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A descriptive exploratory study to assess the prevalence and factors causing absenteeism among the students in selected University of District Mohali, Punjab

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Abstract
Background: Absenteeism now majorly seen by students at the university level. It is widely seen by professors that negatively impacts the students academics performances. The prevalence and factors causing absenteeism needed to be studied to build up student's performance to achieve great skills.
Aim of the study: The aim of study is to assess the prevalence and contributory factors causing absenteeism in selected University of District Mohali, Punjab.
Material and Method: A descriptive exploratory research design and quantitative approach was use in the study. 200 samples were selected by using purposive sampling technique from selected University of District Mohali, Punjab having less than 75% of attendance. Self-structured questionnaire was designed for data collection and analysis was done by using descriptive and inferential statistics.
Results: The result showed that prevalence of absenteeism is highly marked by School of law (32.5%) followed by School of engineering and biotechnology (25.0%) followed by School of education (22.5%) followed by school of management (20.0%).
Percentage distribution of factors causing absenteeism is shown by Personal factors (67.5%), followed by Academics factors (18.0%) and peer factors (14.5%).
Conclusion: The conclusion was 64.32% of the total students have attendance less than 75% annually It showed that there was significant associations of prevalence of absenteeism with selected demographics variables. The factors causing absenteeism were categorised in 3 parts academics, personal and peers where personal factors shows majority of percentage (67.5%) factor causing absenteeism.

Keywords: Causing absenteeism, significant, associations

Introduction
Absenteeism in the university is the habitual pattern of staying away without informing or stating the reason for not attending the classes in the university. The phenomenon of absence has been majorly seen nowadays. So it is not surprising that this habitual pattern still persist to proceeds among college students and even at university level [1].
Absenteeism is a truant behaviour that negatively affects the academic performance among students leading to poor performance at university level [2].
The absenteeism refers to deliberation act of being away physically from classroom of university that inhibits the use of time accurately. Usually students are expected to be regular and punctual by which success can be achieved on the basis of regularity and attending class meetings. Attendance is the major tool to assess the absentees at university level affecting the rate of performance [3].
The word absenteeism means truant behaviour of students from class when he/she is scheduled to be present at college not providing genuine reason. When teacher has no information in advance, that student will not be reputed for class and marked as absent exceptional to case of the stating the leave mentioning any sickness or any accident [4].
According to (Chang and Romero, 2008 Moonie, Sterling, Figs and Castro, 2008) chronic absenteeism is persistent issue related poor performance in academics relating to behavioural and developmental problems. The researchers are generally agreed on the fact that chronic absenteeism majorly put students on the ground of risk of negative academics outcomes [5].

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Although there is no standard definition, chronic absenteeism is the total days of not attending the classes in the university, including both excused and unexcused reason of absences. Here, what matters the most is that how many days a student misses the school without prior information. Absenteeism has become common phenomena nowadays at college or university level for various reasons. This habit is considered to be detrimental in long run as it has bad impact on the student's performance [6].

There are various causes of absenteeism that can arise both from within and outside of the university. Absenteeism can be deliberately based, where a student may not wish to attend the university classes or it can be mechanically based where they not able to take classes due to their life background [7].

Professors, students and the educational ambience are crucial elements of the academic education. Any missing of these elements deteriorates the quality of education. Educational system only depends on learning by students. Both attention and attendance changes the academic performance. Experience of professors impacts the knowledge of learners i.e. the students. The communication in a class between the learner and guide increase positive output [8].

For a great quality of teaching and better academic performance students should have regularly presence in the classes. For this cause, absenteeism in education is marked to be the initial reason of poor academic performance of students in university [9].

The comparison between the students who appeared in classes and those are regularly absent states that students attending the classes are highly successful in their studies. On the other hand, students who are being absent from classes will not have chance to inculcate the positive learning ambience. When students are absent from taking lectures, they deprive themselves from valuable information and clarity of the concepts that results in non-satisfactory academic performance. Various researches that conducted on class attendance and performance show that students with higher rate in attendance achieve scholastic achievements than those students who had poor class attendance. Class attendance plays major role in performance of students and not only helps in scoring good grades but also in grasping the knowledge very well [10].

