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## ANALYSIS OF THE FACTORS CAUSING STUDENT'S ABSENTEEISM AND IT'S IMPACT ON STUDENTS' ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AT ELEMENTARY LEVEL IN QUETTA CITY

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### **ABSTRACT**

*The proper place for accruing the knowledge are Schools, College and University because there provides quality of education from qualified teachers. For getting best education and making socialized person it is necessary to attained regular classes in institutes. Absenteeism has a negative effect on student's life because students are not able to get knowledge which are necessary. Students who are absent on regular basis from schools, they suffer a lot and absenteeism is the main issue in academies. This study was conducted to find out the factors which cause absenteeism and the impact of the absenteeism on students' academic performance. This study was quantitative in nature. Self-developed survey questionnaire (5-point Likert scale). The sample of this study was students and teachers. 32 teachers and 208 students were selected from 16, 08 boys and 08 girls elementary schools through simple random sampling procedure. Data was analyzed through descriptive analysis (frequency and %ages) and inferential analysis (independent sample t-test and compare means). The results of the study highlights that three types of factors were causing the students remain absent from the school. These three factors belongs to the 1) schools factors, teachers attitude; school*

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*environment and school teaching practices, 2) home factors, home practices; home distance from the schools and parent attitudes towards students, 3) personal factors, student health issues, student interest level and motivational level.*

**KEYWORDS**

*Elementary level, Factors, Absenteeism, Academic performance*

**INTRODUCTION**

Education is the main key of any country, nation or society success. Education influence all humanity. Basically, education is the process learning and getting knowledge. Education build an individual different type of skills and habits which make then an effective and successful person in the society. The proper place for accruing the knowledge are Schools, College and University because there provides quality of education from qualified teachers. For getting best education and making socialized person it is necessary to attained regular classes in institutes. Rivers B. (2010) has stated that attendance is one of the important measurement tools to assess the student's performance in school. Regularity is necessary in learning case because it helps an individual to get knowledge, information and new ideas which may help person to change the life. The regularity or presence at School, College or University known as Attendance of the student. Attendance play an important role in any student life. Attendance shows the students entrust toward education. School attendance is important element in the academy. The students who are not regular or not coming regular to academy is known as absenteeism. Absenteeism is the state where student do not attained school with a reason, it is the negative behavior which affect the student's performance.

**Absenteeism and Student's Life**

Absenteeism has a negative effect on student's life because students are not able to get knowledge which are necessary. Simuforosa, M. and Rosemary, N. (2016) stated, the students who are absent on regular basis from schools, they suffer a lot and absenteeism is the main issue in academies. Absenteeism effects all levels student's learning. Further, the regular students get more marks and are consider intelligent students of the class, rather absent students do not get good marks, they mostly fail in achievement test and they are mostly considering weak or slow students of the class, Study further explore that the high rate of absenteeism is found in Africa. Poor attendance become the cause of students drop out from school and this not good for absentee student's career.

Bradley, R. (2015) stated in the paper that, attendance is the important part on any academic success because regular students result is always good and good result also benefit for the academy. For the successful academy it is necessary students should

be present in academy on daily basis. Students' absenteeism from school is very serious issue in the academy. Moreover, absenteeism mostly found in poor students because mostly issues which become the reasons of student's absentee. Family play a serious role in the student's attendance, if student is regular or not regular all credited goes to family. Most of the time parents are responsible for child absentee, because of their less attention toward their children. A child attendance can improve by parents, if parents become serious towards their child education then they will be regular and also can solve all those issues which child face in school and out of the school. Especially they can build strong relationship among teachers and students and it is very necessary for students and their success. The absent student's performance in school can improve their parents if their parents get proper information or training from school authority or teachers.

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Kenton, W. (2019) explain absenteeism in his work, absenteeism refers to a person is not visible in organization or school. Students who do not come to school due to any reason is called absenteeism. Mostly, students do not attend school due to the fear of harassment, mental sickness, injuries and low interest in studies. Absenteeism is the broad term in the field of education. The absenteeism effects come on student's performance, as well on academy performance. Absenteeism in school do not let discipline in academies because it creates disturbance in school, this disturbance not only affect school management but also other students in the classroom.

According to Nova Scotia Department of Education whole staff of school is responsible for student's absentee including Principles. They have to make sure why student is absent from school from many days. School staff must keep communication with student's parents, every month keep meetings with parents and discuss all record of their child. It will help both parents and teachers to identify main cause of student's absenteeism from school. Principles of schools also have responsibility to identify the student's absentee causes and also find solution to stop absenteeism from school because it not only harmful for student's future but also harm the reputation of academy.

