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# School Desertion in the Learning of Upper Basic and High School Students

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**Abstract---** *The objective of the research was to determine the incidence of school dropout in the learning of students of the upper basic and high school of the Educational Unit "Unión y progreso" in 2022. Dropout is a problem that has existed for many years and it has serious effects on the teaching-learning processes and the educational system in general because it interrupts educational continuity. Child labor is closely related to this problem and is one of the main causes of school dropout. The methodology applied in the research was descriptive and correlational, with inductive-deductive and synthetic analytical methods accompanied by surveys and observation records, it was obtained as a result that a large part of the students work or are willing to stop studying to work.*

**Keywords---** *child labor, high school students, learning, school dropout, teaching-learning.*

## Introduction

The pandemic brought with it many problems at the social, health, economic and educational levels. In the public sector, it is evident that the economic reality of families reflects poverty and scarcity of resources, especially technological ones. Given this situation, the government, together with the Ministry of Education, implemented strategies for a non-face-to-face modality that allowed carrying out the processes of teaching-learning. This State portfolio during the emergency-maintained communication between the members of the educational community, through tools that allow continuity in the teaching and learning process. Within these teaching mechanisms is the use of virtual educational platforms, which allow assignments to be sent, content to be given feedback and activities to be carried out (Pedaste et al., 2015; Hänze & Berger, 2007).

During this period, cases of school desertion have been evidenced in the students of the Upper Basic and Baccalaureate of the Educational Unit "Unión y Progreso" of the Limón del Cantón Chone site in the year 2021, constituting a problem that is increasing every time, this due to a series of internal and external factors, among them are economic problems, leading adolescents to child labor and this in turn causing non-attendance at academic meetings (Dessy & Pallage, 2001; Seufert, 2003). The lack of interest in studies by parents and students, and the lack of family motivation, directly affect adolescents in academic performance, or if they do not appreciate what it means to dedicate themselves to study to have better opportunities and worry about learning and achieving adequate academic performance (Pachay & Rodriguez, 2021).

The limited didactics of the teacher will be reflected in the level of academic performance of the students, who at a certain time will present a gap in terms of knowledge, not allowing them to progress progressively with the development of their skills (Villavicencio-Loor & Barreiro-Vera, 2022). And look for a solution to school desertion and how it influences the learning of the students of the Upper Basic and Baccalaureate. Being able to investigate how to respond to a topic that is elementary in the comprehensive training of students and that this student can complete their levels of study without interruption (Dammert et al., 2018; Basu et al., 2010). The study leads to knowledge through the authors of the causes of school dropout in students, for which we will use some techniques

and instruments such as observation sheet, survey, questionnaire and interview that have been considered as means of data collection for this study the study, based on the objectives and categorized according to these, for this, we propose quantitative and descriptive field research (De Witte et al., 2013; Jimerson et al., 2000).

It is important to note that these problems have an impact on learning (Cruz, 2001), defines it as a process where the skills of reading, writing, and doing mathematical calculations are acquired and developed, promoting academic achievement at different levels; this definition is very broad and does not take into account particular variables of the person who learns such as their habits, interests, culture, among other variables (Schunk, 1997), it assumes learning as the ability to acquire and modify knowledge, skills, strategies, beliefs, attitudes and behaviours, however, do not clearly define how people achieve this change.

Learning takes place when a novel idea is assimilated into an existing cognitive structure, thanks to the fact that a variable influences learning and retention due to the availability in the cognitive structure of linking ideas, this definition has the strength that it is the basis of learning. significant learning, but as can be seen, it is a definition focused on the problem of cognitive structures, that is, on a purely psychological idea, which lacks the inclusion of variables external to the person who learns (Ausubel, 1968).

One of the causes of school dropout is commitment at an early age, as established by some authors in their research: The personal factors that most influence dropouts are: getting married and not passing subjects, it stands out that women dropped out more for this factor than men; this is probably because the act of getting married for the students prevents them from continuing their studies because they prefer to flee from their daily lives and seek other life opportunities with their boyfriend; In addition, getting married at an early age is common in the context in which they live, which harms dropout students, since they acquire responsibilities that are not appropriate for their age (Ruiz et al., 2014).

