



A Study On Learning Environment And Students' Absenteeism In Secondary Examination

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ABSTRACT- The learning environment plays a vital role in shaping students' academic progress and examination participation. Students' absenteeism during examinations has become a critical problem at the national and global levels. This study examined the relationship between the learning environment and students' absenteeism in examinations. Student absenteeism was studied on the basis of gender and social category, and the perception of the parents was also analyzed. Bhadrak district, having 7 blocks, and from each block 2 secondary schools were selected purposefully [7*2=14 secondary schools]. Unstructured interview schedules were used for the collection of data, and data were analyzed qualitatively. The findings revealed that factors such as classroom climate, teacher support, assessment practices, academic stress, and institutional infrastructure significantly influence students' decision to appear in the examination. The study concluded that conducive learning environment and the cooperation between parents and teachers play the significant role to minimize absenteeism during examinations and enhance academic performance of the learners.

Key words: Learning environment, Students' absenteeism, Classroom climate, awareness of parents, Assessment practices.

1.INTRODUCTION

Education plays a crucial role in shaping the intellectual and social development of students. The learning environment within the schools significantly influences student's attendance, academic engagement and performance. A positive and learner-friendly environment like supportive teachers, proper infrastructure and inclusive practices creates interest among learners, encourages them to participate in co-curricular activity and leads them to appear the examination positively. But an unfavorable environment may lead to frustration and maladjustment. It generated absenteeism in board examination or class examinations also. Student absenteeism has become a growing concern in secondary education. Frequent absence not only hampers individual learning but also affect the overall classroom dynamics and institutional performance. Therefore, teacher acts as a facilitator and played supportive role for learners who were absent in the examination. Reason for not attending the examination should be analyzed by the teacher and proper remedial measures provided to them.

Learning environment is defined as the component of the physical environment, along with the psychological and social environment. The environment of the institution should be student-friendly, supportive, and inclusive in nature.

An environment that students desire and that caters to their development needs is crucial for ensuring consistent attendance, as school settings profoundly influence student behavior and engagement. (Sahin, 2023).

Learning environment of a school significantly influences student engagement as it should be designed according to desire of the learners, focus on learner autonomy, student-teacher interaction, academic engagement and parental involvement, etc.

Various research studies indicates an inverse relationship between positive school climate variables- such as academic engagement, order, parental involvement and safety and absenteeism rates suggesting that improvements in these areas mitigate chronic absence (Human Technologies and quality of education, 2023) (Kearney et al. 2023) conversely negative school factors like poor student teacher interactions, inadequate facilities or a culture tolerant of bullying can contribute significantly to chronic absenteeism. (Ant Wi 2023) (DAGLI & Can, 2023).

So, absenteeism is a critical issue not only for institutions but also for administrators and academicians. Diagnosing the cause and the appropriate remedy required to overcome it. Students, teacher and parents should properly coordinate with each other for reducing absenteeism in institutional level.

II.BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

A suitable learning environment make learner active and more participative in study. In recent trend administration mostly focuses on learning centric approach, but the retention rate drops significantly. In the secondary level matriculation examination, which is conducted by BSE Odisha, a large number of students fill up the form taking examination, but the absenteeism rate also increased significantly.

A student's perception of their school's climate and culture, including feeling secure and valued, is crucial for fostering regular attendance and engagement, thereby reducing truancy (Liv & Lee, 2022) (Sahin et al., 2016). For instance, a positive school climate, characterized by strong student-teacher relationships and peer support, can act as a protective factor against school attendance problems (Enderle. Et al. 2024).

Positive School climate, student-teacher interaction, security, and equal treatment are crucial for student retention. In the current scenario, these requirements are provided, but student presence is not significant. Student view point is not considered in various studies. Parents' perception is also ignored for academic field.

The present study mainly focuses on students' and parents' perception towards their absenteeism in examinations. Though Administration as well as school authority develop student friendly environment, still student feel unsatisfactory towards attending them. So, students and parent's perceptions were considered in the study to know ground level problem arise in the school environment.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To study the perception of absentee students regarding the educational environment of the school based on gender.
2. To study the perception of absentee students regarding the educational environment of the school based on the social category.
3. To study the perception of parents of absentee children regarding the school environment.

Research Questions:

1. What is the perception of absentee children regarding the educational environment of the school on the basis of Gender?
2. What is the perception of absentee children regarding the educational environment of the school on the basis of social category?
3. What is the perception of parents of absentee children regarding the educational environment of the school?

III.METHODOLOGY**3.1 Design of the study:**

This study adopts qualitative research design to study the causes behind students' absenteeism in examination.

3.2 Population and Sample: All the secondary school students of Class-X, under the Board of Secondary Education, Odisha. On the academic year 2024-2025 who were absent from the matriculation examination formed the population of study. For the convenience of study, absentee students in the matriculation examination session 2024-2025 of Bhadrak district were selected. From each block, two Schools were selected randomly for the study. Each school selected male and female students absent in the examination, one from each candidate also chosen on the basis of their social category.

