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UNDERSTANDING AND ADDRESSING STUDENTS' DISOBEDIENCE: CAUSES, IMPACT, AND EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES IN PRIMARY EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT:

The article titled “Understanding and Addressing Students' Disobedience: Causes, Impact, and Effective Strategies in Primary Education” focuses on the social and psychological interactions between students and teachers in primary school settings. The relevance of the topic lies in the fact that disobedience often negatively impacts the effectiveness of the learning process and undermines trust between students and teachers. The article thoroughly examines the main causes of disobedience, including age-specific behavior, teaching methods, and social factors. Additionally, it provides effective solutions to address this issue. The primary aim of this study is to identify the root causes of disobedience and develop effective strategies to prevent or resolve it. The article includes real-life examples and explores advanced practices in management and pedagogy. Suggested solutions involve fostering open communication, implementing creative and game-based teaching methods, and addressing students' psychological needs.

Keywords: *Disobedience, Teacher-student relationship, Primary school, Classroom management, Teaching methods, Educational environment, Student behavior, Psychological factors, Effective strategies, Communication in education, Pedagogical practices, Classroom dynamics, Educational challenges, Disobedience prevention, Teaching techniques.*

Introduction:

Today's education system is changing rapidly, and this is having a significant impact on the relationship between teachers and students. In the past, schools were places where students respected rules and obeyed their teachers. However, nowadays, students are more likely to question or disregard authority in the classroom, which has become a major concern for educators and parents.

One of the main reasons for this shift is the increasing use of technology. Almost everyone now has access to smartphones and tablets. According to Sarker et al. (2019), "97% of the global population owns mobile devices." ¹ These gadgets make it easy to connect with others and access information, but they also create distractions. Students are often preoccupied with social media or games during lessons, which negatively impacts their ability to concentrate and follow classroom rules. Cambridge University professor John Adams emphasizes that "these distractions make it harder for students to focus and participate in learning activities."²

Another contributing factor is society's growing emphasis on independence and freedom of expression. Many people today believe that everyone has the right to voice their opinions and question authority. This belief is often reflected in how children are raised. Some parents prioritize fostering independence and self-expression over teaching respect for rules and authority. Moreover, certain parents go even further by telling their children that "teachers have no real power over them."³ They encourage their children to view teachers with a sense of disregard, even suggesting that "society should hold teachers in low esteem."⁴ Such attitudes can lead to students undermining their teachers' authority and feeling justified in ignoring classroom expectations.

Additionally, students face increasing academic and social pressures, which adds complexity to this issue. The high expectations placed on them by schools, families, and society often cause stress, leading some students to seek refuge in digital spaces. This reliance on technology further disconnects them from their

learning environment. The problem here is not just the technology itself but also the societal pressures that push students to prioritize success over discipline and engagement.

Peer influence is another significant factor. In today's interconnected world, students are constantly communicating with each other online. This creates group dynamics where they reinforce each other's attitudes toward rules and authority. Sometimes, this means students encourage one another to challenge teachers or ignore school regulations, further weakening the classroom structure.

This article will examine the key factors contributing to student noncompliance, focusing on the role of technology, family values, societal pressures, and peer influence. It will also explore potential solutions to strengthen the relationship between students and teachers, ensuring a more productive and respectful learning environment for everyone.

There are some reasons behind students' noncompliance with teachers: 1. Parental Influence. Some parents strongly influence their children's attitudes toward teachers. They may openly criticize teachers or undermine their authority in front of their children. In some cases, parents even tell their children that teachers have no real power and do not deserve respect. "This leads students to believe they are not obligated to follow school rules or listen to their teachers."⁵ Technological Distractions. The widespread use of smartphones and other devices among students has introduced significant distractions in classrooms. Instead of focusing on the lesson, students are often absorbed in social media, games, or other online activities. "This not only reduces their attention spans but also weakens discipline and respect for the classroom environment."⁶ 3. Stress and Academic Pressure. Many students feel immense pressure to perform well academically. This stress can manifest as frustration or defiance in the classroom. "As a way of coping with their internal struggles, students may challenge teachers or ignore instructions, further weakening their relationship with authority figures"⁷

