

## **A study to assess the factors influencing absenteeism among nursing students in the selected nursing school of New Delhi.**

Ms. Jyoti <sup>1</sup>, Ms. D.Maryline Flinsi <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>(Nursing Tutor, Apollo School of Nursing, Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, New Delhi-76)

<sup>2</sup>(Principal, Apollo School of Nursing, Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, New Delhi-76)

Corresponding Author: Ms. Jyoti

---

**Abstract:** The term “Absenteeism” is being used as the practice of regularly staying away from work or school without good reason. Generally, absenteeism may planned or unplanned absence. Now, in these days absenteeism is the greatest problem for the nursing personnel and nursing students in the process of obtaining knowledge, nascence and skill in obtaining the personal and professional goal. It is not only an epidemic peculiar to the universities, but to all public and private hospitals and health care. So, in this concern, an exploratory and descriptive study was conducted on 135 G.N.M nursing students to assess the factors influencing absenteeism among nursing students and to identify the method to reducing it. Findings reveal that among the 7 factors the most influencing factor of absenteeism among nursing students was home related factors (mean =3.42) while study shows least influencing factor was personal factors (mean =2.30). Practical learning should be more encouraging to induce interest in students was the top most strategy chosen by the students to reduce absenteeism.

---

Date of Submission: 29-08-2019

Date of Acceptance: 14-09-2019

---

### **I. Introduction**

**“A man who works regularly in a systematic fashion never feels over worked or tired, he knows his limits and is able to do in fair time, all that he undertakes. It is not hard work that kills a man, but irregularity or lack of system.”**

**Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi**

Attendance is the action or a state of going regularly to or being present at a place or event. It is the concept of people, individually or as a group, appearing at a location for a priorly scheduled event. Measuring attendance is a significant concern for many organizations, which can use such information to gauge the effectiveness of their efforts and to plan for future efforts.

Importance of attending classes regularly has many ideas supporting that old college students are enough positive in their studies. Therefore, whether regular class attendance is important to students or not is still on debate. Many people think that sometimes students can learn themselves by many sources of information without waste of time at class. The attendance rate is important because students are more likely to succeed in academic when they attend classes consistently. It's difficult for the teacher and the class to build their skills and progress if a large number of students are frequently absent. In addition poor academics, students who are not in school on a regular basis are more likely to get in trouble with the law and cause problems in their communities

Routine school attendance is necessary for youth to develop into well-educated successful citizen who will make significant contribution to society. In universities the growing problem of absenteeism among youth can be linked to increase in chronic health condition such as allergies, asthma, diabetes and obesity. Unauthorized absenteeism of any student nurse in higher education troubles many lectures. It is occasionally raised as an issue by attending student who resent others “getting away” with non-attendance. The most common contributory factor that influence the absenteeism among the nursing student were related to teaching factor (mean=18.3 – 4.5) following by the in the assessment factor (17.1 – 5.6) and lowest was social factor (mean=8.9 – 3.2. Nonattendance to lecture or clinical include the reasons like family, social and work commitment, faking illness, home sickness and family emergencies.<sup>1</sup>

Student Nurse's Absenteeism from lectures and clinical practice lead to great concern to society, effect public safety and can lead an adequate learning on the part of those learning specially in the aspect of drug calculation and administration which could result in drug over dose and poisoning and nursing error. Absenteeism result in lower achievement and poor academic performance. It makes students stay longer in school and parents are stressed financially. If academic standard is not maintained, increasing absenteeism will adversely affect the quality of nursing care and contribute to increase morbidity and mortality rate in the society

Recommendation need to be developed providing a safe learning environment, accurate records of attendance and calculating absenteeism rates to identify individual pattern of attendance. The study suggested that appropriate and innovative teaching strategies and support system to be established for student nurses.

