



Impact & Reasons of Absentees in Secondary Schools of Uttar Pradesh

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Abstract:

The major objectives of the present study were to analyse the magnitude of absenteeism among the government high school of Uttar Pradesh, India. No doubt, an attempt was made to address the phenomenon of absenteeism in government schools in the present context. A questionnaire was used as a research tool. For the analysis of data percentages were find out. By observation it has been observed that 68.8 % student randomly attend the school while 31.20% remains absent. When the observation has been made on the reason of absentees 16.2% remains absent due to sickness of student and 8.6 % remains absent due to sickness of their parents while 6.22 % student absent due to low income of their parents. Further, the students of government schools have better facilities than the students of private schools. All students of government schools have very big amount of facilities and pocket money and while 22.5 % students of private schools withdraw bunk out within the range of 6-10 lacks without completing their secondary education and remaining 8.5% also receive their degree after completing the course within the tight time deadline. Here some of the major causes of student's absenteeism at secondary level:

- 1. Students remain absent due to sickness.*
- 2. Students remain absent due to sickness of parents*
- 3. Student remains absent due to low economic status of his parents to help them to earn money for their livelihood.*
- 4. Educational backwardness of parents*

Keywords: *Government schools, India, Private schools, Secondary level, Student Absenteeism, U.P.*

1. Introduction

Education plays an important role in the economic development of a country or state. On the other hand it is difficult for economically backward country to provide sufficient infrastructure and trained students to improve the quality of education. But the problem becomes huge when the absentees of students in secondary school of Uttar Pradesh increase. There will be the several reasons for it. But we will focus on main problems of absentees like low economic status, educational backwardness of parents, low mental level of students, tendency of student not to complete homework and due to several health reasons of students & parents.

Secondary education in fact is that stage of education which helps students to become competent and indispensable members of a complex modern society. It is like a bridge between elementary and higher education. It prepares young students between the age group of 14 and 18 for entry into higher education. According to the National Sample Survey Organization, the population of children in the 14-18 age groups was estimated at 96.6 million in 1996/97. But the enrolment figures show that only 27 million children were attending secondary schools. This implies that two thirds of the eligible population remains out of the secondary school system.

So, the degradation in education is due to the absentees of student as well as lack of training of the students to make their habit to learn with the students. School absenteeism in large scale hampers the process at not only good schooling but it also poses a major challenges to the children to successfully complete the basic cycle of secondary education. The tendency of school absenteeism among the children is one of the important factors strongly associated with early dropout from the schools. Further, the tendency of absenteeism in school is considered a major predictor of dropping out in many instance. It is realized that the persistence of long absenteeism among the students often tends to do poor performance and repeating the grade and put them in the failure category of students and finally compel them to leave the schools. The research indicated that the irregular attendance and temporary withdrawals can both be precursors to dropping out. The student seems to be not attending schools regularly due to many reasons i.e emotional difficulties, lack of interest in education, ill health, labour requirement, distance to school, bad company, sickness of parents, dissatisfaction with school, home circumstances etc. It is also observed that the incidence of absenteeism or rate of absenteeism among students varies across social groups depending upon their school and home factors.

It is clearly evident from researches that students' absenteeism effects the learning of the students and performance of the exams (Obeng-Denteh, AsiamahYeboah, Sam & Esi Monkah, 2012). Parents of the students give importance to the different factors while selecting schools for their children i-e students effort, cleanliness and orderliness of schools and perception of teacher absence (Sathar & Lloyd, 2000). The studies showed that large no of absences of students effect the student achievement negatively. India is a developing country and it ranks at 113th position among 120 countries of the world and literacy rate is only 57% (Bajwa, 2011). Low literacy is due to many reasons in which poverty, lack of awareness, gender discrimination and government's mismanagement play fundamental role. Different issues regarding schools also a cause of low literacy e.g. drop out of student, school's infrastructure, strict attitude of students and students absenteeism especially in rural areas. Rural areas of lucknow district are backward as literacy rate is very low and students remain absent from schools frequently Very less no of researches has been done especially on educational issues. That's why researcher selected this area and this topic for the research. So this research will address very important issue i-e teacher's absenteeism.

2. Literature Review

The literature available on students absenteeism shows that absent rate of teacher in developing countries is high. A report on primary education on India shows that one –third principles were not absent when their 226 schools were visited by Public Report on Basic Education Team (PROBE, 1980). In India another study was conducted on Uttar Pradesh and Madya Pradesh showed that 17% students were absent from schools. 20% of present students were not present in classes (Rao & Narasimha, 1999; Unit, 2001). Another study conducted on the North West Frontier Province in India presented the facts that absent rate of school students was there 18% (Ali & Reed, 1994). A study held by world bank in India in the mid 1990s showed that 50 % students were absent frequently (Bank, 2001). It was discovered that absent ratio of students in India was found 25%. During unannounced visits to a nationally representative sample of government primary schools. It was observed that teacher's absence was more correlated with daily incentives to attend work. Absent rate was less where inspection was done regularly, have better infrastructure and were closer to the road (Kremer, Chaudhury, Rogers, Muralidharan, & Hammer, 2005). It was find out that in India absent rate among female students is greater than the male students. About 25% of enrolled girls and 17% of enrolled boys in government schools did not have students present in the school. It was find that those students who are appointed in their local community have less absent rate than those who come from outside the city or village (Ghuman & Lloyd, 2010).

