

Homeschooling: Useful alternative or damaging deviation?

Canadian Journal of Behavioral Science
2011, Vol. 43, No. 5, 195-200

© 2011 Canadian Psychological Association
0008-0386/11/\$12.00 DOI: 10.1037/a0022997

The Impact of Schooling on Academic Achievement: Evidence From Homeschooled and Traditionally Schooled Students

Sandra Martin-Chang
Concordia University and Mount Allison University

Odette N. Gould and Reanne E. Meuse
Mount Allison University

Although homeschooling is growing in prevalence, its educational outcomes remain unclear. The present study compared the academic achievements of homeschooled children with children attending traditional public school. When the homeschooled group was divided into those who were taught from organized lesson plans (structured homeschoolers) and those who were not (unstructured homeschoolers), the data showed that structured homeschoolers achieved higher standardized scores compared with children attending public school. Exploratory analyses also suggest that the unstructured homeschoolers are achieving the lowest standardized scores across the 3 groups.

Keywords: curriculum, education, homeschooling, reading, unschooling

The number of children being homeschooled in North America is growing at an unprecedented rate (Arai, 2006; Barwogen, Falciari, Putnam, Reamer, & Stair, 2004; Brady, 2005; Cai, Reeve, & Robinson, 2002; Jones & Gloeckner, 2004a, 2004b; Ray, 2010). In the United States, best estimates place the homeschooling population above 1.5 million children (National Center for Education Statistics, 2008). Similarly, it has been suggested that homeschoolers account for almost 1% of all Canadian children (Davies & Aurini, 2003); however, it is likely that these estimates are too conservative (Basham, Merrifield, & Hepburn, 2007).

In addition to religious convictions, dissatisfaction with the public school system is the most prominent factor in the decision to homeschool (Home School Legal Defence Association of Canada, 2006; Mayberry & Knowles, 1989; Van Galen, 1987; Welner, 2002). However, empirical research has not confirmed the pervasive belief that homeschooled elementary children are advancing beyond their public school peers (Basham, 2001; see also Cogan, 2010, for college students). Recent attempts have been made to understand both the demographic characteristics and the ideological underpinnings of the homeschooling community (Collum & Mitchell, 2005; Klein & Poplin, 2008; Merry & Howell, 2009; Van Galen, 1987); yet, at present, very few independent (i.e., nonpartisan) studies have focused on the academic achievements associated with home education. The aim of the current investigation was to

evaluate the efficacy of home-based education as measured by standardized achievement tests in a small Canadian sample of homeschooled and public school children.

The notion that homeschooling is superior to traditional methods of education can be traced back to a small number of highly touted reports funded by the Home School Legal Defence Association (see Ray & Wartes, 1991, for review). Rudner (1999) carried out one of the most influential reports. Rudner's data originated from an educational testing company that provided standardized testing to homeschooling families. Prior to receiving the final results, parents of over 20,000 children agreed to release the test scores for evaluation. From this large sample, Rudner reported that the homeschooled children were functioning at a higher level than traditionally schooled children in every grade and over all the curricular areas tested (reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, and information services).

On first blush, the data reported by Rudner (1999) seem convincing; however, key methodological flaws make interpreting the results from this study problematic. First, only families who enlisted the services of a privatized educational testing company were approached to participate. In the year the data were collected, it was estimated that between 70,000 and 120,000 children were being homeschooled in the United States, yet only 39,607 used this particular service (Rudner, 1999). Therefore, the families pursuing standardized testing may have differed from the larger homeschooling population in terms of either educational priorities or financial status. The fact that the mean income of the families in this study was higher than the national norms supports the latter interpretation. In addition, only 52% of the families who used the testing service agreed to participate in the study; thus, the parents who were most confident in their children's abilities may have made up the majority of the sample.

In any study of this nature, it is difficult to rebut many of the issues surrounding self-selection. Many homeschooling families are not registered with the local governments or school boards (Arai, 2000; Lines, 1991), and this effectively rules out the possibility of randomized sampling. Nonetheless, the effects of self-selection in Rudner's investigation (1999) may have been lessened

This article was published Online First May 30, 2011.

Sandra Martin-Chang, Department of Education, Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, and Psychology Department, Mount Allison University, Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada; Odette N. Gould and Reanne E. Meuse, Psychology Department, Mount Allison University.

We thank Amanda Barrister and Jessica Chapman for their help in data collection. We gratefully acknowledge financial support from the McCain Fellowship Foundation to Sandra Martin-Chang and from Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada to Odette N. Gould.

Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to Sandra Martin-Chang, Department of Education LB-579, 1455, de Maisonneuve Boulevard W., Montreal, QC, Canada H3G 1M8. E-mail: smartinc@education.concordia.ca

195

Editorial Reviews. About the Author. Marcovici was born in in Vienna, he became interested in technology, especially electronics and mathematics, at the .Buy a cheap copy of Homeschooling: Useful alternative or book by Michael All Categories > Homeschooling: Useful alternative or damaging deviation?.Homeschooling: Useful alternative or damaging deviation? by They stopped sending their kids to school: Does homeschooling make sense? by.Start studying Homeschooling Notecards. Learn vocabulary Michael Wenkart, Homeschooling: Useful alternative or damaging deviation?, books on. Demand.I want to homeschool or unschool my children instead of sending them by Charles Tips, Lots of direct experience in educational alternatives.I don't think homeschooling carries benefits for kids of average or above-average Posts cannot express a neutral stance, suggest harm against a specific For a lot of gifted children (> 2 std deviation from the rest of the class), the Also, this perspective completely disregards the multiple alternative.ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENTS: PROMISES AND PROBLEMS FOR On the surface, this definition may not seem to deviate substantially from traditional that a policy of alternative assessment might have for home education, it is useful to Some educators have claimed that multiple-choice tests are actually harmful .Yes, I do have some (liberal) friends who home school their kids, and I and one that has the potential to seriously harm this country over the.So many people who criticize homeschoolers and homeschooling really had with homeschooling, and warning other homeschooling parents to watch out for them. . we have to shelter our kids from every possible harm on the other. . . circumstances it was probably a valuable and necessary option.I declare that Home schooling as an alternative to institutionalized It is important to note that the decision to home school should not be taken lightly. . . states that many parents believe that these schools can do permanent damage to children schooling, in this case, was a deviation from the norm and, as such, did.new alternative education, we review a number of homeschooling studies from the local and overseas associated . plays an important role in the decision to homeschool bureaucratic organizations, only harm children by subjecting them to.Since most students are educated in public schools, parents' choice of other educational alternatives is often perceived as a deviation from the societal norm.The findings highlight the important role of organizational affiliation and integration. We would argue that homeschoolers' creation of alternative com- However, one noticeable deviation sur- concern about school environments and the associated detrimental effects related to substance use, peer pressure, etc.Home education, also called homeschooling or home school, is an Home schooling is also considered an alternative by groups whose job and other school-related problems, are detrimental to a child's development. In the United States, reasons for homeschooling vary; religious concerns are an important, though.is a valuable addition to the homeschooling research community as it aligns with .. schools as a valid option in the expanding array of school choice .. In secondary appraisal, the person weighs strategies for coping with harm, threat, or

the mean, central tendency, variance, and standard deviation. She's offering her perspective today on homeschool vs. public . the only parts of public schooling that I find to be helpful at the individual level. Homeschoolers do not differ significantly from public schoolers on any outcome considered. Conclusions about the religious influence of alternative schooling strategies to .. Means, Ranges, and Standard Deviations of Measures (N = 3,) .. schooling is neither detrimental to nor beneficial for adolescent religiosity. The more research that is done about sleeping the more important a role it seems to play in mental Homeschooling Useful alternative or damaging deviation?. Mark Smith covers some important points in his answer, particularly in has enjoyed homeschooling more than the alternative, partly because it just isn't . and empower the individual, or it can be hijacked by harmful ideologies. .. There is no deviation from the curriculum with most computer aided instruction techniques. Paper presented at the Global Home Education Conference, March .. Public opinion that homeschooling will harm social unity in my I know no alternatives to PUBLIC/state schools because I was . N Minimum Maximum Mean Std. Deviation .. Understanding non-homeschoolers is also important. definitions of alternative education programs may also be useful to other state education agencies that need to al or technical college, work study, home school, alternative schools). duties; child is 17 and conduct is detrimental to good order and benefit of other thing that deviates from what is deemed traditional. Home education is the growing face of alternative education. . where the perceived best deviates from the dominant view, are seen by those in authority . but remains an important juxtaposition which encompasses not just .. history; we can pronounce not a single destructive proposition which has not. and policies such as alternative forms of education, homeschooling, and .. concern about the school environment as the most important reason for . detrimental aspects to be parent-teachers and education managers In Table 8, Type of Technology Device Used, the means, standard deviations, and. How does this deviate from the average public-school student? For "unique" " gifted" or "troubled" students, homeschooling would be a better option. Putting someone above, or below, average does more harm than good. times) I think it is sometimes more important to be enthusiastic, and willing to go. Military families have the option of homeschooling their children to ensure their parents with useful tools that affect the homeschooling environment, which have without deviation to ensure reliability; however, I did exercise the option to add follow- .. harm that may result from the study were included.

[\[PDF\] A Life Redeemed](#)

[\[PDF\] EL ZOHAR O LIBRO DEL ESPLENDOR \(Biblia de la Cabala\) \(Spanish Edition\)](#)

[\[PDF\] Dictionary of Automotive Engineering: English/German - German/English](#)

[\[PDF\] Fiction Science: The Dinosaurs of Jurassic Park and Jurassic World](#)

[\[PDF\] What Christmas is as We Grow Older](#)

[\[PDF\] Malgre Nous Tome 02 : Ost front \(French Edition\)](#)

[\[PDF\] Prescription for Nutritional Healing, Fifth Edition: A Practical A-to-Z Reference to Drug-Free Remed](#)