, and chronic absences can adversely affect achievement even in elementary school. By cultivating an environment of trust and support, teachers not only contribute to students' short-term academic success but also lay the groundwork for long-term success, equipping them with the drive, curiosity, and resilience necessary for their future educational and career pursuits. In essence, the multifaceted support faculty provide goes beyond traditional academic assistance to become the cornerstone of a student's overall development and long-term educational success.

3.2. Teacher's Teaching

A positive teacher-student relationship not only brings good academic impact to students but also provides certain assistance to teachers in their work. First, a positive teacher-student relationship helps teachers improve their own teaching standards. Positive teacher-student relationships may boost teachers' drive, effort, contentment, and confidence, leading them to utilize more advanced and highly effective teaching techniques [10]. This positive emotional state becomes a driving force that encourages teachers to explore and implement more advanced and effective teaching techniques. The direct consequence of improving teaching skills is the enhancement of the quality of education received by students. The improvement in the teaching level of educators is directly related to the quality of education received by students. The reciprocity of positive teacher-student relationships creates a virtuous cycle. When teachers experience the positive results of their efforts reflected in students' academic success, this further strengthens their confidence in their ability to teach. Motivated by these positive relationships, educators are better equipped to create a rich learning environment. This, in turn, creates fertile ground for students to thrive academically, as teachers are actively involved in tailoring their teaching to meet the diverse needs of their students. As educators invest more in cultivating positive connections with students, the resulting passion permeates the teaching process. This passion not only contributes to a more engaging and dynamic classroom but also creates an environment where students are inspired and motivated to take an active role in their own educational journeys.

4. Suggestions

According to Hagenauer et al. (2022), mutuality, which includes reciprocal kindness, honesty and trust, tolerance and respect, and openness, is what teacher-student relationships are known for. In order to enhance the relationship between teachers and students and prevent its adverse effects, researchers make the following suggestions to educators:

First of all, establishing a sound communication mechanism and feedback mechanism is the basis for cultivating a positive teacher-student relationship. Teachers and students can engage more actively in open dialogue, creating a space where needs, concerns, and ideas can be freely expressed. Teachers who understand their students' individual needs and challenges play a key role in providing timely

guidance and assistance. At the same time, students should take the initiative to communicate with teachers, express their thoughts, and seek clarification from teachers when needed. Regular assessments, individual tutoring, and other feedback avenues enable teachers to promptly identify students' learning difficulties and challenges and provide targeted guidance and assistance, cultivating a supportive learning environment. In turn, students can use this mechanism to communicate their confusions and needs, promoting interaction and cooperation between teachers and students. This feedback loop enhances the collaborative nature of the relationship, ensuring the educational journey is tailored to meet students' changing needs.

Effective communication is a powerful tool to reduce misunderstandings and conflicts, paving the way for the harmonious development of teacher-student relationships. This reciprocal exchange creates an environment that fosters trust and solidifies a shared commitment to the educational journey.

At the core of the teacher-student relationship are the principles of respect and equality. Teachers should recognize the individuality and diversity of each student and avoid taking an authoritarian stance. Instead, students are encouraged to respect the wealth of knowledge and experience their teachers bring to the table, and to accept instruction with an open mind. This mutual respect and equal treatment lay the foundation for positive relationships between teachers and students, creating an environment conducive to mutual growth and collaboration.

In the field of teaching, teachers play a key role in designing rich content and employing engaging teaching methods that suit the interests and needs of students. The combination of practical cases and hands-on activities not only deepens students' understanding of the subject but also stimulates students' real interest and enthusiasm. At the same time, teachers should focus on cultivating students' innovative and problem-solving abilities to lay a solid foundation for students' future development. This approach transforms the learning experience into a dynamic and engaging journey that encourages students to actively engage in their educational pursuits.

Recognizing student mental health is also critical in the teacher-student relationship. Outside of the academic realm, teachers play a vital role in caring for the emotional well-being of their students. Teachers have the ability to create an inclusive and supportive learning environment where students are not only challenged academically but also emotionally recognized. Teachers understand the different needs of students and can provide certain help to promote students' mental health. By interweaving academic and emotional support, teachers contribute to students' overall resilience and development. Therefore, teachers must not only pay attention to students' learning but also their emotional needs and mental health.

5. Conclusion

This article mainly discusses different types of teacher-student relationships and their impact. Although research on this topic is extensive, the article emphasizes the importance of cultivating positive teacher-student relationships through an introduction to various types of teacher-student relationships and an analysis of their impact. It aims to raise awareness, especially among educators who have direct contact with students, about the importance of creating a positive and nurturing environment. Beyond academics, the impact of student-teacher relationships extends to the broader experiences of educators and students, shaping a dynamic and engaging learning environment. Recognizing and cultivating positive teacher-student relationships in education is the basis for cultivating a beneficial and enriching educational atmosphere. A positive teacher-student relationship is a reciprocal alliance that benefits both the educator and the learner. In essence, the exploration of the teacher-student relationship highlights the critical role of the teacher-student relationship in shaping the educational experience.

Due to time and other constraints, this article did not conduct a framework and quantitative research on the types and impacts of teacher-student relationships. Therefore, this article may not have explored the teacher-student relationship in-depth enough. At the same time, this article lacks

sufficient research literature on the impact of teacher-student relationships on teachers, which also brings certain limitations to the research of this article. In the future, we hope to conduct further in-depth discussions and carry out certain research on the teacher-student relationship, especially the impact of the teacher-student relationship on teachers, to help scholars better understand different types of teacher-student relationships and comprehend how positive teacher-student relationships can benefit teachers.

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