HOD 2 INTERVIEW

**SECTION B: INTERVIEW QUESTIONS**

**Would you kindly share your understanding of the concept of student absenteeism with me**?

Yes, student absenteeism is when students do not avail themselves from scheduled classes. **OK then**

**What is your experience of absenteeism among NCV students in your college?**

Wow, yes that is why I say wow, the NCV students or students in general. The rate of absenteeism is very very much high. Hmm, they do not attend classes. They are not always here but sometimes you will find out that the number of students that you expect in class is half or below half, and the reason when asked, why they are not coming to class, they will give us so many different reasons. Some students will give a reason that they do not have money to come to school, some will give a reason that either the parent or the grandparent not feeling well, therefore they had to look after them. Others will say, I don’t come to class because I had to look after my siblings. Yah, so those are the mediates of variant reasons that are above, but others simple when asked why they are not coming to school, they simply say, Eish Sir, we have issues, without substantiating what does issues are.

**From your experience what factors have you found to be influencing absenteeism among the NCV students in your college?**

Well, like I have already Indicated, mostly it is financial factors were students do not have money to come to college. It could also be social factors. Students are overburden with responsibilities, for example, taking care of siblings or parents that are sick or sometimes they will say they themselves are not feeling well. Others will give the reason that the bus or transport didn’t pitch. So those are some of the factors I can share with you why they didn’t come to class.

**What have you found to be the effect of absenteeism among the NCV students?**

Yoo, the effect yah the most burning issue is that students end up not performing well in the test. Some students don’t even complete the assessment tasks or don’t write the test if I may put it in a plain language. They don’t write the test because on the day that they were supposed to write the test, the student has already absent themselves. Students end up failing the academic year because students never managed to grasp anything taught due to absenteeism, so that leads to high failure rate. Some just end up giving up and drop out of school.

**What are the effects if students don’t come to class how do that affect you?**

oh it affects me;I’ll say it in this ways. Hmmm, they don’t come to class, my reputation is at stake because they end up failing so that put a dent on my reputation as a lecturer. Because my performance is based on students pass rate of student. When they pass, am doing well, and when they fail, I am performing badly. So them not coming to class really affect me as a person. It also affects me in the sense that I will be forced to give them sick test if they are not at school, and that derail my progress because at the time that they come, I am supposed to finish the syllabus, then I have to stop and give attention to them. Those are the two ways that am affected as a lecturer.

**From your personal perspective how do you support students that show signs of absenteeism?**

OK, these are the actions that I take, I call the student to my office, interview the student to find out what would the cost be or the reasons be for the student not to come to classes. If I realize that the problem is too deep, like they are psycho social problems, then I refer the student to student support, that is basically what I do.

**how does the college address the elements of absenteeism how do they address once you say. matter to triple S then how does the**

Yah, I believe that the college address the problem of absenteeism by consulting with the guardian or parents. They call a meeting with the parent and together with the students so that together they can try to find out the causes and to assist both the parent and the child on how the problem of absenteeism can be solved. So that basically how the college tries to solve that problem.

**How do you think student absenteeism can be addressed in TVET sector?**

Hmm, in general, the TVET sector has to ensure that if we are talking about the finance as a factor as the reason for absenteeism. I think the TVET sector has to come up with ways to make NSFAS funds available in January, the beginning of the year or at the beginning of the term so that students may not lack funds to come to school. Hmm, there should be the advocacy right from the office of the Minister of higher education and training to sensitize the parents as well as the students on the need of attendance. Basically that is what I can think of.