School dropout means deserting or abandoning, in the educational field it is commonly known as school dropout, which is a personal decision or due to various factors, which makes it impossible for the student to continue with the training, causing little interest or lack of motivation in continue in the learning process (Hernández et al., 2017). On the other hand, child labor, minors as actors in the event, are generally invisible to society, since it is unlikely that action will be taken in the face of this problem, which is often camouflaged in other activities because a curtain is figuratively generated that hides the problem because the minor does not note the rights that are violated (Pavez, 2012).

Above all, infants who carry out work activities to improve their economic situation largely affect their thinking towards achieving academic goals (Hamre & Pianta, 2001); likewise, the problem is further complicated by the fact of not attending school, since the environment in which the infant's activities take place are not adequate for that intellectual development (Noble et al., 2005), added to the other consequences that arise as a result of leaving school to work.

The participation of parents can help improve the quality of public school systems and these provide a group of opportunities for their children to be successful in their transit through school, which is why the participation of the family is significant in the education of boys and girls, so much so that the Ministry of Education considers the trilogy: school, parents and teachers as the basis for the development of knowledge in students (Machen et al., 2005).

The family must guarantee economic conditions that allow children to attend classes daily and must also prepare them from birth so that they can participate actively in school and learn, if the poverty rates in a country do not go down, the problems in the educational sector will hardly be eradicated (López & Tedesco, 2002). School dropout occurs mainly at the middle or secondary school level, between 16 and 17 years of age, due –among other aspects– to the transition from Primary to Secondary, the increase in curricular demands, to the difficulties of adjusting the students to the educational system, the curricular gap concerning the socio-evolutionary development corresponding to their age, the accumulation of subjects (Sepúlveda & Opazo, 2009). On the other hand, social and cultural factors of the family, relationships between equals as well as economic aspects. Some of the family factors such as parents' expectations of academic achievement and emotional and economic support have been pointed out by (Ortega et al., 2016), and many do not have economic possibilities.

## Materials and Methods

The present investigation is of a descriptive scientific nature, which allowed detailing the most relevant aspects obtained through the data collection, to describe the incidence and the relationship between the study variables, fulfilling the stated objectives, since that operates when it is necessary to delineate the specific characteristics discovered by the investigations (Díaz & Calzadilla, 2016). The systematized process that was carried out in the investigation was of a correlational type, to measure the degree of relationship of the study variables, in this case,

school desertion and learning in the students of the upper basic and baccalaureate of the Educational Unit. Union and Progress, in this way, have a clear and precise idea for their theoretical-scientific foundation (Farmer et al., 2003; Rumberger, 2020).

In addition, bibliographic research was used for the theoretical foundation of the project, which includes an important collection of books, magazines and scientific documents that support the research bases of the project. Among the methods used, the inductive-deductive method and the analytical-synthetic method stood out. In the investigative process, it is necessary to define the methods to be used because it determines the type of phenomenon to be studied, the objectives, in addition, the analytical perspective (González, 2005).

The research techniques represent the main part of it, the scientific research technique is a typical procedure, validated by practice, generally oriented, although not exclusively, to obtain and transform useful information for the solution of knowledge problems in scientific disciplines (Crotte, 2011), are the ones that allow obtaining the real data of the object and subject of study, for this reason, the following were applied: The survey of 67 students of the upper basic and high school to analyze child labor in attendance at classes and 50 parents to describe the interest of parents in the education of their children and to define the orientation of parents in training. Finally, an observation sheet applied to 7 teachers from the Educational Unit "UNIÓN Y PROGRESO" of the Santa Rita parish in the Chone canton was considered.

