

Study of Factors Affecting Students Attendance with Special Reference to M.B.A Program in Select Areas of Pune City (Maharashtra)

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Abstract

This study examined the key factors which directly or indirectly affects the student mind set towards attending the classes in regular mode. Research reveals that student attendance is key issues in all the country Academicians are trying to identifying the key aspects for the improvement. A questionnaire was administered to 125 Post Graduate Students (M.B.A) Program in Pune City (Maharashtra). The data included questions about the participant's perception by using Likert 5 Point Scale. The results of the Factor Analysis showed that 10 out of 25 factors were statistically significant. These includes the Teaching quality, Class assignments, this was in accordance with the literature review. The discussion in the conclusion provided some pedagogical implications for what teachers can do in their classrooms to increase class attendance.

KEYWORDS: Retention, absenteeism.1.

Introduction

Student learning" is and attendance both is closely associated with each other. This is true that there are multiple sources of learning but face to face and class room learning is still one of the prominent source of learning . In Present scenario majority of institutes are facing the problem of low attendance and all innovative ideas are not generating expected results. This study is an attempt to know the factors affecting the student's attitude and perception towards attendance. (Bradley & Bradley, 1984;)

1.1 Literature Review

Study reveals that students are trained to memorize and imitate rather than being analytical and develop a viewpoint of their own. [1]. Friedman, et al. (2001) found the reasons why students miss classes include interest in the subject matter, class size and whether or not the class was taught by the professor. . [2]. As Nancy Fjortoft, study reveals that educators should support class attendance and develop effective teaching methodologies that enhance class attendance. Study reveals that Class scheduling Early morning class, handouts are not inclusive, new information is presented in class, Faculty behavior , Faculty read their notes, logistics Traffic, weather, personal commitments such as doctor's visits, family emergencies, factors which affect the student attendance in class. Researchers examine all these factors in Indian context in this research. [3]. There is an increasing trend for higher education institutions to be expected to monitor student attendance, on the assumption that better attendance leads to higher retention rates, higher marks, and a more satisfying educational experience.. [4].

Researchers intended to know that whether Poor teaching and monotones style of teaching affects the attendance and framed the hypothesis that:-

Ho Poor teaching is main factor of low attendance

H1: This is not the main factor

1.2 Attendance Issues in Higher Education

Much greater attention is paid to attendance issues in the wider literature on higher education. It is noted that the increase in attendance monitoring in higher education is a change from the traditional approach of placing the onus on the student [5]. It is assumed that higher attendance led to better exam results; earlier but researchers were interested to know that whether attendance alone can ensure good results so in this regard study of Dr Jenny Muir reveals that this is not only the criteria there are other factors which affects the morale of students towards attendance.

.The most common reasons for non-attendance included sickness, being too busy, or having to do paid work. [6].

Student absenteeism to lectures and tutorials has become one of the greatest encumbrances of college success. It is a matter of concern because it can lead to insufficient learning on the part of those absent and a degree of agitation on the conduct of the classes for those who are present. It refers to the conduct of students not attending scheduled meetings in terms of classes, lectures, tutorials, workshops or seminars without prior permission from the faculty or against default college policy on absenteeism. Personal illness was found to be the most common reason for absence. [7].

In a study carried out by Naseer illness was found to be positively correlated with absenteeism for both genders but slightly higher in males. [8].

In this research researchers also intended to know whether illness is also one of the factors of absenteeism in Indian scenario and developed another hypothesis that Illness affects attendance in genders.

H0: Illness does not affect attendance among any genders

H1: illness affects attendance among genders.

As earlier research reveals that It is interesting that this short review of research on attendance does not identify teaching quality as a major issue, The main problems may be in their own behavior, although it is possible that students may not include comments on poor teaching in response to research carried out by staff in their own institutions. It is a matter of further research that whether there is a association between students attendance and quality of teaching. Researchers considered this as a hypothesis for this study to examine whether this is one of the factors for low/poor attendance or not.

