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Assessing the Academic Performance of Working Students during Pandemic

Earl Jones G. Muico[1*], John Blair Adrian P. Requinto[2]

[1,2]Department of Arts and Sciences, University of Mindanao Tagum College.*

Email: [2]jrequinto24@gmail.com
Corresponding Email: [1]ejm_131@yahoo.com*

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Abstract: The Pandemic took its toll on many industries. Focusing on the Academe, students were forced to transition to a highly experimental modality. Many students have been affected, more specifically the working students. Working students have to manage their time, so their academic performance will likely be affected. This study was initiated to assess the academic performance of working students. The study is quantitative by nature. The study identified 150 working students of UM Tagum College (UMTC). Results revealed that working students had an average descriptive level on their Academic performance. From the results, recommendations were made.

Keywords: Academic Performance, Pandemic, Working Students, Academic institutions.

1. INTRODUCTION

The current economic state of the Philippines has forced many students to work while going to school. This is attributed to financial constraints [1]. Students have been made to balance school and work. Students have various motivations on their decision to work, but the most prevalent one is to pay for their tuition [2].

Students struggle to balance their studies with work. Different studies have documented both the negative and positive effects of work on academics. Studies show that working students struggle with their studies because of an overload of activities [3-4]. Other studies even added that the academic performance of workings students might suffer because of work [5-6]. However, some studies argue that work did not harm academics [7]. There are even studies that show work can have a positive impact on academics. [8].

The existing literature recognized effects of work on the academic performance to working students. This may depend on specific parameters. In the locale, close to no studies have been conducted on working students and their academic performance during the Pandemic. The Pandemic has affected many lives, more particularly working students. This

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stirred the researchers to conduct this study. This is of great urgency because results generated will be used to understand the working students in their plight of the Pandemic.

2. METHODOLOGY

This study employed a quantitative design. Quantitative studies use numerical data to analysis, classify, understand a specific variable of interest [9]. The study also employed a descriptive method. The nature of descriptive studies is to observe, describe, and document situations as it occur [10]. The researchers utilized a descriptive design to identify the level of academic performance of working students. The researchers designed a questionnaire to gather the data needed and analysed it.

A total of 150 working students from UM Tagum College were identified as participants of the study. This complies with the acceptable sample size for most studies that are quantitative [11]. There are even quantitative studies that go beyond the acceptable sample size [12-15].

3. RESULTS AND FINDINGS

Table 1 shows the mean scores for the Academic Performance of Working Student. The overall mean is 3.39 with a descriptive level of moderate. There three indicators of the study are the following: School Activities, Exam and Research. School Activities got a mean score of 3.08 with an average descriptive level. Exam got a mean score of 3.54 with a High descriptive level while Research got a mean score of 3.55 with a descriptive level of High.

Table 1. Academic performance of working students

Indicator	**Mean**	**SD**	**Descriptive Level**
School Activities	3.08	0.96	Average
Exam	3.54	0.67	High
Research	3.55	0.70	High
Overall	3.39	0.61	Average

Among the three indicators of Academic performance, School Activities got the lowest descriptive level and mean score. This shows that workings students have time constraints when participating in school activities. Results are similar with a study that found that working students were significantly likely not to take part in school activities as compared to students who were not employed [16].

Exam may have High descriptive however the high descriptive level is close to an average descriptive level. This shows that Exam is affected by work. This is attributed to the time that working students spend on their jobs. The time spent on studying for an examination is limited because of the time exerted for work. Working students are likely to have limited time for their academics. Leading towards a negative effect on their academic performance [17].

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Results show that the overall academic performance of working students is average. This suggests that work can have detrimental effects on academic performance. The result is consistent with other studies that show the negative impact on academic performance. Furthermore, work impedes on academic performance because of the time spent on work. [18-19]. Another also concurs that working students have limited time for studying. Thus, leading towards low or average levels of academic performance [20].

Recommendation

The academic performance of working students in UMTC garnered an overall descriptive level of average. This is in terms of school activities, exams, and research. To address the results of the study the following recommendations were suggested.

1. Working students must practice time management to balance work life and school life.
2. A specific program can be initiated to serve as an action to the average descriptive level of academic performance. This program can emphasize on the indicators that had the lowest descriptive level. In this study, it turned out to be school activities.
3. Faculy members should monitor the status of working students in their academic performance. This allows teachers to quickly respond to the needs of working students with respect to their academic performance.

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