



Prevalence of Absenteeism Among First Year Medical and Paramedical Students in Jamnagar

¹Dr Nileshwari Vala, Professor and Head of Department, Department of Physiology, Shri M. P. Shah Medical College, Jamnagar, Gujarat.

²Dr Thianeswar I S, Resident Doctor, Department of Physiology, Shri M. P. Shah Medical College, Jamnagar, Gujarat.

³Dr Kajal Gauswami, Resident Doctor, Department of Physiology, Shri M. P. Shah Medical College, Jamnagar, Gujarat.

Corresponding Author: Dr Thianeswar I S, Resident Doctor, Department of Physiology, Shri M. P. Shah Medical College, Jamnagar, Gujarat.

How to citation this article: Dr Nileshwari Vala, Dr Thianeswar I S, Dr Kajal Gauswami, “Prevalence of Absenteeism Among First Year Medical and Paramedical Students in Jamnagar”, IJMACR- October - 2025, Volume – 8, Issue - 5, P. No. 01 – 07.

Open Access Article: © 2025 Dr Thianeswar I S, et al. This is an open access journal and article distributed under the terms of the creative common's attribution license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>). Which allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as appropriate credit is given and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms.

Type of Publication: Original Research Article

Conflicts of Interest: Nil

Abstract

Background: Student absenteeism is a major concern for undergraduate medical education training in India. Regular class attendance helps students have a proper understanding of the topic of discussion. This study is done to explore the prevalence of Absenteeism in medical & paramedical students.

Objectives: To know the prevalence of Absenteeism in medical & paramedical students. To know the various causes of absenteeism in medical & paramedical students.

Materials and Methods: Total 280 participants were enrolled in the study and they were divided in two groups: Medical & Paramedical. Then the prevalence of absenteeism is calculated in both the group in both male and female. Overall prevalence of absenteeism of undergraduate first year students is also calculated.

Contribution of causes of absenteeism is calculated according the response of undergraduate students.

Results: Overall prevalence of absenteeism is 34.3% including male & female of both the students; medical & paramedical. The prevalence of absenteeism in medical students male & female is 43.63% & 28% respectively. While in paramedical students male & female prevalence of absenteeism is 30% & 26.66% respectively.

Conclusion: Only through a collaborative effort from administrators, teachers and students we can promote better attendance.

Keywords: Medical & Paramedical students, prevalence of absenteeism

Introduction

The undergraduate medical education training in India requires great commitment motivation and academic interest on the part of the students. Till date lecture and

classroom discussion is one of the most important modes of learning for students and regular class attendance is a key for academic performance. Lecture classes not only impart in-depth knowledge to the entire group of students but also ensures uniformity of the teaching experience. Physical presence and mental attentiveness on the part of the students are crucial for learning to occur.¹

Regular class attendance not only helps students have a proper understanding of the topic of discussion but also provides them with an environment for good professional socialization, which later on helps medical & paramedical students to develop professional skills, behaviour, attitude and values that are an integral part to a successful healthcare professional.²⁻⁴

Despite the strict rules, student absenteeism at lectures is a major concern in universities worldwide.^[5-7] Several studies have been conducted to explore reasons for absenteeism, which showed lack of subject matter interest, poor teaching strategies, unfavourable learning environment class and examination schedule, quality of teaching materials, assessment methods, lifestyle-related pressures and poor relations with lecturers.^{4,8-10}

Lecture contents have become more accessible in the form of slides, videos, audios over the internet for self-learning purpose, which may contribute to the absenteeism.^[11-16] A growing trend among students has been observed for skipping scheduled classes in academic institutions. It is a general thinking that students having regular class attendance have better academic performances. Many studies have revealed that there is a positive correlation between overall academic performance and attendance.¹⁷⁻¹⁹

Class attendance is a reliable predictor associated with better outcomes in terms of improving cumulative grade

point average of the students who do best.^[20-22] Attendance is more important for enhancing grades. Attending clinical and tutorial-based class events have a positive correlation with overall examination score.²³ A recent meta-analysis suggests that the attendance in learning activities is a more valid predictor of academic achievement than other predictors, including scores on established entrance tests such as the scholastic aptitude test (SAT), grade point average (GPA), learning styles and study skills.²⁴

Aim & Objective

This study is done to know the prevalence of Absenteeism in medical & paramedical students & to know the various causes of absenteeism in medical & paramedical students.

Methodology

This is a cross-sectional study conducted by department of Physiology of Shri M. P. Shah medical college Jamnagar. Study was conducted from August 2024 to October 2024. This is an institution based cross sectional study which was conducted upon under graduate medical & paramedical students. According to universal sampling technique all students who were present on the day of data collection were explained the study in detail with its procedure, aim and objective. Total 280 students provided consent for participation in the study.

Inclusion Criteria: All the students who provided consent are included in the study.