Muir, J. (2009) stated in his paper that better attendance is the key of success of students because regular students do not face trouble in his/her studies, they can achieve good marks in exams. Mostly students do not attained school due to teacher's irresponsible behavior towards students, when teacher do not give value to attendance then students also do not give value to the attendance. Attendance importance has found in semester system as compare to the annual system of education. In semester system the absentee students cannot survive because in semester system education there is the marks of regularity and daily participation in classroom. The students who

do not attain semester classes they cannot achieve good CGPA and they need to improve their CGPA, like students waste their double fees and also waste their time too in repeating semester and giving again paper.

### **Relationship Between Attendance and Student's Success**

Patnode, A.H. et al., (2018) explain in the paper that students must need to attend school because good attendance leads to an individual success. There are a lot of cases can find in any educational academy about absenteeism and its negative effects on student's attitude and future. Mostly absentee students suffer in Mathematics and English subjects because they do not get command on it at home. These are the subjects which can be understood by experts and different activities and these are provided to students at school. When student's do not take regular classes so they also unable to take highest marks in exams. Further, school can help students and parents to improve attendance of child. Mostly absentee cases occur due to irresponsibility of school and their staff.

### **Causes of Student's Absenteeism**

Qureshi, M.I. and Ahmed, A. (2019) article identified some causes of student's absenteeism. The reason of the absenteeism has identified in this study, that is teacher's non effective teaching, when teachers do not deliver their lecture in effective way so students do not give value to the specific subject and mostly keep their self-stay away from the same class or period. In addition, the student's absentee effects can see on students and teachers both performances. In student's case students become unable to compete with others and in teacher's case, teacher organization in the class room or her planning does not work efficiently as teacher has planned and introduced. Absenteeism effects can easily see on students as they look so lazy and sleepy all the time, they always seen in the stress, they get low division/marks in exams/test and they mostly have ill mannered.

Research explore that for overcome the student's absenteeism from school in urban areas school, first of all it is necessary to overcome the teacher's absenteeism from school. In rural schools if government arrange half facilities compare to the city school, students will run to attend school. Village students do not see such type of facilities in their life that's why they live happy in less thing. Similarly, if rural school structure or environment make less effective and comfortable so children will join school happily.

### **Education System of Pakistan**

Education is the process of getting knowledge and develop the behavior of students. Education play a significant role in the development of the country. Education is considering as the first priority of any state. Pakistan education is divided in to six level

and each level of education has its own significance in the field of education. Pakistan education deals by federal government and after that the policies or planning send to provincial level for implementation. Present education system of Pakistan is not much peaceful.

Education can be formal and informal situation but when we talk about the formal education system then it means to focus on attendance too of the individual. Formal organizations have proper strategies and so that's why their attendance is also countable. Pakistan education system is still in the developing process. According to article 25-A elementary education is compulsory for all and also announce to provide free elementary education in all over the Pakistan under the age of 5 to 13 (Khan, A. M. J., 2013).

### **Elementary School Education**

Elementary education as well knows as primary education. Elementary education considers important for the all people of the world. Basically, the primary education in all over the world called elementary education, which is necessary for all. Elementary education starts from the age of five and mostly end with the age of 13 years old. For making country literate elementary education is necessary to provide all people. Elementary education not only limited to books or class room basically in this education teachers build child personality, develop their skills and increase their confidence level that they can face the society in effective way (Nagrle, P., 2016).

### **Absenteeism**

Bradley, R. (2015) has defined absenteeism as when any student gets away his/herself from school maximum 20 days or more than 20 days in known as absenteeism. Dentech, W. O. et al., (2011) explain absenteeism as when someone get absent from school due to the disturbing reason is known as absenteeism.

### **Attendance system of Various Countries**

Ocake, G. et al. (2017) explain about Turkey attendance system that their children have to attend school in any situation like if they are ill or they have any family events, the purpose of this to make students personality strong, that in the future they can face anything in any situation.

Bunker, A. C. (2015) defined about American attendance system is quite effective. Parents properly take permission for their child from school then child get absentee from school otherwise child cannot be absent from school. In U.S parents pay high attention on their child education and schools warmly welcome to parents for their involvement in child education. In America parents are encouraged to held meeting with their children's teachers to get aware from their child's academic performance. It

shows that Americans parents are more focus on their children education that's why their absentee rate in schools not high.