Different reasons on students' disobedience to their teacher are stated by researchers worked on the issue. For instance, American psychologist Dr. Sarah "Johnson highlights the significant role parents play in shaping their children's respect for authority figures, particularly teachers"⁸ According to Dr. Johnson, "the way parents speak about teachers and the school system in front of their children can directly influence how students view their teachers and the education process." If parents constantly criticize teachers or portray them in a negative light, children are more likely to adopt these views, leading to a lack of respect for the teacher's authority. This behavior manifests in the classroom, where students may feel entitled to ignore instructions, challenge rules, or display defiant behavior."⁹ Therefore, parental influence is a critical factor in either fostering a respectful classroom environment or contributing to its disruption. "Professor Alan Smith, a renowned technology researcher, has emphasized the growing role of mobile phones and digital devices in the classroom, particularly in terms of their disruptive nature"¹⁰ While technology can be an excellent educational tool, Smith argues that the overuse of mobile devices among students can significantly distract them from their studies. "Smartphones, tablets, and laptops, although beneficial in many ways, provide easy access to social media, games, and other entertainment, which often leads students to focus on these distractions rather than on their lessons."¹¹ In this way, the very devices that can enhance learning are also the ones that encourage multitasking and reduce deep engagement with academic material. Smith stresses the importance of teachers setting boundaries for technology use in the classroom to ensure that it serves its educational purpose rather than detracting from it.

Dr. Emily Carter, a prominent child psychologist, asserts that academic stress is one of the main factors contributing to student noncompliance in the classroom. She explains that "the pressure to perform well in exams, meet high expectations, and maintain a competitive edge often leads students to experience anxiety, which in turn manifests as resistance to authority." For many students, noncompliance is a coping mechanism for dealing with the overwhelming stress of academic life. Dr. Carter

recommends that schools focus on reducing these pressures by providing mental health support and creating a more balanced academic environment. She also suggests that teachers be trained to recognize signs of stress and offer students the emotional support they need to succeed without feeling overwhelmed.¹²

Sociologist Professor Mark Wilson's research underscores the powerful impact that peer groups have on student behavior. Wilson notes that "students, especially adolescents, are highly influenced by their peers, and one student's defiance can quickly spread to others within the group." In a classroom setting, when one student openly challenges a teacher or disregards classroom rules, it can encourage other students to follow suit, creating a collective attitude of disrespect. Wilson emphasizes the importance of peer leadership and the role of positive student influencers in promoting compliance and cooperation in the classroom. He also suggests that schools implement peer mentorship programs where older students can model respectful behavior and guide younger students in developing good classroom habits.

Methodology:

The research focused on identifying the reasons behind student noncompliance with teachers at School 19 in the Kiziltepa district, Navai region. Observations were conducted over one week in 10th and 11th-grade classes to uncover the root causes of behavioral issues, analyze student-teacher interactions, and evaluate the effects of these behaviors on the learning process.

During the observation period, several behavioral patterns were noted that disrupted the teaching process. A lack of engagement was frequently observed, with students avoiding participation and focusing on distractions unrelated to the subject matter. In some instances, instructions were openly disregarded, leading to disruptions that affected the overall classroom environment.

To gain further insights, interviews were conducted with teachers and students using prepared True/False questions to explore common perceptions and challenges

related to classroom discipline. Approximately 15 teachers participated, providing valuable perspectives based on their experiences. Many emphasized that “a lack of parental support and the increasing influence of technology” were significant factors contributing to these issues.

Students’ attitudes varied across grade levels. Older students often viewed classroom rules as restrictive, while younger ones were more compliant but easily influenced by peers. Around 50 students participated in the survey, either through direct conversations or anonymous forms.

Given teachers’ limited availability, interviews were conducted face-to-face to accommodate their preferences and ensure the collection of diverse perspectives. Discussions highlighted that “family dynamics and societal changes” significantly impact students’ attitudes toward discipline.

The findings revealed that noncompliance is influenced by a combination of factors, including “technological distractions, societal influences, and individual pressures.” These insights provide a foundation for developing strategies to enhance classroom discipline and promote mutual respect between teachers and students.

