



## Original Article



## Assess Factors Affecting Absenteeism among Undergraduate Nursing Students in Private Institute Karachi

Ashfaq Ahmad<sup>1</sup>, Muhammad Athar<sup>1</sup>, Afshan<sup>1</sup>, Fazlul Ullah<sup>1</sup>, Sami Ur Rahman<sup>1</sup>, Sher Alam<sup>1</sup>, Qiamuddin Khan<sup>1</sup>, Muhammad Junid<sup>1</sup> and Abdul Aleem<sup>1</sup><sup>1</sup>Allied Institute of Nursing and Health Sciences, Karachi, Pakistan

## ARTICLE INFO

## Keywords:

Absenteeism, Undergraduate Nursing Students, Health Issues, Transportation Facilities

## How to Cite:

Ahmad, A., Athar, M., Afshan, J., Ullah, F., Rehman, S. U., Alam, S., Khan, Q., Junid, M., & Aleem, A. (2024). Assess Factors Affecting Absenteeism among Undergraduate Nursing Students in Private Institute Karachi: Factors Affecting Absenteeism among Undergraduate Nursing Students. NURSEARCHER (Journal of Nursing & Midwifery Sciences), 4(04), 08-11. <https://doi.org/10.54393/nrs.v4i04.122>

## \*Corresponding Author:

Ashfaq Ahmad  
Allied Institute of Nursing and Health Sciences,  
Karachi, Pakistan  
[ashfaq14935@zu.edu.pk](mailto:ashfaq14935@zu.edu.pk)

Received date: 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2024Accepted date: 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2024Published date: 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2024

## ABSTRACT

Absenteeism is a serious discipline issue among students worldwide. Many factors contribute to absenteeism, including a lack of appropriate resources, a lack of academic staff, or a lack of equipment. **Objective:** To assess factors affecting absenteeism among undergraduate nursing students in private institutes. **Methods:** A cross-sectional analytical study was carried out at the Allied Institute of Nursing and Health Sciences in Karachi, Pakistan. A total of 109 undergraduate nursing students were chosen through a convenient sampling technique. A valid and structured tool was used for data collection. There were two components: I socio-demographic data and II assessment of the various factors that contribute to absenteeism. SPSS version 27.0 was applied for data entry and analysis. **Results:** The majority of the participants were male having a mean age of 21-23 years. Moreover, the major factors that affect absenteeism among undergraduate nursing students are shortage of electricity in college (37.61 %), health issues 35 (32.11%) and lack of resources for transport to college 34 (31.19%). **Conclusions:** It was concluded that shortage of electricity, transportation facilities, and health issues are the major factors that affect absenteeism among undergraduate nursing students.

## INTRODUCTION

Absenteeism is a serious discipline issue among students worldwide [1]. In the field of education, the term "absenteeism" refers to the existence of students in a teaching and learning environment when they are required to be there, but the instructor is not notified beforehand, or the student is not granted the proper leave [2]. A high absenteeism rate among nursing students indicates a lack of enthusiasm and drive for learning. Student absenteeism has been observed to be a precursor to future low academic performance, educational dropout and strained interpersonal relationships. Additionally, truancy among students has been linked to dangerous and unlawful behaviour, anxiety, and sadness [2, 3]. Absenteeism may be attributed to several factors, including medical

disorders including fever, headaches, and stomach pains, as well as a lack of interest in specific courses or professors. General health problems, poor teaching skills, and no interest in the subject matter are further contributing factors. In addition, 145 (88.5%) of the respondents named family problems such as taking care of a sick parent, spouse, or child as a primary cause of absenteeism. Another big factor mentioned by 110 (72.4%) was physical illness. Furthermore, 93 (57.0%) respondents concurred that students receiving financial aid for their education without receiving payment for their labour was linked to absenteeism. Work overload was cited by 136 (89.4%) as the reason for clinical area absenteeism [4, 5]. Because nursing is a profession that deals with the care of



