

Absenteeism and its relationship to the academic performance of selected students in Caesar Z. Lanuza Elementary School

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Abstract

Absenteeism is one of the difficulties that teachers face. It is still one of the biggest problems keeping institutions of learning from accomplishing the objectives they have set. Because the presence of the student is one of the main components of passing all the requirements for moving to the next grade level. In the Philippines, research revealed that one (1) out of every ten students is constantly absent from school. However, this study might help to reveal the reasons for the absenteeism, the mean level of the absenteeism and academic performance, and if there is a significant relationship between the absenteeism and academic performance of the students. The study was conducted at Caesar Z. Lanuza Elementary School with a total of seventy-five (75) selected respondents ranging from grade one (1) to six (6). The researchers selected the respondent using a simple random sampling technique and used survey questionnaires to collect the data. The research shows that there is a high rate of absences in the school and revealed that the majority of the respondents cited their financial situation as the cause of their absences. Later on, the research found that there is a very satisfactory rate of academic performance. In conclusion, the result shows that there is a significant relationship between the absenteeism and academic performance of the selected students at Caesar Z. Lanuza Elementary School. The findings of this research may then serve as a fundamental basis for the country's curriculum and school administrators to improve and create certain activities and projects to ease this kind of revelation.

Keywords: absenteeism, academic performance

1. Introduction

1.1. Background of the Study

Former Education Secretary Armin A. Luistro signs DepEd Order No. 11 in 2011 that states, attendance and punctuality are covered in Section 157.1. A student who misses more than 20% of the required number of classes or hands-on activities throughout their school year or quarter should receive a failing grade and not receive any credit for the subject or topic.

There is no exception in having this type of circumstances. These challenges are present in a student's life. As the children are the future citizens of this country, it is better to teach them to be disciplined and be responsible. It is necessary to give attention and analyze this problem and to give immediate solution on reducing the expansion of the cases of absenteeism, and to decrease the uprising

number of students who have missed their chances in completing their degree, and to become a better person in the future just because of the circumstances that they are going through.

This research aims to prove the relationship between absenteeism and academic performance of selected students in Caesar Z. Lanuza Elementary school. The researchers also aim to provide intervention to help students who are experiencing absenteeism and is on the verge of failing or being dropped out.

2. Review of Related Literature

This chapter reviews literature and studies related to the research focused on determining the relationship between absenteeism and academic performance in Caesar Z. Lanuza Elementary School.

As cited in the research of Conel (2020) Student Absenteeism is defined as the period of the student being absent from school. Absenteeism is also referred as the persistent absences in work, school or meetings. A custom practice of committing absences that is unplanned and unannounced in a regular class days. Absences can be motivationally-based and structurally-based. Having an education is a human basic right that can help the students be a functional and good citizen of the community. Because being actively present in school helps the students learn various skills, knowledge and competencies that later on will be beneficial to the student's life. In fact, the children who attend class regularly can be more connected to the community. It could develop their social skills that help them build positive relationships with others and are most likely to graduate with a degree or diploma (Marshall, 2021). Unfortunately, this habit still exists and are continuously growing in our country especially in the latest statistics of the Department of Education shows that the Philippines had one out of ten (1 out of 10) students who are committing absenteeism or students who are constant absent in school. The rate of student absences is 4.5%, it is quite high and increasing, and is mostly observed in middle schools (Cepada & Grepon, 2020). After pandemic, absenteeism was also observed in senior high school learners (Pascual, 2023) and that is why continuous improvement (C.I.) projects was needed to mitigate this problem of learners that affect their academic performance.

In DepEd 2010 Revised Manual Section 157 (Attendance and Punctuality) states that a pupil/student who incurs absences more than twenty percent (20%) of the authorized number of class or periods during the school year should be given a failing grade and have no credit for the given course or subject. Except to those with individual cases such students with valid reason and is acceptable to school. But this does not make them an exemption from their responsibility. Students still needs to be accountable in keeping up with the lessons, taking their quizzes or examinations. It is understandable how significant being present in school is because attending in school is also linked to learning. But when it comes to absenteeism, the larger the number of absences the students acquire, the lesser lessons the students would be able to attend in class. On the study of Conel (2020), this could lead student to have disconnection in the concept of learning because the students who are regularly absent have greater tendency to drop the school at early age and will not continue schooling, and this might lead to unemployment, low average incomes, and poverty in the country. The study of Ansari, &Pianta, (2019) shows that the children who had a weaker attendance record in the early years, in turn, had weaker attendance later on. Due to the increased likelihood of absenteeism later in a child's educational career, early absenteeism was associated with less desirable academic and social-behavioral results. When a student is frequently absent there is a chance that the student might as well experience a hard time connecting with others. As stated by Andersen (2022) When a person is present, the social skills increases and they will be more aware of their actions and the people around in an individual. Communication skills will improve and empower their relationships and it can form a deeper connections and bonds with others that leads to increased happiness and fulfillment. That is why it is crucial for the students to understand the importance of attending class in terms of socializing with others. Because socializing also affects the learning environment of the students. Based on the study of Lim and Elias (2020) socialization has a direct effect on academic achievement. Academic socialization happens the most in elementary school. Which

means that being involved with your children in this age can determine academic drive, attention, and motivation for the rest of their lives. This is relevant to our study because these factors will affect the academic performance of the student.