Exclusion Criteria

- All the students who did not provide consent were excluded from the study.
- Students who were absent on the day of data collection were excluded.

This study was designed and conceptualized in July 2024. Then protocol of the study was submitted to institutional ethical committee for approval. After taking approval from ethical committee, data collection was started.

Data Collection

A semi-structured questionnaire was developed to know students' response about absenteeism. All students were gathered in the classroom on the day of data collection at the time of their usual lecture. Then all students were explained the purpose and procedure of the study. They were clearly informed that this was for research purpose only, their personal data will not be collected, they were free to decide whether to participate or not and they can leave the study anytime without giving any reason. After clearing doubts about the study, actual procedure was started. The students who were absent in more than 30% of the classes were taken as absentees.

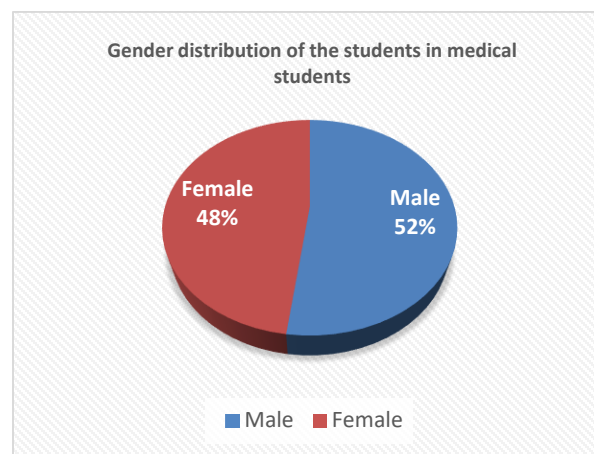
A semi-structured questionnaire contains 5 reasons of absenteeism. Briefing was given to the students to mark answer only in yes or no format to that particular question.

Data Analysis

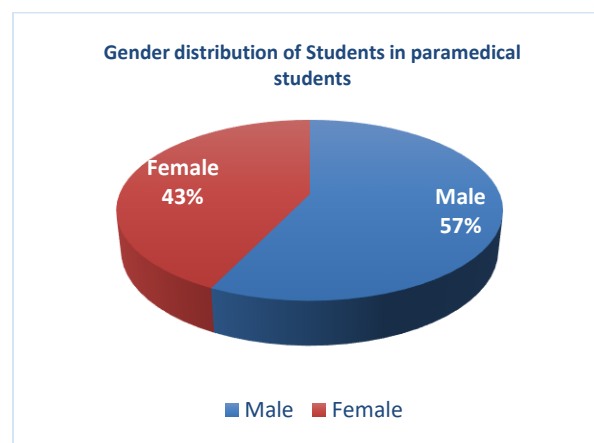
Comparison of prevalence of medical and paramedical students' data was done. Reason of absenteeism is obtained in yes or no format and result is shown as a tabulated form.

Results

Out of 280 students 210 were medical students & 70 were paramedical students. 150 participants were male and 130 students were female. Out of 150 male 110 medical students & 40 paramedical students. Out of 130 female 100 medical students & 30 paramedical students. Age of the all participants was 18 years to 20 years.



Graph 1



Graph

Table 1: Prevalence of absenteeism in medical and paramedical students

Teaching Method	Prevalence of absenteeism
Medical students	36.2%
Paramedical students	28.57%

Table 2: Prevalence of absenteeism in male & female students

Teaching Method	Prevalence of absenteeism
Male students	40%
Female students	27.7%

Table 3: Prevalence of absenteeism in male

Teaching Method	Prevalence of absenteeism
Medical students	43.63%
Paramedical students	30%

Table 4: Prevalence of absenteeism in female

Teaching Method	Prevalence of absenteeism
Medical students	28%
Paramedical students	26.66%

While comparing the prevalence of absenteeism; in medical & paramedical group, medical male & female have prevalence of absenteeism is 43.63% & 28% respectively, on other side in paramedical male & female prevalence of absenteeism is 30% & 26.66% respectively.

So, the overall prevalence of absenteeism is 34.3% including male & female of both the students; medical & paramedical.

