

Late Coming of Secondary School Students in Ondo State, Nigeria

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Abstract

This paper examined late coming in secondary school through observational technique. Twenty students were used for the study through purposive sampling technique. Three research questions were raised for the study and were answered using descriptive analysis which are frequency count and percentage. Findings showed that students come late to school as result of the following; house chores, transportation, hold up, delay by the parents, taking of younger ones to school, sleeping late and waking up late. The paper concluded with number of recommendations that house chores should be reduced and some of the works could be postponed till after school hours, students should be leaving early to avoid hold up and school authority should work on senior students to reduce their late coming

Keywords: Late Coming, Secondary School, Observational Technique

Introduction

The concept of observation simply refers to the art of listening and watching a free sample of behaviour with a view to precisely and correctly describe an individual or situation (Egbule, 2007). Observational methods are research techniques used to systematically collect data by observing and documenting behaviours, events, or phenomena as they naturally occur in real-world settings. Observation involves the investigator watching the subjects or research situation.

Kumar (2022) said observation method of collecting the data is one of the oldest and this technique is used by both the scientists and social scientists. Gorman and Clayton (2005) define observation studies as those that “involve the systematic recording of observable phenomena or behaviour in a natural setting”. Observational techniques involve observing actual behaviours which are subsequently scored.

A key challenge that is encountered by the researcher is deciding what to look for and how to decide what constitutes a particular

behaviour. The behaviours that the researcher is interested in need to be clearly defined [operationalized] so that the observer knows what to look out for and measure; eventually these can be counted up to produce a score. The outstanding feature of observation as a research process is that it offers an investigator the opportunity to gather primary data from naturally occurring social situations (Oluwatayo & Ibitoba 2017).

One of the challenges in the secondary schools is late coming to school. Late coming is arriving after the appointed time. Late comers do not go scot free, they are given punishment such as weeding, sweeping of surroundings, washing of toilet, picking of dirt and they can be caned. The punishments bring pains and waste of time to the late comers. They miss assembly and vital information passed and many at times disturb lesson. Punctuality is the soul of business as the saying goes. Punctuality could be seen in two dimensions that is coming to the school at the right time and closing at the right time (Abubakare, Bashir & Vera 2015). Punctuality avails the students the opportunity to attend to all school

programmes and activities. There are benefits which late comers miss in the morning, such as general assembly where vital information is passed, admonitions and prayers. In this wise late coming is observed among secondary school students.

Statement of the Problem

One of the challenges facing school system is late coming. Many students are usually seen outside schools after morning assembly moving up down in the street instead of staying in the classroom. Late coming is coming to school at the wrong time. Late comers are given punishment such as weeding, sweeping of surroundings, washing of toilets, picking of dirt, fetching of water and the likes. The punishments bring pains and waste of time to the late comers. They miss assembly and important information passed there. They also disturb the lessons. Late comers miss morning class which affect their performance. Hence, there is need for this study.

Research Questions

The following questions were raised for the study

- 1 How do you wake up during the school days?
- 2 What are the reasons for coming late to school?
- 3 Which class is late coming higher?

Methodology

This study employed observational technique. The observer used instantaneous sampling (target time). The observer decided in advance the preselected moment when the observation would take place and recorded. Late comers were caught and were given Late Coming in Secondary Schools (LCSS) observational instrument.

Sample and Sampling Techniques

The population of the school under

observation was 157. The sample of the study consisted of 20 students that came late. These were selected through purposive sampling technique.

Instrument

Research instrument for the study was a self-developed instrument titled Late Coming in Secondary Schools (LCSS). The instrument consisted of 16 items which were used to collect information from late comers. The face validity and content validity of the instrument were ensured by giving the instrument to Tests and Measurement experts. The reliability was established using Cronbach Alpha and reliability coefficient of the instrument was 0.96.

Administration of the Instrument

The instrument LCSS was administered to the students (respondents) that came late to the school. The instrument was collected and was analysed. Researched questions were answered using frequency counts and percentage.

