

**ACHIEVEMENT IN ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL SKILLS: A  
COMPARATIVE STUDY OF STUDENTS WITH AND WITHOUT  
EDUCATION VOUCHERS**

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PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR  
OF PHILOSOPHY IN EDUCATION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SCHOOL  
OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES, UNIVERSITY OF MANAGEMENT &  
TECHNOLOGY LAHOREiii

**DEDICATED** TO My parents for inspiring me to work hard and To all my family members for their continuous moral, social and economic supportiv

**ABSTRACT** Main purpose of the study was to search out the effect of Education Voucher Scheme (EVS) on academics and social skills of the students of class 8<sup>th</sup>. The study is an ex-post facto and co- relational in nature. Survey method was adopted to conduct the research. The accessible population of the study consisted of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in two districts i.e. Lahore and Kasur. From these two districts, 17 schools were selected through random sampling. Data were collected from all available EVS students in these schools and research sample comprised of 504 students. The division of EVS and non-EVS students was 252 and 252. For academic achievement, 8<sup>th</sup> class result announced by Punjab Examination Commission (PEC) in 2012 was considered. Social skills like cooperation, assertion, flexibility, interpersonal skills, and self control were measured through a self developed rating scale named as *Rabbani Social Skills Rating Scale (RSSRS)*. The instrument was close ended consisted of 35 Likert type statements on four point scale as (1 = *never*, 2 = *occasionally*, 3 = *often* and 4 = *very often*). The instrument was administered in class room situation. Data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistical techniques. The results of the study showed that non EVS students were academically better as compared to their EVS counterparts. However EVS students showed continuous improvement in the academic as well as in social skills as they progress from class 6<sup>th</sup> to class 8<sup>th</sup>. The study showed that there is strong positive relationship between academic achievement and social skills both for EVS and non-EVS students. It was recommended that Government should increase the budget allocation to promote EVS programs and Punjab Education Foundation should make further efforts to improve the quality of instruction in EVS program in order to better v

address the educational and social needs of EVS students. The government should make certain arrangement to improve the parent education level.vi

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS** I am highly thankful to the **ALMIGHTY ALLAH**, the Most Compassionate, the most Gracious, the Lord of Lords, the Self Sufficient, and the Sovereign of all and sundry across the universe for providing me access to the highest possible education in the world. I will forever remain grateful for this beautiful gift of life. I offer my humblest thanks from the core of my heart to the cause of creation and the pride of humanity the ***Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Peace be upon Him)***. His intelligence and patience were greater than any one of Allah's creation and his knowledge were highest standing. His conviction was the strongest likewise his determination, as for his compassion and his mercy it was the greatest of all human. Through him Allah opened eyes that were blind, hearts that were covered and ears that were deaf. Allah presented him to His creation and made him the most perfect human being and distinguished him, amongst other fine attributes, with the most beautiful qualities and noble opinion. His being is as a mercy to all the worlds and creations. May Allah praise and venerate our Master Muhammad and grant him perfect peace in abundance.

It would be difficult to find the right words, nonetheless, I wish to extend very special thanks to **Professor Dr. Abdul Hameed**, my PhD supervisor, whose talents, wisdom, knowledge and support helped me to achieve this study's hands-on, real-world feel. His insights into the requisite research methods made an invaluable contribution. I feel honored to mention that the completion of my study would have been a distant dream, had he not been behind me like the strongest supporting pillar. May God shower his constant blessings on him and his family forever and ever as he always illuminated the dusk of my ignorance with the dawn of his unfathomable knowledge.vii

I also feel deep gratitude for the researchers and authors whom I have quoted in my research study. I aspire to express my untold appreciation for **Prof. Dr. Hassan Sohaib Murad**, the rector, University of Management & Technology, Lahore for providing me research facilities and friendly environment for research work. I would like to extend my thanks to the honorable professors; Dr. Abdul Ghafoor Chaudhry, Dr. Usman Khalil, Dr. Abaidullah who guided me during course work which provided the base to plan and complete my dissertation. I am also thankful to the ministerial staff which are ever supporting to the students of the School of Social Sciences and Humanities. I pay tribute to all my class fellows and colleagues for their company, creating a more than family like environment and helping each other through thick and thin. In this regard, I would like to acknowledge the special association of Mr. Ehsan, Mr. Nadeem Masood, Mr. Shafiq Ahmad, Mr. Faisal Anees, Mr. Mobin Ali, Mr. Qazi Ehsan and Mr. M. Baqir. I pay humble gratitude to my parents, brothers and sisters who supported me throughout my life in all respects. I specially acknowledge the motivation and encouragement provided by my parents whose prayers and affections were the source of strength for me in every step of life. My success is really the fruit of their devoted prayers. I acknowledge the support of my wife who helped me a lot especially in data entry and missed me a lot and took all the responsibility of all my family affairs on her shoulders during my studies. I. A. Rabbaniviii

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