

# The Impact of Truancy on Academic Achievement Among Male NCE Students of Jigawa State College of Education, Gumel

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**Abstract:** *This study examined the impact of truancy on academic achievement among male NCE students of Jigawa State College of Education, Gumel. The study was guided by four research objectives and four research questions. This study adopted a descriptive survey research design. The population of the study comprised of all male NCE students of Jigawa State College of Education, Gumel. A sample of 100 male NCE students was selected using simple random sampling technique. The instrument used for data collection was a structured questionnaire titled "Truancy and Academic Achievement Questionnaire (TAAQ)." The data collected were analyzed using simple percentages and frequency tables. The study identified some causes of truancy as; peer influence, poor parental supervision, lack of interest in studies e.t.c. The findings further revealed that truancy negatively affects students' academic achievement through poor examination performance, low participation in lectures e.t.c. The study concluded that truancy is a major factor affecting the academic achievement of male NCE students in Jigawa State College of Education, Gumel. Students who engage in truancy are more likely to perform poorly academically. Based on the findings of the study, some recommendations were given as follows: School authorities should enforce attendance policies strictly, Guidance counselors should organize orientation programs on the dangers of truancy e.t.c*

**Keywords:** truancy, academic achievement, education, male students, N.C.E

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Education is regarded as one of the most important instruments for national development and individual advancement. It plays a vital role in equipping individuals with knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes necessary for societal growth. Academic achievement is one of the major indicators used to measure students' success in educational institutions. However, students' regular attendance at lectures and academic activities is essential for meaningful learning and academic success.

Truancy refers to the habitual and intentional absence of students from school or lectures without valid permission. It is considered a serious educational problem because it negatively affects students' academic performance and personal development. According to Musa (2014), truancy and absenteeism contribute significantly to poor academic performance among students in Nigeria. Truancy may occur due to peer pressure, family background, poor school environment, lack of interest in education, or economic challenges.

In tertiary institutions, especially colleges of education, truancy has become increasingly common among students. Male students are often more involved in activities that distract them from academic work, including social engagements, part-time jobs, and peer-related activities. Studies have shown that students who frequently miss classes are more likely to perform poorly in examinations and assignments (Onyele, 2018). In Jigawa State College of Education, Gumel, lecturers and administrators have expressed concern over the increasing rate of truancy among male NCE students. Many students fail to attend lectures regularly, which affect their academic achievement and overall educational outcomes. Therefore, this study seeks to examine the impact of truancy on academic achievement among male NCE students of Jigawa State College of Education, Gumel.

### **Definition of Terms**

**Truancy:** Habitual absence from lectures or school without permission.

**Academic Achievement:** The level of success attained by students in their academic activities, usually measured through examinations and tests.

**Education:** is the process of acquiring knowledge, skills, values, habits, and critical thinking abilities through learning, teaching, training, and experience.

**Male Students:** are students who identify as male and are enrolled in an educational institution such as a school, college, university, or training program.

**NCE Students:** Students pursuing the Nigeria Certificate in Education programme.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Truancy has become a major challenge affecting educational institutions in Nigeria. Many students fail to attend lectures regularly, thereby missing important academic activities. In Jigawa State College of Education, Gumel, truancy among male NCE students appears to be increasing despite efforts made by the institution to enforce attendance regulations. Persistent absenteeism from lectures can lead to poor academic achievement, lack of understanding of course content, examination failure, and eventual withdrawal from school. Many male students who engage in truancy are unable to perform well academically because they miss lectures, assignments, tests, and class discussions. Although several studies have examined truancy in secondary schools, there is limited research focusing specifically on male NCE students in colleges of education. Therefore, this study investigates the impact of truancy on academic achievement among male NCE students of Jigawa State College of Education, Gumel.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The main objective of this study is to examine the impact of truancy on academic achievement among male NCE students of Jigawa State College of Education, Gumel. The specific objectives are to:

1. Identify the causes of truancy among male NCE students.
2. Examine the effects of truancy on students' academic achievement.
3. Determine the relationship between truancy and poor academic performance.
4. Suggest possible solutions to reduce truancy among students.

### **Research Questions**

The following research questions guided the study:

1. What are the causes of truancy among male NCE students?
2. What effects does truancy have on students' academic achievement?

3. Is there a relationship between truancy and poor academic performance?

4. What measures can be adopted to reduce truancy among students?

### **Significance of the Study**

This study will be beneficial to students, lecturers, parents, educational administrators, and researchers. The findings of the study will help students understand the negative consequences of truancy on their academic achievement. Lecturers and school administrators will benefit from the study by identifying effective strategies to reduce absenteeism among students. Parents will also gain insight into the importance of monitoring their children's attendance and academic activities. Furthermore, the study will contribute to existing literature on truancy and academic achievement in tertiary institutions.

### **Scope of the Study**

This study focuses on the impact of truancy on academic achievement among male NCE students of Jigawa State College of Education, Gumel. The study is limited to male students in the institution.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Concept of Truancy**

Truancy refers to the deliberate absence of students from school or classes without official permission. According to Bajon (2022), truancy is a form of indiscipline that affects students' learning and educational development. Truancy can occur occasionally or become habitual over time. Researchers have identified different forms of truancy, including occasional truancy, chronic truancy, and partial truancy. Occasional truancy occurs when students miss classes once in a while, while chronic truancy refers to persistent absenteeism from school.

### **Causes of Truancy**

Several factors contribute to truancy among students. These include:

#### **Peer Influence**

Peer groups greatly influence students' behavior. Some students skip lectures because of pressure from friends who engage in truancy.

### **Poor Parental Supervision**

Students whose parents do not monitor their academic activities are more likely to engage in truancy.

