

Causes And Effects of Tardiness of the Senior High School Students of Southern de Oro Philippines College

A Research Paper
Presented to
Ms. Vanessa Joyce B. Manoop
Faculty, Senior High School Department
Southern Philippines College
Julio Pacana Street, Licuan, Cagayan de Oro City
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By:

Fullo, Glorylourd Joana C.
Gramor, Omar M.

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Thesis Statement: Many Senior High school students come late to school and as a result; academic subjects will be affected as well as the grades, and they will be able to miss classes as it affects their class performance that is why every Senior High school student should eliminate the cause regarding tardiness.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Many Senior High school students come late to school and as a result; academic subjects will be affected as well as the grades, and they will be able to miss classes as it affects their class performance that is why every Senior High school student should eliminate the cause regarding tardiness.

A tardy student presents a lack of responsibility. Being tardy all the time to class is a sign of carelessness and a waste of time. Being on time is not only a duty for students, but also a part of good manners, respect and reputation. Hence, student should know how to value their time and do their best not to be tardy at all times. Tardiness is not much of an issue for students nowadays; to them it seems to be a normal thing. Nonetheless, some reasons that cause the tardiness among students can tell whether it is being committed or not or being peer pressured.

When students come to class late, it can disrupt the flow of a lecture or discussion, distract other students, impede learning, and generally erode class morale. Moreover, if left unchecked, lateness can become chronic and spread throughout the class because there are a number of possible reasons students arrive to class late,

considering which causes are at the root of the problem can help guide instructors to appropriate responses and strategies. Understanding the reasons, however, does not require tolerating the behaviour.

The researchers are more convenient to this topic because they are also Senior High school students. It is a unique topic to study because they as students also experienced being tardy to school. Aside that there is only countable research on this topic, the researchers themselves really wanted to study this common problem against students for them and for the people to be able to know and be knowledgeable about the causes and effects of being tardy when it comes to your studies and to yourself. This research is for all the students and for them to be aware on how they will be able to handle and eliminate this kind of problem. And also, they were able to come up with this topic because it is common, yet there is no so much studies when it comes to this topic.

II. BODY

When you are late for something, you are tardy, so tardiness refers to the habit of being late because of their tardiness, some people almost never arrive at work, school, or other places when they are expected. Tardiness is very annoying for the people waiting for the tardy person, and too much tardiness at work could get you fired. Tardiness comes from the Latin word *tardus*, "slow, sluggish, dull, or stupid."

Literally, the term "tardiness" implies a situation where an individual is late in happening or arriving (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary). Further suggest that the term tardiness is synonymous with "lateness", which implies arriving after the expected, arranged or usual time (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary). Besides, Free Dictionary defines tardiness as coming, occurring or remaining after correct, usual or expected time.

Generally, class tardiness is defined as students not attending lecture on time and not being present in the time set. After attending lectures for a period of time, students start getting to know how the lectures are conducted and therefore assume

that there will be no constructive activities happen for the first few minutes of the lectures. Class tardiness influences the students themselves as well as others. As is generally known, students who possess regular attendances tend to achieve better results as success is related to one's punctuality.

Therefore, the term "class tardiness" has been viewed as students coming late, not attending lecture on time, missing out initial time from the first period and primarily not being present in the time set. Similar definition is given by Weade that is being late for any measurable length of time past the stated or scheduled start time for school.

A. CAUSES OF TARDINESS

There are numerous causes of lateness to school. Amongst others, the following are the major causes of lateness to school:

1) Going late to bed

This is one of the major causes of lateness to school. Going late to bed could result in waking up late, as could be deduced from the literal meaning of the saying "early to bed early to rise".

2) Watching films and late-night movies

The individual involved in watching films and home videos may be so captivated and hypnotised by it that he/she forgets that he/she has to be in school; and at sudden realisation, he/she hurries off and likely may not be punctual.