China is the well progress country in the world. Now China Schools and Universities are using facial-recognition cameras for the purpose to keep eye on students. It also manages the attendance of students. Further, Chines have developed AI-powered uniform for students. In this uniform tracking chips is fixed, which help teachers to monitor students. It helps to overcome the absenteeism from schools (Connor, N. 2018).

### **Types of Absenteeism**

According to some experts there are various type of absenteeism in schools.

#### **Authorized Absenteeism**

This the type of absentee where student properly inform school and take permission through application for the holidays. This absence has valid reason and also mentioned days of absentee.

#### **Unauthorized Absenteeism**

This absentee is the opposite of Authorized Absenteeism. When student do not inform school and get away his/her self from school without taking permission from school and school also do not the reason of child absentee is known as unauthorized Absentee.

#### **Truancy Absenteeism**

In society mostly children found who do not attend school without telling their parents. These types of children do not come to the school but in front of their parents they pretend as they are regular student of school. This type of absenteeism known as truancy absenteeism. Rivers, B. (2010) explain truancy absentee in his research paper as, habitual absentee of the students and they do not take any type of permission from any one. Truancy absentee badly effect student's entire life because in this case they can adopt any kind of habit which may ruin entire life of that student. This absentee considers more dangerous because parents and teachers both are unaware from the activity of the child. Parents think that they go to school and teachers think that child is at home but child in not at home and school.

Moreover, Patnode, A.H. et al., (2018) reported about chronic absenteeism in their research report. Chronic absentee meaning is when student get away his/her self from school more than ten days is known as chronic absenteeism. in other words, we can explain chronic absenteeism is the absentee where student absentee percentage is higher than total school present days in consider as chronic absentee and this absentee can be reasonable and without any reason.

Another study of Ali, M. and Ayaz, H. (2010) has explain two types of absenteeism which are explain bellow:

**Innocent Absentee**

This is the type of absenteeism where students to not go to school due to their illness and other serious issue. Innocent absenteeism refers to blameless absentee.

**Culpable Absentee**

This is the type of absentee where students without any reason and permission get way from school. This type of attendance count as blameworthy attendance. Research further explained that it is easy to identify the type of attendance if parents keep contact with teachers and every month meet with teachers to know about their children's performance. Khunger, N. et al. (2014) has explain causes of student's absenteeism into different perspective.

**Student's Perspective**

According to student perspective, the reasons of absenteeism are poor health, early marriages, less interest in studies, home responsibilities, fear of teacher's punishment and taking care of younger sisters and brothers.

**Teacher's Perspective**

Teachers has shared their point of view about student's absentee that they get away their self from school due to early marriages and they are not train to manage both lives at once, specially girls have to do house works and they get enough time to complete the home work and memorize the test, weak financial position and most of the time students are studding in two different institute in morning and evening shift. These are the causes of absentee which observed by teachers.

**Principle's Perspective**

According to some principles of school explained their observation regarding poor attendance of students that, financial problem in family, broken family the phobia of weekly tests in school and friends or class mates.

**Absenteeism Versus Male and Female Students**

Ocake, G. et al. (2017) explore in their studies that male pupil's absentee rate is high as compare to the girls because they have high responsibility and pressure from their family sides. Girls are more focused towards their studies then boys, although girls also pressurize for homework, but they have patience and they control everything beautifully and intelligently. The study of the Masogo, G. D., (2015) illustrate that absenteeism is not the gender thought. Both girls and boys have different causes of absentee according to their age and nature. Both sense of experience life is change and

their causes of absentee is almost change from each other due to change responsibly and nature.

According to Dentech, W. O. et al., (2011) female absenteeism cases are high then male. Because they have many issues to coming home. Due to overloaded responsibility from home side they do not give proper time to their studies and homework that's why they cannot attend.