2.1. Research Problem

This study aims to determine the effects of absenteeism to the academic performance of selected students in Caesar Z. Lanuza Elementary School in Brgy. Binan Pagsanjan Laguna.

1. What are the reasons for the absenteeism of the students in Caesar Z. Lanuza Elementary School, in Brgy. Binan Pagsanjan Laguna?
 - 1.1. Financial Problem
 - 1.2. Socialization
 - 1.3. Personal problem
2. What is mean level of the absenteeism of the students of Caesar Z. Lanuza Elementary School?
3. What is the mean level of the academic performance of the students at Caesar Z. Lanuza Elementary School?
4. Is there a significant relationship between the absenteeism and academic performance of the students Caesar Z. Lanuza Elementary School?

2.2. Objectives of the Study

The study specifically seeks:

1. To determine the reasons of Absenteeism of the students in Caesar Z. Lanuza Elementary School, in Brgy. Binan Pagsanjan Laguna.
 - 1.1. Financial problem
 - 1.2. Socialization
 - 1.3. Personal problem
2. To determine the mean level of the academic performance of the students in Caesar Z. Lanuza Elementary School.
3. To determine the mean level of the absenteeism of the students in Caesar Z. Lanuza Elementary School.
4. To determine the significant relationship between the absenteeism and academic performance of the students in Caesar Z. Lanuza Elementary School.

2.3. Research Significance

The beneficiaries of the study may include the following.

School Administrator

This study might provide suggestions in establishing programs in terms of improving the attendance rate of students who are always absent in class.

Student

This study will be beneficial to the student readers in terms of how the results can raise awareness on the reasons why other students are always absent or missing in classes.

Teachers

To realize the need and importance of assisting students who are frequently absent in classwork tasks, and may devise an intervention on how a student can improve class attendance.

Parents

The result of this study will give the parents an outlook about their children's absences and its consequences to their academic performance.

Future Researchers

This study will concise information that can be used as guidance of the future researchers and readers to help them understand the effect of absenteeism on one's academic performance.

2.4. Theoretical Framework

Social-Ecological Model of Absenteeism was proposed by Johnson et al. (2021). This model suggests that absenteeism is influenced by various factors at multiple levels, including individual, interpersonal, organizational, community, and policy levels. The model posits that academic performance is impacted not only by individual-level factors but also by broader contextual influences.

Cognitive Engagement Theory put forward by Chen and Wang (2021), emphasizes the role of cognitive engagement in mediating the relationship between absenteeism and academic performance. It suggests that students who are frequently absent may experience reduced cognitive engagement with academic tasks, leading to lower academic achievement.

Cumulative Risk Model of Absenteeism was developed by Garcia and Lopez (2021). This model proposes that absenteeism is not only a consequence of individual risk factors but also accumulates over time due to exposure to multiple risk factors. According to this model, the cumulative effect of risk factors exacerbates absenteeism, ultimately impacting academic performance.

2.5. Conceptual Framework

This study has two different variables, the independent variable and dependent variable. The independent variable consists of the absenteeism in terms of their Financial Status, Socialization, Family and Attendance. The dependent variable consists of the academic performances which is their 3rd Quarter General Average.

