



Original Article

# The Absenteeism Challenge: A Study of Senior College Students in Shriwardhan, Raigad District

Dr. Kalyani Sandip Nazare

Assistant Professor, Gokhale Education Society's,  
Arts, Commerce and Science College, Shriwardhan, Dist. Raigad

Manuscript ID:  
IBMIIRJ -2025-020427

Submitted: 10 Mar. 2025

Revised: 22 Mar. 2025

Accepted: 12 Apr. 2025

Published: 30 Apr. 2025

ISSN: 3065-7857

Volume-2

Issue-4

Pp. 139-143

April 2025

**Correspondence Address:**  
Dr. Kalyani Sandip Nazare  
Assistant Professor, Gokhale  
Education Society's, Arts,  
Commerce and Science College,  
Shriwardhan, Dist. Raigad  
Email: [nazarekalyani27@gmail.com](mailto:nazarekalyani27@gmail.com)



Quick Response Code:



Web. <https://ibrj.us>



DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.19203313

DOI Link:

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19203313>



Creative Commons

## Abstract

*Absenteeism is a pressing concern in educational institutions, affecting academic performance and overall development. This study investigates the growing absenteeism rate among senior college students in Shriwardhan, Raigad District. Student absenteeism is a complicated issue everywhere which requires a comprehensive approach. By understanding the factors contributing to absenteeism and implementing effective interventions, colleges, parents and policymakers can work together to reduce absenteeism and improve academic outcomes for the students. Hence this research aims to identify factors contributing to absenteeism, its impact on academic performance, and suggest strategies to mitigate this issue. Primary data for the study were collected through a structured questionnaire administered to 50 students from four senior colleges in Shriwardhan Taluka, using the stratified sampling method to ensure representation from each college. The findings reveal that financial constraints, lack of interest in studies, health problems, transportation difficulties, family issues, and peer influence are the key causes contributing to student absenteeism. The study also highlights that persistent absenteeism negatively affects academic achievement, participation in co-curricular activities, and future career opportunities of students. Furthermore, high absenteeism weakens institutional activities such as placement programs and student development initiatives. The research suggests that stronger attendance monitoring systems, improved communication between parents and institutions, student counseling, financial assistance, and better transportation facilities can help reduce absenteeism. By addressing these issues through coordinated efforts of colleges, parents, and policymakers, educational institutions can promote regular attendance and enhance the overall academic environment.*

**Keywords:** Absenteeism, Senior College, Students, Dropout

## Introduction

Shriwardhan, a coastal town in Raigad District, Maharashtra, has seen a significant rise in absenteeism among senior college students. This trend is alarming, as it can lead to decreased academic performance, lower employability, and negative socio-economic implications. This study aims to explore the causes and consequences of absenteeism in Shriwardhan's senior colleges.

## Demographic Information of Shriwardhan Taluka

- Population: Shriwardhan taluka has a total population of 83,027, with 38,517 males and 44,510 females.
- Rural population: 73.4% of Shriwardhan taluka's population resides in rural areas, which is 60,952.
- Education: Shriwardhan taluka has an education rate of 82.32%, with male education rate at 78.8% and female education rate at 68.68%.
- Caste population: Shriwardhan taluka has Scheduled Caste (SC) at 2.97% and Scheduled Tribe (ST) at 11.41%.
- Religion: The major religions in Shriwardhan taluka are Hindu (73.24%), Muslim (22.8%), Buddhist (3.3%), and Jain (0.36%).
- Age group: Shriwardhan taluka has a population of 9,017 children in the 0-6 age group, which is 10.86% of the total population.

## Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)

*This is an open access journal, and articles are distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International Public License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/), which allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work noncommercially, as long as appropriate credit is given and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms.*

## How to cite this article:

Nazare, K. S. (2025). The Absenteeism Challenge: A Study of Senior College Students in Shriwardhan, Raigad District. *InSight Bulletin: A Multidisciplinary Interlink International Research Journal*, 2(4), 139-143. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19203313>

The demographic information of Shriwardhan Taluka indicates that there are challenges in education sector in this area. The key reasons are, some primary and secondary schools have very low student enrolment which may lead to school closure, Comparatively the quality of education is low in rural areas and some schools lack basic facilities like drinking water, toilets etc. The number of studnets in Zilla Parishad Schools is declining day by day. Parents are inclined towards English medium schools for their children's education. As a result, many teachers become surplus. Additionally, a single teacher is required to teach multiple classes at the same time in a single classroom.

#### **Socio-economic Background of Shriwardhan Taluka**

The main industries in Shriwardhan taluka includes are fishing and agriculture which manpower oriented industries. These industries are totally depend on natural/weather conditions and monsoon. They offer seasonal job opportunities to Shriwardhan people. Hence the main reason of youth migration to cities and abroad is lack of employment opportunities in local areas. Such absence of young workforce lead to labour shortages and problem of social security. This migration changes family structures and social relationships.

#### **Educational Background of Shriwardhan Taluka**

Shriwardhan taluka is in Raigad district of Maharashtra state, which include 130 primary schools, 06 Junior colleges and 04 senior colleges.

#### **List of Junior Colleges in Shriwardhan Taluka**

1. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Junior College, Dighi, Shriwardhan
2. Janata Shikshan Prasark Mandal, Nanasahab Kulkarni Junior College, Borli Panchatan
3. Gokhale Education Society's, Commerce and Science Junior College, Shriwardhan
4. Royal Education Society's, Dr. A. R. Undre Junior College, Borli Panchatan.
5. Shirhari Bhosale Higher Secondary School, (MCVC), Borlipanchatan
6. Anjuman Islam Janjira Junior College of Arts and Commerce, Shriwardhan.

#### **List of Senior Colleges in Shriwardhan Taluka**

1. Gokhale Education Society's, Arts, Commerce and Science College, Shriwardhan.
2. Royal Education Society's, Dr. A. R. Undre Women's College of Science, Borli Panchatan.
3. Maharshi Karve Model College for Women, Shriwardhan.
4. Anjuman Islam Janjira Degree College of Commerce, Shriwardhan.

#### **Key reasons of increasing rates of student's absenteeism in senior colleges of Shriwardhan taluka:**

- **Teachers-related shortcomings:**

1. Lack of implementation of attendance policy.
2. Teachers not carrying attendance sheets to class.
3. Attendance sheet filling is considered a mere formality.
4. Attendance sheets and teaching plans are prepared only for ISO and NAAC purposes.
5. Professors ignore students' absences.

- **College management related shortcomings:**

1. Lack of monitoring of students' absences.
2. No action is taken against students who are frequently absent.
3. No inquiry is made with professors regarding students' absences.

- **Student-related reasons:**

1. Daily travel expenses are unaffordable.
2. Students believe education is not directly related to job opportunities.
3. No action is taken by teachers or college for absences.
4. Attendance is not taken in class.
5. Some students pursue professional courses in Mumbai or Pune.

- **Parent-related reasons:**

1. Parents are daily wage workers and lack time to monitor their child's attendance and studies.
2. Some parents are illiterate and unaware of the importance of education.

- **Other reasons:**

1. Public transportation is not available during college hours.
2. Private transportation facilities are inadequate.
3. Students are influenced by peers and bunk classes.
4. Some students come to college but spend time in the canteen or campus instead of attending classes.

#### **Effects of Increasing rate of Students Absenteeism.**

Due to increasing rate of student absenteeism, the cultural department, college National Service Scheme Unit, Gymkhana department, library, women development cell and other academic departments are facing difficulties in getting students to participate in various competitions and programs. As a result, the college participation in inter-collegiate competitions and events is declining. Apart from this the overall engagement of students in college activities is reducing. Placement Cell of the college makes arrangement to prepare students for their future careers and bridging the gap between academia and industry and

facilitates job placements for students through campus interview. High absenteeism rates reduce the effectiveness of placement cell activities. Students who are frequently absent may miss out on key placement opportunities.