One of the reasons of teacher absents was found that teacher's absent rate is positively linked with the how generously leaves are available to the employees by the departmental head (Ehrenberg, Ehrenberg, Rees & Ehrenberg, 1991). Previous studies also shows that teaching years in schools, teacher's level of

education, students training are not linked with lower absence (Chaudhury, Hammer, Kremer, Muralidharan & Rogers, 2004). On the other side teacher's high salary and seniority were consistently related to high rate of absence, perhaps they were protected from any monitoring system (Kremer et al., 2005). Lower answerability of students is also a reason teacher's absenteeism in schools because assignment of students is done on political bases (Hasnain, 2008). In another study different reasons of absenteeism have been described. The reasons were below-average students' salaries, above-average teacher salaries, teacher unions, lack of social accountability and the social protection of a profession that is short in supply (Christine Harris, 2009). Several scholars have emphasized the lack of motivation from students side, congested class rooms, meager infrastructural facilities, vacant vacancies, load of non academic tasks, lack of adequate training to deal with multi-lingual and multi-ability classes, declining social status of the teaching profession and increasing social class differences between students and the clientele of government schools (Mooij & Narayan, 2010).

3. Research Methods and Design of the study

The research design for this study is analytical in nature. The method of survey was used for this study. Data collection was done through informal discussion, school roster data which includes fields presence in the school on the day of visit, attendance and absents.

The sample consists of 450 students in which 310 attended the school and 73 remains absent. The major objectives of the present study was to analyse the magnitude of absenteeism among the government high school of lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. No doubt, an attempt was made to address the phenomenon of absenteeism in government schools in the present context.

4. Some main reasons for absentees

Name of school (Agra district)	Level of student	Total enrolled students	Average attendance in class	Absent in class by illness of students	Absentees due to illness of their parents	Due to working as labour
Juggaur	IX	62	40	12	6	4
	X	65	45	10	5	5
Karraura	IX	40	25	8	4	3
	X	45	30	5	6	4
Khandsara	IX	30	20	5	3	2
	X	35	25	4	4	2
Bahnti	IX	54	35	12	4	3
	X	44	35	5	2	2
Sonva	IX	42	30	7	3	2
	X	33	25	5	2	1
Total		450	310	73	39	28

Attendance = 68.8, Sick of students = 16.2%, Parents sickness = 8.6%, Labour work = 6.22%

By observation it has been observed that 68.8 % student randomly attend the school while 31.20% remains absent. When the observation has been made on the reason of absentees 16.2% remains absent due to sickness of student and 8.6 % remains absent due to sickness of their parents while 6.22 % student absent due to low income of their parents.

5. Conclusion

It is concluded that students of government schools have better facilities than the students of private schools. All students of government schools have very big amount of facilities and pocket money and while 22.5% students of private schools withdraw bunk out within the range of 6-10 lacks without

completing their secondary education and remaining 8.5% also receive their degree after completing the course within the tight time deadline. It was also concluded that mostly private students don't avail any leave in a month. Mostly government students avail 1-5 leaves per month. It is because of strict environment in private schools that students avail less leaves than the students of government schools. As compare to private students they prefer in government colleges and its environment. They feel better in the learning environment of the schools and feel more satisfied than the students of private school. Students of private school are less satisfied with their working environment, job and feel insecure about job. That's why they avail less no of leaves as compare to government school students. Here some of the major causes of students absentism at secondary level

1. Students remain absent due to sickness.
2. Students remain absent due to sickness of parents
3. Student remains absent due to low economic status of his parents to help them to earn money for their livelihood.
4. Educational backwardness of parents

6. Educational Implications

If we can provide the health check up in routine then the students can remain healthy which will reduce the absentees. Similarly if the government will also provide regular checkup of their parents it will also reduce the absentees of students. The last and most important thing is that if the parents of a student have basic need fulfilled than we think that there will be definite reduction in absentees of students.

It has also been observed that the school atmosphere is also responsible for the absentees of students in the class or school. We should also attract the students in the school by activities centers, TLM Gallery and exhibition of students learning products and creative works on the classroom walls, display boards, big picture board. Maintaining of a school vegetable garden and seasonal flower plants, cultivation of banana plantation in the school campus by the students under the guidance of PTA also provide rich learning experience to the children. Other academic activities to promote whole some learning includes reading festivals, sky watch, science congress, seminars and school festivals for the cultural/sports festival for the children with special needs.

So therefore we can conclude that if there will be absentees in secondary school it will not be possible to teach in the class as to promote school study and how to understand the syllabus. It is because a particular student will not attend the whole lecture than he will be unable to understand the content. We want to say without regular study the learning environment cannot be made which will affect the development of students.

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