

Factors associated with students' absences during clinical undergraduate training

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Introduction and Objectives: Classroom attendance can be important for student's competencies and transferring teacher's experiences. The aim of this study was to evaluate the factors associated with the absence of dental students in the clinical period.

Methods: This cross-sectional study was carried out on 270 dental students of Tehran University of Medical Sciences in Iran, in 2017. Information was collected by a questionnaire containing two parts of the demographic information and information on the factors of absence in the four areas of the teacher, student, educational process and physical environment. Descriptive and Correlation analysis have been used in this study.

Results: Sixty one percent and 86% of students were female and single, respectively. Sixty seven percent reported that the attendance in the classroom was needed for learning and educational skills. From the students' point of view, the most important factors related to absence in the four areas of the teacher, the educational process, the student and the physical environment were the lack of mastery (45%), lack of class efficiency (42%), lack of adequate sleep during the night before class And the resulting fatigue (35%) and poor class physical conditions (44%), respectively. Students with a lower average score, upper semester and lower economic status had more absenteeism ($P < 0.05$). Married students had less absenteeism ($P < 0.05$).

Conclusion: Teachers' acceptable teaching methods and the proper physical conditions of the classes can increase the efficiency of classes and reduce the absence of dental students.