### **Effects of Absentee on Students**

There is strong relationship between attendance and academic performance, and this bound cannot be neglected. Any academy success lead to student's success. Absentee effect child personality and behavior. Continually absentee become the cause of child depression. Absentee is quite dangerous for the child future especially for job. Poor attendance students also face trouble in making friends because nobody keep friendship with them and also not share homework with them. Teacher also not properly help absentee children (Malcolm, H. et al., 2003). According to Ali, M. and Ayaz, H. (2010) absentee has some serious effects of student's performance and attitude. Study has identified six effects of attendance which are mentioned bellow:

- Hurdles in making friends
- Less confident
- Engage in sexual activities
- Poor academic achievement
- Low motivation
- No skills developed

### **Pupil's Absentee Effects on Teachers**

According to Ali, M. and Ayaz, H. (2010) study students' absentee not only affects the students but also affect the teachers in different ways such as:

- Cannot give proper attention to absentee child which may disturb her
- The bed result of absentee students also the question mark on teacher's performance
- Give extra time to absentee children and do not have extra time for own official work
- Hurdles in balancing the accurate result among absentee and regular students.
- Unable to make effective relationship with students
- Pressurize all the time

### **Effects of Absenteeism on Pupil's Academic Performance**

Student attendance and performance have a strong relationship and this reality cannot be neglected. Students do not attend classes regularly their academic performance also



found weak and poor as compare to the regular students. Poor attendance of students ruins their entire career. When student attend daily routine class, they learn many things from teacher, friends and books.

Bradley, R. (2015) argue that, the irregularity of any student effect his/her personality and academic performance. Absentee on any student effect teacher's attitude with student, class performance and characteristics of course.

### **RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

1. To explore major factors cussing student's absenteeism.
2. To measure the impact of absenteeism on student's academic performance

### **RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

1. Which are the major factors student absenteeism?
2. How absenteeism impact on student's achievements?

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This research study was carried out by using a mixed method approach. A structured questionnaire related to the research study was distributed among selected number of students. The questionnaire helped in accessing data regarding to the reasons of absenteeism. All the students enrolled at elementary level schools in Quetta city were the population of this study. Sampling is a large whole, but it is not possible to study all Quetta schools. So simple be selected stratified method.16 schools were selected through simple random sampling procedure from each school, 10 students and 05 teachers were selected through simple random sampling from each school. The sample size of the students and teachers was 240.

The survey questionnaire (5 Point Likert Scale) was developed by the researcher herself. It had questions related to identify the factors which cause the students' absenteeism and its impact on students' academic performance. Data was analyze by find out Mean, standard deviation, frequency, percentages and one way ANOVA to achieve the both objectives.

### **RESEARCH FINDINGS**

#### **Descriptive Analysis of demographic characters**

Demographic profile of the respondent was analyzed through descriptive statistics. Results are described and tabulated as under:

Figure 1

*Class level of the students*

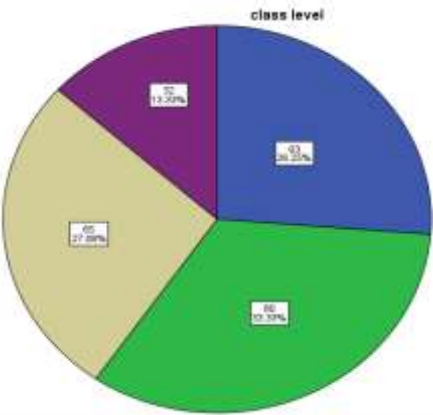


Figure 2

*Age of the students*

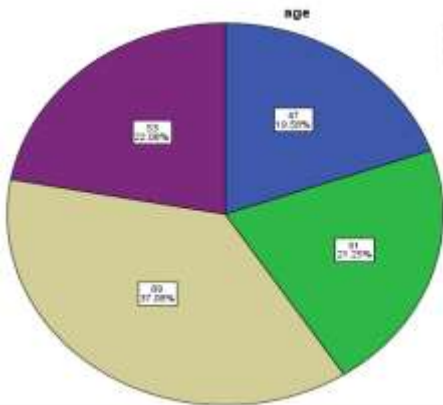


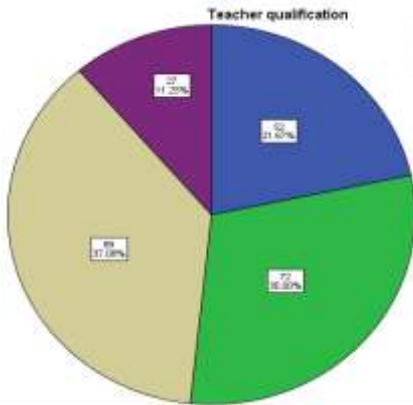
Figure 3

*Experience of the teachers*



Figure 4

*Qualifications of the teachers*



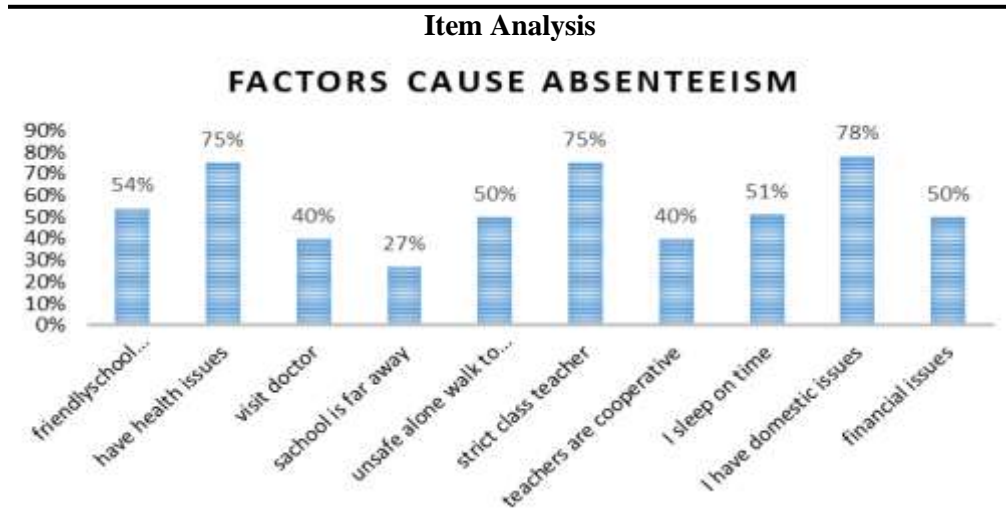


Figure 5  
*Factors which cause students to remain absent from the school*

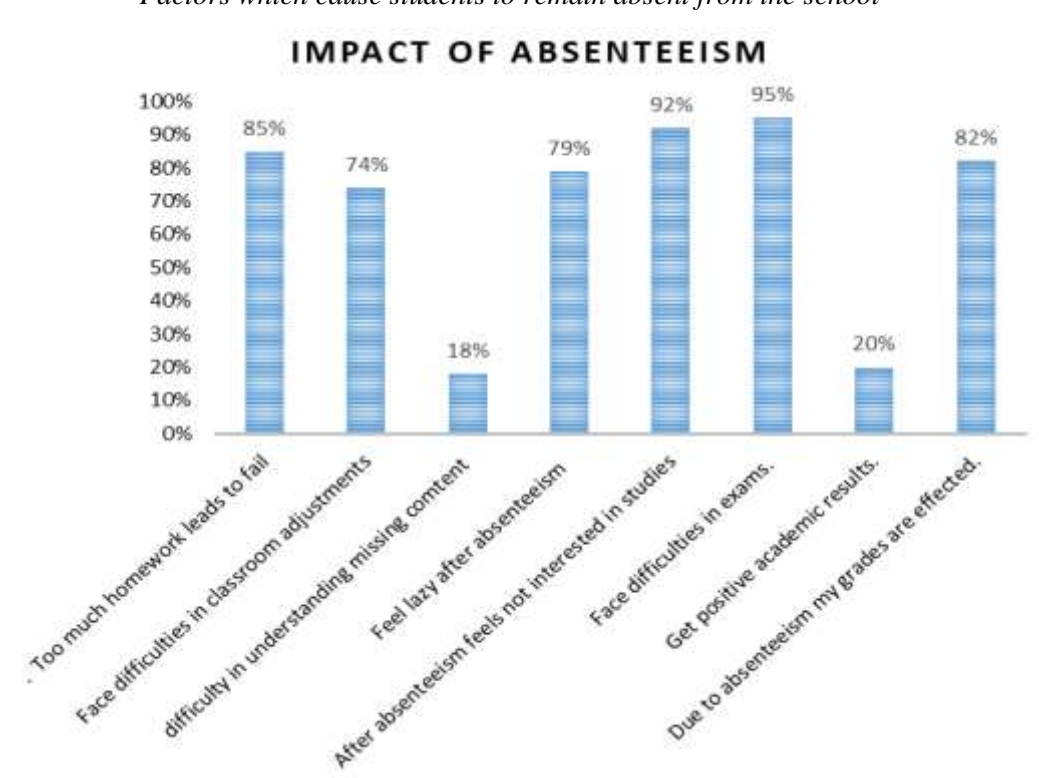


Table 1  
Comparison in the Views of the Teachers and Students

<b>Designation</b>		<b>Factors</b>	<b>Impacts</b>
student	Mean	.5625	-.0625
	N	208	208
	Std. Deviation	1.78180	1.16757
teacher	Mean	-1.5625	.8750
	N	32	32
	Std. Deviation	.84003	.75134
Total	Mean	.2792	.0625
	N	240	240
	Std. Deviation	1.83446	1.16444

Above data show that students agreed with the mentioned factors more [M=.56] as compared to the teachers [-1.5]. While teachers agreed with the mentioned impacts of absenteeism more [M=.87] as compared to the teachers [-.06].