Student who are absent from classroom have an impact on academic performance and students who are absent from class they cannot learn more compared to student who have attended the classes. The absentee student will not get job easily in the future or not get salary which leads to

One survey states that 99% upper elementary and middle school targeting student with attendance problem. This study found that 17.2% missed school to avoid fear, anxiety problem and escape from social or evaluating situation. 60.6% missed school to gain parental attention 22.2% had no profile. Children who fit with in multiple profile had the highest level of behavior problem and children who had no profile group had lowest level.<sup>2</sup>

A explored the after impact of the investigation on nursing students at institutes of nursing in Limpopo demonstrated under studies missing themselves from class because of understudy focus variable example when they need to get prepared for examination (53.1% -111), and home related factor most nursing studies declare that absent from class when there is passing of related (63.2%, N -132) with respect to related components, most nursing under studies result that poor infrastructure affairs in school encouragement to understudies nonappearance (39.2%, N – 82) the evaluation uncovered that there is no connection between social components and understudies truancy.<sup>3</sup>

## II. Material and Methods

The study was conducted in January 2019. An exploratory and descriptive research approach were used to assess the factors influencing absenteeism among 135 G.N.M students in Apollo School of Nursing, in New Delhi. Total enumerative sampling technique was used for data collection. The subjects were given Goggle form link

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLStGPRV\\_G9hZVu3UsoGtDT4HDmbMAxAz8oa4NIJNvshVyBfrg/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&usp+mail\\_form\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLStGPRV_G9hZVu3UsoGtDT4HDmbMAxAz8oa4NIJNvshVyBfrg/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&usp+mail_form_link) to give their responses. Permission from the Principal and ethical clearance from Organizational Review Board was taken before starting the study. Before the questionnaire was given to the participants, consent was taken, aims and objectives were explained to them. A structured opinionnaire (5-Point Likert Scale) was used to assess factors influencing. The tool Structured opinionnaire to assess the factors influencing absenteeism was comprised of 26 items classified under sections (personal factors, institutional factors, home related factors, teaching related factors, interpersonal factors, health related factors, study related factors). Each item has five responses – strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree and strongly disagree.. The maximum and minimum marks awarded for each item were 5&1 respectively.

The other tool structured opinionnaire to assess strategies to reduce absenteeism comprised of 9 items. Each item has two responses – agree, and disagree. The maximum and minimum marks awarded for each item were 2&1 respectively.

## III. Result

**TABLE NO. 1** show the distribution of background information of nursing students.  
(N=135)

S.NO.	CONTENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1.	<b>AGE (IN YEARS)</b>		
	a) 18– 21	102	75.6%
	b) 21 -- 24	31	23.0%
	c) More than 25	02	1.4%
2.	<b>EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION</b>		
	a) 12 <sup>th</sup> pass	126	93.3%
	b) Graduation	08	5.9%
	c) Above graduation	01	0.8%
3.	<b>EDUCATION DONE FROM</b>		
	a) Government school	64	47.4%
	b) Private school	71	52.6%
4.	<b>CHOSEN STREAM AFTER 10<sup>TH</sup> CLASS</b>		
	a) Medical	41	30.4%
	b) Commerce	44	32.6%
	b) Humanities	50	37.0%
5.	<b>ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE IN 12<sup>TH</sup> STANDARD</b>		
	a) Below 49.99%	1	0.8%
	b) 50 – 64.99%	30	22.2%
	c) 65 – 79.99 %	81	60.0%
	d) Above 80%	23	17.0%
6.	<b>MEDIUM OF EDUCATION</b>		

	a) Hindi	50	37.0%
	b) English	85	63.0%
7.	<b>EDUCATION OF MOTHER</b>		
	a) Uneducated	27	20.0%
	b) Less than 12 standards	65	48.1%
	c) Graduated	27	20.0%
	d) Post graduated	16	11.9%
8.	<b>OCCUPATION OF FATHER</b>		
	a) Unemployed	04	3.0%
	b) Private job	66	48.9%
	c) Government job	24	17.7%
	d) Business	41	30.3%
9.	<b>OCCUPATION OF MOTHER</b>		
	a) Unemployed	100	74.1%
	b) Private job	16	11.9%
	c) Government job	13	9.6%
	d) Business	06	4.4%
10.	<b>INCOME OF FAMILY PER MONTH (IN RUPEES)</b>		
	a) Below 10,000	08	5.9%
	b) 10001 – 25,000	44	32.6%
	c) 25001 – 40,000	50	37.1%
	d) Above 40,001	33	24.4%
11.	<b>HOW MANY DAYS OF ABSENTEEISM IN LAST 3 MONTH</b>		
	a) No absenteeism	72	53.3%
	b) 1 – 5 days	49	36.3%
	c) 6 – 10 days	08	6.0%
	d) More than 10 days	06	4.4%

