

A Study on Cause and Effect of School Absence

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Abstract: *School attendance is very important for the students and it has a strong correlation with their academic performance. By attending class regularly students are more likely to keep up with their everyday learning in the schools, their lessons and assignments, performing test on time. Attendance is one of the factors that influence student's academic success. This study is to find out the numbers of students with low attendance and its cause and effect. The data collected from the 2 upper primary schools comprises of 30 students and 6 teachers. Simple statistical was used to analyze the study. The finding of the study reveals that there are students with low attendance in these schools and the reasons that caused the student to absent from schools is because of helping in household work, helping parents in the field especially during sowing and harvest seasons, lack of interest and lack of motivation and the study also reveals that low attendance does effects the academic performance of the students. The study suggested that both teachers and parents should address each and every problem of the students and provide them with proper guidance. Teachers should create a healthy relationship with the students to understand their weakness and strength and to be able to assist them.*

Keywords: Academic Performance, School Attendance, Students and Parents, Teachers

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Introduction

Good attendance is essential for every students it improve their performance, develop their social skills and friendships. They are more likely to succeed in academic and can leads to further learning opportunities. It is difficult for the teachers and the class to build the skills and progress if there are students that frequently absent from school. Also students who frequently absent from schools always tends to have low grades and in any other achievements in the schools which also tends to lead into dropout. It has always been an issue till today. In India according to the report of ASER – Annual Status of Education Report (Rural) 2022, (2023) showed that at the All-India level, no major change is seen in students' and teachers' attendance. Average teacher attendance increased slightly, from 85.4% in 2018 to 87.1% in 2022. Average student attendance continues to hover at around 72% for the past several years.

A study conducted by Rodel scholars at Arizona State University (2008) that tracked students from kindergarten through their high school, examine behavioural characteristics of dropouts. High school dropout patterns were linked with poor attendance begins as early as in kindergarten. Hickman, the director of the Rodel Community Scholars program and former director of the Arizona Dropout Initiative mentioned that it is discovered that, as early as kindergarten, differences exist between graduates and dropouts; namely, dropouts miss more school than graduates, with dropouts missing an average of 124 days of school by eighth grade. In this report it is mentioned that developing strategies should begin in order to improve student attendance from early as kindergarten.

School absence: It is a state when student is not being at school during school time or when a student is not found in school when he/she supposes to be present.

Objectives of the Study

1. To find out the number of students with low attendance.
2. To find out the cause of school absence.
3. To examine the effect of school absence towards the students.

Methodology

The investigator used descriptive method. Both primary and secondary data have been used in the present study. Site investigation of the study was carried out in 2 upper primary schools in Shnongrim village, East Jaintia Hills District. The population of the study consists of the 72 students, 9 teachers. The sample size consists of 30 students, 6 teachers and purposive sampling technique was used. Constructed questionnaires were used for data collection for both students and teachers. The data were analyzed using simple statistical analysis.

Review of Literature

Mohalik, Shethy and Sangeeta (2021) conducted a study on “Low Attendance of Students in Government Elementary Schools of Jharkhand: A Study”. The objectives of the study are to study the causes of low attendance in elementary schools and to study the infrastructure facilities, resource materials and human resources available with schools having low attendance. The investigator adopted survey method to find out the different factors of low attendance of students at elementary level from teachers and HMs. The study found the causes of low attendance of students are; children go to work to earn money for the family, both parents go for work and nobody in the family to send children to school, children are involved in domestic work, take care of siblings etc., parents do not encourage children for going to school, parents migration for search for work, due to lack of teachers in school, students are not meaningfully engaged in learning, students are less interested in studies, poor in studies, lack in basic reading and writing skills and have inferiority complex, during harvesting season, rainy season and after long vacations, lack of playing materials and playground in schools, poor administration of schools due to lack of regular HM, lack of TLMs in school, no co-curricular activities in school, less number of female teachers in schools, multi-grade teaching may not satisfy all learners in understanding subjects, and poor cooperation from SMC etc. The study has suggested following implications for improving low attendance. It is required to create awareness for parents about importance of education in the life of children and how education can improve the quality of life. Basic infrastructure facilities like classrooms equipped with electricity, fans, blackboard etc must be provided which help school to provide better school environment which can motivate and attract children to school regularly.

Kujur, Sahoo and Waghware (2021) conducted a study on “Effect of Household and School Characteristic on Absenteeism among Primary School Children in EAG States of India”. This study employs a holistic approach to understand how personal, household and school factors determine absenteeism among school going children aged 8-11 years residing in EAG states using IHDS-II data. In the study it is used cross-tabulation and binary logistic regression for analysis and the result show that children who were ill and got beaten by the father’s been absent or chronically absent. Absenteeism reduced with father’s education and parent’s involvement in school. Children who were spending time doing homework and perform better in Maths had a lower chance of being absent. Simple interventions like parent’s involvement in children’s schooling and a conducive school learning environment can help the child in school and can be a long term, cost-effective method of improving the educational attainment among in EAG states.

Findings

It is found that out of 30 students 8 or 27% have low attendance. The numbers of boys are more in low attendance than the girls. It is also found that the reasons of the students to absence from schools because of involvement in domestic work, helping parents in the field, there are student that are weak in study and hence lack of interest coming to school and lack of motivation. The study also found that low attendance effect the learning outcome of the students as majority of the student that absence frequently get low grades and there are also students that does not participate in any other curricular activities conducted in the schools and do not bring their assignment regularly.

Discussion

The study reveals that there are students with low attendance in upper primary schools in Shnongrim village i.e. 27%, out of which, the boys have low attendance than the girls. The study also reveals that the reasons that caused the students to absence from schools is because they are involve in domestic work this is especially with the girls that they had to look after their sibling and do the household work when their parents are away. There are students that had to work in the field especially during sowing season and harvest season as the income of most of the people in this village are depend on agriculture. There are also

students that have low attendance because they are weak in study and constantly getting low grades, such student lack interest in schools. Lack of motivation is also one of the reasons that caused students to absence from schools where some parents are lack of knowledge on the important of school attendance they feel that it is not a problem for their children to absence sometimes from schools and they also do not know how to motivate their children to attend schools regularly. The study also reveals that low attendance effect the student's learning outcome and they do not have interest in any other curricular activities and are not able to do their assignment regularly and these lower their learning progress.

Implication of the Study

According to the findings majority of the students does not have low attendance however there are still quite a number i.e. 27% of the students does not have good attendance in the schools. There are various reasons that caused them to absence from schools. Therefore the study implies that it is important that both parents and teachers or the PTA in the schools to address each and every problem of the students and provide them with proper guidance. Teachers should create a healthy relationship with the students to understand their weakness and strength and to be able to assist them.

Suggestions

Students should be educated on the importance of regular school attendance as well as parents so that they can motivate their children. Teachers should understand each and every student's problem and support them. Schools should be fun and interesting in order to attract the students to come to school and it should be a place where students like to come regularly.

Conclusion

Low attendance is one of the issues that many schools are still dealing with as it can also leads the students to dropout from schools. Therefore it is important for the teachers and parents to work together in guiding the students.

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