the most precious people in the world, nursing schools must develop competent nurses who possess the qualities of knowledge, skill, and discipline. Increased absenteeism among nursing students can have detrimental consequences since it will hinder the production of high-quality nursing graduates. Additionally, in nursing students, absenteeism level is elevated due to lack of financial help, less educational staff, travelling, less hands-on learning chances and practical experience [6-9]. Absenteeism is a major concern within nursing educational systems, and it's adversely impacting student's ability to acquire and retain the necessary knowledge and practical skills [10]. Students who remain frequently absent from classes face financial burdens, reduced learning opportunities, poor academic performance, and decreased clinical experience. On the other hand, students who are present and punctual benefit from both theoretical and practical aspects of their education, potentially leading to improved clinical skills, academic performance, and self-esteem. This, in turn, could decrease student dropout rates and help them achieve their goal of becoming nurses [11, 12]. Professional educational institutions have clear guidelines about mandatory attendance during lectures, labs, and clinical/practical hours. Even though there are clear guidelines and restrictions, absenteeism is increasing worldwide. Student absenteeism has grown to be a serious and persistent issue in many nations, particularly in developing nations. To improve nursing education and health care, absenteeism must be addressed immediately [13]. Moreover, limited data is available on factors affecting absenteeism among undergraduate nursing students in Pakistan.

This study aims to assess the factors that influence absenteeism in undergraduate nursing students and identify areas for improvement in the nursing field.

## METHODS

In Karachi, Pakistan at the Allied Institute of Nursing and Health Sciences, a descriptive cross-sectional analytical study design was conducted from July to October 2024. Additionally, a non-probability convenient sampling technique chose 109 undergraduate nursing students, both male and female studying in different years. The sample size was 109 and calculated by open EPI calculator version 3.0, taking into account a 5% margin of error and a 95% confidence level with population size (N): 172. The Department of Allied Institute of Nursing and Health Sciences in Karachi issued a letter of authority and clearance for the research (reference number ION-HS/1297), before data collection. The authorization guarantees the ethical conduct of the study and the protection of participant rights and anonymity. The applicants were informed of the purpose of the study, and the participants' freedom to decline or withdraw from the

study at any time. An open-access questionnaire developed by Bano et al., and informed consent were provided to the participating undergraduate nursing students [13]. Each participant gave their informed consent in both English and Urdu, before participating in the study. The inclusion criteria were all undergraduate nursing students (years I, II, III and IV) who were enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the Allied Institute of Nursing and Health Sciences and the participants who were willing to participate in the study and the exclusion criteria were all post-registered nurses (RN) students and the participants who were not willing to participate in the study. A two-part questionnaire consisting of demographic information and questions related to factors affecting absenteeism was used for data collection. While scoring the lowest and highest scores was possibly 1 to 5 by using the Likert scale. A percentage was computed based on the overall score. Data were entered and analyzed by SPSS software version 27. For demographic variables, and the factors affecting absenteeism among undergraduate nursing student's frequency and percentage were computed.

## RESULTS

103 (94.5%) subjects were male, while the remaining 06 (5.5%) were female. 22 (20.2%) subjects belonged to the below 20 age group, 72 (66.1%) belonged to the 21-23 age group, 13 (11.9%) belonged to the 24-27 age group and 2 (1.8%) belonged to the above 28 age group. 36 (33%) of participants were from Generic Bachelor of Science in Nursing (GBSN) 1<sup>st</sup> year, 28 (25.7%) from GBSN 2<sup>nd</sup> year, 15 (13.8%) from GBSN 3<sup>rd</sup> year and GBSN 4<sup>th</sup> year 30 (27.5%) (Table 1).

**Table 1:** Demographic Characteristics of the Participants

Demographic Variables	N (%)
<b>Gender</b>	
Male	103 (94.5%)
Female	06 (5.5%)
<b>Age</b>	
Below 20	22 (20.2%)
21-23	72 (66.1%)
24-27	13 (11%)
Above 28	02 (1.8%)
<b>Academic Level</b>	
GBSN 1 <sup>st</sup> Year	36 (33.0%)
GBSN 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	28 (25.7%)
GBSN 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year	15 (13.8%)
GBSN 4 <sup>th</sup> Year	30 (27.5%)

41 participants (37.61%) accepted that the insufficiency of electricity in college was the major cause of absenteeism. Health issues were the second-high occurrence origin of unavailability in 35 (32.11%) participants; moreover, fewer transport resources to college were considered the third

highest reason for absenteeism in 34 (31.19%) participants (Table 2).

