

A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON ABSENTEEISM BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL AND HIGHER SECONDARY STUDENTS IN TIRUVALLUR DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

Educators, parents, and politicians are continuously searching for that magic solution that will reform our public education system and establish a flawless system of education for our youth, by providing them with a quality education. The success of the school in carrying out its primary charge of educating and socializing students is contingent on students attending school regularly. In recognition of the importance of regular school attendance to quality education, attendance becomes a priority goal.

INTRODUCTION

Educators have long emphasized the importance of class attendance. Only in the classroom may the student hear the teacher's presentation, participate in class discussions, and enjoy the benefits of spontaneous interactions between the students and teacher. It comes as no surprise that students with high absence rates earn lower grades than students with better attendance. Student absenteeism has been a problem for years. State departments of education and school boards across the country have developed policies, procedures, and programs aimed primarily with the objective of reducing and preventing student absenteeism. To improve achievement, many districts have adopted policies calling for academic penalties for student absence.

Students must be present in school in order to benefit from the academic program in its entirety. Schools and law enforcement officials are getting tough by enforcing laws that mandate school attendance and by holding parents responsible for their student's attendance. Student non-attendance is a problem that extends beyond the school. It affects the student, their families, and the community.

Students' absenteeism is defined as "Temporary cessation of the student, when his presence is expected". "Absence of the student from school during regularly working hours". "The failure of student to report for study when he is

scheduled to work". A student attends his regular class work during the academic year of his study in a class. The total number of days, a student attends the regular school work and the total number of days the school works during the same academic year are noted. The percentage of attendance was calculated for each student. It was calculated as follows.

Percentage of Attendance =

$$\frac{\text{No. of days the student attended the school}}{\text{Number of days school worked}} \times 100$$

Percentage of Absence = 100 - Percentage of attendance.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROBLEM

Many children who are nominally enrolled do not attend regularly. School attendance is a critical factor for performance. Students must be present in school in order to benefit from the academic program in its entirety. Studies show that higher attendance is related to higher achievement for students of all backgrounds. There is a close association between access, regular attendance and learning outcomes leading to meaningful access which requires high attendance rates, progression through grades with little or no repetition and learning outcomes that confirm that basic skills are being mastered. Only in the classroom may the student hear the teacher's presentation, participate in class discussions, and enjoy the benefits of spontaneous

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interactions between the students and teacher. It comes as no surprise that students with high absence rates earn lower grades than students with better attendance. Students are not only affected in their academic performance. But they are also at risk for various negative health and social problem. Prolonged absence may even lead to a big issue of illiteracy. This in turn may lead to unemployment. Hence Absenteeism is a serious, nation-wide problem that is prevalent in school which made the investigator to determine the various causes of absenteeism.

OBJECTIVES

To find out whether there is any significant difference exists in the Perception of Absenteeism among High School & Higher Secondary students based on Gender , Medium , Locality and Mother's Employment.

HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

There is no significant difference in the Perception of High School and Higher Secondary Students towards Absenteeism based on Gender, Medium, Locality and Mother's Employment.

METHOD ADOPTED IN THE PRESENT STUDY

The investigator has selected Survey Method for this study entitled Comparative study on Absenteeism among High school & Higher Secondary students.

SAMPLE OF THE STUDY

For the present study, 300 students of high school & higher secondary were selected at random. The sampling technique used is stratified random techniques in which the sample is drawn from different school.

TOOL USED

The tool used in the present study was constructed by the investigator with the help of guide after referring to various resources including web based resources. The tool was subjected to a pilot study and the reliability and validity were obtained.

HYPOTHESIS -1

There is no significant difference in the Perception of High School and Higher Secondary Students towards Absenteeism based on Gender.

Table-1
Mean, S.D, and t-value High school and Higher Secondary Students Gender wise

SCHOOL CATEGORY	GENDER	N	MEAN	S.D	t-value	LS
HIGH SCHOOL	Female	100	72.81	7.78	3.59	0.01
HIGHER SECONDARY	Female	75	72.5	8.56		
HIGH SCHOOL	Male	75	74.48	7.16	6.09	0.01
HIGHER SECONDARY	Male	50	64.54	6.54		

INFERENCE

From the above table, it is observed that the Mean score of Female High school Students is 72.81 and Female Higher Secondary Student is 72.5. The t-value 3.59 is greater than the table value at 0.01 level showing significant difference between High School and Higher Secondary Female Students. Therefore the Null Hypothesis is rejected. Hence it is concluded that there is significant difference between Female High School and Higher Secondary Students in their Perception towards Absenteeism.

From the above table, it is observed that the Mean score of Male High School Students is 74.48 and Male Higher Secondary Students is 64.54. The t-value 6.09 is greater than the table value at 0.01 level showing significant difference between High school and Higher secondary Male students. Therefore the Null Hypothesis is rejected. Hence it is concluded that there is significant difference between Male High School and Higher Secondary Students in their Perception towards Absenteeism.