Table 5: Comparison of Prevalence of absenteeism in medical and paramedical; male and female

Student	M/F	Number	Prevalence
Medical	Male	110	43.63%
	Female	100	28%
Paramedical	Male	40	30%
	Female	30	26.66%

Graph 3: Comparison of Prevalence of absenteeism in medical & paramedical male & female

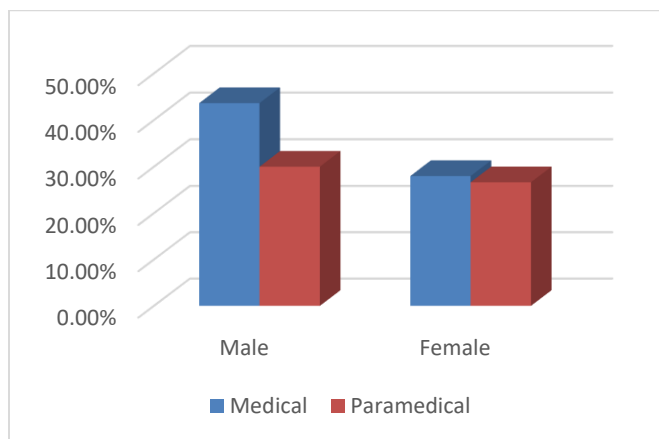
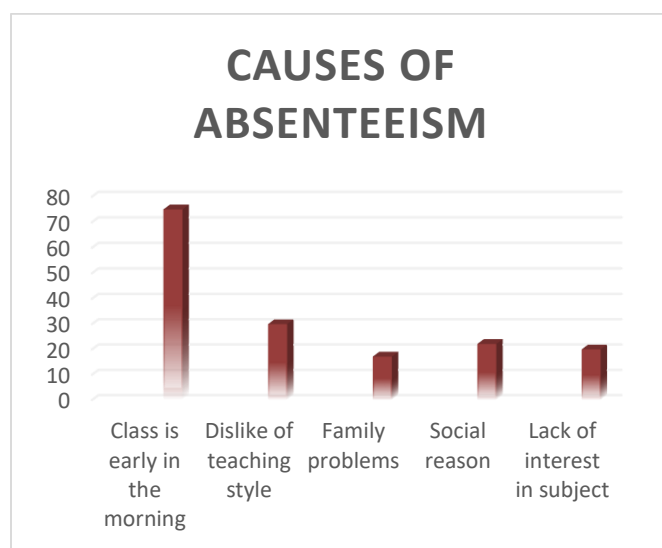


Table 6: Causes of absenteeism

Cause	Yes/No	Responses	Percentage
Class is early in the morning	Yes	210	75%
	No	70	25%
Dislike of teaching style	Yes	84	30%
	No	196	70%
Family problems	Yes	48	17.14%
	No	232	82.86%
Social reason	Yes	62	22.14%
	No	218	77.86%
Lack of interest in subject	Yes	56	20%
	No	224	80%

Graph 4: Causes of absenteeism



Regarding the causes of absenteeism “Class is early in the morning” is the main cause (75%) of absenteeism among the students. While “Dislike of the teaching style” consist 30% cause of absenteeism. “Family problems” consist 17.14%, “Social reason” consists 22.14% and “Lack of interest” in subject consist 20% cause of absenteeism in medical and para medical student.

Discussion

This study suggests that overall prevalence of absenteeism is 34.3% including male & female of both the students; medical & paramedical. The prevalence of absenteeism in medical male & female is 43.63% & 28% respectively. While in paramedical male & female prevalence of absenteeism is 30% & 26.66% respectively.

In the study done by Fatima Zahra et al. among Medical Students in Casablanca, prevalence of absenteeism is 19.6% which is lower compare to our study where overall prevalence among medical and paramedical student is 34.4%.²⁵

In our study 75% students found that “Class is early in morning” is the main cause of absenteeism among medical & paramedical students. While compare to study done by Ahmed Alghamdi et al. “Class is early in morning” contributes to 44.9% cause of absenteeism among medical students.²⁶

In our study 30% students found that “Dislike of teaching style” is the cause of absenteeism among medical & paramedical students. While compare to study done by Ahmed Alghamdi et al. “Dislike of teaching style” contributes to 70% cause of absenteeism among medical students.²⁶

In our study 22.14 % students found that “Social reason” is the cause of absenteeism among medical & paramedical students. While compare to study done by Ahmed Alghamdi et al. “Social reason” contributes to 42.9% cause of absenteeism among medical students.²⁶

In our study 20 % students found that “Lack of interest in subject” is the cause of absenteeism among medical & paramedical students. While compare to study done by Ahmed Alghamdi et al. “Lack of interest in subject”

contributes to 28.9% cause of absenteeism among medical students.²⁶

Limitations

This study is conducted at a single centre on limited number of students. So, findings of this study cannot be generalized.

Conclusion

Problem of absenteeism was quite prevalent in medical & paramedical students. The problem was precipitated by interplay of multiplicity of factors which are both internal and external to the student. Only through a collaborative effort from administrators, teachers and students we can promote better attendance. As many of the student’s felt teaching is affecting their attendance, more engaging methods like discussion groups, mentor - mentee programs can improve attendance and prevent unwanted consequences of absenteeism on academic performance. The causes for absenteeism in students may have a significant importance on teaching methodologies and student orientations at the level of universities.

