

Absenteeism of College Students: A Critical Study

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Abstract:

The present research attempts to investigate reasons for absenteeism of students in colleges in and around Bhiwandi city. It throws light upon variant reasons for absenteeism in classrooms and academic activities. The research focuses under graduates and post-graduates who escape attendance in the classes. The study is based upon 10 top most reasons traced during the analysis of data collected from various PG and UG students from various colleges. These reasons are Work/Job Issue, availability of Online Lectures/ Study Materials and inability to wake up in early mornings. Also, issues likenon-innovative Teaching methods in colleges, Distance between residence and college is very far, non-suitable Lecture timings, Preparing for Competitive/ Professional examinations, Non-effective Teaching-Learning Methods, Avoidance of theory lectures and attending practical based lectures popped up as prime reasons. Eventeaching in the classrooms do not cross the textbook materials. The study focuses most important causes of college students who are not attending classroom teaching. The study also attempts to trace reasons for students' absenteeism from institution and teaching fraternity perspectives as well. The paper focuses primarily on the causes of students' absenteeism in degree colleges in and around Bhiwandi, a business city in Maharashtra, near Mumbai.

Key Words: Absenteeism, attendance, college.

Introduction:

The city of Bhiwandi popularly known for its textile industries, called "The Manchester of India" attract peoples from different parts of country. To provide facilities to migrated as well as local person a huge infrastructure of other facilities are developed like real states, hotels, hospitals, banking and mainly educational institutions, schools and colleges. There are 12 degree colleges are providing higher education in Bhiwandi region. All Colleges are affiliated to University of Mumbai, among them only two colleges are aided and other are non-aided institutions. Students are having mix culture of different language, religion, cast and from different states from rich, middle and poor

class families. Some students eager to acquire degree for future jobs and some are working to acquire degree. Therefore the collected data is concern with Bhiwandi city and around colleges.

"Education is not just attending classes and obtaining degrees. It is a process of learning and knowing the unknown."Students' absenteeism is always a prime concern in educational institutes.The present study focuses the issues and reasons of absenteeism of students in colleges in and around Bhiwandi city.The study is stressed on 10 top most reasons found during the analysis of data collected from various PG and UG students from various colleges.

These reasons are Work/Job Issue, availability of Online Lectures/ Study Materials and inability to wake up in early mornings. Also, issues like non-innovative Teaching methods in colleges, Distance between residence and college is very far, non-suitable Lecture timings, Preparing for Competitive/ Professional examinations, Non-effective Teaching-Learning Methods, Avoidance of theory lectures and attending practical based lectures popped up as prime reasons. Even teaching in the classrooms do not cross the textbook materials

The study is fully based upon primary data collected from 741 UG and PG students. This study is conducted in colleges situated in and around study area. The study focuses most important causes of college students who are not attending classroom teaching. The reasons are relates on the side of students, institution as well as teachers. This questionnaire can be used by others but not the data analysis because different profile of city and around are.

Objectives of the Study:

- To find out reason for absenteeism of students in colleges in and around Bhiwandi city.
- To analyze the prominent reasons for absenteeism.
- To find out top 10 reasons of absenteeism of students in colleges in and around Bhiwandi city.
- To suggest remedial measures.

Hypothesis:

H0: There are no significant reasons for absenteeism of students in colleges.

H1: There are significant reasons for absenteeism of students in colleges.

Research Methodology:

- Survey method used for Collection of data - Primary Data collected by preparing questionnaire.
- Research based on survey conducted online.
- Survey conducted in colleges situated in and around Bhiwandicity .

- The study is fully based upon primary data collected from 741 UG and PG students
- Data analyzed in Simple Percentage Method
- The composition of responded is - Male-44.8% Female-55.2%
- Streams involved - Science 13%,Commerce - 66.4%, Arts – 3.7% and SFC – 16.7%.
- The paper focuses primarily on the causes of students’ absenteeism in degree colleges in and around Bhiwandi, a business city in Maharashtra, near Mumbai.

Data analysis and Interpretation of Findings:

Table: Analysis of collected responses in percentage.