**Table no.2** deals with the analysis and interpretation of data that will help to know the factors influencing absenteeism among nursing students. In this there are total 07 factors. In each factor there are some items that are responsible for an absenteeism. The factors are personal, institutional, home related, teaching, interpersonal health related and study related factors shows that the highest influencing factor is home related

factor mean with highest 3.4 while the other factors are teaching factor mean shows (2.9), institutional factor mean shows (2.8) health related factors mean shows (2.6), study related factor mean shows (2.5), personal factor mean shows (2.3) and interpersonal factor mean shows (2.3).

**Table no. 2.** Shows mean distribution and rank of factors influencing absenteeism among nursing students.

S.NO.	FACTORS	MEAN	RANK
1.	Personal factors	2.3	6
2.	Institutional factors	2.8	3
3.	Home related factors	3.4	1
4.	Teaching factors	2.9	2
5.	Interpersonal factors	2.3	7
6.	Health related factors	2.6	4
7.	Study related factors	2.5	5

**Table no. 3** shows the strategies to reduce absenteeism with their rank as stated by the nursing students to reduce absenteeism there are 11 strategies that will help to reduce absenteeism and increase attendance rate. Practical learning should be more encouraging to induce interest in student has the top most rank whereas the Extra make up duties should be imposed on student who became absent unnecessarily has lowest rank in the strategies.

**Table no 3.** Shows the strategies to reduce absenteeism with their rank as stated by the nursing students.

S. No	PREVENTIONS	RANK
1.	The classroom teaching and learning activity should be interesting	5
2.	Teacher should be using interesting teaching method like discussion, AV, AIDS, videos and PPT etc...	7
3.	Lecture time should be 45 to 60 min for effective learning and teaching.	8
4.	Practical learning should be more encouraging to induce interest in student.	1
5.	Students should be well oriented to the clinical area	2
6.	Student attendance should be recorded properly and fairly.	3
7.	Student should be provided healthy and nutritious food to reduce sickness.	6
8.	Proper study time should be there in hostel	8
9.	Different recreational activities should be conducted to reduce the stress.	4
10.	Student with high attendance percentage should be encouraged and awarded.	4
11.	Extra make up duties should be imposed on student who became absent unnecessarily.	9

#### IV. Discussion And Conclusion

The student's absenteeism are influenced by various factors due to personal, institutional, home related, teaching, interpersonal, health and study related factors. These factors strongly influenced on the student absenteeism, but these factors vary from person to person and country to country.

It is important for the institution and faculty to eliminate the factors that commonly influenced absenteeism among nursing students. The present study was aimed to assess the factors influencing absenteeism among nursing student's. Finding revealed that all the factors has influence on absenteeism whereas in this study home related factors has a very high influence among nursing students as it got the highest rank and teaching factors has 2<sup>nd</sup> highest rank. Whereas the practical learning should be encouraged to induce interest in students has highest rank among all strategies.

This finding was in agreement with the findings of the study conducted on nursing students at the University of Lahore must to go to at least 75% of each course credit hours for all nursing courses. Nursing student's attendance was checked intently. Records of attendance at classroom were kept and formalized disciplinary methodology were set up to manage those with excessive absenteeism or absenteeism without due notice. The total number of nursing students at the Lahore School of Nursing at University of Lahore was 200 (MSN =10, Post RN BSN =84, Generic BSN =106). This investigation was directed to investigate the factors that influence to absenteeism of nursing students at University of Lahore. The analysis of this study uncovered that student reported their absenteeism reasons were related to teaching factor, as shortage of staff in the clinical area and asking many question everyday by the lectures.<sup>4</sup> This finding was in agreement with the findings of the study conducted by Shellenbarger & Hoffman in 2016 showed absenteeism reasons identified with Social Problems factor, for example, "Attend community activities and on family responsibility leave" This outcome is relating with the outcome of Shellenbarger and Hoffman who announced that few student may likewise have family commitments which put extra requests on their opportunity. A few student have children that require childcare or have aging parents with medical issues. What's more, other relevant risk factors have been connected to absenteeism. These components incorporate

numerous announced clashes at home and family separation, divorce, self-care by child, dangerous neighborhoods, and maltreatment.(Shellenbarger & Hoffman, 2016)<sup>5</sup>