HYPOTHESIS -2

There is no significant difference in the Perception of High School and Higher Secondary Students towards Absenteeism based on Medium.

Table -2
Mean, S.D, and t-value High school and Higher Secondary Students Medium wise

SCHOOL CATEGORY	MEDIUM	N	MEAN	S.D	t-value	LS
HIGH SCHOOL	Tamil	75	74.16	6.84		
HIGHER SECONDARY	Tamil	75	71.05	8.89	3.15	0.01
HIGH SCHOOL	English	75	73.15	8.61		
HIGHER SECONDARY	English	75	64.73	6.80	6.64	0.01

INFERENCE

From the above table, it is observed that the Mean score of Tamil medium High school Students is 74.16 and High secondary students is 71.05. The t-value 3.15 is greater than the table value at 0.01 level showing significant difference between the means. Therefore the Null Hypothesis is rejected. Hence it is concluded that there is significant difference between Tamil medium High School and Higher Secondary Students in their Perception towards Absenteeism.

It is also observed that the Mean score of English medium High school Students is 73.15 and Higher secondary students is 64.73. The t-value 6.64 is greater than the table value at 0.01 level showing significant difference between the means.

Therefore the Null Hypothesis is rejected. Hence it is concluded that there is significant difference between English medium High School and Higher Secondary Students in their Perception towards Absenteeism.

HYPOTHESIS -3

There is no significant difference in the Perception of High School and Higher Secondary Students towards Absenteeism based on Locality.

Table -3
Mean, S.D, and t-value High school and Higher Secondary Students Locale wise

SCHOOL CATEGORY	LOCALITY	N	MEAN	S.D	t-value	LS
HIGH SCHOOL	Rural	100	73.71	6.98	0.95	N.S
HIGHER SECONDARY	Rural	79	71.38	9.00		
HIGH SCHOOL	Urban	50	73.54	6.70		
HIGHER SECONDARY	Urban	71	64.05	8.41	1.37	N.S

INFERENCE

From the above table, it is observed that the Mean score of Rural High School Students is 73.71 and High Secondary Students is 71.38. The t-value 0.95 is lesser than the table value at level showing no significant difference between the means. It is observed that the Mean score of Urban High school Students is 73.54 and Higher Secondary students is 64.05. The t-value 1.37 is less than the table value showing no significant difference between the means. Therefore the Null Hypothesis is accepted.

HYPOTHESIS -4

There is no significant difference in the Perception of High School and Higher Secondary Students towards Absenteeism based on Mother's Employment.

Table -4
Mean, S.D, and t-value High school and Higher Secondary Students Mother's Employment wise

A comparative study on absenteeism between high school and higher secondary students in Tiruvallur district

SCHOOL CATEGORY	MOTHER'S EMPLOYMENT	N	MEAN	S.D	t-value	LS
HIGH SCHOOL	Employed	18	71.29	5.93	2.23	0.05
HIGHER SECONDARY	Employed	13	64	10.63		
HIGH SCHOOL	Unemployed	73	72.64	6.71	1.23	N.S
HIGHER SECONDARY	Unemployed	103	67.14	9.34		

From the above table, it is observed that the Mean score of High School Students of Employed Mothers is 71.29 and that of Higher Secondary Students is 64. The t-value 2.23 is greater than the table value at 0.05 level showing significant difference between the means. Hence it is concluded that there is significant difference in the perception of High School and Higher Secondary Students of Employed Mothers towards Absenteeism.

It is also observed that the Mean score of High School Students of Unemployed Mothers is 72.94 and that of High Secondary Students is 67.14. The t-value 1.23 is lesser than the table value level showing no significant difference between the means. Therefore the Null Hypothesis is accepted.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATION

In the light of the above findings, one may get acquainted with the various causes of Absenteeism. School attendance is a vital factor for Students performance. Higher Attendance is not only related to higher achievement, but absentees are at risk for various negative health and social problems. A high level of Absenteeism places students at risk for permanent dropout from school which may lead to various behavioral problems. This could be overcome by the combined efforts of the parents and teacher with

utmost love and care Joyful learning and child centered Approach may reduce the rate of Absenteeism. Physical Education classes should be given due importance. Awareness about the importance of Education should be made known to parents especially in rural areas. Students with Personal Problems must be identified and should be counselled by a counselor.

CONCLUSION

The present study enlightens us with the various causes for Absenteeism which would pave way to reduce those factors. It is also clear that attendance is proportional to achievement. Proper measures would surely reduce the rate of absenteeism which is also evident from the study.

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Web Based Resources

- <http://www.create-rpc.org>
<http://eric.ed.gov/>
<http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/>