HOD 4 INTERVIEW

**SECTION B: INTERVIEW QUESTIONS**

**So would you kindly share your understanding of the concept of absenteeism?**

If people do not pitch up with or without a reason, some they will let you know that they are not coming but, others will just not come to college with no reason.

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

Absenteeism rate is very high. I should think most of them in our college, they come from different provinces. So they will tell you that we don't have money for transport or others will say NSFAS has not paid for accommodation and I had to go back home. While others when they go back home they take longer to come back because there's no money to come back to college.

**From your experience, what factors have you found to be influencing absenteeism amongst our students?**

I think is socio economic factors, hmm, background where they come from, hmm motivation. If there is nobody at home who has a degree or who has a diploma, you might not get motivated. There's nobody to encourage you to go to school. Or sometimes it's poverty or teenage pregnancy as they have to drop out because there's no one who can take care of the family and they must go find jobs, others they want to study, but they have to work as well, so that also increases absenteeism. They will say ma’am, I am working part time, some days I am in and some days I won’t be in. So they really want to get the education, but the circumstances do not allow them to and others it's just pure nuttiness.

And then others are substance abuse as well, substance abuse from home.

**Then going back allow me to probe, going back to the socio economic sectors to just touch on one or two pitch three** **so I can beef up my work.** Like I said, it's poverty, lack of finance, transport money, accommodation even drugs. You know with us I think mostly because of where we are situated. The college is situated.

There's a lot that is going on in the CBD, there's a lot of factors that might influence the students not to come to school. There's a lot of temptation that is taking place like movies, clubs and flats, there's so much that are enticing.

There's a lot rising, as a student you need to be focus as what is it that you want. If you're going to be influenced by friends as well as what's going on around you, you are not going to get it right.

**Okay when you touched on influenced by friends, you mean?**

Peer pressure. Some of our students they come from rural areas, they leave in flats or apartments, there's nobody to say Wake-up, go to school. You will have to do it yourself.

As a student, having a friend who's leaving around, they catch a taxi, when they get to school they call their friends, where are you? I am not coming to school, my friends today I am lazy. Okay, I'm coming to your flat will spend the day together. So that is peer pressure, and they end up not coming to school.

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

Failure, the rate is very high and most of them they don't even qualify to write the final exam at the end of the year. So that is our huge problem, if they don't qualify to write obviously next year they will not come back, they will not qualify for the NSFAS again, so meaning they have to drop out and others the parents they do not even know what is happening about them.

**another effect how does that affect you? As a lecturer? How does it affect you as an educator?**

Number one, we get demoralized because students are not in class. You want to help them; we are here for the students. Number two, it affects your pass rate as a lecturer, so your pass rate must will be low. So you can’t say I got 90% pass rate this year, I got 100% pass rate this year because students are always not there. So our rate is always very low. And at the end it's also affecting the TVET sector in terms of funding, in terms of certification rate in terms of the perception, what people think about the TVET sector. Another thing is the syllabus.

**Coming to the syllabi, how do you. It falls under the effect the syllabi, if you say, hence you said the rate of absences is very high. Then how do you make sure that the syllabus is covered?**

we try as much as possible to cover the syllabus during the first part of the year which is term 1 and term 2 because that is when still have our students. After term 2, we usually have a lot of drop outs.

So we try to push as much as we can, write as many activities as we can so that they get interested. And some of them they feel that if I drop-out now, I've done most of the work so why am I dropping out. While others even if they drop out around that time, when they come back, at least a lot of work would have been done. Others they do drop out, but come end of September, October they want to come back to school, when they come back at least a lot of work would have been done and they want to write the final exam.

So if we've covered more at the beginning of the year, even if they come back, at least maybe you are behind with one task then you can assist them to pass and also you can do revision with them.

**Okay, from your personal perspective, how do you support NCV students that shows signs of absenteeism?**

If you get to know that okay, this student is always marked absent on the register, you can see that there are signs that this student is being absent for quite some number of days. Then how do you support? Normally we create a list and that list is submitted to the Student Support section where they will call and try to find out where the student is, are they still coming back, and others parents do not know that they are not attending.

So once the parents are aware that they are not attending, you will see them coming back to school, while others there's a form that they will have to fill in to say I am attending, as they are required to sign it and ever lecturer is required to sign the form and that from is from student’s support office and also they will give us feedback in terms of who did we find when we call home, and what are the reasons and also how do we push in terms of assisting the students with the NSFAS funds to be available.

**how does the College Address the elements of absenteeism amongst the NCV students?**

it's through the students support office.

**Then how do you think student absenteeism can be addressed in TVET colleges? How can TVET colleges address these elements of absenteeism?**

I think we need to start having relationships with the parents encourage colleges to have parent’s meetings at least twice a year, but involve the parents so that they know what happening with their children at the college, the are not surprise at the end of the year if students do not qualify to write the exam.

and also at the beginning of the year when we do registration. I think it's important that we check if the details that they have given us is correct. Some of them it's difficult to get hold of the parent because they register incorrect numbers. So we try to call the number doesn't exist. Or maybe they have changed numbers. So I think if we have more parents who are involved in our TVET sector it can assist in eliminating the high rate of absenteeism.

I know some of them, they are already parents on their own but somebody is a guardian, somebody is responsible for them. So if we have relationships with them, then I believe we can win.