## Results and Discussion

Fundamental actors for raising quality at this level of education" (Quijije, 2015), according to the need for didactic and pedagogical skills in the classroom. The role of parents and teachers represents a complementary role in student learning. González & González (2015), assures that "the mission of teachers and tutors must consist of helping parents to be aware of the importance of their educational task, promoting and guiding active, continuous and responsible participation", for which, parents must be aware of the education of their children and maintain active communication with the teachers of their representatives.

Román (2013), proposes the Reincorporation or Reinsertion Programs as a strategy to combat school dropouts. Unlike the previous program, these programs are intended only for those who are outside the school system or who are but are at high risk of dropping out of school. Within Spain, more specifically in the Region of Murcia, there is a plan to reduce school absenteeism that involves coordinated actions between educational centers with social and legal institutions, which includes measures, from planned tutoring to the home intervention of social services.

For Espinoza & Claro (2010), it is also important that the parents of the students get involved in the school and support their children, as this can increase the chances that the student attends school, along with the motivation to improve their behavior, their academic performance, and their results. In addition, the morale of the teaching staff also improves with the family support that the student stays in school. The results obtained with the surveys carried out on the students, related to class attendance, are shown in figure 1.

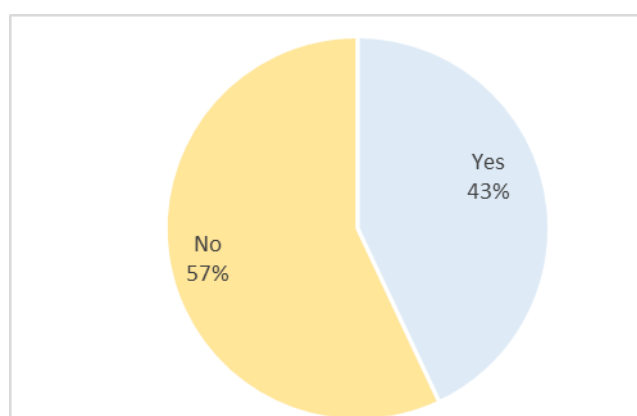


Figure 1. Class attendance

As shown, most of the students do not go to class, this is one of the causes of poor academic performance and high school dropout. According to the results obtained, 57% of the students did not normally attend classes in the 2021-2022 academic period, they had low connectivity to classes since this educational year was carried out virtually. Only 43% maintained constant connectivity. It is important to note that class absence has a high impact on learning,

since students do not receive feedback from the teacher. The most important activities carried out by students in their daily lives were inquired about, the results related to this are shown in figure 2.

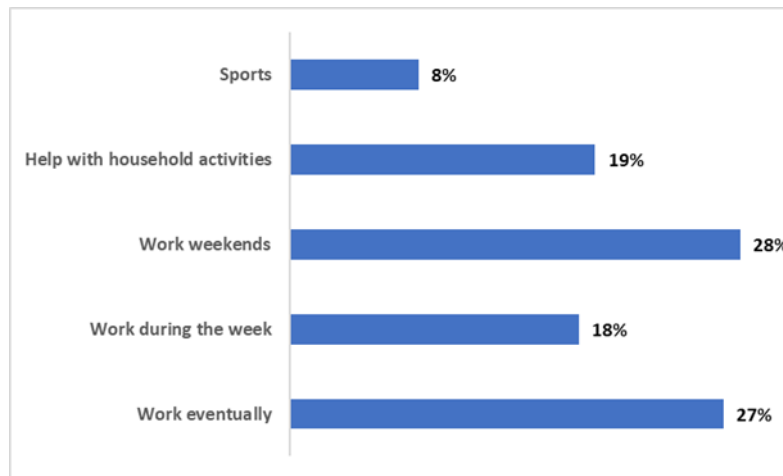


Figure 2. Activities carried out by students

Of the students of the upper basic as an additional activity to their studies 28% work on weekends, 27% work occasionally, 19% help with household activities, 18% work during the week and only 8% play sports. In general, there is 73% of students, in addition to studying, are working in different modalities and times, reducing the time they can use for their studies, and limiting their abilities. Students were asked about the time they spend studying daily, the data is shown in figure 3.

