

RESEARCH PAPER

**A SURVEY TO DETERMINE THE ATTITUDE OF
PARENTS TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PRE-
SCHOOL IN SAN ANTONIO VILLAGE IN THE TOLEDO
DISTRICT.**

DONE BY: SEBASTIAN CAB
DECEMBER 14, 2000

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Researcher' Note

In conducting the research, ' A survey to determine the attitude of parents towards establishing a pre school in San Antonio,' I encountered many difficulties in completing it. However with the support and encouragement of family and friends I was able to complete the research. Therefore I would like to thank the School of San Luis Rey for allowing me to use the computers. I would also like to thank the parents of San Antonio for being cooperative in answering the questionnaires. To the principal of San Luis Rey Mr. Francisco Cal thank you for the support and also to the PTA chairman Mr. Felipe Bol. Most of all I would like to thank Mrs.Regina Cab my wife in typing out some parts of the research.

Researcher,

Mr.Sebastian Cab

Chapter I

Topic

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**A survey to determine the attitude of parents
towards the establishment of a pre-school in San
Antonio Village in the Toledo District.**

Background

San Antonio is a village in the Toledo District concentrated with indigenous Mopan Mayas in the Toledo District. Their main language is Mopan Maya. The village has one primary school under the Roman Catholic Management.

At age five children are registered at San Luis Rey School to begin formal education. The researcher has observed for the past three years that upon entering school a number of young children are plagued with a variety of problems. For instance, teachers and children have a hard time to communicate With each other since children speak only Mopan. Most children beginning school come from poor families. As a result many children lack the pre- requisite skills to begin formal learning at an infant level. In addition, at the beginning of their formal education children go through a horrible stage of adaptation to the school environment. Since entering school for most children is the first detachment from their mothers, it creates much anxiety in them. There were several instances when the researcher had to capture infant children running away from their teachers. Conditioning children to adapt to school goes on for two to three weeks. These problems definitely interfere with the formal education of young children in San Antonio.

Since these problems are present there is a desperate need for the establishment of a full time pre-school. Thus the goal of a pre-school is to prepare young children age 3 to 5 for formal education.

It is evident that such an establishment would foster social and emotional development and will facilitate motor and cognitive skills, which is very much needed by young indigenous children entering school.

In addition parents have shown a lot of interest in the pre-school summer programs offered by the Pre-School Unit in San Antonio. Many parents seem to find it as a major contribution towards their children's emotional stability and readiness for formal schooling. It is perceived as a necessary service to children.

Identification of The Problem

The researcher has observed that children who have attended the summer pre-school program seem to be more emotionally and socially stable than those who did not.

The children who attended the pre-school program seem to be very enthusiastic and ready for formal learning. While those who did not attend create an uneasy environment making it unstable for learning, keeping back those that are ready to move ahead. The researcher thus believes that pre-school is the answer for eliminating the problems that young children face when beginning formal education. He strongly believes that such an establishment would enhance the readiness of young children for learning at an infant one level.

In addition many parents in San Antonio have been asking teachers how they can get their children to attend the pre-school summer program before beginning school in September. Many parents have expressed that the pre-school summer program has been very instrumental in orienting children to a full time school. Many parents seem to see the importance of preparing young children before entering primary school. Because of the parents' enthusiasm and interest in pre-school, the researcher has also developed an interest to investigate parents' attitude towards the establishment of full time pre-school in San Antonio.

Purpose of the Study

Through this research "A survey to determine the attitude of parents towards the establishment of a pre-school in San Antonio Village Toledo District," The researcher hopes to get answers for the following questions:

1. Are parents genuinely interested in their children's education?
2. Does the community value education?
3. Are there enough children to attend a full time pre-school?
4. Are the parents and the community ready and willing to put effort in making the pre-school operational?
5. Will parents see the need for the establishment of a pre-school?

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Significance of The Study

There is ample anticipation that after the study "A survey to determine the attitude of parents towards the establishment of a pre-school in San Antonio Village, Toledo District," it is hoped that the Pre-School Unit uses it as a reference and support to give full fledge in establishing a pre-school in San Antonio.

This research will also spark in parents, the benefit and importance of sending their children to a pre-school. The community will also become conscious about the significance of a pre-school, since it prepares children for formal schooling. In addition other researchers doing similar research can use this paper as reference material.

Definition of Term

1. Pre-School - A center where social and emotional development of a child enhanced. It also fosters their motor and cognitive skills.
2. Pre-School child - a child age 3 to 5

Chapter II Literature Review

It is evident today that young children are desperately in need of professional teachers to mould their intelligence. They need teachers who are well equipped with knowledge of their development so as to be better able to help them grow intellectually. This is very vital to rural children especially, since they come from poor homes lacking the necessary stimulants to aid learning. In addition children are faced with a challenging world so they need much assistance to prepare them for such an environment.

Present day Belize much attention is directed in the primary education of young children. History reveals that back in 1989 the Government of Belize acknowledged the importance of pre-school and primary education to the nation. They even stated in their manifesto that greater assistance will be increased for pre-school education. It is evident in history that the education of young children is a major issue to be considered.

These views of such issues are rather not isolated but should be looked at in a wider perspective as shared by many intellects and philosophers of all ages. Children are the heirs of the future society, to equip them intellectually is to elevate the present status of a society.