Need of the study
Students' absenteeism to lectures has become one of the greatest issues of college success. Absenteeism refers to the conduct of students not attending classes, lectures, tutorials workshops or seminars without prior permission of being not able to attend from the faculty [11].

Student's non-attendance is a major problem currently seen in today's scenario. It wholly affects the student, their family, and the community. Absenteeism not only acts as a barrier of communication and interaction between students, it also results in decrease in productivity of an individual and majorly affects the time management skills of students. The healthy competitive environment only builds up when all or majority of the students would be present in the class. Regular attendance of the students not only boosts their confidence but also helps to enhance their mental ability to perform [12].

This study will help us to understand the effect on academic performance which might act as a obstacle in making up

great firm foundation. Moreover, it helps to establish evidence-based solution to the attendance performance [13].

Problem Statement
A descriptive exploratory study to assess the prevalence and factors causing absenteeism among the students in selected University of District Mohali, Punjab.

Aims
1. To assess the prevalence of absenteeism among students.
2. To assess the factors causing absenteeism among students.

Objectives
1. To develop tool to assess prevalence of absenteeism among students.
2. To develop tool to assess the factors causing absenteeism among students.
3. To find the association of prevalence of absenteeism with selected demographic variables.
4. To find the association of factors causing absenteeism with selected demographic variables.
5. To disseminate the research findings.

Operational Definition
1. **Absenteeism:** In this study, it refers to habitual pattern of truanting from University.
2. **Prevalence:** It refers to the number of students having less than 75% attendance.
3. **Contributing Factors:** It refers to the causes for absenteeism among students.
4. **Students:** It refers to the boys/girls who are studying in selected University of District Mohali, Punjab.

Methodology
Research approach: A quantitative approach was used in the study to accomplish the objectives of the study.
Research design: An exploratory research design is employed to conduct research study to assess the prevalence and contributory factors of absenteeism among students.
Research setting: The study was conducted in selected University of District Mohali, Punjab.
Target population: The target population for the study consists of students of selected University of District Mohali, Punjab having attendance less than 75%.
Sample: A total sample of 200 students was taken from selected University of District Mohali, Punjab.
Sample technique: Purposive sampling technique was used to select the sample for study.

Inclusive criteria
▪ Students of selected University of District Mohali, Punjab having attendance less than 75%.
▪ Both male and females students were included.

Exclusive criteria
▪ Students who are absent during time of data collection.
▪ Students who are not willing to participate.

Selection and Development of tool
A self-structured questionnaire was formulated consisting of questions in Part 1, Part 2, and Part 3.

Tool prepared to collect data includes

Part 1: Attendance percentage from respective class coordinators from

Selected schools

Attendance percentage from respective coordinators from selected schools of those students having attendance less than 75%.

Part 2: Socio-demographic variables

The data sheet deals with demographic variables such as school, course, semester, age, gender, residency, educational status of father, educational status of mother, Occupation of father, occupation of mother, monthly income.

Part 3: Self structured questionnaire related to absenteeism

Respondents' feedback based on academic factors, personal factors, and peers factors.

Validity of research tool: Research guide was consulted regarding content and language of tool. Experts in the field of nursing, nursing research were consulted regarding the content of tool.

Reliability of research tool: Reliability of tool was assessed in the aspect of stability, internal consistency and equivalence depending on the nature of the instrument and aspects of reliability concepts. The reliability of tool was assessed using Spearman's Rank Correlation coefficient.

Data collection procedure

A written permission was taken from the relevant authority of selected University of District Mohali, Punjab. The subjects were informed about the purpose and objectives of the study. An informed verbal consent was taken from study sample after ensuring the confidentiality of information collected. Data was collected from subjects regarding socio - demographic characteristics and questions related to absenteeism. The data regarding cause of absenteeism among students was collected by self-structured questionnaire.

