

Reasons Affecting Attrition In University Of Santo Tomas Faculty Of Pharmacy From Academic Year 2010-2013

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ABSTRACT: The number of graduating students had been observed to be much lesser as compared to the number of freshmen enrolling every academic year in the Department of Pharmacy of the University of Santo Tomas. This study aimed to identify and compare the number of attrition every academic year from 2009-2013 and to identify their reasons of dropping out. The data was obtained through the approval of the University Registrar and Dean's office to have access on the information needed. Consultation and some data were also acquired from the Guidance Office. Data gathered comprises the total number of drop outs per academic year and the reasons that elicited them to make the aforementioned decision. After the analysis of the quantified data, it was concluded that the primary reason for the withdrawal of the students in the said program is migration. Moreover, the accumulated data showed that the academic year 2010-2011 showed the highest number of attrition.

Keywords : attrition, drop outs, academic year, migration

1 INTRODUCTION

The number of students who reached the highest level of their education had been noticed to greatly reduce as compared to their population in their first years of study (UNESCO, 2009). United Nations resident coordinator in the Philippines underscored that the bigger problem in the education situation is the increasing number of dropout rate. Based on the 2006 to 2007 NSCB statistics, the dropout rate increased from 8.6 percent to 9 percent, far from the 2006 target of decreasing it to 5.5 percent and 2009 target of 4.3 percent (UNESCO, 2009). This constant decrease in student population is a concern in at least two dimensions. First is on the aggregate economy level wherein education is known to be an important element of economic growth, which leads to a loss of potential productivity. Second, it raises the cost of achieving a targeted proportion of the population having some level of schooling (Hanushek, et al 2006). This kind of problem had been observed in the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Pharmacy. The department welcomes almost 800 freshmen every academic year. However, not all students are able to finish. On their final year of college, almost half of the class had dropped out in some sections. Compared to their population on their first year, the numbers of students are decreasing as they proceed to a higher level. The increasing number of drop out may be due to several reasons. According to Engemann (2009) the reasons affecting attrition may be related to students, to the institution or to the student-institution interaction. In the study that they conducted in a college in Canada, there were four factors which appeared to be strongly related to college attrition namely date of admission, program choice, academic preparedness, and student engagement. Some of the other reasons that triggered the increasing number of attrition would also include the physical reasons where a student is unable to attend classes because of health problems, emotional reasons, financial reasons and psychological factors which includes bullying. The society also plays a big part in affecting the education of a student through peer pressure, peer influence and bullying which could cause a student to stop studying or do acts that are not decent. According to Daniels (2012), after conducting a

survey on certain schools the researchers of the article found out that drop out rates are 29 percent above average in schools with high rate of bullying while 28 percent below average of dropout rates in school with low rate of bullying. Different solutions have been planned and implemented but then again there is still a high rate of dropouts every academic year. The purpose of this study is to identify the attrition in the Faculty of Pharmacy in University of Santo Tomas and to determine the major reason to why students are dropping out of the program.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Research Design

The descriptive survey method of research was used in order to arrive at a better understanding of the phenomenon under study. This shall be the basis for arriving at causes of scientific conclusions.

2.2 Subject

School records that reflected the names and total number of students who dropped out from the Faculty of Pharmacy in academic year 2010-2013 was counted after going through the required protocol. The data gathered provided the sampling frame after which, an incidental sampling method was utilized. The researcher will locate only those subjects who are available either personally or through the internet.

2.3 Instrumentation

The approval of the Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy, College Guidance Office and the University Registrar were sought by writing a formal letter indicating the need of the group to obtain the necessary information needed for the study. After getting their consent, the total number of students who dropped out of the department and the data containing the number of enrollees per semester per academic year were determined from the school records taken from the University Registrar. Data gathered were only those included in the academic year 2010-2013. The rate was then calculated based on the data gathered and then compared. The reasons of the students for

dropping out were gathered through an interview with the guidance counselor and from the records obtained from the Dean's Office.

3 RESULTS

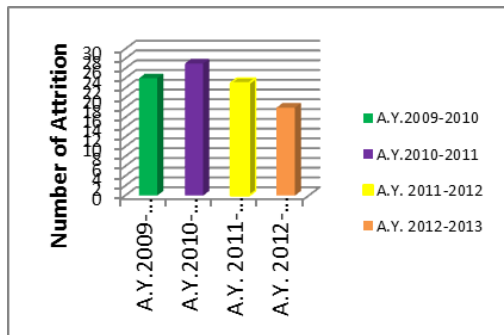


Figure 1. Number of Attrition in the UST Faculty of Pharmacy, BS Pharmacy from 2010 to 2013

Figure 1.0 shows the number of attrition in the UST Faculty of Pharmacy, BS Pharmacy from 2010 to 2013. Out of 92 students, A.Y. 2010-2011 shows the highest number of attrition with 27 (29.35%) while A.Y. 2012-2013 shows the lowest with 18 (19.57%). A.Y. 2009-2010 and A.Y. 2011-2012 has 24 (26.09%) and 23 (25.00%) respectively.

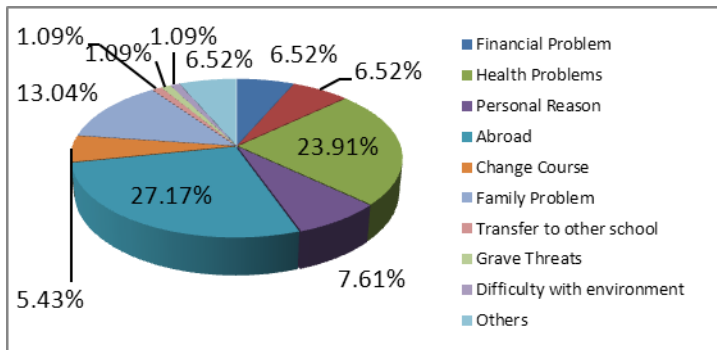


Figure 2.0 Reasons of Attrition in the UST Faculty of Pharmacy, BS Pharmacy from 2010 to 2013

Figure 2.0 shows the reasons of attrition in the UST Faculty of Pharmacy, BS Pharmacy from 2010 to 2013. As indicated by 25 responses (27.17%), going abroad is the top reason that influences a student to drop out, while transferring to another school, grave threats, and difficulty with environment are tied at the lowest with only 1 response (1.09%) each. Health problem is the second highest reason that influences attrition with 22 responses (23.91%). Personal reason, changing of course, family problem, financial problem and others have 7 (7.61%), 5 (5.43%), 12 (13.04%), 6 (6.52%), and 6 (6.52%) responses, respectively.

4 CONCLUSION

After comparing the data that were gathered, the results revealed that the highest percentage of students who dropped out from the program was recorded in the academic year 2010-2011 with 29.35%. Based from the data, it can be inferred that greater number of students has experienced difficulties in the said academic year. Several reasons for a

student to drop out from the program were also identified and a comparison was also done with the data. Based from the information that were gathered, it can be concluded that the major reason that influenced the student to drop out from the program was due to migration or transfer of residence abroad.

5 RECOMMENDATION

For future studies, the researchers would like to suggest the future researchers to determine on which year level is attrition the highest. The researchers would also recommend conducting a survey on previous drop outs of the program to determine their success rate on employment. Also, adding more years to the data being studied would also be ideal for the improvement of the research.

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