Ignorance is no excuse to exempt young children from learning in an organized environment. Many people feel that young children are powerful learners. They begin communicating with their mothers from birth by using their body language in a dance of gestures and smiles. "From an early age, the thinking child learns to master the most demanding of learning tasks the acquisition of language Fisher Robert(1995). It is

evident then that children can learn. It is therefore necessary to maintain the curiosity of young children because it is a medium to success in learning.

Many parents are bound to ask the questions "Is my child ready for school?" Fisher Robert (1995) stated that all children are born with potentials, and we cannot be sure of the learning limits of any child. He went on saying that children at an early age can be introduced to complex and abstract ideas. This can be achieved by putting sophisticated matters in a simple way. On the contrary children can get confused understanding the simplest idea if they are confronted with messages and demands that make no sense to them. The researcher agrees with Fisher children are capable of learning no matter the age but what matters is the mode of how they are guided to learn.

Locke John (1690) asserted that at birth the human mind is a blank slate and empty of ideas. We acquire knowledge, form information about the objects in the world around us based on interaction that we experience. Simple ideas are combined to form complex ideas. Here Locke is implying that children learn simply through interaction in the environment acquiring ideas then formulating simple ideas to complex ones. Surely this is true children do develop ideas by means of interaction with the environment but this could also limit the child's learning. Limited experience or interaction can hinder the child's learning and unlimited experience would be the ideal setting for much learning.

Fraebel Friedrich (Encarta 2000) the pioneer of early childhood education deduced a curriculum that glared children's environment to be full of exciting activities: songs, stories, folk heroes and games. According to Fraebel playing with each other helped children learn to participate in a group. This brings the idea that most human learning is a social process. Fisher Robert (1995) stated that a community or a school can create a

powerful learning environment exerting a strong influence on the learner. Also a large group context can provide the essential structure, purpose and control needed for learning to flourish. The researcher strongly agrees with Fraebel and Fisher, definitely much learning can occur within a group since children each possess unique qualities and talents that could be of some benefits to others.

On the contrary Montessori Maria (Encarta 2000) puts forth children have the power to learn independently if provided a properly stimulating environment. Although Montessori believes that children can learn indecently but agrees on the condition that the environment must be conducive to learning.

Dewey John (Encarta 2000) philosophizes that the education development of a child should be based on the individual needs and interest of the child. This brings out the idea that children are unique and each learn differently. So teachers or educators should adapt a variety of teaching strategies to ensure that learning occurs.

Vygotsky(Encarta 2000) also puts forth the idea that children develop particular cognitive capacities through collaboration with expert practitioners. Paslov (Encarta 2000) also brings in the idea of conditioning, a mechanism by which brain connections come to be related to event connections. The researcher acknowledges Vygotsky and Paslov' ideas. For particular learning to occur it must be in the presence of someone with an objective. Paslov's theory is also of significant importance in the social and emotional development of children. Surely behaviors in children can be conditioned.

All such philosophers and intellects mentioned are pioneers in the field of early childhood education. This of course refers to the social competence that some way or the other deals with children's physical social and cognitive skills.

The researcher strongly believes that pre-school is essential in the intellectual development of young children. Ample evidence is sparking everywhere today that those who do not experience some form of pre-schooling is apt to confront obstacles in future learning.

Chapter 111 Research Design

This particular research is a survey to determine the attitude of parents towards the establishment of a pre- school in the community of San Antonio. To gather the necessary data the instrument utilized was a questionnaire . The questionnaire was divided into two main sections. The first section gathered biographical data such as sex , age, marital status, educational background, occupation and amount of children of pre- school age . The second section consisted of 19 items . These items were made of positive and negative statements . The items focused on collecting data on the attitudes of parents towards the pre- school establishment , financial support for the pre- school and it also aimed at collecting data on the cooperation of the parents . The questionnaire was delivered in person by the researcher . The researcher thoroughly explained the items and the purpose of such data gathering . The data collected was analyzed and interpreted through the use of graphs, tables and precise elaborative descriptions. This aided in the formation of the conclusion and recommendation of this study.

The Sample

For this study the population consisted of sixty parents who were permanent residents of the community of San Antonio. Their first language is Mopan Maya. Some of them were male and some were female who had children of pre – school age. Their ages ranged from 17 – 49. Their occupation ranged from teacher, domestic, farmer, driver and laborer of some kind. The sixty parents' names were all written on a piece of paper and then placed in a container. Then thirty of the names of the parents were randomly selected and served as the sample.

Instrument For Data Collection

To gather the data for this study a questionnaire was used. The questionnaire consisted of twenty six items. The first section was made up of seven items designed to gather biographical data such as sex, age, marital status, educational background, occupation and amount of children of pre- school age. The second section composed of nineteen items. Out of the nineteen items fourteen were positive and five were negative. The positive and the negative statements were designed to find out the attitudes of parents towards the establishment of the pre- school, knowledge of parents on the significance of pre-school and parents attitudes towards pre-school.

To determine the parents' attitudes towards the establishment of the pre-school the Likert Scale was utilized. After every statement four responses followed (SD) strongly disagree, (D) disagree, (SA) strongly agree, (A) agree. Each statement was modified and simplified in standard English suited to the parents' comprehension level. This was attained by piloting items to certain parents who made suggestions for modification for the final draft.

Method Of Collecting Data

The researcher personally delivered the questionnaires to each parent in their respective homes. Upon delivery the researcher explained the purpose of the questionnaire. Each item was explained thoroughly and the steps that should be taken to complete the questionnaire. After explanation the researcher had parents complete the questionnaire. As soon as it was completed the researcher collected it. Prior to visitation the researcher at a Parents' Teachers' Association Meeting did a presentation on the issue of establishing a pre-school in San Antonio. Parents were then informed that the researcher would go around to interview the selected parents. Therefore the researcher visited particular parents at their respective homes to gather the necessary data.