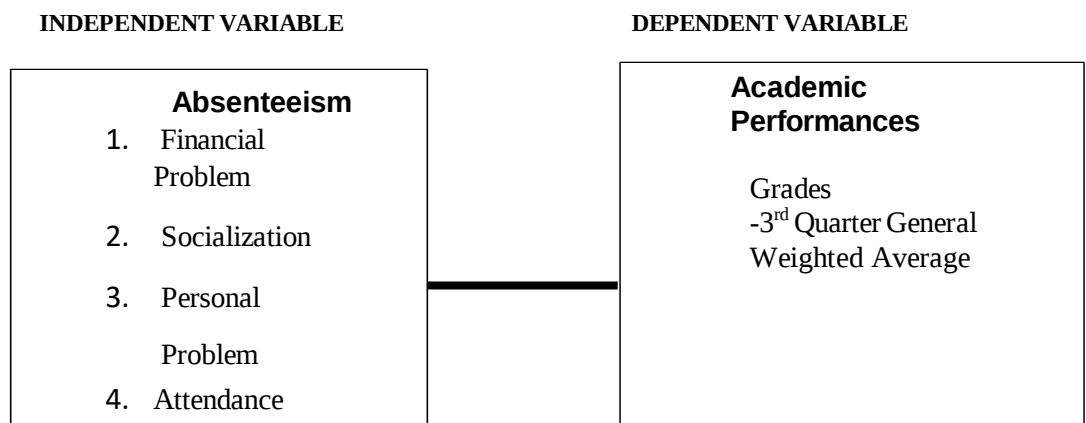


Figure 1. The schematic diagram of the Independent and Dependent Variables of the study.

2.6. Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study will focus on the relationship of absenteeism to the academic performance of selected students in Caesar Z. Lanuza Elementary School, Pagsanjan Laguna enrolled in A.Y. 2022-2023

This study will not cover other existing problems that are not necessarily connected to the possible outcomes of absenteeism in selected student academic performance.

3. Methodology

3.1. Research Design

This research determined the effects of absenteeism to the academic performance of the selected students in Caesar Z. Lanuza Elementary School, Pagsanjan Laguna. A.Y 2022-2023. Quantitative research collects data and information that is quantified. It analyzes numerical data that find designs, patterns, create predictions, analyzes relations in variables and broad the results in a wide population, Bhandari (2020). It is structure in nature and compatible in statistical analysis. Based on Voxco (2021). The study used descriptive survey design that collects data that are conducted via survey and interview. Its main objective in research is to understand the research problem that involves describing, recording, analyzing and interpreting the conditions.

This study employed a survey research design. The design that allows the use of several methods of data collection such as interview and use of survey questionnaires. The use of survey questionnaires provided a limited time compared to other data gathering methods. In determining the relationship of absenteeism and academic performance of the selected students in Caesar Z. Lanuza Elementary School, Pagsanjan Laguna.

3.2. Research Locale

This study was conducted in Caesar Z. Lanuza Elementary School, Pagsanjan Laguna where the participants were enrolled in academic year 2022-2023.

3.3. Population of the Study

With the total of five hundred forty seven (547) students in Caesar Z. Lanuza Elementary school, researchers decided to conduct a survey to five (5) students per section, with the total population of eighty (80) elementary students in Caesar Z. Lanuza Elementary School, Pagsanjan Laguna

The results of the survey focused on the absenteeism and the academic performance of selected students of Caesar Z. Lanuza Elementary School, Pagsanjan Laguna. The respondents were chosen by simple random sampling. Each member of the population had a chance of being inducted in the sample.

3.4. Research Instrument

This study used descriptive data analysis in order to know the academic performance of selected students involved in absenteeism in Caesar Z. Lanuza Elementary School, Pagsanjan Laguna. The researchers prepared a structured survey questionnaire checklist that sufficiently provided the information needed in the study.

It was composed of two parts. The student's personal profile, and the question proper. The

question proper will determine the factors of the student's absence affecting their academic performance.

3.5. Data Gathering

Though random selected techniques, five (5) students per section per grade level were chosen to be the respondents of the study. Each student was given a questionnaire to read and answer the questions. The questionnaires were collected afterwards to tally responses, tabulate, interpret, and analyze using the percentage formula.

The secondary data which were the average grades of the students in the third quarter were gathered securely from their teachers.

3.6. Treatment of Data

The researchers gathered all the data from the survey results and conducted an analysis of the information in effort to investigate the relationship of the absenteeism and the academic performance of the selected students in Caezar Z. Lanuza Elementary School. The gathered information from the respondents were organized, categorized, tallied and presented in tabular form.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1. Reasons for Absenteeism of Students

Table 1. Reasons for Absenteeism of Students

Reasons	f	%
Financial State	39	52
Socialization	9	12
Family	27	36
Total	75	100

Table 1 categorizes the responses of 75 students into three main reasons for their absenteeism: financial state, family issues, and socialization concerns. Thirty-nine out of 75 or 52% of the respondents has financial state as the reason for absenteeism; family having 36% or 27 out of 75 respondents; and socialization having 12% with 9 out of 75 respondents. The data gathered from the 75 respondents clearly highlights that the most significant reason for student absenteeism is related to their financial state. With 52% of the students citing financial difficulties as their primary reason for being absent, it is evident that economic challenges are a major obstacle to regular school attendance. align with the research conducted by Smith and Johnson (2021), which emphasizes the profound impact of financial constraints on student attendance. According to their study, "Economic Hardships and Educational Outcomes," financial difficulties are the leading cause of absenteeism among students.