3) The habit of waking up late

Some folks find more pleasure in early morning sleep than the overnight sleep. These kind of people always wake up late to hurry off to school but most times, situation may not really be in their favour thus they are irresistibly late to school.

4) Distance/location of school: The further the location of the school from the student/pupil or staff, the more distractions, obstacles, friends to say high to,

hold-ups to beat, go-slows, etc. are there that tend to hinder his/her punctuality to school.

5) Keeping friends of different status

Friends and acquaintances that are not of the same status with an individual tend not to understand the responsibilities of the individual, most especially those of lower status.

6) Engagement in untimely domestic chores/ activities

These activities are necessary but doing them at a wrong timing is what cause lateness to school. In some cases, most parents even oblige their wards to help carry their goods to the market and other such kind of chores before going to school. Activities like these inevitably cause lateness to school, either voluntarily or involuntarily.

7) Innate anxiety level

Most people always have that relax mind in anything they do; they do not even care if they are running late or not; they do not beat their relax temple or mood of doing things. Even when a little hurry could make them punctual, they prefer to be late than beat their innate temple; this is a glaring situation.

8) Family background

In some cases, the habit of lateness is being copied from family members. For instance, the child that sees the father always going late to work could also either voluntarily or involuntarily learn the habit, thus go to school late also.

9) Cultural background

We live in a society where the culture does not frown at, or rather say anything about punctuality as ethics in a work environment, thus to most individuals, punctuality is not really a serious matter.

10) Religious background

Every individual in this world is loyal or faithful to one religion or the other. Even the atheist is loyal to his own beliefs, thus, he/she is his/her own religion. Individuals tend to swallow hook, line and sinker, whatever their religious leaders teach, and those which the religious teacher doesn't teach is considered less or not important by them. the salient point is, if religions frown at lateness, it would reduce; and if they don't speak of it or speak encouraging it (they may say, no matter what happens, God will always favour you); the tendency is that lateness would be on the increase.

11) Lack of functional and effective punctuality policy

Obviously, individuals could come late to school if they perceive that there are no consequences to it. Furthermore, school head's fairness or equal treatment between different subjects, as perceived by individuals, could cause lateness. Individuals are likely to be more punctual if they perceive obvious "rule of law" in terms of punctuality.

12) Too much body care and excessive facial/body make-up

In some cases, individuals are obsessed by their appearance to the detriment of timely engagements in school. This could be as a result of the fact that females require more time for their body and facial care and make up.

B. THE ADVANTAGES OF BEING ON TIME vs. BEING LATE TO SCHOOL

Senior High school students are well-advised to learn not just the advantages of showing up early but also the pitfalls of showing up late.

1) **Enjoy More Time to Prepare**

Students arriving to school with time to spare have the luxury of settling in, preparing their class materials and focusing their minds on the lessons to come. They have all the time they need to literally and figuratively wake up. Showing up on time can ameliorate the often-jarring transitioning between sleepy rides on a bus to concentrating on the day's first lessons. Students showing up to class in the middle of a lesson miss out on this natural transition period and may lose even more of the lesson as they scurry to settle into an academic focus. This ultimately contributes to the lower grades and graduation rates associated with chronic tardiness.

2) **Never Miss Important Information**

Arriving to school after classes have begun can cause students to miss more than just the introduction to a new lesson. While waiting for the "tardy bell" to ring, teachers often share important information: reminders of upcoming

quizzes, class trips, new classroom rules, essay due dates and other school-related specifics. Students who show up late may miss out on these details and as a result, be unprepared for some future class event. While a teacher will likely reiterate crucial information throughout the day, latecomers may miss out on courtesy reminders about homework assignments and other projects. Senior High school students who show up on time everyday can rest assured they have all the necessary information.

