ABSENTEEISM IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND

The aim of the study was to investigate the extent of student absenteeism in graduate institute in the city of lakes, explore the reasons why student absent themselves from classes and examine the implications of student absenteeism. The study adopted the mixed methodology and used a survey research to design as the operational framework for data gathering. Data was collected by self-administered questionnaires and interviews with the graduate/higher school students and teaching staff. This project contains summaries of some of the most recent research on the role of class attendance on student performance. This research has also tried to explore that demonstrates the impact of class attendance on other variables that affect the overall academic success of an institution. This project will guide graduate colleges in the city to narrow down absenteeism by introducing innovative and effective teaching-learning practice by the teacher.

KEYWORDS

Student Absenteeism, Institute of Higher Education. Graduate Innovative Lecture, Modern Technique of Education.


BACKGROUND

Student absentee is a major concern for the institute of higher education. It disturbs the dynamic teaching-learning environment and adversely affect the overall well being of the classes. It causes inhibition, non continuous teaching process and lack of interpersonal relation between tutor and students. In quality terms, absenteeism is a waste of educational resources, time and human potential. Student absenteeism also causes rework and wasted time for lecturers. This project is being introduced by seeing the strength of the class and effort made by the faculty to cut down absenteeism. The study has been introduced as stepping stone to strengthen the relation and to pull the students back to the classes. It causes inhibition, non continuous teaching process and lack of interpersonal relation between tutor and students. In quality terms, absenteeism is a waste of educational resources, time and human potential. Student absenteeism also causes rework and wasted time for lecturers. This project is being introduced by seeing the strength of the class and effort made by the faculty to cut down absenteeism. The study has been introduced as stepping stone to strengthen the relation and to pull the students back to the classes.

Review Article on Absenteeism conducted by the Experts or eminent

Number of studies has been conducted in the area of absenteeism by the scholars and researchers. Some of the studies conducted are as follows; Robert (1983) conducted a survey on the impact of time commitments by students to various course activities and effect of students’ performance in the given class.

The results were revealing and stated as follow; firstly the most valuable and important time commitment in a course was the time actually spent in the classroom and secondly classroom discussion accompanied with lectures and thirdly is the time spent for self study. Perhaps most surprising was the result that the least significant time commitment in improving student performance in a particular class was the time spent during examination.

He concluded by stating the actual productive time in any course is the time spent in the classroom. Schmidt also found the same consequence and conclusion in his study i.e. class lecturers and classroom discussions and study outside of class to prepare for class was most significant in explaining student performance in a given course rather studying for exams.

A study by Park and Kerr (1990) on classes where attendance was not affected directly into student grade or scores. Specifically, this research demonstrated that the lack of attendance was statistically significant in explaining why a student received a D rather than an A, a B, or a C grade in a specific class.

The same data was also used to determine the relative impact of each absence in the student’s final letter grade for a particular course. Another research article that dealt with the impact of class attendance on student performance in a course is by Romer (1993). He found in his study that an alarming amount of absenteeism from the typical class in small, medium, and large schools (That were further described as elite and/or highly competitive). When absenteeism was linked to characteristics of the classes, the following patterns emerged-

1. Smaller classes had less absenteeism.
2. The more significant the mathematical component of the course, the less the absenteeism.
3. There was more absenteeism in the principles courses than in the upper level courses.
4. The better the quality of the instructor, the less the absenteeism.
5. Absenteeism was mainly concentrated in a few students who missed many classes while most students missed only a few.

Another research by Wyatt (1992) explores the absenteeism in first year student. By using correlations and regression analysis, he was able to clarify some of the issues. [In one telling phrase, he says that students often view tuition
as an "Expensive cover charge that allowed them entrance into an exciting social world—a world that was often apart from learning and class attendance."

When he looked at the reasons students gave for missing classes that they liked, the three strongest correlations were parents' income (The greater that income, the more they missed class), time studying (The more time they studied, the less they missed class), and their GPA (The higher the GPA, the less they missed class).