Ethical consideration

- A written permission was taken from the ethical committee of selected University of District Mohali, Punjab.
- Take verbal consent for their participation in the study.

Data and management and analysis

The data collected from different studies subjects were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The various statistical measures were used for analysis included frequency and percentage distribution and were presented in the form of tables and figures.

Plan of Data Analysis

The data was analysed by calculating the scores in terms of frequency, Percentage, Mean, Standard deviation, Paired T-test and chi square were used.

Table 1: Demographic profile of the subjects (N=200)

Variables	Opts	Frequency(f)	Percentage (%)
School	School of Law	65	32.5%
	School of Engineering and Technology	50	25%
	School of Education	45	22.5%
	School of Hotel Management	40	20%
Course	B.Tech Civil Engineering	50	25%
	BA.LLB	65	32.5%
	BHMCT	40	20%
	BA+ B.Ed.	45	22.5%
Semester	1st Semester	53	26.5%
	2nd Semester	0	0%
	3rd Semester	50	25%
	4th Semester	0	0%
	5th Semester	51	25.5%
	6th Semester	0	0%
	7th Semester	46	23.%
	8th Semester	0	0%
Gender	Male	154	77%
	Female	46	23%
Age	17-19 years	71	35.5%
	20-22 years	103	51.5%
	23-25 years	26	13.0%
	Above 25 years	0	0%
Residency	Day – Scholar	157	78.5%
	Hostel	43	21.5%
Father's education	No Formal Education	0	0%
	Primary	14	7%
	Secondary	135	67.5%
	Graduate & Above	51	25.5%
Mother's education	No Formal Education	0	0%
	Primary	32	16%
	Secondary	144	72%
	Graduate & Above	24	12%
Father's occupation	Govt. job	63	31.5%
	Private job	110	55%

	Business	14	7%
	Agriculture	13	6.5%
Mother's occupation	Homemaker	89	44.5%
	Govt. job	42	21.0%
	Private job	68	34%
	Business	1	0.5%
Monthly family income	<RS 5000	O	0%
	RS 5001-15000	1	0.5%
	RS 15001-25000	102	51%
	>RS 25000	97	48.5%

Table No. 2 - Prevalence of absenteeism among students

Table 2: Prevalence of absenteeism among students according to the schools

School	Percentage (%)	Frequency(f)
School of Law	32.5%	65
School of Engineering and Biotechnology	25.0%	50
School of Education	22.5%	45
School of Hotel Management	20.0%	40

Table No 2 depicts that majority of students i.e., 32.5% belong to School of Law followed by School of Engineering and Biotechnology i.e., 25%, 22.5% from School of Education and 20% from School of Hotel Management.

Table 3: Prevalence of absenteeism among students according to the course

Course	Percentage (%)	Frequency (f)
B.Tech Civil Engineering	25.0%	50
BA.LLB	32.5%	65
BHMCT	20.0%	40
BA + B.Ed	22.5%	45

Table No 2.2 depicts the Distribution of students of selected schools on the basis of their particular course depicts that majority of students i.e., 32.5% have opted BA.LLB, 25% belong to B.Tech Civil Engineering, 22.5% belong to BA+B.ED, and 20% belong to BHMCT.

Table 4: Percentage and frequency distribution of factors causing absenteeism

Criteria measure of factors causing absenteeism		
Factors	Percentage	Frequency
Academic Factors. (25-37)	18.0%	36
Personal Factors. (13-25)	67.5%	135
Peer Factors. (0-12)	14.5%	29

Table No.3 depicts that majority of percentage distribution of factors is shown by Personal Factors i.e., (67.5%), followed by Academic Factors (18.0%) and Peer Factors (14.5%).