Results

Research Question 1

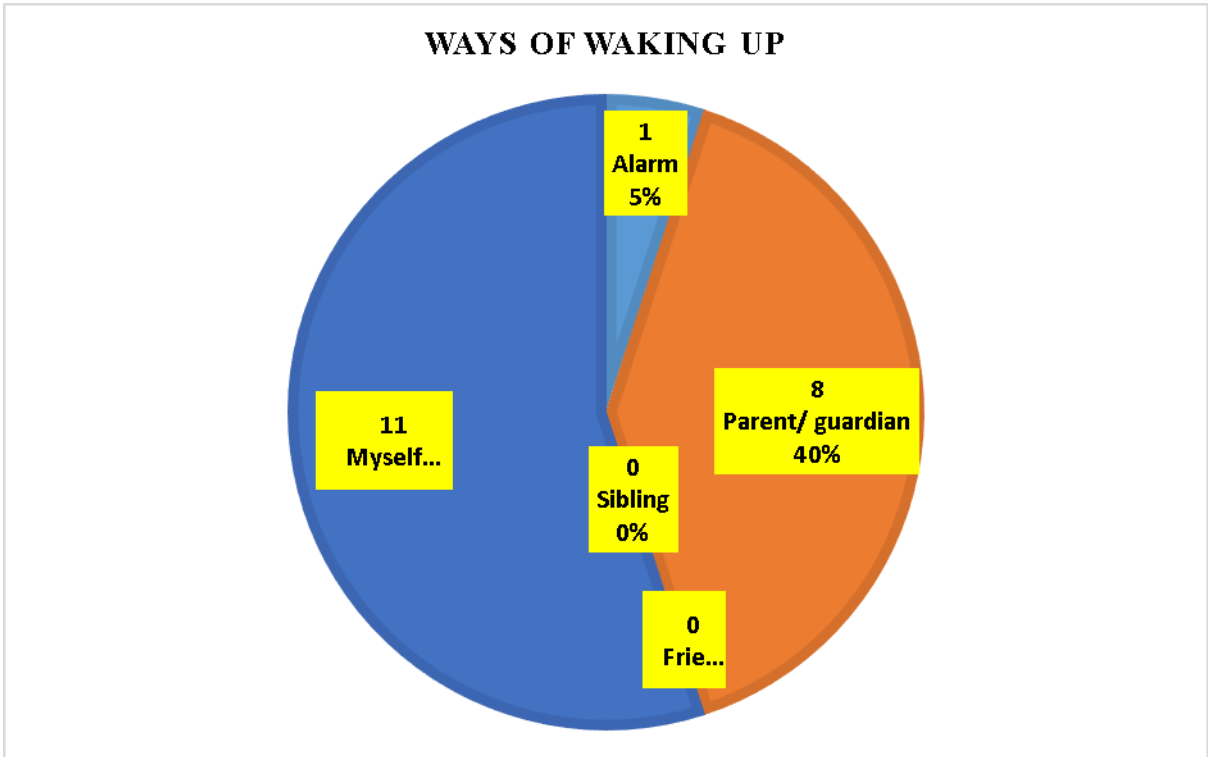
How do you wake up during the school days?

Table 1: Ways of waking up during the school days

Ways of waking up	Number	Percentage (%)
Alarm	1	5
Parent/ guardian	8	40
Sibling	0	0
Friend	0	0
Myself	11	55

Table 1 indicates that 5% of respondents wake up through setting of alarm, parents/guardians wake up 40% of the

respondents, 55% of respondents wake up by themselves while siblings and friends do not



