

## STUDY OF HAZARDOUS SITUATION OF ACADEMIC UNDERPERFORMANCE IN RURAL AREA

**Dr. Gunjan Shah**  
Assistant Professor,  
Government Arts & Commerce College Kachhal,  
Dist- Surat

### Abstract

***Aim:** A scientific and systematic research was made to find the incidence and etiology of academic underperformance focusing on student, teacher, parent and other social factors and its impact on students. Researcher has faced such terrible problems such are Non-permanence of teachers is demotivating, late or blatantly absent, Non-teaching duties, Exemption from TET, Lack of quality teacher training. Performance trends reveal that urban learners always secure better grades than their rural counterparts. It is not caliber that affects their performance, but the resources and opportunities available to them. Again, we cannot say that teaching is not a motivating profession. There are truly passionate teachers out there to make a difference. However, poor remuneration and inadequate training are discouraging. **Material and Method:** Observational study was carried out in rural areas of south Gujarat. Parents, Class teachers and Head of the College teacher were interviewed interview schedules. Results: All the students belong to age group of 18-22 years. Parental illiteracy and no contribution in academics in 88% of the students is one of the important factors in their underperformance. Most of the fathers are alcoholic and some of the students face domestic violence. Other causes of academic underperformance are attendance. Paper concludes that Social and family factors have influence on the academic functioning of Students. A wholesome approach including finding the etiology and counseling for the students, teachers and parents individually can give a proper direction towards solution for repeated underperformance.*

**Keywords:** Academic underperformance, Interview Method Higher Education Problems, Students, Rural

### Introduction

More population and less general awareness about the significance of education have resulted in an enormous increase in the College going population at the secondary level. But unfortunately this has given rise to various problems which have to be tackled wisely and urgently. These problems may be due to different constraints in the form of infrastructure, academic, inadequate teacher training programmes, finances, role of the parents, their education and economic status, role of the society, Government and its educational policies. Academic underachievement of pupil is a big concern among parents and teachers in present day competitive society. Factors associated with educational backwardness include physical illnesses, below average intelligence, learning disorders, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, psychiatric disorders, family and College factors. Educational backwardness contributes to College dropout. At present, Pupil are identified much later and as a result, optimum benefit of remedial education is not obtained. It is important to identify the risk factors for

educational backwardness so that these children can be identified early and corrective measures initiated. The aim of the present study was to identify the risk factors for educational backwardness.

## Research Methodology

This study was designed to carried out in three Taluka of rural areas of district Tapi and Surat, Gujarat-India. 125 Students of different college backgrounds were included in the study those being, getting below average grade i.e. less than 35% aggregate marks in the previous academic year. Parents, Class teachers and College Heads were also interviewed separately during time other than the College hours in a separate room maintaining confidentiality.

## Eliminated Area:

Dropouts from College were excluded. Parents of Students complaining of gross learning disorders and known chronic ailments under treatment were excluded from our study. The survey method was selected for this study through a semi-structured questionnaire was designed which consist of following parts:

1. Socio-demographic profile
2. Parental factors
3. College factors
4. Teacher related factors
5. Personal factors of the students.

Privacy and confidentiality were ensured during the whole process.

## Statistical Analysis

Detailed Numerical study has been derived given below:

*Table: 1 (Parental Education)*

Education Level	Mother		Father	
	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage
Illiterate	31	24.8	24	19.2
College beginners	56	44.8	24	19.2
High College	37	29.6	63	50.4
College beginners	1	0.8	14	11.2

Table 1 show that out of 125 students, only one mother is College Beginners. 24.8% are illiterate and 44.8% completed only College Beginners. Amongst fathers, 19.2% are illiterate and 11.2% enters into college. So it can be easily understood that how much Students have received academic help from their parents. Majority of Students comprising 88% didn't receive any academic Help from their parents.