Sr.No.	Questions	Strongly Agree	Neutral	Strongly Disagree
1	Lecture timing is not suitable	34.40%	17.00%	48.60%
2	Lectures / material online study available.	39.50%	19.80%	40.70%
3	Time duration of lecturer is long.	24.30%	23.30%	52.40%
4	Distance between resident and college is very far.	36.20%	21.70%	42.10%
5	I have work / job issues.	43.90%	10.00%	46.10%
6	I am involved in family business.	17.10%	12.80%	70.10%
7	I have health / medical issues.	18.40%	12.80%	68.80%
8	Family problem.	25.40%	15.70%	58.90%
9	Cannot wake up in early morning.	37.90%	15.90%	46.20%
10	I have pressure from parents to don't go to college.	8.70%	5.50%	85.80%
11	Do not like college environment.	27.10%	16.50%	56.40%
12	I have ragging problem.	4.60%	6.80%	88.60%
13	I have college uniform problem.	15.80%	8.40%	75.80%
14	Joined coaching classes so I don't attend college lectures.	13.30%	8.00%	78.70%
15	I am preparing for Competitive / professional exam.	34.30%	13.40%	52.30%
16	I am involved in extracurricular activities (NSS/NCC).	18.00%	6.40%	75.60%
17	College is not serious about the attendance.	18.50%	13.60%	67.90%
18	Avoid theory lectures than practical lectures.	31.10%	18.80%	50.10%
19	My friends are not attending lectures.	26.20%	15.00%	58.80%
20	I want to enjoy my college life with friends and bunk lectures.	17.00%	16.30%	66.70%
21	Lectures are not conducted regularly.	24.80%	18.50%	56.70%
22	I don't find teaching learning method effective.	31.70%	22.50%	45.80%

23	Teaching method is not innovative.	36.70%	20.40%	42.90%
24	Teachers do not teach more than the text.	28.60%	18.50%	52.90%
25	Teachers do not provide extra information / knowledge.	27.30%	15.70%	57.00%

Hypothesis Testing:

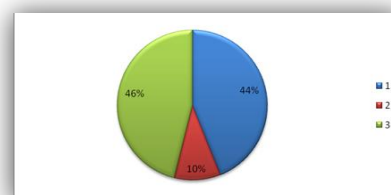
- Significant reasons criteria- 25% or more.
- As per the above table out of 25 reasons 15 reasons are significant
- Results are more than 50% i.e. 60%.
- H0-There are no significant reasons for absenteeism of students in colleges is **rejected**.
- H1-There are significant reasons for absenteeism of students in colleges is **selected**.
Therefore study shows there are significant reasons for absenteeism of students in colleges.

Reasons of Absenteeism of College Students:

From several reasons are stated in above table, top 10 reasons are found during analysis of collected data. The reasons are following:

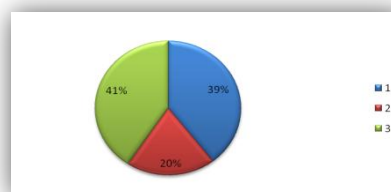
1. **Work/Job Issue:**

Most of the Students are working during their graduation period due to financial or other reasons. Therefore the most top reason found in study is job issue. 44% students are working is the main cause of absenteeism in colleges.



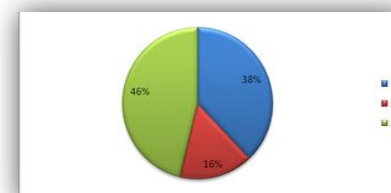
2. **Online Lectures/ Study Materials Available:**

Today in the world of internet all things are available in our hand i; e. Mobile. The various lectures are available on YouTube and online learning devices and applications like MOOCS etc. They find more expertise lectures online rather to attend college lectures.



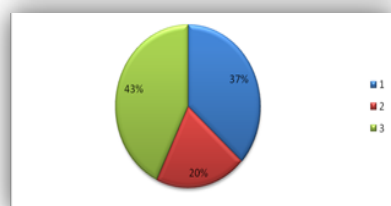
3. **Cannot wake up in early morning:**

This reason shows the laziness of today's modern world's young generation. Shocking but with 38% third most reason is students are not able to wake up early to attend lectures. The reason may be late night sleep, busy with mobile etc.