Research Question 2

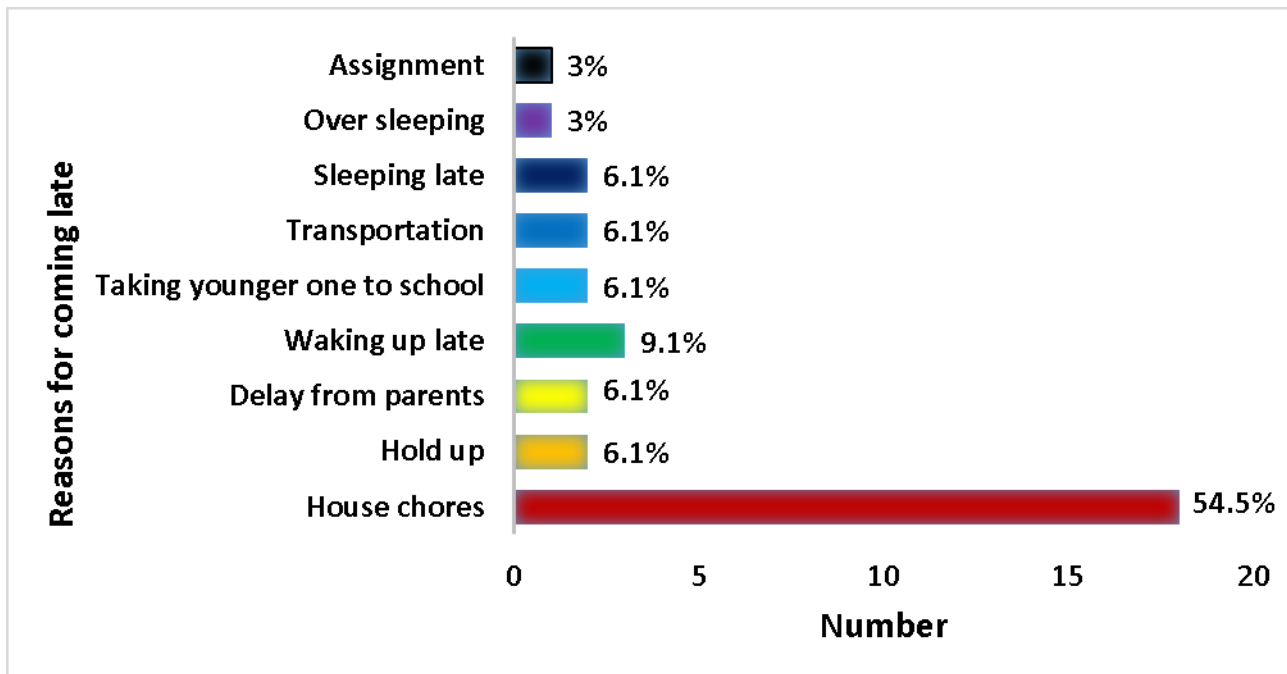
What are the reasons for coming late to school?

Table 2: Reasons for coming late to school

Reasons for coming late	Number	Percentage %
House chores	18	54.5
Hold up	2	6.1
Delay from parents	2	6.1
Waking up late	3	9.1
Taking younger one to school	2	6.1
Transportation	2	6.1

Sleeping late	2	6.1
Over sleeping	1	3.0
Assignment	1	3.0

Table 2 indicates that 54.5% of respondents are late as result of doing house chores in the morning, 6.1% of respondents are late because of hold up, 6.1% are late because of their parents, 9.1% of the respondents are late because they wake up late, 6.1% come late for taking their younger ones to school, 6.1% come late because of transportation another 6.1% come late because of sleeping late, 3.0% of respondents over sleep and 3.0 % are in habit of doing assignment before going to school



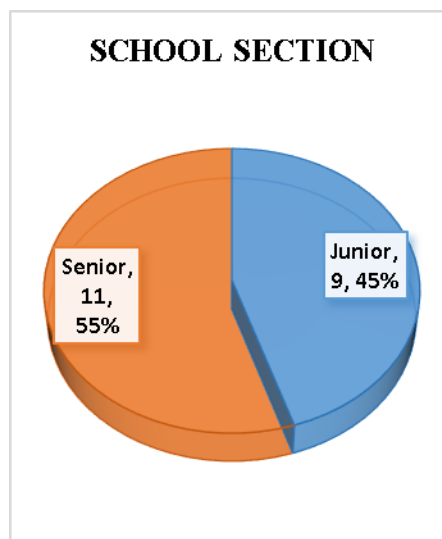
Research Question 3

Which class is late coming higher?

Table 3: School section of late comers

School section	Number	Percentage %
Junior	9	45
Senior	11	55

Table 3 shows that 45% of junior students come late to school and 55% of senior students come late to school.



DISCUSSION

The findings revealed most of the students wake up by themselves that is why they come late to school. The study also showed that parents wake up 40% of the students. The study revealed that house chores contributed highest percentage to late coming to school among the students. The finding corroborates Jumare, Maina and Ankoma-Sey (2015). Which reported that students were involved in house chores such as fetching water,

washing of house utensils, washing cloth, cooking of food and sweeping of floor. The finding also established that senior students come late to school more than junior students. This is in line with findings of Jumare, Maina and Ankoma-Sey (2015) that senior students came late to school as result of adolescent age which is characterized by misbehaviour and less fear.

Conclusion

Late coming is referring to arriving after the correct or expected time. It is one of the problems school system is facing. Late coming leads to distraction in learning especially in the morning. The problem must be eradicated or reduced to minimum level.

Recommendation

In view of the findings of the study, it is recommended that parents should reduce the work giving to students at home, especially in the morning hours when the students are preparing for school. People in the house should rise up early and wake up students in their house. School authority should work on senior students to reduce their late coming.

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