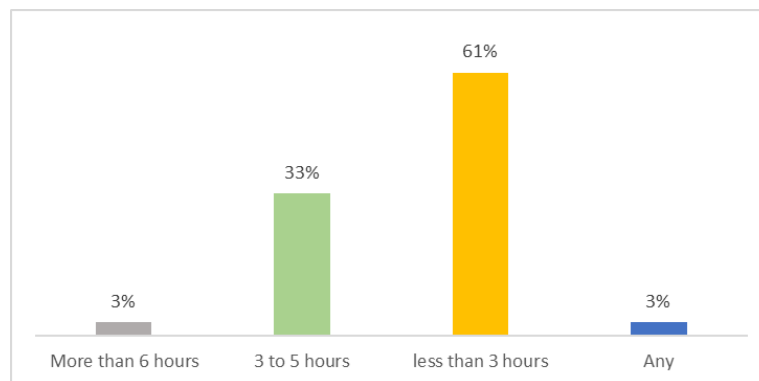


Figure 3. Time for studies

Regarding the time students spend on their studies, it was determined that 61% use less than 3 hours a day, 33% from 3 to 5 hours, 3% no time and only 3% more than 6 hours. Experts have not yet determined an exact time that should be used for studies, but many agree that at least 5 to 6 hours would be ideal, therefore, the time used by upper basic students is not adequate and enough to achieve meaningful learning. The emotional environment of the student within his home was studied to know if any difficulties can hinder the teaching process. The results are shown in figure 4.

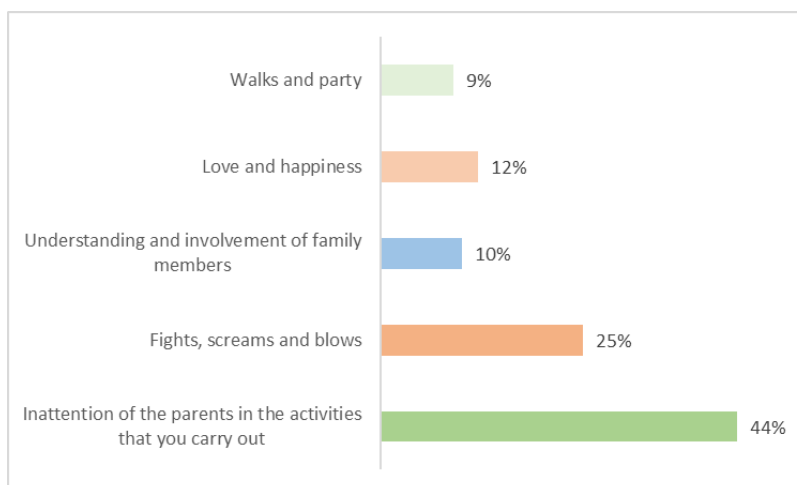


Figure 4. Difficulties that can hinder the teaching process

Within the homes of the students, 44% of parents neglect the activities that you carry out, 25% fight, shout and blow, 12% love and happiness, 10% understand and participate with family members and 9% walk and parties. Consequently, 69% of households present negative situations for students. A survey was applied to the teachers so that they could give their criteria in the observation sheet, these results are shown in figure 5.

