



EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

(Parents of secondary school students)

Project: Parental involvement in mathematics education of their children

Chief Investigator's name: Professor Peter Sullivan

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You are invited to take part in this study. Please read this Explanatory Statement in full before deciding whether or not to participate in this research. If you would like further information regarding any aspect of this project, you are encouraged to contact the researchers via the phone numbers or email addresses listed above.

What does the research involve?

This study will explore the effects of interaction between parents and children with regard to secondary mathematics education, to elucidate the impact of parental involvement that result in both positive outcomes and negative pressure on their children.

The study aims to describe factors relating to parental involvement that affect the performance and achievement of mathematics students. In particular, the study aims to investigate further the following questions:

1. How can parental involvement factors affect academic achievement of children in mathematics education?
2. How can different parenting styles affect mathematics achievement of children?
3. What is an appropriate balance between positive encouragement of parents and negative pressure on children in mathematics education?

Your involvement in the study may involve the following:

- Online Survey Questionnaire (approximately 15 minutes)
- Individual interview (about 6 - 8 selected students and their parents only – this may take about 45 - 60 minutes for each participant and will be arranged after school hours with the consultation and approval of their parents)
Recording of the interview will also take place (audio only).

Of course you can do the online survey without doing the interview.

Why were you chosen for this research?

The study aims to involve students from both Asian and Western backgrounds. Therefore, we invite schools which have students from those cultural backgrounds.

Consenting to participate in the project and withdrawing from the research

Being in the study is voluntary, and you are under no obligation to consent to participation. If you do consent to participate, you may withdraw from further participation at any stage and your responses will not be saved or analysed. However, if you have been involved in the submission of any anonymous (non-identifiable) material such as a questionnaire, it will not be possible to withdraw data once they have been submitted.

Confidentiality

We would like to assure you that confidentiality will be maintained at all times. Any reports from the questionnaires or interviews will be synthesised to ensure that you cannot be identified through your comments, your confidentiality and privacy will be maintained at all times. Reports on the project may be published in professional journals and other publications. Your names will not be used in any publication arising from this research. Pseudonyms will be used instead so that you will not be recognised.

Storage of data

Data collected will be stored in accordance with Monash University regulations. They will be kept at Monash University, Clayton in locked cabinets and secure computer server for five years.

Results

The findings may be disseminated in national, regional and/or international conferences and a summary of key findings will be made available to participants on request.

Complaints

Should you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of the project, you are welcome to contact the Executive Officer, Monash University Human Research Ethics (MUHREC):

Executive Officer
Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC)
Room 111, Building 3e
Research Office
Monash University VIC 3800

Tel: +61 3 9905 2052 Email: muhrec@monash.edu Fax: +61 3 9905 3831

Thank you,



Professor Peter Sullivan