How Data Was Analyzed

The data collected was analyzed thoroughly. The data was presented on tables and bar graphs. Statements were analyzed separately. Responses were tallied to get the frequency of responses.

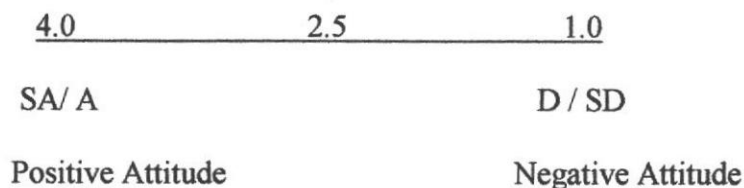
The first section of the questionnaire was analyzed on bar graphs which illustrated the background of the parents. The second section which was aimed at gathering data on the attitudes of parents used the Likert Scale. The choices for the responses were strongly disagree, disagree, agree and strongly agree. Some of the statements were positive and negative. Each response was given a numerical value of 1 to 4. To obtain the frequency the responses were tallied and corresponding percentages were calculated by multiplying the frequency of responses by 100 and dividing it into the total amount of respondents which was 30.

Example : $\frac{N \times 100}{30}$ N= frequency of respondents

30

Positive Statements

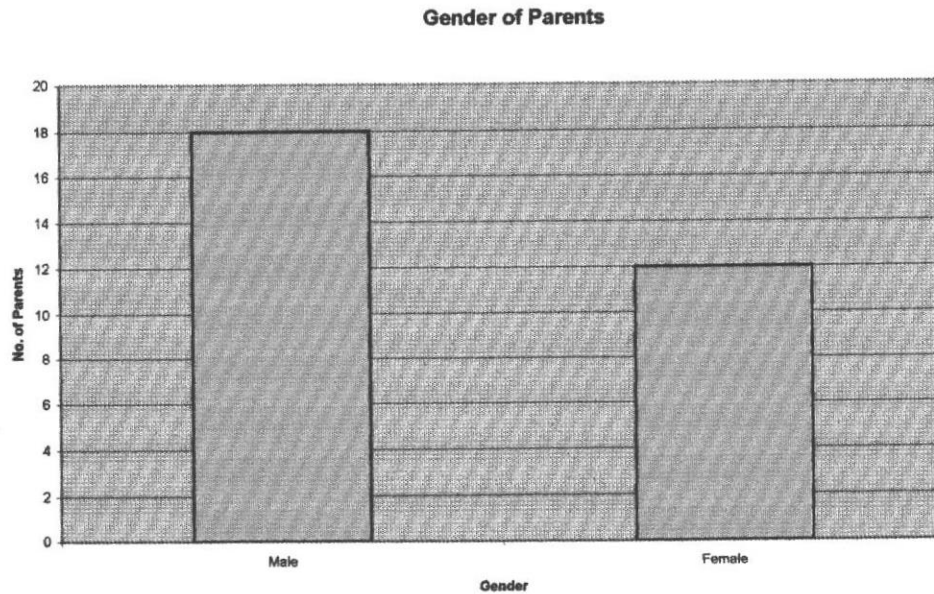
Positive statements gave a positive implication of parents attitudes towards the establishment of a pre-school. If the parents responses to these statements are strongly agree or agree and the average score fell between 4.0 and 2.5 the median then the attitudes were considered positive towards the establishment of the pre-school. On the other hand if the responses are strongly disagree or disagree and the average score of the responses fell between 2.5 the median and 1.0 then the attitudes were considered negative towards the establishment of the pre-school. The diagram below illustrates this idea.