Judith (1992) did a study on effect of attendance policy on student attendance and achievement. She explained how student response to a variety of attendance policies. In general, she distinguishes three types of attendance policy: Required Explicit where attendance is required and absence does adversely affect the student's final grade; Not Required Implicit where there is no requirement for attendance, attendance does not affect the grade; and Not Required Explicit where there is an announcement that attendance is not required or counted in the final grade but attendance was otherwise encouraged by the professor.

**Absenteeism seen in Udaipur**

Absenteeism is very commonly seen in all graduate college. Students have framed in their mind that once they are out of the school and move towards the college the chain of punctuality, promptness and discipline which they were bounded in school to be loosened out and enjoy the freedom.

Same mind set is seen in the current generation of this small and beautiful city which is known worldwide for its beauty and tourism. I felt stunned towards the attitude of the students when my colleagues shared the view of absenteeism, that students believe that spending huge amount outside the campus to private coaching center will give more knowledge and aptitude as compare to what is been delivered in campus, which again question on lecture deliverance to the institutes in the city.

Unfortunately the performance is not meeting to the expectation of the parents nor of the institute it just waste of sweat and dream of parents. It's the challenge for the institutes in the city to build up the faith and deliver best as it's a techno world where information is on one click.

This vibration and believe of faith is generated by the infrastructure, facility provided as promised and most importantly from the instructor or faculty in class. Instructor before moving to the class he/she should be update with the information and query i.e., now instructor has to change with the need, expectation and generation of the student.

Later students should be made realize that money invested for tuition can be used for mental and physical grooming by enrolling them to health club, library or any youth club in the city to meet the challenges of outer world and get focus towards their goal.

**Review of Study Conducted in the City**

In a study on absenteeism at graduate level it was found, students of this era want more comfort that is everything served in the platter with good and advance infrastructure. It has come with migration of social network, students have lost their habit of reading good and healthy books and due to this they want their teacher or guru to be as advance as technology so with one mouse click they can have all information to meet the university exam.

And when they are not aware that it can be met in the institute by regular coordination with their guru they wander in the city or follow the crowd. In a survey out of hundred few stated they want qualitative education not quantities education.

It was been reviewed from their views that today teaching profession is taken as mere business rather a passion as it was earlier. When this passion is met by the faculty with the respect to profession and duty assign, he will be more creative and innovative in the field of education and no doubt student will respect with that they will be pulled out to the class.

It's an outlook of an institute or departmental head how they take up the team and carve, motivate, encourage to build up learning environment in the institute. As a result it will built ease in student to learn, and to withstand in competition. Some out of hundred feel pulled out because of lack of activity and some are unhappy with infrastructure. It has been concluded from their phrase that with the study they want space to relax physically as well as mentally.

They want both curricular and co-curricular activities by being involved in it, by gaining and learning from expertise etc. Activities are the outdoor education where students learn team work, feel empowered, get a platform to show potentiality, get cleared with goal by learning, hearing and sharing experience from the expertise and many more therefore it should be included with the regular curriculum.

With the activity infrastructure also play good role in getting student which includes a good resourceful library and lab, clean and hygienic cafeteria, common room, sports facility, airy and spacious classroom, advance classroom technology etc.

Some feel the class should be interactive and all should be pulled with no bias attitude with that they added it should be clear and audible. It can be concluded from their phrase that the good teacher is one who can take the class by involving all and making the class interacting.

They believe more presentation based assignment should be given to increase the presentation and communication skill and above all to build confidence. With that they want assignment to be new where they can explore and learn new.

Some of the student showed the dissatisfaction and unhappiness towards the shift or fluctuation of teacher coz understanding and acceptance fail. Some believe the feedback taken should be optimally utilized in assigning subject to teacher. With that they added experiment with the fresher to be avoided.