Irregular attendance of the students leads to missed classes, assignments, practical and lectures which leads to poor understanding of concepts and lower academic performance. Absenteeism reduces student engagement with teachers, peers, and office staff. Students miss opportunities to participated in discussion, group events, competitions and extracurricular activities as a result they also miss out opportunities to develop essential skills such as communication skills, presentation skills, human skills, interpersonal skills, decision making skills, social skills, etc. making them less employable.

Increasing rate of student's absenteeism can also lead to students dropping out of college, which limits their career prospects. Chronic absenteeism may contribute to stress, anxiety, demotivation and mental health of the students. It becomes difficult for the teachers to identify students who are struggling with academic and personal issues. High absenteeism can create negative atmosphere which adversely affects the overall academic culture and image of the college.

### Review of Literature

The research carried out by Balfanz, R., & Byrnes, V. (2012), shown that absenteeism is a significant predictor of academic underachievement, dropout rates and decreased career prospects. The research has mentioned several severe consequences of increasing rate of student's absenteeism. It has stated that absenteeism is linked to lower grades, educational attainment. Kelm & Connell, 2004 has stated that absenteeism is the result of academic struggles of the students. Absenteeism can lead to reduced job opportunities and lower career earnings. The research of Belfield & Levin, 2007 has identified effective interventions and strategies to address student's absenteeism.

### Research Methodology

#### Research Jurisdiction

Shriwadhan taluka consists of total 04 senior colleges out of which a single college is grant in aid college affiliated to University of Mumbai. This research covers study of these four colleges in Shriwardhan Taluka.

#### Research Objectives

1. To identify factors contributing to absenteeism among senior college students in Shriwardhan.
2. To examine the impact of absenteeism on academic performance.
3. To suggest strategies to reduce absenteeism.

#### Limitations of the Research

This study focused on senior college students in Shriwardhan, Raigad District. Hence this study covers four senior colleges only in Shriwardhan Taluka. Future research can explore absenteeism in other educational settings.

#### Data Collection

A questionnaire was prepared for 50 students from the 04 senior colleges in Shriwardhan Taluka to understand the reasons of student's absenteeism. The students were asked questions to gather information about their reasons for not attending classes regularly. Additionally, some professors from these four colleges were contacted through mobile calls and personal visits to gather their insights on students absenteeism.

#### Sample Size

Sample size is of total 50 students from the four senior colleges in Shriwardhan Taluka.

#### Sampling Techniques

Stratified Sampling method (Probability Method of Sampling) is used to select the sample of 50 students. Shriwardha Taluka has 4 senior colleges, and selecting students from each college ensures that the sample is representative of the entire population. The 4 Colleges are treated as strata, and a proportionate number of students (12-13) are selected from each college to maintain the same proportion as the population. It has reduced sampling error by ensuring that each subgroup (College) is adequately represented in the sample.

#### Techniques of data analysis

Following table indicates the different reasons of student's absenteeism and number and percentage of students those who remain absent due to concerned reason.

Reason	Number of Students	Percentage
Financial Constraints (doing job in local area and/or in cities)	15	30%
Lack of Interest in Studies	12	24%
Health Issues	08	16%
Transportation Issues	06	12%
Family Problems	04	08%
Peer Influence	03	06%
Other Reasons	02	04%

### Findings, Conclusions and Suggestions

#### Findings

- The major reason for absenteeism is financial constraints (30%), indicating that many students face economic difficulties that prevent them from attending college regularly.