According to DeKalb (1999), irrelevant courses and bad relationship with teachers were found to be the major factors in students' decision to skip classes. Of course, irrelevant courses which must be taken but do not contribute to the quest of getting a diploma will be valued very low by students. [9].

On the basis of above research researchers framed another hypothesis for this research that:-

H0: There is no association in student attendance and teacher behavior

H1: There is a association.

2. . Research Objectives

1. To know the association in illness and students absenteeism.
2. To know the impact of teaching quality in student morale and attendance.
3. To know the impact of class schedule(time table) on students attendance.
4. To know the key factors which affects the student's attendance?

All above factors are adopted from the research of Nasir Nordin and others to examine the relevance of these factors from Indian context.

3. Research Methodology

This study is carried out based on primary data, which was collected from a structured questionnaire that were distributed to students of B-School students in select areas of Pune City(Maharashtra, India). Researchers used convenience sampling method and samples were drawn from 135 Students but only 100 forms were found suitable for analysis. Students were selected not on the basis that they were *necessarily* representative, but rather because they could offer a contribution to the accomplishment of the study's research objectives. [10].

Researcher used 5 point Likert Scale and data are analyzed by using Factor analysis, Chi Test (categorical data).

Sampling Population: Sampling Population in this research was B-School in Select areas of Pune City.

Sampling Frame: M.B.A Students (Second and Third Semester Students)

Time Frame: Data is collected between 1st Feb. 2014 to 10th March 2014.

4. Analysis and Findings

The questionnaires were handed to approximately 135 students, of which 100 usable. Both male (56%) and female (44%) students were used as the participants in the study.

Reliability Test of Data

Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.771	26

Researchers had tested the reliability of data and it is observed that Cronbach's Alpha value is .771 which is more than specified value.

Ho Poor teaching is main factor of low attendance

H1: This is not the main factor

Findings

As reflected in scree plot eigenvalue of component first is 4.065 and explain the correlations with other two factors that faculties are too young and there is a no difference in their knowledge and us so null hypothesis is rejected on the basis of factor analysis eigenvalue and extracted as prime component of low attendance.

H0: Illness does not affect attendance among any genders

H1: illness affects attendance among genders.

Findings

As reflected in scree plot eigenvalue of component three is 1.795 and explain the correlations with other factors that deadline of other academic work (.666) . So null hypothesis is rejected on the basis of factor analysis eigenvalue and extracted as prime component of low attendance.

H0: There is no association in student attendance and teacher behavior

H1: There is a association

Test Statistics: Chi Test:

We sampled 100 students and evaluated whether insulting treatment by faculty in front of other students affect the morale of students. The data was analyzed using a chi square test. The null hypothesis was rejected because calculated value of chi square at $\chi^2(4) = 12.768$, P value is **0.012** which is lesser than tabulated value **0.711** at degree of freedom 4. Thus we accept the alternative hypothesis that there is a association between students attendance and insulting treatment given by faculty in front of other students

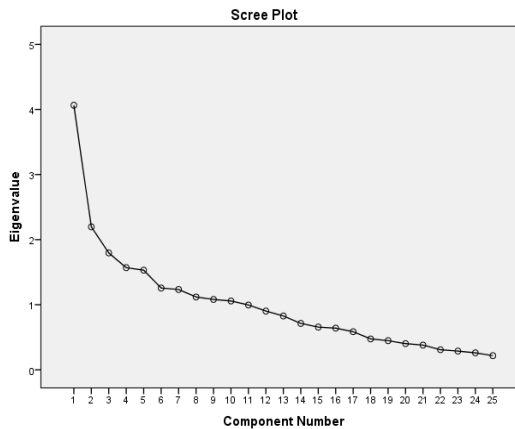
The main analysis used for this study was the Factor Analysis because researchers had loaded 25 key factors which were identified through extensive literature review and it was the main aim of research to identify the key factors which are accountable for absenteeism.