From the review it can be concluded that to improve the quality of education and to gain positive vibrant in student, institute should adapt the regular process of improving and updating in house resource by counseling, by encouraging and motivating to attend training programme and FDP in and around city, by encouraging research and learning environment in the campus.

This will guide them in uplifting of their career, knowledge, awareness and networking by interacting and sharing with same mindset. Infrastructure including- books, software, cafeteria, and other facility for the students to be at par or should pull and attract the students to the campus.
Students in this city have moved from nearby city and villages with the dream and aspiration in their eye. Most of them are from middle class family did their studies in vernacular schooling. These students remain till graduation in the city later on they move to big city for higher education and better opportunity. From the study it has been observed boys are more focus towards their career than girls as girls believe that it won’t be helping much towards the building up their life. Below average or average no of girls are career oriented and taken the education sincerely.

And students from business family want the certificate as add on not with mere intention of learning. As the main objective of the study was to check out why students are absent from the class. Surprising was the result, absenteeism was observed due unpleasant infrastructure, faith in the system, less absorption etc., graph below given will reveal the interest and demand shown by the student.

Above average out of 100 says there should be sufficient and updated learning and reading material in library and lab. Student expressed the interest towards WIFI utility. They wanted that the access to the connectivity should not be restricted to the student’s opted computer or IT rather it should be open to all. Secondly majority of student out of hundred express to have good, healthy and hygiene canteen, common room, space to roam around or study with friends etc. with the class room study student need a space to share thought with their friends or peer member.

A space where they can do their assignment, combine study etc., and utilize their study hour in campus rather taking home. So with study it proofs that even space play important role to pull student in. Thirdly, faith towards the system or institute to be must. Faith build during admission should not be shaken or disturbed in regular curriculum/Academic session.

Building a faith on aspirant consume lots of energy of management or institute before deciding to take admission in the institute for particular year. Disturbed environment take wrong message to the society and it indirectly affects the performance of the institute. So the image shown during the admission should be carried forward by the institute. Its duty of each individual who is the part of the institute be a faculty or management each has to maintain the faith in student.

Management should regularly give feedback to the faculty on their performance so that they can take corrective action to improve their performance and simultaneously faculty should create an ease in student for knowledge by making them update from the outside world. Give regular assignment to students on upcoming issues and be strict to the teaching.

Train the fresher my giving basic subject, encouraging for participating in FDP or training programme, assign fresher with experienced faculty to learn teaching method, regular feedback to improve performance. Above all few students added with class room teaching they want the student based activities which can be curricular and non curricular.

### Table 1. Expectation of student from Institute for being in Institute and failure in classroom attendance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expertise/trained faculties</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competent faculties (Experience not counted)</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family commitment, tuition, part time job and other commitments</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities (Curricular and co-curricular)</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of confidence and competency</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 1**

**Suggestion and Recommendation from the Survey**

1. Informative and innovative lecture to be practiced. Teacher should enter the class with full home work i.e., subjective study, research or practical example for the topic.
2. Maximum use of modern technique of education. For eg. Videos- where the students see and learn. Which proven to be highly effective way of learning by the eminent.
3. Confident level of student to be boasted. Regular counseling to be provided.
4. Lecture should be two way. Both student and teacher should actively take part by coming down to same platform.
5. Respect for the teacher is must for the bonding.
6. Lectures should be challenging, one absence should be a big loss to the knowledge.
7. Identify the training need and organize symposium, FDP, staff development program, for lecturer so as to enhance their skill and performance.
8. Certain course practices can be used to encourage attendance. Testing extensively from material presented in class rather than material from the text can encourage better attendance. The use of in-class quizzes and other exercises will reward attendance.
9. Encouraging a greater commitment to the course by requiring more homework and reading will make students more likely to attend the class.
REFERENCES


4. Dale E. Schlenker and Norma Coles McKinnon, "Assessing Faculty Performance Using Student Evaluation of Instruction" (ERIC Microfiche ED 371 667)