Table: 2 (Parental Occupation)

Occupation	Mother		Father	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Professional	0	0	2	1.6
Clerk/Shop Owner	7	5.6	18	14.4
Skilled Worker	35	28	35	28
Unskilled Worker	47	37.8	66	52.8
Unemployed	36	28.8	4	3.2

Table 2 shows that the majority of the children (52.8%) have fathers who are unskilled workers and only 2 of the children had fathers who are in professional services like College teacher. 4 children have unemployed father. It is seen that seventy students comprising of 56% study regularly for 3-4 hours per day. Twenty three (18.4%) students study for 1-2 hours and thirty two (25.6%) students do so for 2-3 hours. Out of the 125 children, 59(47.2%) children are attending extra Collegeing in the form of tuitions to improve their academic performance. Most of them have history of repeated underperformance in class. It is seen that the majority of the students i.e. 55(44%) have attendance <40% and only 36(28.8%) attend College for more than 60% of the days.

Table: 3 Visually Handicapped

Students	Spectacles - full Coorection	Poor Correction with Spectacles	Visual acuity <6/18 in better eye	Normal Vision
Number	4	1	11	109
Percentage	3.2	0.8	8.8	

Table 3 shows that out of 125 students, 87.2% i.e. 109 had normal visual acuity as checked by Snellen's chart. Five of them are using spectacles with one amongst them having poor correction even with spectacles. Eleven (8.8%) of the students have visual acuity <6/18 in better eye which was never addressed before.

Table: 4 Students with Acute and chronic Ailments

Students	Dental Caries		Worm Infestation		Acute Disease 15 days before exams		Chronic Disease	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Number	35	90	27	98	15	110	12	113
Percentage	28	72	21.6	78.4	12	88	9.6	90.4



From Table 4 it is seen that fifteen(12%) students suffered from acute disease within fifteen days before examination and most of them had fever. 28% of students have dental caries on examination untreated. 21.6% students have history of worm infestation. Twelve (9.6%) of the students have chronic disease lasting more than six months like chronic cough, asthma, epilepsy and hypothyroidism. It is seen that out of 125 students, nine (7.2%) of the students face domestic violence at home most of them are due to paternal alcoholism. Eleven (8.8%) of the students had suicidal and depressive thoughts following results. The study shows that majority of the students comprising of 72% had history of academic underperformance in previous years. For 28% of the students, this is the first episode. In the study 80% students felt ashamed after declaration of the results, 48% had guilty feeling of not studying well whereas 44.8% (56) of the students couldn't believe it.

### Dialogues:

In the present study, significant number of students with academic underperformance has lower education and employment status. Previous studies have found that academic achievement is significantly influenced by the socioeconomic and cultural environment of the family and parental involvement in academia activities. Amongst mothers, 24.8% are illiterate and 44.8% completed only primary education. Amongst fathers, 19.2% are illiterate and 11.2% completed their high College education. Only two (1.6%) students received academic help from their both parents whereas twenty four (19.2%) received help from either of the parents. Majority of students comprising 88% didn't receive any academic help from their parents. Lower education status of the father and unhappy family were found to predict poor educational performance in adolescents in a study from Kerala. College absenteeism was reported to be greater in students whose fathers were laborers or self-employed and whose mothers had lower educational levels. This may contribute to lower academic performance in children. Apart from socioeconomic factors and parental education, other factors in the family environment also influence academic functioning of children. It was reported that disturbing factors at home including quarrels between parents and siblings, broken homes, substance abuse like alcoholism in parents and being burdened by domestic responsibilities were more in low achievers compared to high achievers. A healthy family environment fosters academic achievement. In our study, chronic medical illnesses were found to be significantly more in children with educational backwardness. It is well established that children with chronic illnesses have poor academic functioning compared to healthy children. The low achievement is not simply a result of College absenteeism due to the illness, but due to the inherent aspects of the illness. Children with chronic illnesses and the added disadvantage of low socioeconomic status are at particular risk for poor College achievement. This emphasizes the importance of providing educational support to children with chronic illnesses. Significance for public health: The prevalence of academic underperformance in this study is 24.28% with majority being boys. Many of them living in disadvantageous social living conditions pertaining to water supply, housing, lighting and poor literacy of parents and 8.8% of the students suffer from poor vision. Lack of parent-teacher association, domestic violence, suicidal and depressive thoughts are contributing factors. A wholesome approach including finding counselling for the students, teachers and parents individually can give a proper direction towards solution for repeated underperformance.