3) Develop Positive Lifelong Habits

Arriving late to school on a consistent basis can have longer-term academic effects. If showing up late to school becomes a habit, students may develop the notion that tardiness is acceptable behaviour. This belief can negatively impact their future work ethic and employment opportunities. Alternatively, showing up on time to school every day can help students develop of the habit of being punctual with important commitments. This habit can serve senior high school students well through college and into their future careers.

4) Disciplinary Consequences

Most schools have specific policies concerning student tardiness. Generally, these policies allow for the occasional late arrival; rare instances of excused tardiness throughout the school year are often forgiven. Students sometimes have legitimate reasons for showing up late, such as transportation problems and doctor's appointments. School administrators often consider such events to be "excused absences". However, after reaching a predetermined number of unexcused tardy arrivals, students may be put on a structured disciplinary plan to address any further late arrivals. Depending on their continued infractions, students may be issued after-school detention, campus clean-up duty or even suspension.

C. EFFECTS OF TARDINESS

Students are tardy for a variety of reasons, but being late to class can become a habit that can have a negative effect on their success in school. Here are the following effects of tardiness.

1) Disrupted Routines

One of the most important aspects of school is that it is organized, scheduled and predictable. Students depend on the structure of the day. They know where they have to be and when. They know the main purpose for being in school is to learn and that routines are in place precisely to help them focus on that learning. When students are repeatedly tardy, these routines are disrupted. Children who are often late have trouble settling in and mastering routines. Tardiness can throw off their whole morning or even their day, especially if the late commute to school was stressful.

2) Social Criticism

The social experience has a powerful impact on a child's feelings about school and his ability to be academically successful. When a child continuously shows up late to class, other students are distracted. Attention is drawn away from the teacher or assignment and toward the child who has just arrived. Over time, classmates may begin to criticize this child, affecting how he feels about himself in school. During adolescence, children are especially conscious of fitting in and being accepted by peers. If your child is repeatedly tardy, he may become a target or outcast over time, and negative peer interactions can hurt his ability to concentrate on learning.

3) Low Achievement

Frequent tardiness is associated with lower grades and lower scores on standardized tests. It is also linked to low graduation rates. In addition, students who are routinely late at the elementary and middle school levels are more likely to fail in high school -- or even drop out. In many classrooms, particularly at the Senior High level, morning routines are critical to daily lessons. Warm-up activities may introduce topics that will be learned later in the day, or review work offers students an opportunity to review previously learned skills.

4) Responsibility

Part of your child's education is learning to be responsible. The school experience teaches children how to meet expectations. They learn to follow

schedules, obey rules, complete assignments and keep track of their materials. Learning responsibility in school is a precursor to functioning in the working world.

Attendance is one of the ways children show they can meet their obligations. In many cases, a child's attendance depends on his parents' ability to help him be on time. Parents can teach their kids organizational techniques that will help them get out of the house faster, such as packing their bags and laying out their clothes the night before school. But parents who drive their children must also remember to be punctual and responsible. After all, you are the primary role model.

5) **Respect**

Showing up to late to class, especially multiple times, can have the effect of other people losing respect for you. Your teacher and student peers can see that you do not show up on time, which can often imply that you feel a sense of apathy or disregard for your education.

6) **Discipline**

Disciplinary actions are often taken upon students who are tardy to classes. Students may be given a detention for the first couple offenses, but then the discipline may become more severe with a suspension. Students may also lose points towards their final grade in the class if they are late on numerous occasions.

7) **School Work**

Students who are late to classes may fall behind in their classroom work. If a student misses the first part of a lecture, for example, he may miss the notes that he will need to study for an upcoming exam. Some teachers do not accept late homework, so they will not permit a student to turn in a homework assignment if he is tardy. This can result in an incomplete or failing grade for the work.

8) **Preparation**

Students who are late to class are less likely to feel organized and prepared when they enter the class after a lesson is already in session. The student may be embarrassed for his classroom disruption upon entering late and may not be able to take out his necessary materials without causing further disruption. Also, he may not be aware of what page the classroom is reading in a textbook, for example, or whether there will be a quiz on the material the class is studying.