**Table 2:** Factors Causing Absenteeism among study participants

Factors	Responses				
	Strongly Agreed	Partially Agreed	Neutral	Partially Disagreed	Strongly Disagreed
Health Issues	35	23	19	09	23
Long Commute	25	20	23	13	28
Shortage of Electricity	41	13	18	11	26
Lack of Resources for Transport	34	17	13	20	25
Lack of Interest in Studies	14	09	14	15	57
Non-Payment of School Fees	20	15	12	09	53
Total Frequencies	169 (25.84%)	97 (14.83%)	99 (14.83%)	77 (11.77%)	212 (32.41%)

## DISCUSSION

Absenteeism is a significant problem within nursing educational systems, and it's adversely impacting student's capability to acquire and retain the necessary knowledge and abilities. Furthermore, the findings aligned with another study conducted in Nigeria by Chukwu et al., which found that the majority of respondents (73.3%) were between 21-25 ages [14]. In the present study, 36 (33%) of the participants were from GBSN 1st year, 28 (25.7%) from GBSN 2nd year, 15 (13.8%) from GBSN 3rd year and GBSN 4th year having 30 (27.5%). The result aligns with a previous study done in Multan found that 40 (31%) of participants were 1st-year students of BSN generic, 30 (23%) were 2nd-year students, 30 (23%) were 3rd-year students and 4th-year students were 30 (23%) [15]. Moreover, the findings are in contrast with the study conducted in Nigeria, which revealed that maximum respondents (76.7%) had only a secondary certificate, and 17.8% were registered nurses [14]. There are several reasons for the substantial absence rate among nursing college students, such as inadequate levels of funding and other essential resources like transportation, a paucity of faculty, and inadequate possibilities for experiential learning and real-world employment [7-9]. In the current study findings, the major factors that affect absenteeism among undergraduate nursing students are shortage of electricity in college (37.61%), health issues 35 (32.11%) and lack of resources for transport to college 34 (31.19%). The result is consistent with a previous, the major factor affecting absenteeism among undergraduate nursing students is lack of transportation 40% [16]. In addition, the study result is also supported by another study which shows that 36.6% of absenteeism occurs among students due to inadequate transport facilities [17]. Moreover, various studies have reported similar findings [18, 19] and [20]. Also, the result is in contrast with Masutha, and Masutha et al., study findings

which show social factor is the major cause of absenteeism among nursing students [21, 22].

## CONCLUSIONS

It was concluded that shortage of electricity, transportation facilities, and health issues are the major factors that affect absenteeism among undergraduate nursing students. Absenteeism is a significant issue affecting both private and public nursing institutions. This study focused on highlighting the factors associated with absenteeism and their potential impact on institutional performance. This study will help formulate policymaking and support nursing leadership and administrators in developing strategies to enhance class attendance and improve the overall learning experience.

## Authors Contribution

Conceptualization: AA<sup>1</sup>

Methodology: AA<sup>1</sup>, MA, A, QK, AN

Formal analysis: AA<sup>1</sup>, A

Writing review and editing: AA<sup>1</sup>, FU, SUR, SA, AJ, AA<sup>2</sup>

All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

## Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

## Source of Funding

The authors received no financial support for the research, authorship and/or publication of this article.

## REFERENCES

- [1] Randa MB. An Exploration of Absenteeism Among Nursing Students in the Context of a South African University. *The Open Nursing Journal*. 2020 Dec; 14(1). doi: 10.2174/1874434602014010285.
- [2] Rahman TU and Kausar MG. Factors Contributing to Absenteeism to Undergraduate Nursing Students. *Pakistan Journal of Education*. 2021; 38(1). doi: 10.30971/pje.v38i2.1574.
- [3] Faiza AN. Prevalence and Factors Contributed to Absenteeism Among Nursing Students at the Faculty of Nursing Sciences, University of Khartoum-Sudan. *International Journal of Medical and Health Sciences*. 2015; 4(4): 408-413. doi: 10.5555/20153411775.
- [4] Desalegn AA, Berhan A, Berhan Y. Absenteeism among Medical and Health Science Undergraduate Students at Hawassa University, Ethiopia. *BioMed Central medical education*. 2014 Dec; 14: 1-1. doi: 10.1186/1472-6920-14-81.
- [5] Kumar AK, Jayan A, Sabu A, Benny B, Ruby S, Jawadagi S. Factors Influencing Absenteeism Among Nursing Students in Selected Nursing Colleges at Mangalore. *Neuro-Quant-ology*. 2022 Nov; 20(16): 330-5.