Chapter 1V

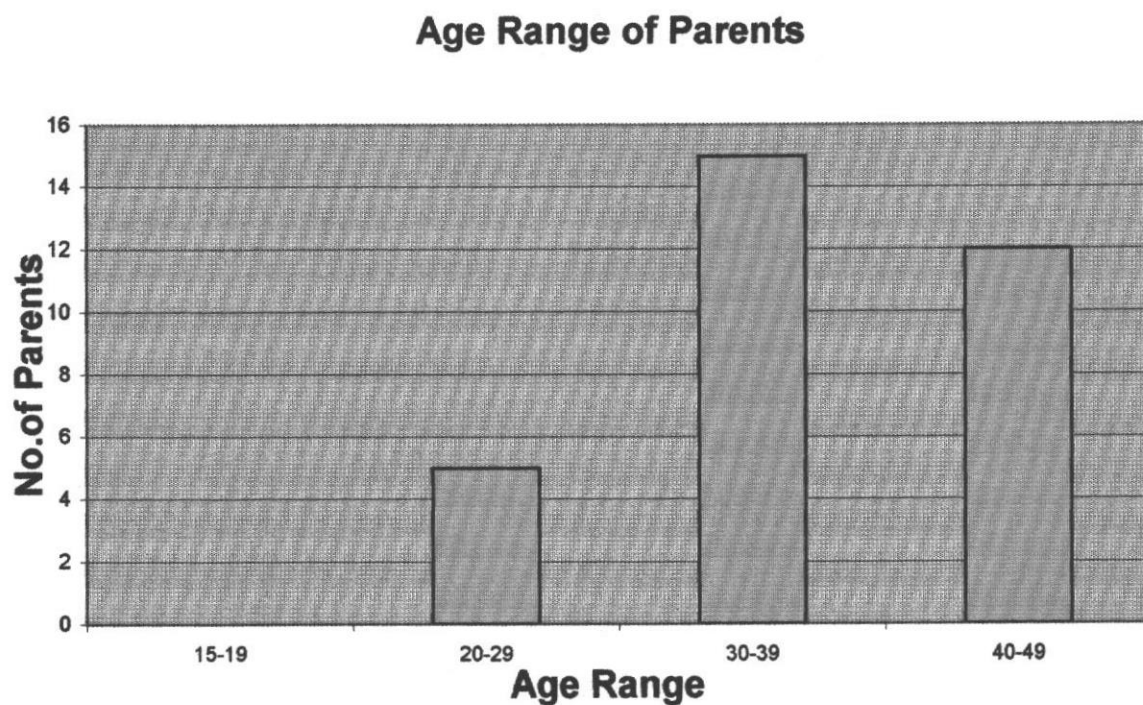
Data Analysis

Graph 1



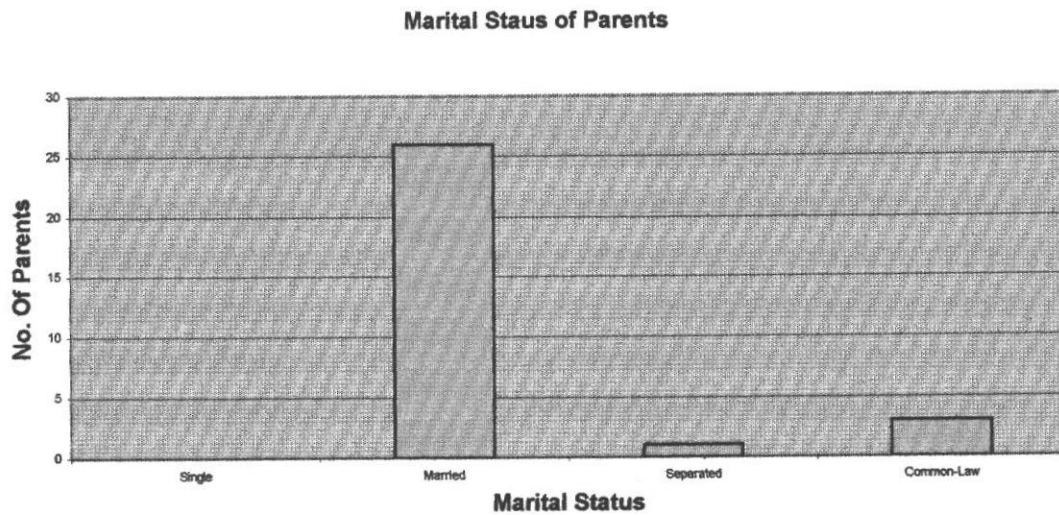
The graph shows that 60% or 18 of the respondents were males and 40% or 12 of the respondents were females. Therefore there were more males than females who took part in this study.

Graph 2:



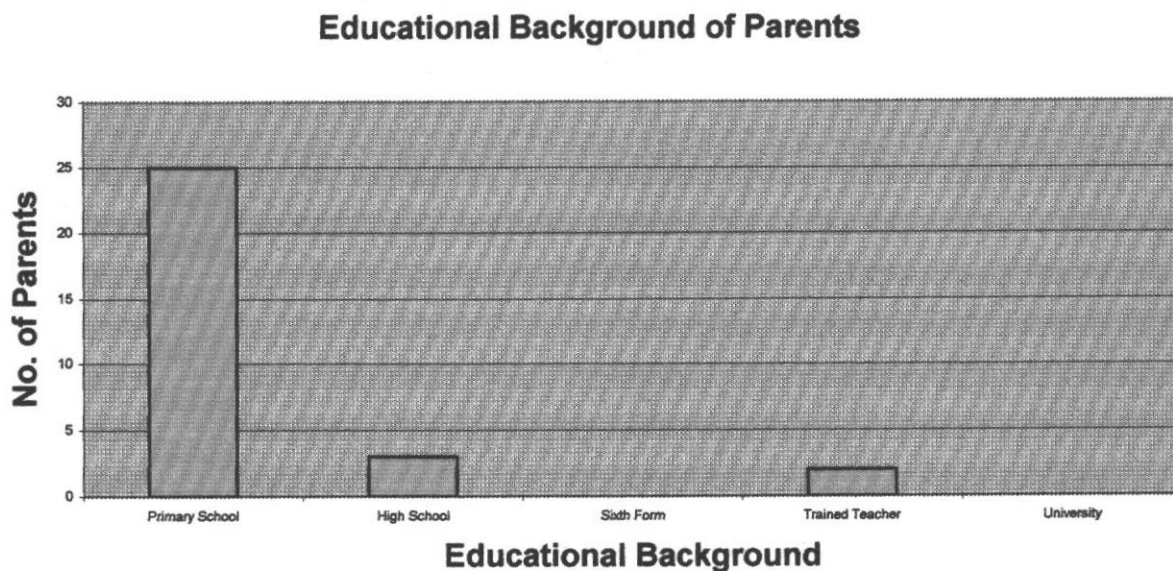
The graph shows that the age of the parents ranged from 20-49. None of the parents were in the 17-19 age range. There were five(5) parents in the 20-29 age range, eleven(11) in the 30-39 range and twelve (12) in the 40-49 range. Therefore most of the parents were in the 30-39 age range.