Table 5: Association with prevalence and factors of absenteeism with selected demographic variables

Demographics Variables		Frequency	Levels (N=200)			Association with prevalence and factors of absenteeism				
Variables	Options		Academics	Personal	Peers	Chi	P Value	OF	Table value	Result
Schools	School of Law	65	17	21	27	13.509	0.036	6	12592	Significant
	School of Engineering and Biotechnology	50	18	15	17					
	School of education	45	11	11	17					
	School of Hotel Management	40	14	4	22					
Course	B.Tech Civil Engineering	50	18	15	17	13.509	0.036	6	12592	Significant
	BA.LLB	65	17	21	27					
	BHMCT	40	14	4	22					
	BA+B.ED	45	17	17	11					
Semester	1st Semester	53	22	9	22	18.321	0.005	6	12592	Significant
	2nd Semester	0	0	0	0					
	3rd Semester	50	22	18	10					
	4th Semester	0	0	0	0					
	5th Semester	51	8	17	26					
	6th Semester	0	0	0	0					
	7th Semester	46	14	13	19					
	8th Semester	0	0	0	0					
Gender	Male	154	48	43	63	1.768	0.4113	2	5.991	Not Significant
	Female	46	18	14	14					
Age	17-19Years	71	31	16	24	8.975	0.062	4	9.488	Not Significant
	20-22Years	013	28	36	39					
	23-25Year	26	7	5	14					
	Above25Years	0	0	0	0					
Residency	Day Scholar	157	53	38	66	7.231	0.027	2	5.991	Significant
	Hostel	43	13	19	11					
Father's education	No Formal Education	0	0	0	0	4.032	0.402	4	9.488	Not Significant
	Primary	14	6	3	5					

	Secondary	135	48	35	52					
	Graduate & Above	51	12	19	20					
Mother's education	No Formal Education	0	0	0	0					
	Primary	32	14	6	12	7.934	0.094	4	9.488	Not Significant
	Secondary	144	47	39	58					
	Graduate & Above	24	5	12	7					
Father's occupations	Gov. job	63	12	20	31					
	Private Job	110	40	32	38	14.293	0.027	6	12.592	Not Significant
	Business	14	9	3	2					
	Agriculture	13	5	2	6					
Mother's occupation	Home Maker	89	31	19	39					
	Govt. JOB	42	17	13	12	8.707	0.191	6	12.592	Not Significant
	Private JOB	68	18	24	26					
	Business	1	0	1	0					
Monthly Family Income in Rs.	<5000 Rs	0	0	0	0					
	5001-15000 Rs	1	0	0	1	6.951	0.139	4	9.488	Not Significant
	15001-25000 Rs	102	18	72	12					
	>25000 Rs	97	18	63	16					

*Significant

The Chi–square value shows that there is significant association between prevalence and factors with demographic variables (school, course, semester, residency) There is no significance association between prevalence and factors with demographic variables (gender, age, father's education, mother's education, father's occupation and mother's occupation)

Discussion
The findings of study had been discussed in accordance with objective of the main study. A descriptive exploratory study to assess the prevalence and factors causing absenteeism among the students in selected University of District Mohali, Punjab. For the study, purposive sampling technique was used and the sample size was 200 students in selected University of District Mohali, Punjab
The findings were supported by the Abdulaziz A, *et al*. (2007) indicates the primary causes of student's absenteeism are oversleeping (61.83%) and socializing with friends (10.14%).
Consistent findings were supported by Kelly Kathleen sculles (2013) [14] shows that large number of students were due to poor peer relationships (1.2%), poor relationships with teachers (1.3%), poor family relationships (4.7%).
The findings were supported by Aarestestian and Yifrubarhn (2014) showed that 43.7% had missed 3 or more lectures and 41.1% missed more than 8 lectures in the proceedings semester.

Conclusion
The conclusion was drawn on the basis of findings of the study. The findings showed 64.32% of the total students have attendance less than 75% attendance.
The study reveals that there was significant association of prevalence of absenteeism with selected demographic variables. There was co-relation between factors and demographics variables (school, course, semester and residency). The percentage distribution of factors shown by Personal factors (67.5%), academics factors (18.07%) and peers factors (14.5%).

Recommendations
On the basis of the findings of the study recommendations are offered for further study.
- Similar study can be undertaken with a large sample to generalize the findings.
- Instead of quantitative approach, a qualitative approach can also be conducted to assess effective teaching environment to prevent absenteeism.

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