

FACTORS CAUSING STUDENT ABSENTEEISM ACCORDING SCHOOL CLIMATE

Meenakshi Srivastava

Assistant Professor, S.S.Khanna Girls' Degree College, Allahabad

Voice of Research

Volume 7, Issue 3

December 2018

ISSN 2277-7733

Abstract

The study of absenteeism is very important for any school/college. The word absenteeism means the absence of student from class when he is scheduled to be present at school/college. When teacher has no information in advance, that the student will not be present for class if he has taken leave to which he/she is entitled or on ground of sickness or in case of accident. Thus absence may be authorized or unauthorized, wilful or caused by circumstance beyond teacher's control. There are many factors involved in motivating students to attend school. Students, who are not motivated, hence will usually decide not to be present in school. Based on several researches conducted, the rate of absenteeism among students increases annually. As a result, this problem will more or less adversely affect the school's reputation. Thus, this study is conducted to identify factors that cause students' absenteeism according to school climate. This paper is an attempt to investigate the absenteeism of the students according to school climate. For this purpose a survey was carried out using questionnaire tool for student's absenteeism.

Keywords: *absenteeism, school, school climate, TLP, education*

Absenteeism in school is the habit of staying away from school without providing a genuine or any reason for not attending classes. Absenteeism is a truant behavior that negatively affects the performance among students. During the stage in the growth of a teen, there is a lot of fear developed as a result of physical changes of the body. This scares teens away from school. The approach used by teachers may not be understood by the students and this could lead them to lose interest in school. The students who get excessive pocket money from their families are most likely to absent themselves from school since they need time to spend the money. Lack of infrastructure facilities like libraries, playground, laboratories etc. is a hindrance to attendance of school among students. Most of the students are doing private coaching for their entrance examinations such as medical engineering or are preparing for their board exams through private coaching and Lack of allied activities like no sports program, no fresher or farewell parties, no annual day celebration etc. also causes the absenteeism in schools. Excess of homework and sometimes fear from examination keep away students from school/college. Preparation for the participation in TV shows in dance musical or acting, G.K. contest programs also increase the absenteeism. Too much socialization causes absenteeism. It mostly happens during teen age when forms the group and go away from the school to have fun getting activities. There are many factors involved in motivating students to attend school. Students who are not motivated, hence, will usually decide not to be present in school. Based on several researches conducted, the rate of absenteeism among students increases annually. As a result, this problem will more or less adversely affect the school's reputation. A study at Lincoln University in 1992 (Fleming, 1992) found that the major reasons given by students for non-attendance at lectures were competing assessment pressures (24% of reasons given), poor lecturing (23%), timing of the lecture (16%) and poor quality of the lecture content (9%). Students, Fleming surmised, choose to miss a class in order to work on an assignment because they think

they will gain more (marks) from doing the assignment. A 1995 replicating study at Lincoln University (Fleming, 1995) found that 40% of the reasons offered for non-attendance at lectures involved "the pressure of other learning tasks". No comment was made on the absence of any significant reference to poor lecturing and/or lecture content compared to the earlier survey. The issue is students who stay away from school without permission will not only be left behind in the learning process, but worse still they will probably end up in drug abuse, gangsterism, alcohol consumption, free sex, gambling and loitering. Certainly, playing truant is a discipline problem, and where do these truants go to and what they do during the time of their absence from school are related concerns. There are many factors why children stay away from school without permission. In Malaysia, these factors include influence of peers (Mohd. Shubari, 2000; Suseladevy, 2004), fear of being bullied, fear of teachers, dislike of certain subjects, thinking that they will fail (Thi, 1994; Supramaniam, 1986), no encouragement from parents or family problems (Mohamad Yatim, 1999), and the school factor (Hussein, 1993; Zainol, 2002; Tan, 2006). All of these factors have resulted in students having no motivation to learn, therefore they turn their attention to hang around at other places or loitering. Research findings have also shown that students who do not support and participate in any school programs or activities are those who are not interested to be in school (She, 2002). This study has attempted to identify factors contributing

Objective of the Study

In general, the objective of this study is to examine the phenomenon of truancy among secondary school students; however, specifically the objective is to identify the factors that cause students to be absent from classes according to the school climate.