Graph 3



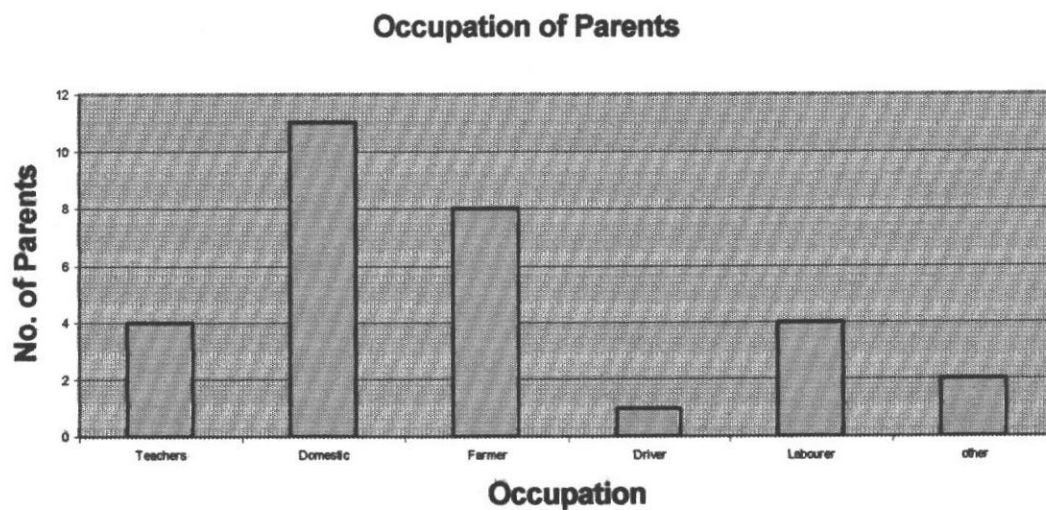
The graph shows that none of the parents were single. There were 86.7% or twenty six who were married, separated parents consisted of 3.3% or one parent and 10% or three were common law. This indicates that majority of the parents were married people.

Graph 4



The graph indicates that 83.3% or 25 of the parents went as far as primary school in their education. There were 10% or 3 who had high school diploma and 6.7% or 2 who were trained teachers. There were none who went to sixth form and also none went to university. Thus it can be concluded that majority of the parents had primary school education.

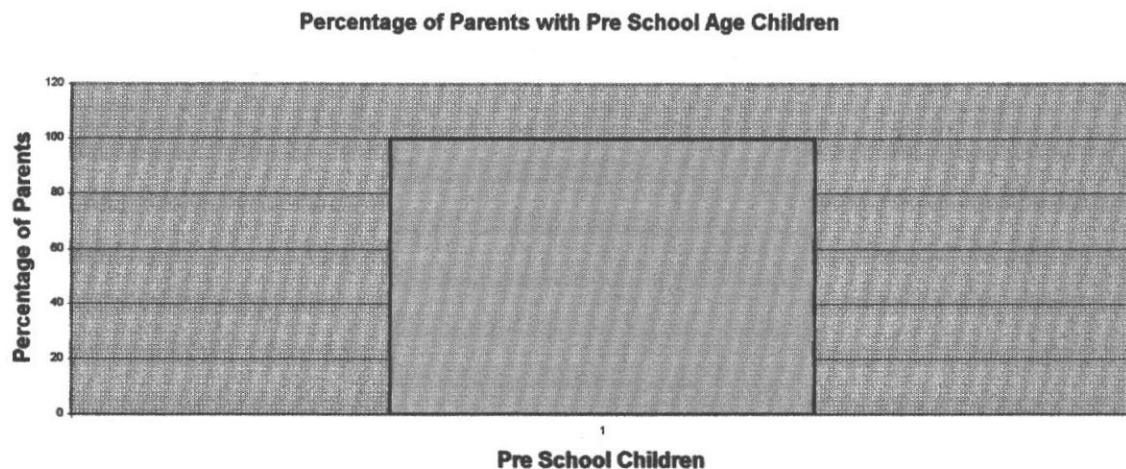
Graph 5



The graph shows that 13.3% or 4 of the parents were teachers , 36.7% or 11 were domestic, 26.7% or 8 were farmers, 3.3% or 1 were driver ,13.3% or 4 were labourers and finally 6.7% or 2 of the parents were classified as others. It is quite evident then that majority of the parents domestic in regards to occupation.

Graph 6

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The graph indicates 100% of the parents had children of pre school age. Therefore that was probably why they were interested in a pre school.

Statement 1

There is a need for a pre school in San Antonio.

	SD	D	A	SA	POS	NEG
No. Of Responses	0	0	6	24		
Percentage			20	80		
Points	1	2	3	4		
Total			18	96		
Total points				114		
Average				3.8	✓	

The table indicates that 6 of the respondents agreed with the statement 1 and 24 agreed.

No one strongly disagreed nor disagreed with statement 1. The statement accumulated a total of 114 points and an average of 3.8 which indicates a positive response to the statement. Table 1 is also indicating that 20% of the respondents agreed and 80% disagreed. Therefore it can be concluded that the respondents see the need of a pre school in San Antonio.

Statement 2

Children who go to pre school waste their time.