### **Financial Problems**

Some students miss classes because they lack financial support for transportation, accommodation, or learning materials.

### **Poor Teaching Methods**

Uninteresting teaching methods and poor lecturer-student relationships may discourage students from attending lectures.

### **Lack of Interest in Education**

Students who have little interest in education may frequently absent themselves from school activities.

### **Academic Achievement**

Academic achievement refers to the level of performance attained by students in their studies. It is commonly measured through examinations, assignments, tests, and continuous assessment.

Good academic achievement depends largely on students' commitment to learning activities, including regular attendance at lectures.

### **Impact of Truancy on Academic Achievement**

Truancy negatively affects students' academic achievement in several ways. Students who miss lectures often fail to understand important concepts taught in class. According to Onyele (2018), truancy leads to poor academic performance because students miss classroom interaction and learning opportunities.

Truant students are also likely to perform poorly in examinations and may eventually withdraw from school. Truancy contributes to low concentration, poor study habits, and lack of motivation toward learning.

## **Theoretical Framework**

This study is based on the Social Learning Theory developed by Albert Bandura. The theory explains that behavior is learned through observation and interaction with others. Students may develop truancy habits by associating with peers who skip lectures and engage in negative behaviors. The theory is relevant to this study because peer influence plays an important role in shaping students' attendance behavior.

## **Empirical Review**

Musa (2014) conducted a study on absenteeism and truancy among secondary school students in Ogun State, Nigeria. The study found that truancy negatively affected students' academic performance.

Bajon (2022) investigated the causes and effects of truancy among secondary school students in Taraba State. The findings revealed that peer pressure, family background, and lack of interest in education were major causes of truancy.

Onyele (2018) examined the influence of truancy on academic performance among secondary school students in Enugu State. The study concluded that truancy significantly contributed to poor academic performance.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **Research Design**

This study adopted a descriptive survey research design. The design was considered appropriate because it allowed the researcher to collect data from respondents regarding truancy and academic achievement.

### **Population of the Study**

The population of the study comprised of all male NCE students of Jigawa State College of Education, Gumel.

### **Sample and Sampling Technique**

The total number of level 200 students is 1432, with 800 females and 632 males, a sample of 100 male NCE students was selected using simple random sampling technique.

### **Instrument for Data Collection**

The instrument used for data collection was a structured questionnaire titled “Truancy and Academic Achievement Questionnaire (TAAQ).”

#### **Method of Data Collection**

The questionnaires were distributed personally by the researcher to the respondents.

#### **Method of Data Analysis**

The data collected were analyzed using simple percentages and frequency tables.

### **DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS, AND DISCUSSION**

#### **Data Presentation and Analysis**

The data collected from respondents were analyzed using frequency counts and simple percentages. The results are presented below.

Table 1: Causes of Truancy Among Male NCE Students

Causes of Truancy	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Peer influence	30	30%
Financial problems	25	25%
Poor parental supervision	20	20%
Lack of interest in studies	15	15%
Poor teaching methods	10	10%
Total	100	100%

The table above shows that peer influence is the major cause of truancy among male NCE students with 30% of responses, followed by financial problems with 25%. Poor parental supervision accounted for 20%, while lack of interest in studies and poor teaching methods accounted for 15% and 10% respectively.

Table 2: Effects of Truancy on Academic Achievement

Effects of Truancy	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Poor examination performance	35	35%
Low participation in class	25	25%
Poor study habits	20	20%
Failure in tests and assignments	15	15%
School dropout tendency	5	5%
Total	100	100%

The table above indicates that poor examination performance is the major effect of truancy on students' academic achievement with 35% of responses. Low participation in class accounted for 25%, while poor study habits accounted for 20%.

Table 3: Relationship Between Truancy and Academic Performance

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Agree	80	80%
Disagree	20	20%
Total	100	100%

The table above shows that 80% of respondents agreed that truancy negatively affects academic performance, while 20% disagreed. This implies that truancy has a strong relationship with poor academic achievement among male NCE students.

Table 4: Measures to Reduce Truancy

Suggested Measures	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strict attendance policy	30	30%
Counseling services	25	25%
Effective teaching methods	20	20%
Parental supervision	15	15%
Student motivation programs	10	10%
Total	100	100%

The findings reveal that strict attendance policies and counseling services are among the most effective measures for reducing truancy among students.

### **Findings**

The findings revealed that:

1. Peer influence is one of the major causes of truancy among male NCE students.
2. Financial problems contribute significantly to students' absenteeism.
3. Truancy negatively affects students' academic achievement.
4. Students who frequently miss lectures perform poorly in examinations.
5. Counseling services and proper attendance monitoring can help reduce truancy.

### **DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

The study showed that truancy has a significant negative impact on academic achievement among male NCE students. Students who regularly miss lectures are unable to keep up with academic activities and therefore perform poorly. The findings are consistent with the work of Musa (2014) and Onyele (2018), who found that truancy contributes to poor academic performance among students.

## **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This study examined the impact of truancy on academic achievement among male NCE students of Jigawa State College of Education, Gumel. The study identified peer influence, poor parental supervision, lack of interest in studies, and financial difficulties as major causes of truancy. The findings further revealed that truancy negatively affects students' academic achievement through poor examination performance, low participation in lectures, and weak study habits.

### **Conclusion**

The study concluded that truancy is a major factor affecting the academic achievement of male NCE students in Jigawa State College of Education, Gumel. Students who engage in truancy are more likely to perform poorly academically.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made:

1. School authorities should enforce attendance policies strictly.
2. Guidance counselors should organize orientation programs on the dangers of truancy.
3. Parents should monitor their children's academic activities regularly.
4. Lecturers should adopt effective teaching methods to encourage lecture attendance
5. Students should be motivated through academic support and counseling services.

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