University Of Padua, Italy

Final work of human rights and inclusion course:
Inclusion of students with children to the University life
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Introduction

This research is based on data of the United States of America. The aim of this micro research or/and final work is to explore the rights of students who raise children besides trying to gain the higher education, and to find out truly if there is such dedicated rights even exists. In 2013, the ex president of the United States of America - Barrack Obama, has stated that one of his administration’s highest priorities has been to secure the access of all students—regardless of their race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, sex, first language, disability status, or any other identifying factor—to a world-class education. ¹

-As a result, under the Obama Administration, the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights (OCR) has had a profound impact on increasing educational equity nationwide.

So, one of the cases of the phrase "any other identifying factor" is maybe about students who are willing to gain the higher education while they are rising the child? Or the students who have children on their own could be categorised as they have some kind of “dis-ability”? As we know a definition of the word disability is any continuing condition that restricts everyday activities, in this topic's case the fact that university student has child restricts or limits the possibility to do the academical activities like other students who have no children. All of us knows that this condition could not called as disability, but to be precise - parenting parallel with studies may causes some kind of social, economic, psychological problems. While to live, be healthy, have education are one of the most main natural rights of a person, to build a family or to have the children are the choices of an individual. Why such students should be excluded from university life and left alone nowhere? So let’s get started.

¹ U.S. Dept. of Education
News, information and stories from across our nation.
Sep 11, 2016
Analysis based on Statistics

Nearly 25 percent of college students in the U.S., or four million students, have dependent children. The 53% of students- parents and 31% of students- non parents leave the study with no degree. Student parents operate under high time management, 40% of their time they spend on working or/and studying, while caring for just one child takes minimum of 30 hours per week. Even in the face of these pressures and quit difficult situation, the 2016’s analysis of the national postsecondary study aid research says that students with children, like other students who are older than average, have higher GPA’s than non parents. The role of parenthood in postsecondary outcomes needs greater focus from the higher education reform community. Unless the care-giving responsibilities of low-income adults are actively acknowledged and addressed to improve postsecondary access and completion, trough online learning, developmental education, institutional accountability, financial aid, or curriculum reform are likely to fall short of their full potential for change. Colleges, universities, and their surrounding communities must take steps to help students succeed in their work as both students and parents. Improving educational attainment among low-income, parent-students will have long-term multigenerational benefits in addition to immediate family economic returns. Higher education is paramount for achieving family economic security, and parental educational yields powerful two-generation benefits, by improving children’s economic, educational, and social outcomes.
How Universities in the USA try to include the students with child to the university life:

According to a report from the Institute for Women’s Policy Research (IWPR), there are nearly 4 million student parents currently enrolled as undergraduates in U.S. colleges and universities; this represents roughly one-quarter of all undergraduates. A large number of higher-learning institutions have adopted child care programs. EducationDepartment.org notes more than 1,500 colleges, universities, and vocational schools that offer child care for not only students, but also faculty members (and in many cases, community residents) with children. However, some universities have gone to greater lengths than the rest to further support their student parent population. There is list of ranking of 50 colleges and universities that provide a specific set of amenities for students with children, while still managing to be relatively inexpensive in terms of tuition and administrative fees. This list ranks 50 colleges and universities that provide a specific set of amenities for students with children, while still managing to be relatively inexpensive in terms of tuition and administrative fees. The goal with this list is to provide a resource for parents of young children who would like to enroll in an accredited college program, but are unsure which campus will provide the best fit for their families.
During the fall and spring semesters, the school’s Panther Cubs Child Care offers childcare services to all enrolled students and faculty members who have toilet-trained children between the ages of two and seven; the standard rate is $2.25 per hour for the first child and $1.50 per hour for additional children. Purdue Northwest’s weekend course programs include the ‘Saturday MBA’ and more than 150 two- and three-bedroom off-campus housing units are available for students with families.

In 2005, the University of Michigan’s president launched a ‘Child Care Initiative’ aimed at “increasing the capacity” for infants and toddlers of students and faculty members, as well as improving on-campus childcare facilities. In addition, the university offers Kids Kare In-home services for children who are sick, or whose nannies are unable to provide childcare that day; classes for young child care and expectant parents are also available.
The MTSU Child Care Lab provides services for children between the ages of three and five. The current rate for a standard week of childcare (Monday to Friday) is $135 for students, $145 for faculty members, and $155 for individuals who are not affiliated with the university. Womack Lane, where a handful of off-campus housing units are located, also hosts a day care center.