	SD	D	A	SA	POS	NEG
No. Of Responses	12	15	2	1		
Percentage	40	50	6.7	3.3		
Points	1	2	3	4		
Total	12	30	6	4		
Total Points				52		
Average				1.7		✓

Table 2 indicates 12 of the respondents strongly disagreed with statement 2, 15 disagreed, 2 agreed and 1 strongly agreed. Statement 2 accumulated a total of 52 points and an average of 1.7 which indicates a negative response towards the statement. Table 2 is also showing that 40% of the respondents strongly disagreed with the statement 50% disagreed, 6.7% agreed and 3.3% strongly agreed. Therefore this is saying that parents feel that children who go to pre school don't waste their time.

Statement 3

The only thing children do in a pre school is play.

	SD	D	A	SA	POS	NEG
No. Of Respondents	5	21	4	0		
Percentage	16.7	70	13.3	0		
Points	1	2	3	4		
Total	5	42	12			
Total Points				59		
Average				1.9		✓

Table 3 indicates that five of the respondents strongly disagreed with statement 3, 21 disagreed, 4 agreed and none strongly agreed. The statement obtained a total of 54 points and an average 1.9 showing a negative response towards the statement. The table also indicates that 16.7% strongly disagreed with the statement, 70% disagreed, 13.3% agreed and none strongly agreed. It can be concluded then that the parents feel that children don't only play in a pre school.

Statement 4

I can teaching my child everything that is taught in a pre school.

	SD	D	A	SA	POS	NEG
No. Of Respondents	8	19	2	1		
Percenrage	26.7	63.3	6.7	3.3		
Points	1	2	3	4		
Total	8	38	6	4		
Total Points				56		
Average				1.8		✓

The table indicates that 8 of the respondents strongly disagreed with statement 4, 19 disagreed, 2 agreed and 1 strongly agreed. This statement accumulated a total of 56 points and an average of 1.8 showing a negative response to the statement. The table also indicates that 26.7% of the respondents strongly disagreed with the statement, 63.3% disagreed, 6.7% agreed and 3.3% strongly agreed. Therefore this suggests a positive attitude, which means that most of the parents feel that they can't teach their children everything that is taught in a pre school.

Statement 5

Teaching children to read and write should be the main objective of a pre school.

	SD	D	A	SA	POS	NEG
No. Of Respondents	0	3	17	10		
Percentage		10	56.7	33.3		
Points	1	2	3	4		
Total		6	51	40		
Total Points				97		
Average				3.2	✓	

Table 5 indicates that none of the respondents strongly disagreed with the statement, 3 disagreed, 17 agreed, and 10 strongly agreed. This statement accumulated a total of 97 points and an average of 3.2 which indicates a positive response. In addition the table also indicates that 10% of the respondents disagreed with the statement and 90% also agreed with it. Since the respondents have a positive attitude towards the statement therefore it can be concluded that the parents feel that reading and writing should be the main objective of a pre school.

Statement 6

A child learns best playing.

	SD	D	A	SA	POS	NEG
No. Of Respondents	0	10	20	0		
Percentage	0	33.3	66.7	0		
Points	1	2	3	4		
Total		20	30			
Total Points				80		
Average				2.6		✓

Table 6 indicates that none of the respondents strongly disagreed with the statement, 10 disagreed, 20 agreed and none strongly agreed. The statement accumulated a total of 80 points and an average of 2.6 indicating a negative response. The table also indicates that 33.3% of the respondents disagreed with the statement and 66.7% agreed with the statement. This means that majority of the parents feel that most children don't learn best by playing which implies a negative attitude towards pre school. This could be because of ignorance about early childhood development on the part of the parents since the majority went as far as primary school in their education.

Statement 7

A pre school prepares children for formal education.

	SD	D	A	SA	POS	NEG
No.of Respondents	0	0	10	20		
Percentage	0	0	33.3	66.7		
Points	1	2	3	4		
Total			30	40		
Total Points				110		
Average				3.6	✓	

Table 7 indicates that none of the respondents strongly disagreed with the statement, none disagreed, 10 agreed and 20 strongly agreed. The statement accumulated a total of 110 points and average of 3.6 indicating a positive response. The table also indicates that 33.3% agreed and 66.7% strongly agreed with the statement. Therefore, it can be concluded that the parents believe that a pre school surely prepares young children for formal education.

Statement 8

Children who attend pre school learn to get along with others.

	SD	D	A	SA	POS	NEG
No. of Respondents	0	0	22	8		
Percentage			73.3	26.7		
Points	1	2	3	4		
Total			66	32		
Total Points				98		
Average				3.2	✓	

Table 8 indicates that none of the parents strongly disagreed with the statement and none also disagreed. However there were 22 who agreed and 8 who strongly agreed with the statement. The statement obtained a total of 98 points and an average of 3.2 which indicates a positive response. The table also indicates that 73.3% of the respondents agreed and 26.7% strongly agreed which implies that the parents have a positive attitude towards the statement. Therefore it can be concluded that parents feel that children who attend pre school learn to get along with others.

Statement 9

Pre school children do better in primary school than those who do not attend pre school.

	SD	D	A	SA	POS	NEG
No. of Respondents	0	2	12	16		
Percentage		6.7	40	53.3		
Points	1	2	3	4		
Total		4	36	64		
Total Points				104		
Average				3.4	✓	

Table 9 indicates that none of the respondents strongly disagreed with the statement while 2 disagreed, 12 agreed and 16 strongly agreed. The statement accumulated a total of 104 points and an average of 3.4 which is a positive response. The table also indicates that 6.7% of the respondents disagreed, 40% agreed and 53.3% strongly agreed. This implies that parents have a positive attitude towards the statement. They feel that pre school children do better in primary school than those who do not attend pre school.