Research Design

The population of this research consists of 100 students (aged 16 years) of Ranjeet Pandit inter college in Naini. The random sampling technique is used to obtain samples representing one school in a district in



Allahabad(Naini). Data were collected through a questionnaire. The questionnaire contains 12 questions related to factors that cause pupils to be absent from school. Percentage analysis were used for this study. The investigators have used Self constructed tool for factors causing students absenteeism according to school climate.

Findings and Discussions

School Climate Factor: The school climate or environment factor has also influenced students to be absent from school Foziah Ab Rahman (1996) who found that unattractive school climate or environment has made students unhappy and lazy to go to school. Omardin (1996) also points out that one of the factors that determines the success of students is the school climate and culture. A harmonious school environment can lift the spirit of students who would then have the attitude of “love their school”. Hence, this will reduce misconduct among students such as skipping school. Other items related to school environment are “school rules are too strict” and “extra classes arranged by the school are a burden to students .canteen food is not delicious yet expensive” followed by “the relationship between students and teachers in the classroom is good” and “the school provides adequate facilities for students”

ite m	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
yes	74	68	78	56	68	57	62	65	72	77	62	72
no	26	32	22	44	32	43	38	35	28	23	38	28

- For item 1Table shows that 74% students said that chair and table in the classroom was not comfortable.
- For item 2Table shows that 68% students said that they disrupted the focus on the teaching learning process.
- For item 3Table shows that 78% students said that the relationship between students and teacher in the classroom is good.
- For item 4Table shows that 56% students said that the school put pressure on him/her to pass with flying colors.
- For item 5Table shows that 68% students said that the school regularly organize meeting with parents.
- For item 6Table shows that 57% students did not like the atmosphere in the classroom.
- For item 7Table shows that 62% students said that the school provides adequate places for rest.
- For item 8Table shows that 65% students feel comfortable with the school environment.
- For item 9Table shows that 72% students said that Extra classes arranged by the school are a burden to students.
- For item 10Table shows that 77% students said that school rules are too strict.
- For item 11Table shows that 62% students said that the school provide adequate facilities (equipment’s and materials).

- For item 12Table shows that 72% students said that canteen food is not delicious yet expensive.

Conclusion

Though factors related to the school (such as teachers, peers and students themselves) are relatively not very strong in causing students to be absent from school, the school’s authority must still address that improving the school environment (such as class size and reasonable school rules) so that it is condusive for learning should be given priority in addressing the truancy problem. Expansion of the guidance and counseling services and promotion of activities that will bring truant students to like schooling must also be considered in the attempt to minimize this truancy problem. Besides, this truancy problem will lead to other social ills. It is therefore not only a school problem but also a problem for society. To reiterate, in addressing this problem many parties and authorities must cooperate to address this problem of truancy among students.

References

Barlow, J. & Fleischer, S. (2011). Student absenteeism: Whose responsibility? *Innovations in Education and Teaching International*, 48 (3), 227-237.

Ready, D. D. (2010). Socioeconomic disadvantage, school attendance, and early cognitive development: The differential effects of school exposure. *Sociology of Education*, 83(4), 271-286.

Chen, J. & Lin, T. F. (2008). Class attendance and exam performance: A randomized experiment. *Journal of Economic Education*, 39 (3), 213-227.

Davies, J. D. & Lee, J. 2006. *Factors controlling attendance In United Kingdom*. New York: Teacher College Colombia University Press.

Reid K 2005: The causes, views and traits of school absenteeism and truancy. *Research in Education*, 74: 59-82.

The Times of India (Lucknow) Jan 15, 2015, p 2. Attendance shortage proves costly for many students

The Times of India (Hyderabad) March 26 2013, p 1

Mayer G, Mitchell L 1996: A drop-out prevention programme for at-risk high school students: Emphasizing consulting to promote positive classroom climates. *Educational Treatment of Children*, 16: 135-138.

Rumberger RW 1997: High school dropouts: A review of issues and evidence. *Review of Educational Research*, 23,24-42.

Biometric attendance system in varsities and colleges; Rajasthan *The Times of India* (Jaipur) May 8, 2015 , p1.

Barlow, J. & Fleischer, S. (2011). Student absenteeism: Whose responsibility? *Innovations in Education and Teaching International*, 48 (3), 227-237.