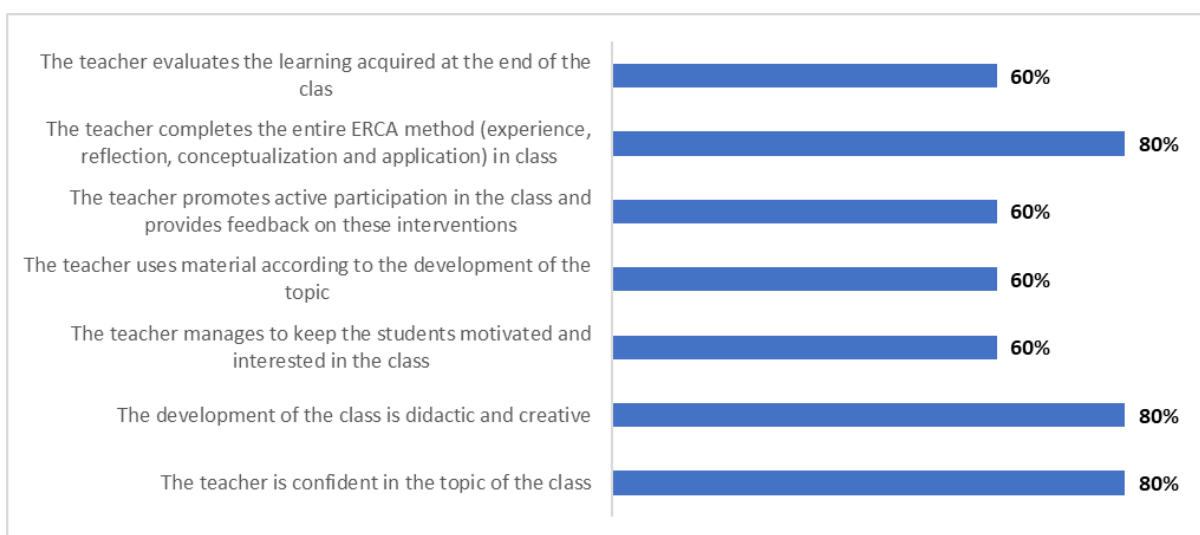


Figure 5. Observation sheet applied to the teachers

In the observation of the classes and the methodological part that involves the teacher, it was possible to show that in general terms all the aspects required for the correct development of learning are met, showing slightly low levels in keeping students motivated and interested, the use of the material in class, active participation and feedback from the contents and the methods applied to evaluate the results of the class, however, the performance of the teachers is quite good. The aspects that were considered in the observation of the students were also valued; the results can be seen in figure 6.

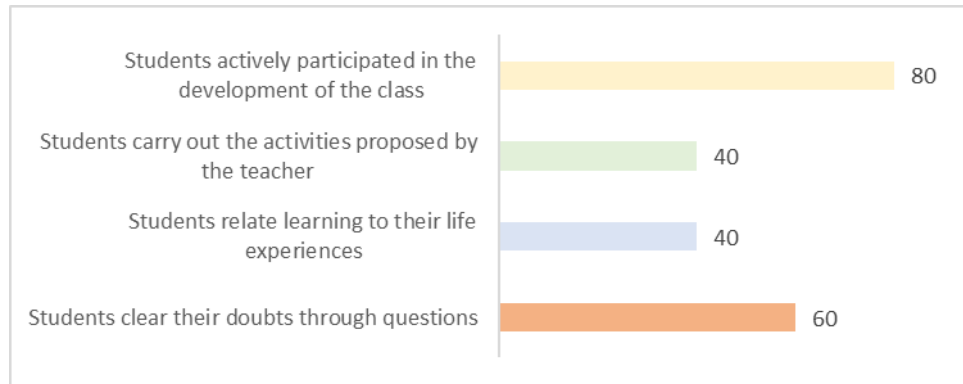


Figure 6. Aspects that were considered in the observation of the students

The students in the class show some low levels in various aspects such as: they do not ask questions to clear their doubts, they do not relate learning or knowledge with their life experiences; on the other hand, at more regular levels they do not show a high interest in the class, nor active participation, in the best of cases they showed better results when carrying out the activities proposed by the teacher.

### Conclusions

It was evidenced that the incidence of school desertion in the learning of the students of the upper basic and high school of the Educational Unit "Unión y progress" in 2022. It is a problem that must be solved were the teachers, the family and fundamentally intervene the students. Dropping out has existed for many years and has serious effects on teaching-learning processes and on the education system in general due to early abandonment to go to work and support their parents in the household economy

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