Statement 10

If a pre school is opened I will send my child.

	SD	D	A	SA	POS	NEG
No. of Respondents	0	0	13	17		
Percentage			43.3	56.7		
Points	1	2	3	4		
Total			39	68		
Total Points				107		
Average				3.5	✓	

Table 10 indicates that none of the respondents strongly disagreed with the statement and none also disagreed. However 13 of the respondents agreed and 17 strongly agreed with the statement. The statement accumulated a total of 107 points and an average of 3.5 which indicates a positive response. The table also shows that 43.3% agreed and 56.7% of the respondents strongly agreed with the statement. The parents have a positive attitude towards the statement which suggests that if a pre school is open all the parents are prepared to send their children to attend the pre school.

Statement 11

I can afford to pay the contribution fee for my child to attend the pre school.

	SD	D	A	SA	POS	NEG
No. of Respondents	0	1	18	11		
Percentage		3.3	60	36.7		
Points	1	2	3	4		
Total		2	54	44		
Total Points				100		
Average				3.3	✓	

Table 11 indicates that none of the respondents strongly disagreed with the statement and only 1 disagreed. On the other hand 18 agreed and 11 strongly agreed with the statement. The statement therefore accumulated a total of 100 points and an average of 3.3 which is a positive response. In addition the table also indicates that 3.3% of the respondents disagreed while 96.7% agreed which means that the respondents have a positive attitude towards the statement. Therefore the parents are saying that they can afford to pay a contribution fee for their child to attend the pre school.

Statement 12

I am willing to cooperate with the teacher in fund raising activities concerning the pre school.

	SD	D	A	SA	POS	NEG
No. of Respondents	0	2	22	6		
Percentage		6.7	73.3	20		
Points	1	2	3	4		
Total		4	66	24		
Total Points				94		
Average				3.1	✓	

Table 12 indicates that none of the respondents strongly disagreed with the statement while only 2 disagreed. On the other hand 22 of the respondents agreed and 6 strongly agreed with the statement. The statement accumulated a total of 94 points and an average of 3.1 which is a positive response. The table also shows that 6.7% of the respondents disagreed with the statement while 93.3% agreed. This means that parents are willing to cooperate with the teacher in fund raising activities concerning the pre school.

Statement 14

A trained teacher is preferred to teach in a pre school.

	SD	D	A	SA	POS	NEG
No. of Respondents	0	3	9	18		
Percentage		10	30	60		
Points	1	2	3	4		
Total		6	27	72		
Total Points				105		
Average				3.5	✓	

Table 14 indicates that none of the respondents strongly disagreed with the statement, 3 disagreed, 9 agreed and 18 strongly agreed. The statement accumulated a total of 105 points and an average of 3.5 which is a positive response. The table also shows that 10% of the respondents disagreed with the statement while 90% agreed. Therefore it can be concluded that parents prefer a trained teacher to teach in a pre school.

Statement 15

Any teacher can teach in a pre school

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	SD	D	A	SA	POS	NEG
No. of Respondents	1	18	9	2		
Percentage	3.3	60	30	6.7		
Points	1	2	3	4		
Total	1	36	27	8		
Total Points				72		
Average				2.4		✓

Table 15 indicates that 1 of the respondents agreed with the statement while 18 disagreed, 9 agreed and 2 strongly agreed. The statement accumulated a total of 72 points and an average of 2.4 which is a positive response. The table also shows that 63.3% of the respondents disagreed and 36.7% agreed with the statement. This means that the respondents have a positive attitude towards the statement. They feel that not any teacher can teach in a pre school.

Statement 16

Some qualities of a teacher are loving, understanding and caring.

	SD	D	A	SA	POS	NEG
No. of Respondents	0	0	13	17		
Percentage			43.3	56.7		
Points	1	2	3	4		
Total			39	68		
Total Points				107		
Average				3.5	✓	

Table 16 indicates that none of the respondents strongly disagreed or disagreed with the statement. However 13 of the respondents agreed and 17 strongly agreed with the statement. The statement accumulated a total of 107 points and an average of 3.5 which indicates a positive response. The table also shows that 100% of the respondents agreed with the statement. This suggests that the parents have a positive attitude towards the statement. They feel that a teacher should be loving, understanding and caring.

Statement 17

Parents should visit pre school regularly to check on their child's performance.

	SD	D	A	SA	POS	NEG
No. of Respondents	1	1	17	11		
Percentage	3.3	3.3	56.7	36.7		
Points	1	2	3	4		
Total	1	2	51	44		
Total points				98		
Average				3.2	✓	

Table 17 indicates that 1 of the respondents strongly disagreed and 1 disagreed with the statement. On the other hand 17 of the respondents agreed and 11 strongly agreed with the statement. The statement obtained a total of 98 points and an average of 3.2 which indicates a positive response. The table also indicates that 6.6% of the respondents disagreed while 93.4% agreed with the statement. Therefore parents have a positive attitude towards the statement they feel that parents should visit a pre school regularly to check on their children's performance.

Statement 18

Children should attend pre school regularly.

	SD	D	A	SA	POS	NEG
No. of Respondents	0	0	17	13		
Percentage			56.7	43.3		
Points	1	2	3	4		
Total			51	52		
Total Points				103		
Average				3.4	✓	

Table 18 indicates that none of the respondents strongly disagreed or disagreed with the statement. On the contrary 17 of the respondents agreed and 13 strongly agreed with the statement. The statement accumulated a total of 103 points and an average of 3.4 which is a positive response. The table also indicates that 100% of the respondents agreed with the statement. It can be concluded that parents had a positive attitude towards the statement. They feel that children should attend pre school regularly.