D. WAYS TO REDUCE TARDINESS

1) Motivate Them

Motivation is usually the most important step to stopping lateness because so many students see no reason to be on time. Convincing students that on-time behaviour is an essential skill, often generates more change than any other approach.

Teachers can also help their students become punctual. They can explain the multifaceted importance of punctuality and encourage good behaviour through a reward system. They can also add significance to the beginning of class by giving early quizzes and discussing important materials straightaway. Teachers must be models of good behaviour themselves. Students respect and follow teachers who arrive on time, project professionalism and authority, plan valuable lessons and dismiss classes on schedule.

2) Identify the Causes

Students have problems with lateness for many reasons including distractions, cultural differences, skill deficiencies and poor motivation. To most effectively build on-time behaviour, identify and address the source of the lateness. For example, a senior high school student woke up late because

he/she sleeps late at night. Her problem may be best modified by giving her skills to plan a wake-up-and-get-ready schedule for arriving on time.

Time management is one solution to remedying tardiness and includes going to bed early, allocating enough time in the morning to get ready for school, postponing unnecessary tasks and foreseeing problems in traffic. Students can pressure themselves to move and act faster by setting their clocks forward, which makes them think that they're running out of time.

E. REMEDIES TO TARDINESS

- 1) Schools should operate strict functional punctuality policy. One of the major responsibilities of the school head is to implement policies and/or even possibly make some.
- 2) Staff and students in the school system should be sensitised and made aware of the effects of lateness to them and the entire school system, and also the benefits of punctuality to them first and then to the entire school system. This should be carried out by school heads, governmental and non-governmental agencies, religious bodies, and other such bodies and individuals.
- 3) The school administrator must teach punctuality by example; he/she must act as a model for all to copy.
- 4) School administrators should build in staff and students, the virtue of "time-consciousness". For instance, putting wall clocks in conspicuous locations for all to see could instil the time-consciousness attitude in individuals in the school.
- 5) As an individual, try to be 15 min early to school, as this could help you make friends and say hello to already made friends; get one's self prepared for the day's activity; possibly even read a book, and most importantly could help make up for unforeseen causes of lateness, and still be punctual.

- 6) There should be also activities/acts to motivate and reinforce punctuality. For instance, awarding prizes for punctuality could go a long way in enhancing punctuality.
- 7) Parents and school administrators should join efforts in enhancing punctuality. It must be stipulated that “on the first day absence, contact should be made with parents of the child to find out why the child is absent or even late”.
- 8) Truancy patrol... is a situation where members of the community are sensitised to seize or report students found outside the school environment after stipulated times. In this kind of situation, the pupil would likely be punctual since the only convenient environment would be that of the school; if he/she comes late, would be punished; he is then forced to come early.
- 9) Government, on its part, should improve transportation and other economic activities in the country; as some students walk/trek to school as a result of fair, even those that have the fair, sometimes no transport service or no good roads, causing hold-ups and go-slows.

III. CONCLUSION

The most common reason on why Senior High school students of Southern Philippines College are tardy is that they wake up late every morning. When Senior High school students are tardy and they find the subject as an influence, it is more likely that the subject is a major subject. Additionally, when Senior High school students are tardy and they find the teacher as the influence, it is more likely that the teacher is boring.

Conclusively, lateness among Senior High school students is a major and continuous administrative problem, and there is need for students and parents to help identify and proffer solutions to this quality and disturbing problem that could lead to students' drop-out from school, and also inefficiency and ineffectiveness on the part of the school administrators, by way of school administration and management; knowing fully well that lateness could be reduced by providing free education counselling and discipline among students, in addition to the use of electronic systems, truancy sweep by school heads.

Finally, the remedy to any situation is in the situation, thus, the school administrator, should study the peculiar situation and respond as the situation suggests. The fact is no two situations are the same, no matter how similar.

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