Baby Gator Child Development Centers provide services for children between the ages of six weeks and five years; this program is maintained in part by assistance from the Baby Gator Alumni Association, which enlists in former students and faculty members to get involved with Baby Gators services and events. Students who live with a spouse and/or dependents automatically qualify to reside in Family Housing units with two or more bedrooms.
The University of Washington's Student Parent Resource Center strives to provide educational services and financial assistance to enrolled students with children. In addition to on-campus child care, as well as sick child and emergency back-up services, the university's website includes resources for securing off-campus childcare. Five different residential communities offer housing units specifically reserved for students living with spouses and/or dependent children.
Besides these top 5 dedicated in care for students who have children, there is a huge number of universities throughout all the United States, in every state which are willing to give the economic, physiologic, and social support to these groups of students neither to the citizens of the United States of America, also for foreign students, not regarding the race, culture, religion, and social status.

6 - Chadron State College
7 - University of Montana - Western
8 - University of New Orleans
9 - Arkansas State University
10 - Eastern Washington University
11 - Texas A&M University - Commerce
12 - New Mexico State University
13 - East Central University
14 - Indiana University - Southeast
15 - Iowa State University
16 - University of South Florida
17 - University of Illinois at Springfield
18 - Langston University
19 - Adams State University
20 - University of New Mexico
21 - Austin Peay State University
22 - University of Minnesota - Twin Cities
23 - Utah State University
24 - University of Memphis
25 - Bemidji State University
26 - Arizona State University
27 - University of North Alabama
28 - Ball State University
29 - Florida A&M University
30 - Southern Oregon University
31 - Ferris State University  
32 - Montana State University - Billings  
33 - Wayne State University  
34 - SUNY at Binghamton  
35 - University of Massachusetts - Amherst  
36 - University of Utah  
37 - Eastern Michigan University  
38 - University of Central Missouri  
39 - Kansas State University  
40 - University of South Carolina - Columbia  

These universities offer all this support and service to the students of college, bachelor degree, masters degree also to the researchers of phd degree who are living in the united states or coming on international exchange program. Also the guest professors are welcomed to receive this service.
The Institute for Women’s Policy Research study revealed the following numbers, most of which aren’t so encouraging:

- Almost a third of undergraduate women are mothers, and 60% of those are single mothers.
- Only 27% of student parents are likely to attain a degree or certificate within six years.
- 45% of student parents attend community colleges.
- Student parents are more likely (66%) to work full-time and attend school part-time.
- Since 2014, the number of child-care centers at community colleges declined from 53% to 44%; at public 4-year institutions, the number declined from 55% to 27%.

Lindsey Reichlin, senior research associate at the institute, believes that being a student parent can motivate students to obtain postsecondary credentials. She also knows that they face obstacles.

Since they’re more likely to enrol on a part-time basis and also have a heavy workload, they are more susceptible to leaving school before receiving credentials. “For student parents, who, on average, leave college with more debt than their non-parent colleagues, dropping out early means they are faced with repaying hefty student loans without the credential they need to get a job with family-sustaining wages.”

The researchers believe that childcare that is both affordable and reliable is a critical component in the success of student parents. “Child care allows parents to attend classes, devote their full attention to studying, and for many, hold a job, so that they can progress successfully through their educational programs while providing for their family.”

And when they don’t have this option and have to choose between caring for their children versus going to class or doing homework, she believes they will be more likely to drop out of college. “Access to child care, however, has been shown to facilitate college retention and completion among student parents.”
It’s important to protect affordable child-care centers from being closed. “Also, institutions can work to make campuses more family-friendly by establishing programs, events, and spaces on campus where children are welcome and student parents can engage with campus life.” She adds that these types of interventions should be scheduled so they can accommodate part-time and working students.