Statement 19

Children who attend pre school should arrive at 8:30 and leave at 11:30 am.

	SD	D	A	SA	POS	NEG
No. of Respondents	0	0	16	14		
Percentage			53.3	46.7		
Points	1	2	3	4		
Total			48	56		
Total Points				104		
Average				3.4	✓	

Table 19 indicates that none of the respondents strongly disagreed or disagreed with the statement. However 16 of the respondents agreed and 14 strongly agreed with the statement. The statement also obtained a total of 104 points and an average of 3.4 which is a positive response. The table also indicates that 100% of the respondents agreed with the statement. All the parents feel that children who attend pre school should arrive at 8:30 and leave at 11:30 am.

Chapter V

Conclusion and Recommendation

The objective of this study was to find out the attitudes of parents towards establishing a pre- school in San Antonio. The result of this study revealed some amazing discoveries about the attitude of parents towards establishing the pre- school. It revealed that parents consider pre- school education to be an essential component in the education of their children. In addition, the research revealed that the parents in the study have a limited understanding of early childhood education. However, with the little knowledge that they had they were able to express some of the things that they would like to see happening in a pre- school. This is one of the reason why the researcher was determined to conduct this research because the researcher believes that a pre- school provides a foundation for all future learning and thus maximize the chance of scholastic success.

Furthermore a pre- school is very important in a community like San Antonio because children of such community are given very little school preparation at home. Surridge and Vernon(1999) in a social appraisal report stated that "Early years development for a young child below five years old would be greater in a specially prepared environment." This the researcher also believes, therefore a pre school would be of significant importance to young children of San Antonio.

The research also revealed that parents feel that children don't learn best through playing which could be a reason why some early development of children are stagnated. Parents feel that children must always be serious no playing when doing school work. Therefore, the researcher recommends that if a pre- school is opened that parents be informed about the importance of playing as a means of learning. This will prevent conflict with parents since they might feel that children are wasting time if they find out that this is how children are being taught in a pre- school.

The research also revealed some things that parents would like to see happening in a pre- school. The researcher therefore, recommends that if a pre school is opened that workshops be held by the Pre School Unit to inform parents about the attributes that make up a good pre school. This will for sure clear up any misconception that parents have about pre- school education. It will also enhance their understanding about their role and the teacher's role in educating young children of pre school age.

Finally the research revealed that parents are prepared to work to make a pre school a reality in San Antonio. Therefore, the researcher recommends that the parents with children of pre- school age form a committee to steer this project along with the help of the Parents' Teachers ' Association and other community leaders. This committee must request the help of the Government of Belize to aid in establishing the pre school. They should also write proposals asking for help from Non Governmental Organizations in and

out of Belize. Along with this the committee must establish a close relationship with the Pre School Unit working hand in hand pooling efforts in making the pre school a reality.

The researcher is convinced that a pre school is possible in San Antonio. There is evidence to prove that parents are prepared to support and cooperate in the running and upbringing of the pre school. Thus if a pre school is opened in San Antonio it will set the foundation for all future learning and elevate the education level for the young children of San Antonio and that of Belize.

Place a check mark in the appropriate box. Please answer all questions.

Biographical Information

1. SEX

Male ____

Female ____

2. AGE RANGE

15 - 19 ____ 20 - 29 ____ 30 - 39 ____ 40 - 49 ____

3. MARITAL STATUS

Single ____ Married ____ Separated ____ Common law ____

4. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Primary School ____
Trained Teacher ____

High School ____
University ____

Sixth Form ____

5. OCCUPATION

Teacher ____
Driver ____

Domestic ____
Labourer ____

Farmer ____
Other ____

6. AMOUNT OF CHILDREN IN THE FAMILY ____

7. AMOUNT OF CHILDREN OF PRE-SCHOOL AGE IN THE FAMILY ____

Circle the letter/s which represents how you feel about each statement.

	SA SD	Strongly Agree Strongly Disagree	A D	Agree Disagree	
1.			SD	D	A SA
2.			SD	D	A SA
3.			SD	D	A SA
4.			SD	D	A SA
5.			SD	D	A SA
6.			SD	D	A SA
7.			SD	D	A SA
8.			SD	D	A SA
9.			SD	D	A SA
10			SD	D	A SA

- | | | | | | |
|-----|--|----|---|---|----|
| 11. | I can afford to pay the contribution fee for my child to attend the pre-school. | SD | D | A | SA |
| 12. | I am willing to cooperate with the teacher in fund raising activities concerning the pre-school. | SD | D | A | SA |
| 13. | I am willing to go to school to assist the teachers with the children when there is the need. | SD | D | A | SA |
| 14. | A trained teacher is preferred to teach in a pre-school. | SD | D | A | SA |
| 15. | Any teacher can teach in a pre-school. | SD | D | A | SA |
| 16. | Some qualities of a teacher are loving, understanding and caring. | SD | D | A | SA |
| 17. | Parents should visit pre-school regularly to check on their child's performance. | SD | D | A | SA |
| 18. | Children should attend pre-school regularly. | SD | D | A | SA |
| 19. | Children who attend pre-school should arrive at 8:30 and leave at 11:30 am. | SD | D | A | SA |

Thank you for your Cooperation

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