Based from the findings, it was concluded that several factors pose a high influence on the absenteeism among nursing students, with Home -Related factors topping the list. Among the (7) domains, teaching related factors, institutional related factor, health related factor study related factor, personal factor and interpersonal factors fall behind the Home -related factors. Nonetheless, these categories are still deemed to be highly impactful. Conversely, personal factor and interpersonal factors pose little effect on nursing students on their absenteeism. Thus students should find solutions to improve their attendance.

## V. Recommendations

1) Ensuring a positive learning environment by giving a learning situation where student are sheltered from harm, harassment, ridicule and negative feelings.

(2) Developing the policies of attendance that incorporate accepted procedures, conveying attendance approaches, assuring strategies are reliably authorized, and leading attendance strategy assessment.

(3) Keeping exact records of attendance and computing absenteeism rates at frequent interval to recognize every individual's example of attendance.

(4) Study of the relationship between teacher attendance, student attendance, accomplishment, and behavior.

(5) Study of the relationship between academic building conditions and educational achievement.

## References:

- [1]. Abdelrahman, S. M., & Abdelkader, A. M. (2017). The influencing factors of absenteeism among nursing students. *Journal of Nursing Education and Practice*, 7(10), 64
- [2]. Shellenbarger, T., & Hoffman, R. (2016). Advising 101: Lessons in advising for nursing student success.
- [3]. *Teaching and Learning in Nursing*, 11(3), 92-100.
- [4]. Shellenbarger, T., & Hoffman, R. (2016). Advising 101: Lessons in advising for nursing student success. *Teaching and Learning in Nursing*, 11(3), 92-100.
- [5]. Demir, K. and Akman Karabeyoglu, Y. (2015). Factors associated with absenteeism in high schools. *Eurasian Journal of Educational Research*, 62, 3756
- [6]. Genao, S. (2015). "Utilizing Data to Combat Absenteeism and Decrease Dropout Rates". *Education and Urban Society*. 47 (4): 463-475
- [7]. ZeeTimmins F. and Kalisz M. (2002). Absenteeism among students – fact or fiction? *Journal of Nursing Management*, Vol. 10 (5): 251-264
- [8]. Hughes S. L (2005) Students attendance During College Based Lectures: A Pilot Study. *Journal of Nursing Standard*, Vol. 19 (47): 41-49
- [9]. Anteneh A. D., Asres B. and Yifru B (2014) Absenteeism among Medical and Health Science Undergraduate Students at Hawassa University, Ethiopia. *Journal List BMC Med Education* Vol. 14: 81
- [10]. Emmanuel Okechuku Chukwu, et.al Absenteeism among Nursing Students: A Case Study at University of Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Management and Fuzzy Systems*. Vol. 3, No. 4, 2017, pp. 46-51.
- [11]. Gottfried, M.A. (2009). Excused versus unexcused: how student absences in Elementary school academic achievement. *Education and policy analysis*, vol.31:392-419.

## WEBSITES

- [12]. [HTTPS://essyform.com/writing/regular-class-attendance-important-college-39043](https://essyform.com/writing/regular-class-attendance-important-college-39043).
- [13]. [http://www.greatschool.org/GK/articles/school-attendance-issues/..](http://www.greatschool.org/GK/articles/school-attendance-issues/)
- [14]. <http://nces.edu.gov/pubs/2009/attendance-data/chapter/a.sps>.
- [15]. <http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1858&context=doctoral>.
- [16]. [http://www.researchgate.net/publication/328629469-semiper-ametnically-efficient-estimation\\_of-the-average-linear-regression-function](http://www.researchgate.net/publication/328629469-semiper-ametnically-efficient-estimation-of-the-average-linear-regression-function).
- [17]. <http://www.owlealtion.com>

Ms. Jyoti. " A study to assess the factors influencing absenteeism among nursing students in the selected nursing school of New Delhi." *.IOSR Journal of Nursing and Health Science (IOSR-JNHS)*, vol. 8, no.05 , 2019, pp. 28-32.