

# TRUANCY AMONG SCHOOL STUDENTS IN INDIA

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## Abstract

The aim of this study is to assess the prevalence of the truancy among the students. It also determines the predisposing factors to truancy, and the distaste for the craze of classroom and slowly started to avoid the entire school curriculum, possible impact of truancy on the behaviors of these students. Thus truancy not only leads to absenteeism but also prone to various other anti-social behaviors-which ultimately disturbed the peace, harmony and security of the society. These were with the view of devising the means to curb the truancy. It was found that school factors, parental factors were among the major reasons that resulted in truancy among the students. Due to prolong habits of truancy the su Further the high rates of absenteeism among the students resulted in poor academic performance, increased chances of alcoholism and crimes. It has been suggested that increased support from the parents' side, counselor who can guide on academic and social problem can bring the students out from truancy.

**Keywords:** *truancy, primary education, schools, absenteeism, attendance.*

## 1. Introduction

Truancy is seen as an increasingly evolving and emerging problem, negligent act on the part of the students to miss the classes intentionally. Around the globe, truancy has been regarded as cankerworm that can potentially destroy the motives of educational programs and can certainly prove as the hindrance and obstruction in the educational careers of the students (Suleman, Hussain, & Ikram Kayani, 2017). Truancy can be referred to as any planned or intentional unlawful and illegal absence from the compulsory schooling or it can be the students who attend the school but do not take the classes (Suleman et al., 2017). In the recent times these intentional, visible or not so visible distortions are very much reflected in the character and the behavior of the youth. In India, according to the MCD data of 2016-17 around 53,100 students who were enrolled in the primary schools under the municipal corporation showed the behavior of absenteeism. If this goes unchecked such behaviors can constitute

impediments to the meaningful classroom learning along with bringing the school growth and development under question (Adefunke, 2015). Although truancy is not a new issue, but a problem evidence since many decades. However, over the last decade this issue of truancy has received much more attention as the link between the student growth and attendance has become much clearer now. The coming sections will now focus on the factors that has led to the development of such behavior among the students and how this impacts them.

## **2. Aim of the study**

The main aim of the study is to find the possible factors that led to truancy and how this truancy impacts the school students today.

## **3. Discussion**

### **a) Factors causing truancy**

The school system and its environment play a crucial role in improving or devastating the student performance. School environment can be regarded as the significant factor that itself can led to the development of truancy among the students. Generally pathetic school environment or the teachers with less motivation make the students disinterested towards the classroom. So according to previous studies it has been found that in most of cases lethargic teachers contribute lot for the causes of truancy. This behavior of truancy is generally common in those schools where the implementation of the truancy policy is not effective, poor communication between the parents and teachers, noncooperation on the part of teachers or the uncompromising classroom homework's and low sensitivity towards the student situation (Oluremi, 2013). It has also been found that in oversized classrooms students may feel isolated or alienated, or the one who are not valued, accepted also choose to escape the school setting (Rivers, 2010). Students those who do not have friends or are bullied are much more likely to become truants. Further the inadequate guidance and counselling services in the schools is also one of the major factor responsible for the increasing rate of truancy among the students (Prabha & Maheswari, 2017).

Other factors that can make a child to get involved in the truant behavior could be the lack of parental supervision, poverty, lack of family support, household issues, broken homes. Moreover, the unawareness of attendance rules

and the contradictory views about the importance of education among the parents are the most serious underlying and contributing factors to truancy (Adefunke, 2015).

### **b) Impact of truancy**

The impact of truancy is extensive, it leads to negative implication for the society at the multiple levels. In short run truancy can cause poor academic performance, school dropouts, delinquency, substance abuse. While in long run truancy can be the predictor of poor adult outcomes which includes violence, marital instability, job instability, adult crimes and incarceration (Rivers, 2010). (Oluremi, 2013) showed that truancy can result in negative consequence for the society in form of criminal activities, social segregation, failure through suspension. Truancy can possibly obstruct the effective learning and can cause the poor academic achievement of truant children. Moreover, this continuous absenteeism from the schools can ultimately led to the deformation in the society.

### **c) Empirical review**

(Suhid, Rahman, & Kamal, 2012) analyzed the factors causing the absenteeism among the students. For the purpose of the study a set of questionnaires was used. The quantitative data so collected was analyzed using SPSS. The factors that were highlighted through the study involves peer pressure, fear of being bullied, dislike of some subjects, fear of teachers, and no encouragement from the parent side. All these factors resulted in having no motivation to learn and thus turning their attention to hang around.

(Duarte, Escario, & Molina, 2008) worked on alcohol abuse and truancy among the adolescents. It was found that the alcohol abuse and truancy are the two important risk behaviors that affects the adolescent population. The study was conducted for the OECD countries and it was found that one in five secondary school students skip their classes or remain absent or arrive late at school. Further this absenteeism from the school resulted in the increased consumption of alcohol and other drugs that had the serious consequences on the health of these adolescents. This alcohol consumption further undermines their motivation to study and interferes with the cognitive progress.

(Rothman, 2001) provided a multilevel analysis on school absence and the factors responsible for it. The study concentrated on the students of Australia. A multilevel statistical model was prepared. The analysis results showed that the absence rates for indigenous students was higher as compared to non-indigenous students. This was due to

factors such as higher concentration of indigenous students in the school. Further it was shown that this absenteeism among the indigenous students impacted their learning outcome.

#### 4. Conclusion

The persistence and the growing phenomenon of truancy in the school's students suggest the need to bring in changes in the system and the environment that could mitigate the negative effects of the truancy among the students. Instructional, behavioral and the community-based intervention can be employed in order to mitigate the effect of truancy. The direct instructions on part of teachers can certainly bring the instructional changes. Immediate feedback and support from teacher's further teacher praise and reinforcement can provide the empirical support thus increasing the on-task efficiency and reducing the inappropriate behavior of dissatisfaction. There is a need to provide the assistance of the Counsellor so as the students can learn to cope up with the academic and the social problems instead of becoming truants. .

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