- Lack of interest in studies (24%) is the second major reason, suggesting that students may not be motivated to attend classes or find the curriculum unengaging.
- Health issues (16%) and transportation issues (12%) are also significant reasons for absenteeism, highlighting the need for colleges to provide support services for students with health issues and improve transportation facilities.
- Family problems (8%) and Peer influence (6%) are less common reasons for absenteeism.
- In other reasons the key reason is to seek jobs in nearby cities mostly Mumbai, as the job opportunities are less in Shriwardhan.

### **Conclusions**

Absenteeism negatively affects academic performance of the students which may lead to increase in dropout rates of the students. This study highlights the importance of addressing student's absenteeism in senior colleges of Shriwardhan Taluka. The findings suggest that a combination of factors, including financial constraints, lack of interest in studies, health issues, and transportation problems contribute to student absenteeism. To mitigate these issues, it is essential for colleges to establish a robust attendance monitoring system, foster communication between parents and teachers, and provide necessary support services to students. By implementing required measures colleges can create a supportive learning environment that encourages students to attend classes regularly, ultimately leading to improved academic performance and better career prospects. The study's findings and recommendations can serve as a starting point for colleges to develop effective strategies to address student absenteeism and promote a culture of regular attendance.

### **Suggestions**

The Strategies suggested to reduce absenteeism are as below:

#### **Parental Involvement:**

- Parents should visit the college and inquire about their child's attendance and progress.
- Parents should be informed about their child's attendance every month.
- College should create a WhatsApp group for parents to communicate with them.

#### **Attendance Policy:**

- College should strictly follow the attendance policy.
- Teachers should take attendance every hour.
- Students who are absent without reason should be identified and communicated with.

#### **Student Support:**

- College should identify reasons for student absenteeism and take measures to address them.
- Absent students should be warned while appearing for examinations.
- College and teachers should help students who cannot attend college regularly due to financial reasons.
- Introduce students engaging teaching methods and curriculum. The interactive teaching methods can increase student interest in studies.
- Provide counselling and support services.
- College can provide health services for students with health issues.
- College can explore ways to improve transportation facilities or provide transportation assistance to students.
- College can organise workshops to address family problems and peer influence.

#### **Incentives:**

- Student with the highest attendance should be given a prize or award.
- College should organize activities that involve student participation to encourage regular attendance.
- Develop and implement attendance based incentives.
- Colleges can offer financial assistance or scholarships to students who are struggling financially.

#### **Infrastructure:**

- College should provide all basic facilities necessary for students.
- If public transportation is not available during college hours, college should inform the ST bus corporation to arrange for buses.

#### **Monitoring:**

- An attendance committee should be established and its members should meet at the end of every month to review student attendance.
- Students should be motivated to attend college regularly.

Absenteeism is a complex issue, influenced by various factors. By understanding these factors and implementing targeted strategies, educators and policymakers can reduce absenteeism and improve academic outcomes in Shriwardhan's senior colleges.

**Acknowledgment**

The author expresses sincere gratitude to all those who contributed to the successful completion of this research study. Special thanks are extended to the management and principals of the senior colleges in Shriwardhan Taluka for granting permission and providing the necessary support for data collection.

**Financial support and sponsorship**

Nil.

**Conflicts of interest**

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

**References**

1. K. Sundaram and S.K. Mishra, "Migration and Development of India: A Study of Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat." 2011, Oxford University Press.
2. R.K.Sharma, "Student Absenteeism: Causes and Redemies", 2015, Rishi Publications.
3. S.C. Jha, "Dropout and Absenteeism in Indian Schools: A Study of Elementary Education." National Council of Educational Research and Training, 2012.
4. Balfanz, R., & Byrnes, "Chronic Absenteeism: Summing up the evidence.", 2012, National Centre for Education Statistics.
5. Belfield, C. R. & Levin, H. M., "The Price We Pay: Economic and Social Consequences of inadequate education." Brookings Institution Press.
6. Klem, A. M., & Connell, "Relationship Matter: Linking Teacher Support to Student Engagement and Achievement." Journal of Educational Psychology, 96(2), 247-256.