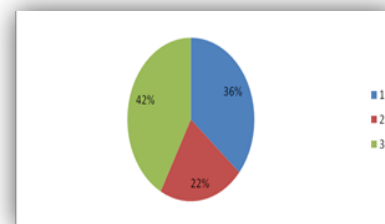
4. **Teaching methods are not innovative in colleges:**

Professors are stuck on chock and board rather using ICT and other innovative techniques for teaching learning which affect the student's learning interest in colleges. With 37% it rank fourth reason for absenteeism of students in colleges.



5. Distance between residence and college is very far:

The transportation is the key of development of city; students are finding difficulties to reach their colleges because of distance between college and residence is so far. It means in the present modern time, 36% students have transportation as a major hurdle to attend college.



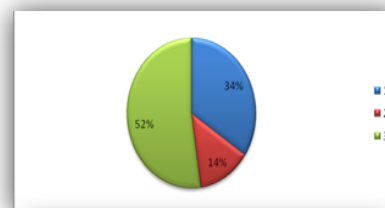
6. Lecture timings are not suitable:

34% students are feeling that the lecture time or schedule of lecture is not suitable to them. It may be because of job timing, professional course time classing, afternoon time lectures and so on. Schedule of college time table is not flexible as per the students is the reason for absenteeism.



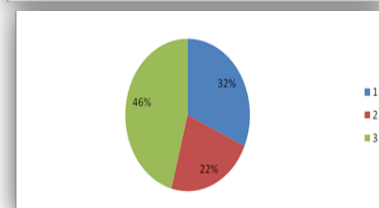
7. Preparing for Competitive/ Professional examinations:

Those who are set the goal to crack competitive exam or want to be achieve success in professional courses like C.A.,C.S., ICWA etc. are not attending the college lectures as they are busy with preparation professional exams. It seems to near about 34% students from study area.



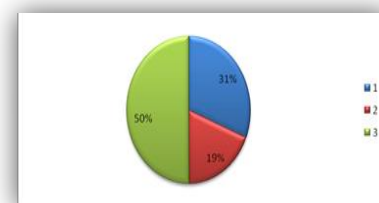
8. Non-effective Teaching-Learning Methods:

Teaching is the art and teacher is most closely an artist to make teaching –learning effective to motivate students to learn, understand and give a shape to the life. Students are missing that effectiveness in classrooms is the reason for not turning into classrooms.



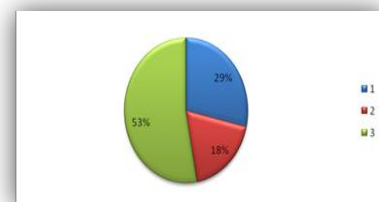
9. Avoidance of theory lectures and attending practical based lectures:

Students are more eager to attend practical lectures like Accountancy, taxation or lab practical in science as compare to attend theory lecture. It means they feel bored to attend theory lecture as per responded by 315 of students.



10. Teachers do not teach more than the text in the classrooms:

Students expect from teacher they should provide content, information and knowledge more than the text. It means students want teacher should correlate textual knowledge with practical scenario. This is also a reason which taken students from classroom.



Conclusion:

- Students are engaged in their jobs due to their financial or familial reasons.
- Students depend more on online material rather than attending lectures.

- Students are lazy cannot wake up in early morning.
- Students feel teaching learning method non- innovative.
- Some students have problem of distance from residence to college. Some students do not find lecture timing suitable.
- Students prepare for competitive and professional examinations.
- Students are more attracted towards practical based lecture.
- Students feel classroom teaching more redundant and monotonous.

Suggestions:

- College should provide separate lecture timings for students going for jobs or preparing for competitive or professional examinations.
- Effective teaching-learning through discussion, case study, providing online study material should be introduced.
- Teachers should be innovative in teaching through field visits, posters & models, group discussions, presentations and e-learning.
- College should provide hostel facility, video conferencing and transport facility.

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