Reference

1. Dhaliwal UP. Absenteeism and under-achievement in final year medical students. Natl Med J India 2003; 16:34-6.
2. Al Shawwa L, Abulaban AA, Abulaban AA, Merdad A, Baghlaf S, Algethami A, et al. Factors potentially influencing academic performance among medical students. Adv Med EducPract 2015; 6:65-75.
3. Epstein RM, Cox M, Irby DM. Assessment in medical education. N Engl J Med 2007; 356:387-96.
4. Gul R, Khan HM, Alam SR, Luqman F, Shahab A, Sohail H. Absenteeism among medical undergraduate. J Med Sci 2016; 24:16-8.

5. Wadesango N, Machingambi S. Causes and structural effects of student absenteeism: A case study of three South African Universities. *J Soc Sci* 2011; 26:89-97.
6. Kottasz R. Reasons for student non-attendance at lectures and tutorials: An analysis. *InvestigUniv Teach Learn* 2005; 2:5-16.
7. Gump SE. Guess who's (not) coming to class: Student attitudes as indicators of attendance. *Educ Stud* 2006; 32:39-46.
8. Obeng-Denteh W, Yeboah EA, Sam C, Monkah JE. The impact of student and teacher absenteeism on student performance at the junior high school: The case of the Kumasi-metro school district. *Cont J Educ Res* 2011; 4:7-17.
9. Moore R. The importance of admissions scores and attendance to first year performance. *J First-Year Exp Students Transit* 2006; 18:105-25.
10. Bati AH, Mandiracioglu A, Orgun F, Govsa F. Why do students miss lectures? A study of lecture attendance amongst students of health science. *Nurse Educ Today* 2013; 33:596-601.
11. Massingham P, Herrington T. Does attendance matter? An examination of student attitudes, participation, performance and attendance. *J Univ Teach Learn Prac* 2006; 3:82-103
12. Cook DA. The research we still are not doing: An agenda of the study of computer-based learning. *Acad Med* 2005; 80:541-8.
13. Ruiz JG, Mintzer MJ, Lepizig RM. The impact of E-learning in medical education. *Acad Med* 2006; 81:207-12.
14. Davis EA, Hodqson Y, Macaulay JO. Engagement of students with lectures in biochemistry and pharmacology. *Biochem Mol Bio Educ* 2012; 40:300-9.
15. Fernandes L, Maley M, Cruickshank C. The impact of online lecture recording on learning outcomes in pharmacology. *J Int Assoc Med SciEduc* 2008; 18:62-70.
16. Dommeyer CJ. Lecture capturing: Its effects on students' absenteeism, performance, and impressions in a traditional marketing research course. *J Educ Bus* 2017; 92:388-95.
17. Subramaniam BS, Hande S, Komattil R. Attendance and achievement in medicine: Investigating the impact of attendance policies on academic performance of medical students. *Ann MedHealth Sci Res* 2013; 3:202-5.
18. Marburger DR. Absenteeism and undergraduate exam performance. *J Econ Educ* 2001; 32:99-109.
19. Purcell P. Engineering student attendance at lectures: Effect on examination performance. In: *International Conference on Engineering Education*, Portugal, September 3-7, 2007.
20. Qutub MF, Bafail MA, Alomari AS, Azahrani AA, Abuznadah WT, Munshi FM, et al. Absenteeism among Saudi Medical Students. *Egypt J Hosp Medi* 2018;70. doi: 10.12816/00 44631.
21. Rao B, Valleswary K, Nayak M, Rao NL. Reasons for absenteeism among the undergraduate medical students attending for theory classes in Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) Ongole, Prakasam District of Andhra Pradesh: A self-review. *IOSR J Res Method Educ* 2016; 6:11-9.
22. Kauffman CA, Derazin M, Asmar A, Kibble JD. Relationship between classroom attendance and examination performance in a second-year medical

- pathophysiology class. *Adv Physiol Educ* 2018; 42:593-8.
23. Roberts C, Jorm C, Gentilcore S, Crossley J. Assessment peer assessment of professional behaviors in problem-based learning groups. *Med Educ* 2017; 51:390-400.
24. Credé M, Roch SG, Kieszczynka UM. Class attendance in college: A meta-analytic review of the relationship of class attendance with grades and student characteristics. *Rev Educ Res* 2010; 80:272-95.
25. Mouzoun FZ, Berrami H, Boubekri Z, Niyonsaba A, Barkouk A, Belayachi N, Jallal M, Serhier Z, Bennani Othmani M. Absenteeism from lectures among medical students in Casablanca. *SAS J Med*. 2024 May;10(5):310–5
26. Ahmed Alghamdi, Ahmed Yamani, Ayman Khalil, Baraa Albarkati, Osama Alrehili, Mohamed Salih, Prevalence, Causes and Impacts of Absenteeism among Medical Students at UQU, *Education*, Vol. 6 No. 1, 2016, pp. 9-12.