Factor Analysis

Factor analysis was used to reduce the items to several factors. The no. of participant in the present research are 100. According to Hair et al [11].if No. of samples in the factors analysis is 100 or more, factor loading in the range of .30 to .40 are considered to meet the minimal level for interpretation of structure. Loading of .50 or greater than are considered practically significant and greater than.70 are considered indicative of well defined structure and are the goal of any factor analysis.

The adequacy of sample size was confirmed by KMO test sampling adequacy and Barlett’s Test of Sphericity. In fact KMO for sampling is .601 is satisfactory value to precede factor analysis and indicate sufficient inter –correlations. Meanwhile, the Barlett Test of Sphericity was significant at .000.

The result indicates that 10 factors solution with Eigen values were greater than 1.0 and the total variance explained was 67.612 of the total variance.



Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.	.601
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	564.587
Approx. Chi-Square	300
df	.000
Sig.	

Scree Plot explains the Eigenvalue of top 10 factors. It is higher side 4.065 and lower side 1.067.

Interpretation of Factor Analysis Findings

Researchers analyzed the table of Rotated compound matrix for identifying the main factors and exploring the correlation with other factors.

1. The component one with factor loading .702” I thought session would be waste of time is closely associated with another factor that teaching does not include new information apart from available resources and faculties are too young and there is no difference in their knowledge and us as factor loading was (.634).
2. The second prime component is attendance alone does not guarantee good result with loading factor (.678)is closely associated with another factor that it should be one of the criteria for placement (.647).
3. .The third component is “lack of sleep, sickness(.699) is closely associated with deadline of other academic work like assignments(.666).

4. Fourth component is “home study is better than class study with factor loading (.683) is closely associated with insulting treatment by faculties in front of other students. (.658).
5. Class time is very early is another component with factor loading .824 which is closely associated with academic day is very long (.654).
6. The 6th component is attendance rule that I know 75% attendance clause is not implemented so why should I worry. .
7. Transportation is a problem (.722)
8. The 8th component is “ It does not matter whether I attend lecturer, seminars and so on the important thing is that I get my work done and pass the semester (.552) is closely associated with nearby factor that it is not hard to get good marks if I miss the class (.380).
9. The 9th component is that class attendance does not affect my grade in exam (.788).
10. The 10th component is that hours at which class is scheduled.

Discussion

As earlier study by Massingham, P. & Herrington, T. reveals that attendance alone does not guarantee good results; those who attend and participate in lectures and tutorials do better than those who simply turn up. The most common reasons for non-attendance included sickness, being too busy, or having to do paid work [6].found relevant in this research as factor analysis reveals and this was second prominent factor among the reasons of low attendance.

In the research of Dr Jenny Muir,(2009) [4]. It was noticed that in the short review of research on attendance does not identify teaching quality as a major issue but in present research researchers analyzed it as a one of the major factor of attendance and it was extracted as first component where teaching quality, innovation and young age of the teachers and their knowledge level are identified as key factor of low attendance.

Past study of Nancy Fjortoft,(2005) reveals that Traffic, weather, personal commitments such as doctor's visits, family emergencies, factors which affect the student attendance in class and this study also confirm the same results that there is an association in student attendance and other factors such as sickness, personal commitments [3].

DeKalb (1999), study reveals that irrelevant courses and bad relationship with teachers were found to be the major factors in students' decision to skip classes and it was also found one of the reasons in present study during the factor analysis. [9].

Conclusion

This paper has reported the results of research that considered the key factors of low attendance or poor attendance.

The conclusion will now assess the methodology and approaches that an Institutes should take towards handling the key issues related to attendance and corrective measures should be taken especially teaching quality, new and different approach apart from available study materials and preferences should be given to mature and experienced faculties rather than to recruit too young faculties those themselves needs the training.

College management should also take serious notes on implementation of attendance clause especially mandatory attendance of 75% as key factor to allow students for appearing in an examination. It is also noticed that regular and non regular students are treated equally and no action is taken against absentee that affects the morale of regular students.

Now, this is a high time to draw certain policy towards non-attendees and irregular students.

In last but not the least on the teaching part quality and update knowledge is most important aspect which contributes as a great medicine for the disease of poor attendance for life time solution.

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