4.2. Level of Absenteeism of Students

Table 2. Level of Absenteeism of Students

Level	f	%	Mean	Verbal Interpretation
Very Low	2	3	14.15	High Level of Absenteeism
Low	6	8		
Medium	17	23		
High	40	53		
Very High	10	13		
Total	75	100		

* >20% Very High, >10-20% High, >5-10% Medium, >2.5-5% Low, 2.5% or less Very Low

Table 2 shows the level of absenteeism of the students. The data reveals that a significant majority of students, 40 out of 75, or 53%, exhibit a high level of absenteeism, 23% of the respondents, which translates to 17 students, fall into the medium level of absenteeism, very high level has 10 or 13%, low level has 6 or 8% and very low has 2 or 3%. With the data gathered, it shows that Caesar Z. Lanuza Elementary School has a high level of absenteeism with a mean of 14.15. This average suggests that absenteeism is a pervasive issue affecting the majority of the student population, which could have serious implications for academic performance and student outcomes. A study by Gubbels, van der Put, and Assink (2019) highlights that chronic absenteeism is a significant predictor of academic underachievement and future educational disengagement. Their research found that students who frequently miss school are more likely to fall behind in their studies, leading to lower grades and increased dropout rates.

4.3. Academic Performance of Students

Table 3. Academic Performance of Students

Level	f	%	Mean	Verbal Interpretation
Outstanding	8	11	85.41	Very Satisfactory
Very Satisfactory	37	49		
Satisfactory	24	32		
Fairly Satisfactory	6	8		
Total	75	100		

*90-100 Outstanding, 85-89 Very Satisfactory, 80-84 Satisfactory, 75-79 Fairly Satisfactory, Below 75 Did not meet expectations

Table 3 shows the level of academic performance of the students. The data reveals that Very Satisfactory has 49% with 37 out of 75 respondents; satisfactory has 32% with 24 out of 75 respondents; outstanding has 11% with 8 out of 75 respondents; and fairly satisfactory has 8% or 6 out of 75 respondents. Overall, the gathered data reflects a generally positive academic performance across the

student population, with the predominant level being very satisfactory, as evidenced by a mean score of 85.41. This average suggests that the majority of students are meeting and often exceeding the expected academic standards. a study by Hattie (2020) underscores the importance of visible learning practices in boosting student achievement. Hattie's research identifies that clear learning intentions, feedback, and teacher-student relationships significantly impact students' academic performance.

4.4. Relationship Between Absenteeism and Performance of Students

Table 4. Relationship between Absenteeism and Performance of Students

Absenteeism	Academic Performance				
	χ^2	df	Critical Value	p-value	Analysis
	32.41	12	21.026	0.001	Significant

Table 4 presents a correlation analysis conducted using the Chi-square test to examine the relationship between absenteeism and academic performance among students at Caesar Z. Lanuza Elementary School. The analysis yielded a p-value of 0.001, which is significantly less than the alpha level of 0.05, indicating strong statistical significance. Furthermore, the calculated Chi-square value of 32.41 exceeds the critical value of 26.296, reinforcing that the relationship between absenteeism and the academic performance of the students is significant. Gottfried's (2021) research on the impact of chronic absenteeism on student performance emphasizes that frequent absences disrupt learning continuity, leading to gaps in knowledge and skills. Gottfried's study utilized a large dataset and sophisticated statistical analyses to demonstrate that absenteeism has a detrimental effect on student achievement, which becomes more pronounced over time.

5. Conclusion and Recommendation

5.1. Conclusion

From the results of the data gathered, it can be concluded that there is no significant relationship between absenteeism and the academic performance of the students in Caesar Z. Lanuza Elementary school. The main reason that influenced respondents to be absent was financial problem. The level absenteeism was high, and the level of academic performance was very satisfactory. Hence, the null hypothesis is accepted.

5.2. Recommendation

Based on the findings and conclusions drawn from the study, the following recommendations are hereby given:

1. For school administrators, it is encourage to incorporate fundraising activities that may stimulate students' enthusiasm and interest that will make them more eager to attend class. To provide students with their academic needs, supported by mentoring programs, and counseling services to encourage motivation.

2. Student Free meals and Vehicular Service to provide educational and health benefits for students who are unable to buy food and afford transportation fares.
3. Teachers can provide reward by recognizing perfect attendance of the students for each quarter in order to strengthen teacher-student relationships.
4. Proposal to the Youth Council to provide projects and organization for allowance. Parents should participate for the purpose of providing and sustaining the educational needs of the students whether financial and emotional support that would be significant in the future career and educational journey of the student.
5. Future researchers may investigate the impact of absenteeism on long- term academic and socio-economic outcomes.

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