

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MONTESSORI GUIDANCE SERVICES
FOR PARENTS, O.B. MONTESSORI CENTER, INC.

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A Thesis

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by

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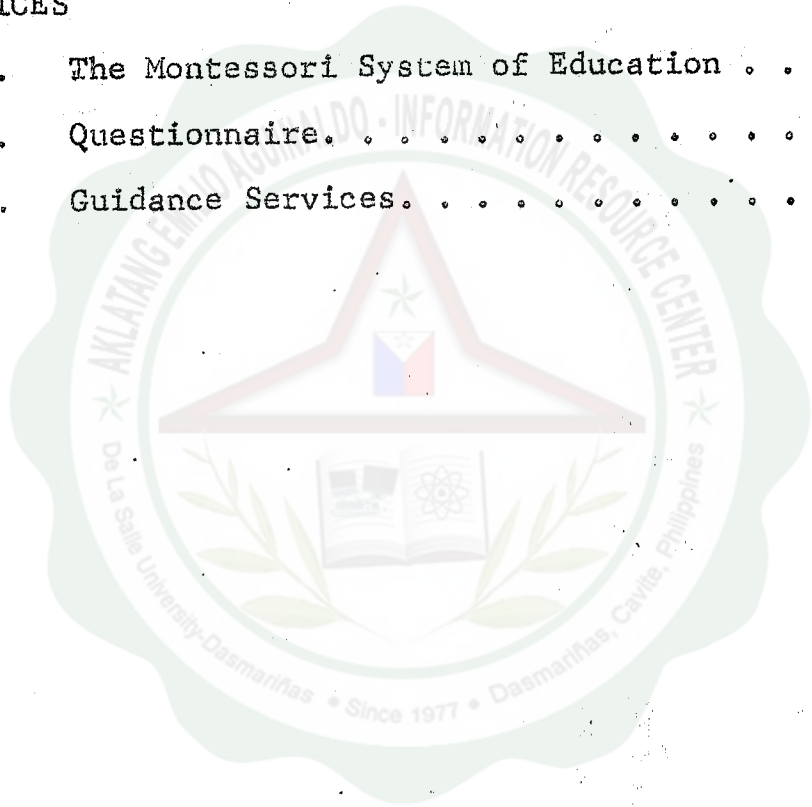
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Chapter 5

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

This study was conducted to determine the parents' assessment of the effectiveness of the Montessori Guidance Services for Parents as a means for Guidance Program improvement.

Specifically, it aimed to answer the following:

1. To what extent has the Montessori Guidance Services for Parents achieved its objectives as assessed by the parents with respect to:
 - a. The Montessori System of Education
 - b. Insights into the Child
 - c. Partnership between the Home and the School
2. What are the strong and weak points of the services as perceived by the parents?
3. What is the extent of parent involvement in these services in terms of:
 - a. Attendance in the services
 - b. Frequency of availing of the services outside the given schedule

Out of the 843 students enrolled for school year 1981-1982 at the Greenhills center (belonging to 616 families),



50% or 422 were chosen by random sampling from Casa (pre-school) up to Grade School and their parents included among the sample. Only one questionnaire was given per family. A total of 113 distributed questionnaires was retrieved which represented 26.7% of the total parent sample.

An instrument was devised by the researcher using the objectives of the MGSP as reflected in the School Manual and verified by the authorities concerned.

Findings

A. On Parent-respondent profile

The parent respondents were relatively young and enthusiastic. They belong to the modern group of parents who understand and respect their children, are conscious of their roles as parents with regard to their children's education, and are cooperative with the school in its effort to develop the totality of the child. In spite of their inability to attend all the MGSP activities owing to their hectic schedules, they seem to possess the necessary potentials for being effective and responsible parents and partners in the educative process of the child, as discussed earlier in the related literature.



B. On the Parents' Evaluation of the Montessori Guidance Services for Parents:

1. As perceived by parents, the entire Montessori Guidance Services for Parents have achieved their objectives on the average, having found them to be Moderately Effective.
2. Similarly, the three areas of the MGSP namely:
(A) Montessori system of education, (B) insights into the child and (C) partnership between the home and the school were each given a Standard rating by the respondents.

While the subjects have a firm grasp of the Montessori philosophy and principles, a fair understanding of their children and the importance of teamwork between the home and the school, parents need assistance in understanding their child's behavioral difficulties and in applying the Montessori child-rearing methods. They also have a relatively low perception of the effect of parent surrogate on their child's development. Moreover, they need to know more about the Montessori curriculum and academic program to be able to assist their children with their studies more effectively.



3. Among the services (school orientations, parent interviews, parent-teacher conferences, adult seminar-workshops and parent counseling), the orientation and seminar-workshops were able to deepen parents' understanding of the Montessori system and the teaching process, according to the parent participants. The conferences and counseling sessions enabled them to understand their children better and assisted them in meeting their particular needs. Respondents' main complaint centered on the implementation: scheduling of the services time spent for meeting with parents, tendency to be repetitive for old parents. Findings also showed that many parents seemed confused about the difference between parent interviews and parent-teacher conferences.
4. Parent-Teacher conferences were found to be relevant as proven by the highest attendance rate and the evaluation mark given by the parents. School orientation ranked second in attendance while the seminar-workshops came third. Parent counseling was rated the lowest.

Parent participants seemed encouraged by services on effective parenting. In fact, many



suggestions given dealt about this matter. Majority of the respondents failed to avail of their services on their own.

Conclusion

From the aforesaid findings, the following conclusions are drawn.

1. Overall, the parents perceived the Montessori Guidance Services for Parents to be moderately effective in achieving their objectives.
2. Corollary to the above, the three areas of the Montessori system were likewise perceived to be moderately effective.
3. Items (1) and (2) notwithstanding, the parent seem to lack an understanding of their children's behavioral difficulties and in applying the Montessori child-rearing methods. Likewise, there appears a low perception on the effect of the adoption of surrogate parenthood on their children's development.
4. Among the various services offered by Montessori, school orientation, seminar-workshops and parent-teacher's conferences appeared to be the most appreciated ones. They not only deepen the parents' understanding of the Montessori system



and its teaching process but also made them understand their children better. These enable them to be of better assistance in meeting the particular needs of their children.

5. The weak points of the services were found to center on lackluster implementation of the services in terms of scheduling of services, length of time spent with parents and the apparent lack of innovations which made the services monotonous to parents who have been with the Montessori for some time.
6. The degree of parent involvement as reflected in their attendance and frequency of availing of the services outside the given schedules appeared to vary with the type of services. Attendance is highest in parent-teacher conferences while the highest frequency of availment was found in effective parenting.

Recommendations

As a whole, in as much as the rating is only on the standard level, the Montessori administrators could look into enriching the program for parents. It is, therefore, recommended that parents' assessment, comments and suggestions given on this paper be considered in the



programming of such enrichment..

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are also given:

1. That a social interaction be held among parents, teachers and the guidance staff at the beginning of the schoolyear to establish rapport among them and pave the way for an efficient working relationship.
2. That a regular evaluation of the MGSP be conducted to assess its effectiveness and relevance and update its offerings with the needs of the times.
3. That similar studies be held at the other O.B. Montessori schools to ascertain their particular needs with regard to the Montessori Guidance Services for Parents.

