

Frequent Absenteeism Among Grade 1 Pupils in San Roque Elementary School

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ABSTRACT

Frequent absenteeism among Grade 1 pupils has become a growing concern in many public elementary schools, as it negatively affects academic performance, social development, and overall school engagement. This study aimed to determine the causes, effects, and possible interventions to address frequent absenteeism among Grade 1 pupils in San Roque Elementary School. A descriptive research design was utilized, involving Grade 1 teachers and parents as respondents. Data were gathered through surveys and attendance records analysis. Findings revealed that the primary causes of absenteeism include health-related issues, financial constraints, lack of parental supervision, and transportation difficulties. The study also found that frequent absenteeism significantly affects pupils' literacy development, classroom participation, and social interaction skills. Based on the findings, the study recommends strengthening school-parent communication, implementing attendance monitoring programs, and providing support mechanisms for at-risk pupils.

Keywords: *absenteeism, Grade 1 pupils, attendance, parental involvement, academic performance.*

INTRODUCTION

Regular school attendance plays a vital role in the academic and social development of young learners, particularly in the primary grade level. Grade 1 is considered a foundational stage where pupils develop basic literacy, numeracy, and social skills. Frequent absenteeism during this critical stage may result in learning gaps and poor academic performance.

In many public elementary schools, including San Roque Elementary School, teachers have observed a pattern of repeated absences among some Grade 1 pupils. These absences may be caused by various factors such as illness, family responsibilities, economic hardship, lack of motivation, or limited

parental supervision. If not addressed early, absenteeism may lead to long-term academic struggles and increased risk of dropping out in later years.

This study was conducted to identify the causes and effects of frequent absenteeism among Grade 1 pupils in San Roque Elementary School and to propose practical interventions to improve attendance rates.

Objectives

This study sought to answer the following questions:

1. What is the frequency of absenteeism among Grade 1 pupils in San Roque Elementary School?
2. What are the common causes of frequent absenteeism?
3. What are the effects of absenteeism on pupils' academic performance and behavior?
4. What interventions can be implemented to reduce absenteeism?

METHODS

Research Design

The study employed a descriptive research design to determine the causes and effects of frequent absenteeism among Grade 1 pupils.

Respondents

The respondents included:

- Grade 1 teachers of San Roque Elementary School
- Parents/guardians of frequently absent pupils

Research Instrument

A researcher-made questionnaire was used to gather data from teachers and parents. Attendance records were also reviewed to determine the frequency of absences.

Data Gathering Procedure

Permission was secured from the school head before conducting the study. Attendance records were analyzed to identify frequently absent pupils. Questionnaires were distributed to teachers and parents. Collected data were tallied, organized, and analyzed.

Data Analysis

Data were analyzed using frequency counts, percentages, and mean scores to determine the most common causes and effects of absenteeism.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The analysis of attendance records showed that a significant number of Grade 1 pupils had more than 10 absences within a semester.

The most common causes of absenteeism were:

- Illness and health-related concerns
- Financial difficulties (lack of fare, school supplies)
- Lack of parental supervision
- Transportation problems
- Teachers reported that frequently absent pupils showed:
 - Delayed reading and writing skills
 - Difficulty catching up with lessons
 - Low participation in class activities
 - Poor peer relationships

The findings indicate that absenteeism significantly affects pupils' academic progress and social development. The results also suggest that parental involvement plays a crucial role in ensuring regular attendance. Similar findings in related educational studies emphasize that early intervention programs and strong school-home partnerships can effectively reduce absenteeism.

CONCLUSION

Frequent absenteeism among Grade 1 pupils in San Roque Elementary School is influenced by health, economic, and family-related factors. It has a negative impact on pupils' academic achievement and social development. Addressing absenteeism requires collaborative efforts between teachers, parents, and school administrators. Strengthening attendance monitoring systems, improving parent communication, and providing support for financially challenged families are recommended to ensure that pupils attend school regularly and achieve better academic outcomes.

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