Table 2  
*Difference in the views of the teachers and students*  
*Independent Samples t-test*

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances				
		t-test for Equality of Means				
		F	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference
Factors	Equal variances assumed	24.611	6.625	238	.000	2.12500
	Equal variances not assumed		11.001	82.825	.000	2.12500
Impacts	Equal variances assumed	.990	-4.400	238	.000	-.93750
	Equal variances not assumed		-6.027	57.132	.000	-.93750

Above data show that there was significant differences [t (238, 82.8) = 6.625, p=.000] regarding factors of absenteeism and there was also significant difference in their

views regarding the impact of the absenteeism on academic achievements [t (238, 57.13) = -4.4, p = .000]

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS**

### **Major Factors of Absenteeism**

This figure show that the teachers' strict behavior, students health issues and domestic issues were the major factors causing school absenteeism. 50% of the students were not attending the school as they feel unsafe to go to school alone, they facing financial issues, they don't sleep on time and unfriendly school environment. 60% of the students responded that teachers were non cooperative and they don't visit doctor if they feel sick, very little students' home was far away from the school

### **The Impacts of Absenteeism on students' Performance**

Majority of the students were facing difficulty in exams because they do not take interest in their studies, when they remain absent from the schools. 85% of the students responded that they got fail due to a burden of homework which remain incomplete because of absenteeism, and they feel lazy after absenteeism. 74% students said that they feel difficulty in adjustment of the classroom when they remain absent from the school, only few students (18%) responded that they feel difficulty in understanding of the missing content and they do not got positive results (20%).

## **CONCLUSION**

This research study tried to find out the major factors of absenteeism and its impact on students' academic performance. The results of the study highlights that three types of factors were causing the students remain absent from the school. These three factors belongs to the 1) schools factors, teachers attitude; school environment and school teaching practices, 2) home factors, home practices; home distance from the schools and parent attitudes towards students, 3) personal factors, student health issues, student interest level and motivational level. So it is concluded that the absenteeism affects the literacy rate of the country, so this issue needs attention to of the authorities and educational officials.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Develop Attendance Action plan**

Schools should be developed an attendance action plan, and share this plan to the students and to the parents, in the start of each academic years. The action plans should include the strategies for maintaining the attendance of students. The strategies should be developed by considering the all previous practices, health issues of the students, domestic issues at their homes etc. Change the behavior of the students, absent on regular basis through positive reinforcement.

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**Sharing Attendance with Parents**

School management should inform the parents about the attendance of their children. Not only share the attendance but also highlight the benefits of attendance to the parents and to the students too. School authorities also try to motivate the students and parents for making the students regular in the schools.

**Incentives for good Attendance**

Provide incentives in the form of any gifts or visits to any attractive place to the regular students, so absent students get motivated and try to get these prizes next time.

**Positive Reinforcement**

Change the behavior of the students, absent on regular basis through positive reinforcement. Teachers should praise the absentees if they come to school for joining the school.

**Co-curricular Activities**

School environment should be made more creative and joyful for the emotional and physical growth of the students. Such environment becomes a motivating source to change the behavior of the absent students and these practices also enable the schools to achieve their educational objectives to their maximum level.

**Go to Bed on Time**

Home practices also resulted in children absenteeism from the schools. One of the common practices at home is that students don't go to bed on time. They are engaged in watching television, playing games etc. so it is recommended that the teachers/school authorities should guide the parents that they send their children to bed on time. This practice will improve the students' health and they will awake on time and will be regular for their schools.

**Counselling Centers at Schools**

A counsellor is the person who can change the behavior of students on a technical basis. Counsellors can identify the actual reasons of the students' absenteeism, and give the solutions accordingly. So each school may have their own counselling centers or there may be one center in a region. Schools may call counsellors for counselling of the absentees on a weekly basis.

**Teaching Practices in Classroom**

Our classrooms show boring practices in the classroom. Transfer of knowledge to the children is a difficult and technical task, but teaching in our schools is just fulfilling the formalities. So it is requested to make the teaching – learning process, enjoyable activity through interactive practices in the classroom by considering the individual

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differences and aptitudes of the students.

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