- [6] Nawaz K, Hussain M, Sarwar H, Afzal M, Gilani SA. Determine the Factors Influencing Absenteeism Among Nursing Students. *Journal of Health, Medicine and Nursing*. 2018; 50(7): 64-72. doi: 10.5430/jnep.v7n10p64.
- [7] Adetoun O and Oluwatosin AK. Prevalence of Low Back Pain and Absenteeism Among Nurses in a Nigerian Teaching Hospital. *Prevalence*. 2020; 3(2): 78-89.
- [8] Cheema M and Iqbal A. Determinants of absenteeism Among Nurses in the Tertiary Health Care Sector. *Pakistan Journal of Nursing and Midwifery*. 2018 Jan; 2(1): 253-8. doi: 10.54112/bcsrj.v2023i1.347.
- [9] Gohar B, Lariviere M, Lightfoot N, Lariviere C, Wenghofer E, Nowrouzi-Kia B. Demographic, Lifestyle, and Physical Health Predictors of Sickness Absenteeism in Nursing: A Meta-Analysis. *Safety and Health at Work*. 2021 Dec; 12(4): 536-43. doi: 10.1016/j.shaw.2021.07.006.
- [10] Magobolo GN and Dube BM. Factors Influencing High Absenteeism Rate of Student Nurses in Clinical Areas at a Nursing College in the Lejweleputswa District. *Curationis*. 2019 Jan; 42(1): 1-6. doi: 10.4102/curationis.v42i1.1985.
- [11] Mokhtari S, Nikzad S, Mokhtari S, Sabour S, Hosseini S. Investigating the Reasons for Students' Attendance in and Absenteeism from Lecture Classes and Educational Planning to Improve the Situation. *Journal of Education and Health Promotion*. 2021 Jan; 10(1): 221. doi: 10.4103/jehp.jehp\_1112\_20.
- [12] Mamatsharaga T. Factors Contributing to Absenteeism and Their Effects On Student Nurses at the Limpopo College of Nursing (Doctoral Dissertation). 2021 Jun.
- [13] Bano, S., Parveen, T., Nazar, K. Factors Influencing Absenteeism Among Nursing Students in the College of Nursing Nishter Medical University Multan. *Biological and Clinical Sciences Research Journal*. 2023 Jun; 2023(1): 347. doi: 10.54112/bcsrj.v2023i1.347.
- [14] Chukwu EO, Yakubu NH, Haruna H, Hamina D, Chia T, Fiase T et al. Absenteeism among Nursing Students: A case study at the University of Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria. *American Journal of Library and Information Science Innovation*. 2017 Jul; 3: 46-51. doi: 10.11648/j.ijmfs.20170304.12.
- [15] Ashipala DO, Kalyangu J, Shikulo PI, Lifalaza A. Factors Associated with Absenteeism in Clinical Areas Among Undergraduate Nursing Students at the University of Namibia. *Journal of Namibian Studies: History Politics Culture*. 2023 May; 34: 253-67. doi: 10.59670/jns.v34i.1000.
- [16] Abdelrahman SM and Abdelkader AM. The Influencing Factors of Absenteeism among Nursing Students. *Journal of Nursing Education and Practice*. 2017 May; 7(10): 64-9. doi: 10.5430/jnep.v7n10p64.
- [17] Ray S, Raju R, Singh S. Nursing Students' Absenteeism in Class/Clinics: Reasons and Remedies. *Nursing*. 2018 Jan; 3(1): 1375-6.
- [18] Heyne D. Developmental Issues Associated with Adolescent School Refusal and Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy Manuals. *Zeitschrift für Kinder-und Jugendpsychiatrie und Psychotherapie*. 2022 Jun; 50(6). doi: 10.1024/1422-4917/a000881.
- [19] Demir K and Karabeyoglu YA. Factors Associated with Absenteeism in High Schools. *Eurasian Journal of Educational Research*. 2015 Feb; 16(62). doi: 10.14689/jejer.2016.62.4.
- [20] Wadesango N and Machingambi S. Causes and Structural Effects of Student Absenteeism: A Case Study of Three South African Universities. *Journal of Social Sciences*. 2011 Feb; 26(2): 89-97. doi: 10.1080/09718923.2011.11892885.
- [21] Masutha TC. Strategies to Mitigate Student Nurse's Absenteeism at Specialized Psychiatric Hospitals in the Limpopo Province, South Africa (Doctoral dissertation). 2023 May.
- [22] Masutha TC, Maluleke M, Raliphaswa NS, Rangwaneni ME, Thabathi TE, Lavhelani NR et al. Professional Nurses' Experiences of Student Nurses' Absenteeism during Psychiatric Clinical Placement in Limpopo Province, South Africa: A Qualitative Study. *Nursing Reports*. 2023 Apr; 13(2): 670-8. doi: 10.3390/nursrep13020059.