DISTRICT	BLOCK	NAME OF SCHOOL	
BHADRAK	BHADRAK	BHADRAKALI NODAL HIGH SCHOOL	BHADRAK ZILLA SCHOOL
	BASUDEVPUR	V.S. HIGH SCHOOL	BINAYAKPUR HIGH SCHOOL
	BHANDARIPOKHARI	CHANDIMATA HIGH SCHOOL	AKUAPADA HIGH SCHOOL
	BONTH	BONTH HIGH SCHOOL	TILLO HIGH SCHOOL
	CHANDABALI	B.S. HIGH SCHOOL JANTUALI	DOLAMANDAP HIGH SCHOOL
	DHAMNAGAR	SAHEEDNAGAR NODAL HIGH SCHOOL	ASURALI HIGH SCHOOL
	TIHIDI	B.N. HIGH SCHOOL	RAMANUJA VIDYAPITHA

3.3 Delimitation of the study:

The study was confined to the government secondary school of Bhadrak district only; newly added schools were excluded from the study. In data collection, no ST students were found, so they were also excluded from the study for effective study outcomes.

3.4 Tools & Techniques:

In order to obtain the desired data for the present study, various tools are used by the researcher. Perception scale for the students and unstructured interview schedule was used for the investigation.

IV.ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Some student expressed that their parent's attitude not supportive towards their study. In Particularly rural and economically poor background student face challenges. Poverty of their family drag towards job. When both father and mother not capable for earn something. Pressure of family obviously vested on child shoulder. Family condition of student also plays a vital role on academic performance and class attendance.

During interview some student stated that their academic backwardness in classroom situation distract them from study. They were not getting support from their teacher, peer group and school administration. Result of student in class examination and internal assessment were not satisfactory. They also hide themselves

from discussion and fear exist in their mind for asking doubt. In various institution, remedial classes were not provided to learner. These factors develop absenteeism of learner in classroom.

In rural and remote areas availability of resources also a challenge. In Urban area, adequate resources were available in the school. Both infrastructural and online resources were available for learner. Learner not having proper learning resources, internet facility, workbook, textbook, etc. automatically distract from study.

Academic backwardness once created in learner carrier cannot mainstreamed, as Coordination between learner and teacher is not adequate. Timely counselling and proper guidance should be provided to learners for their Career advancement. But is not possible in today's scenario, so it leads to increase absenteeism in the classroom.

A number of students were not expressed their problem due to their shying nature. Causes of their failure should be analyzed by teacher, and remedial measure should be provided to them. Stress for success in examination, peer pressure and family tension also distract them from study. Generally, they were backbencher, not participating in classroom discussion. When any pressure or emphasis provided to them, they extract themselves from study environment.

In interview some student also expressed that they were chronic issues or some immediate health problem. When a student remains absent in the classes due to health problem for a longer period they became academically backward in nature. This backwardness leads to escape of student from classroom finally absent from study.

Maximum boys admit that due to peer group influence they were disturbing in classroom. It leads to break of concentration, distraction from study. They developed disturbing attitude in teaching environment and hardly managed by teacher. This leads to absenteeism of student from study and in examination.

As our society is conservative one, so girl's child was not allowed by her parents to come to school regularly. They were engaged in household activities in their family. They were strictly prohibited for some facilities, where is the sun of the family provided with opportunity to study. Particularly in rural area girl child prevented to take class and leads to absenteeism in classroom situation. In future they dropout from the study and contribute towards absenteeism in examination.

Economic condition of parents also related with learning chance of learner. If the conditions were not proper, parents obstruct them for study and compelled them to do job. For getting livelihood child unwillingly work in tiny age and escape from classroom. This also increased student absenteeism in classroom.

Educational qualification of parents played a crucial role for student academic success. Educated parents encouraged their wards for getting success. Parents with low level awareness were not guide their children properly. Failure of their children made them angry. It leads to maladjustment to their children. So, parent should properly aware to encourage their child.

Some student expressed that school administration-based rules discourages academically backward learner. They criticized the student, show them inferior attitude and said that due to them reputation of institution also hampered. Some student also said that their good behavior eclipsed bad behavior, and they were proven useless. So, this factor crucial for student absenteeism.

Monitoring by teacher is not satisfactory those days. Some student revealed that on questioning some teacher said that this lesson belongs to lower classes. lesson correction and feedback also not provided properly. Revision of task also not done by maximum number of teachers.

As corporal punishment is banned in school campus but still some instance hard punishment provided to low achiever. Due to Parental consent regarding corporal punishment teacher got free hand. Teacher should try to motivate low achiever rather than providing corporal punishment.

In some school having infrastructure problem, lack of classroom, students were setting in clumsy room. Crowded classroom having improper ventilation, make learning uncomfortable. Some student expressed

that their school environment was not hygienic. So, they planned to absent from school. Finally escape from examination. So, these factors should be controlled, student should feel welcomed.

V.CONCLUSION:

The study highlights that the educational learning environment has a direct and significant impact on students' absenteeism in secondary education. A supportive, engaging and well-equipped learning environment significantly reduces absenteeism and improves students' attendance. Addressing both institutional and personal factors are essential to ensure students remain consistent in their attendance, especially during crucial examination periods. Teachers and parents must work collaboratively to create a conducive learning environment that improve regular attendance and bring academic success.

VI.EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATION:

Absenteeism of students is not only individual centric; it is a global phenomenon. Parent, teacher, school administration should watchful for its reduction. Absent and dropout candidates will be Identified through proper counselling, diagnosing their problems with reason and providing remedial measures to them.

Problems of every candidate shall not be solved. But those who can be mainstreamed should be channelized. School environment should be welcoming, learner friendly and learning friendly (adequate facility for attracting student). This way we can reduce the rate of absenteeism and make our education fruitful.

Awareness among parents, teachers and community members also important which are necessary for reducing gender disparities. Vocationalization of education is a crucial step towards this. Student expertise in relevant field should provide with innumerable scope. Development of skill also make them self-dependent in near future.

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