And since student parents have fewer financial resources, “Institutions can work to ensure they receive the full extent of financial aid and public benefits for which they are eligible, rather than putting the onus on the students to reach out for additional sources of assistance,”

A study published by the European Commission suggests that more than a quarter of those who take part in its long-running Erasmus scheme meet their long-term partner while studying abroad – and that more than one million babies may have been produced as a result. European Commission spokeswoman Pia Ahrenkilde Hansen said the one million babies statistic was a “touching little figure” that proved the scheme “creates a lot of positive things”. “It is a great encouragement to young people to go and live abroad and open up to all the opportunities that exist if you are willing,”. 
Being a student with child in Europe

If you’re a student at college or university with a baby, you could qualify for student finance to cover everything from living expenses and learning costs to travel and childcare grants in this following countries:

If you live or study in England:

This is a government scheme to help with childcare costs if you’re studying in college or university.

It’s a weekly fixed amount paid to your childcare provider. It can also be used to pay for elements of childcare, such as deposit and registration fees, childcare taster sessions and keeping your childcare place over the holidays.

A weekly grant to help with childcare costs while you study.

The amount you’ll get depends on your income, childcare needs and the number of children you have.

You don’t have to pay a Childcare Grant back.

Payments to help with learning costs if you’re studying and have a child. You don’t need to pay back a Parent’s Learning Allowance and your partner can also apply for one if they are in full-time education too.

If you live or study in Scotland:

Payments from The Childcare Fund can be made by your college or university to help cover registered childcare costs for the days you have to attend college or university. You don’t have to pay the money back. Childcare Fund payments are made on a case-by-case basis by each college or university.

Not all eligible students will get help as the fund is limited, but priority is usually given to lone parents.
You can apply for a Childcare Fund payment if you’re:

- a full-time undergraduate or postgraduate student
- getting the maximum student loan available
- eligible to have your tuition fees paid by the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS).

You must be paying for registered childcare, which includes:

daycare
pre-schools
after-school clubs
registered childminders.

If you live or study in Wales

Financial Contingency Fund

What is the Financial Contingency Fund?

Payments from your college or university to help with the costs of childcare if you’re on a low income.

The fund is also used to help students without children who might need financial help to participate on their course.

The Berlin Mathematical University will offer you:

BMS will find a way to cover the student's individual needs as a parent. In order to cover part of the costs associated with childcare the BMS will augment the BMS scholarship by a flat rate of 400 Euro per month for the first child plus 100 Euro per month for every further child in the care of a BMS student. TU, FU and HU Berlin have suitable rooms for parents with children. The Diversity Manager
will help you in all matters associated with childcare - both for regular hours and for selected evenings or week-ends.

**University Of Padua will offer you:**
Female and male students enrolled on degree courses, second cycle degree courses, single cycles degree courses are granted such exemption for the academic year of birth of their children, it involves exemption from the all inclusive fee for the second and third installments, and therefore, payment of the first installment and the regional tax for the university right to study, which varies depending on the ISEE. If both the mother and the father are at the same time enrolled at the University of Padua, the exemption may be applied for by only one of the parents.
Conclusion

Finally, for collecting data to understand how to meet the needs of students with children and assess whether support services are making an impact.

Federal and state policymakers and institutional and program leaders must work to establish policies to promote postsecondary attainment among student parents. Preserving and strengthening campus child care centers and establishing connections with the broader early childhood community can improve student parents’ access to quality, affordable child care (Boressoff 2012; Boressoff 2013; Schumacher 2015). Making campuses welcoming for student parents through family-friendly events and spaces can engage student parents in campus life, and help them establish peer support networks (Schumacher 2015). Institutions should also establish data collection practices to track the presence of student parents on campus and their outcomes over time. Colleges can take proactive steps to ensure that students with children receive all available financial aid rather than leaving it to the students’ own initiative to request special consideration due to high child care expenses or the need to reduce work hours. Policies and programs intended to improve success among low-income student populations must also take into account student parents’ complicated schedules and time demands, ensuring that part-time and working students have access.

Students, states, and the nation as a whole can achieve substantial long-term economic and social gains from increased college completion among students with children. By investing in improved access to financial aid, and in child care and other supportive services, institutions can improve retention and completion outcomes among student parents, which will contribute substantially to increasing higher education attainment in the population overall. With everyone involved in the effort to make our schools safer, fairer, and more equitable, we can ensure all students have the chance to achieve their fullest potential.
References:

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- Magnuson, Katherine. 2007. “Maternal Education and Children’s Academic Achievement during Middle Childhood.” Developmental Psychology