Questions to Students:

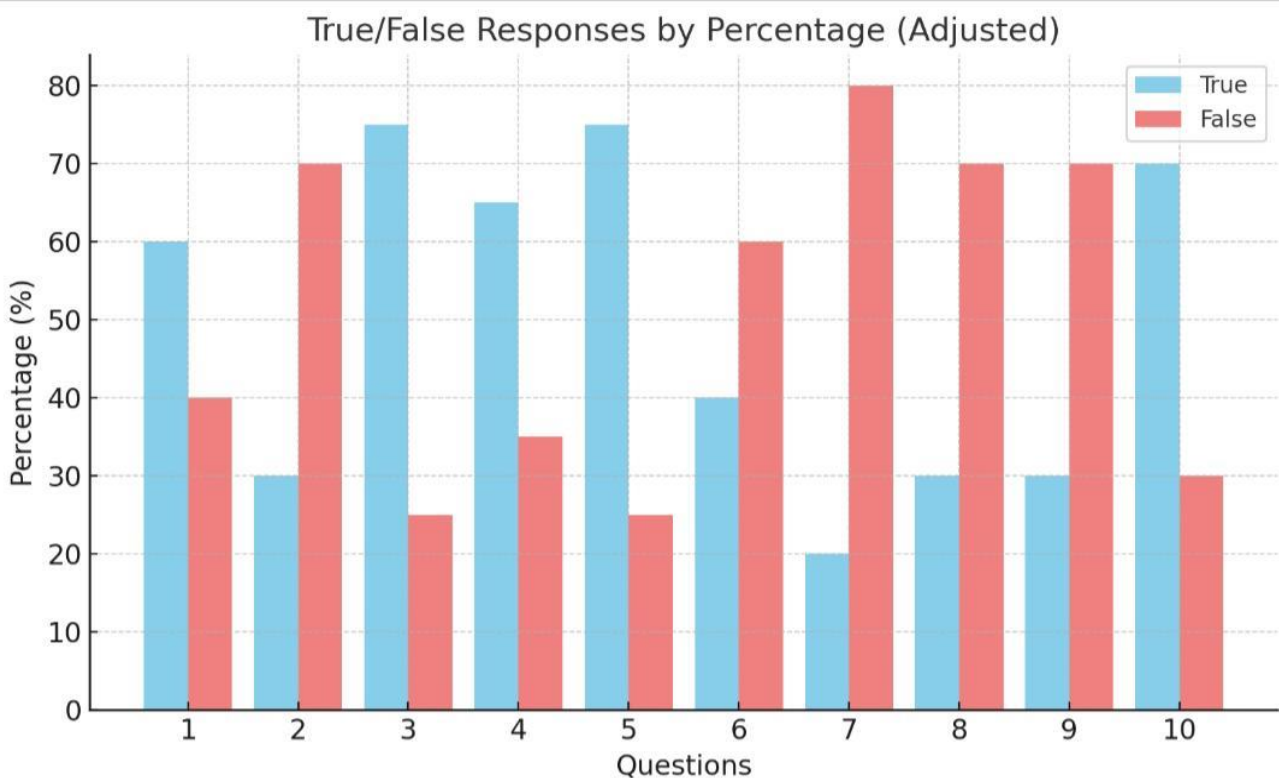
1. Teachers always understand the personal challenges students face.
2. Using mobile phones in class helps students focus better on lessons.
3. Students feel more confident questioning teachers when they don’t respect their authorities.
4. Parents’ opinions about teachers influence how students behave in class.
5. Group activities in class encourage students to follow classroom rules.
6. Stress from exams or assignments can lead to students ignoring teachers’ instructions.
7. Social media has no effect on students’ behavior toward their teachers.
8. Students are more likely to respect teachers who treat them fairly and kindly.
9. Rules in the classroom are unnecessary and limit students’ freedom.
10. Students behave differently toward teachers depending on their classmates’ actions.

Questions to teachers:

1. Students’ noncompliance with teachers is often influenced by how teachers are regarded at home.
2. Mobile phones reduce students’ attention during lessons.
3. Disciplining students through physical punishment can help decrease their noncompliance.
4. Students learn noncompliant behavior toward teachers through interactions on social media.
5. Teachers should use more technology in class to address students’ noncompliance.
6. Students’ noncompliance with teachers can be solely attributed to the influence of their parents.
7. Teachers’ authority increases students’ respect for them.
8. Students’ noncompliance during lessons is entirely related to their individual behavior.

Results

Students’ Responses to True/False Questions (%)

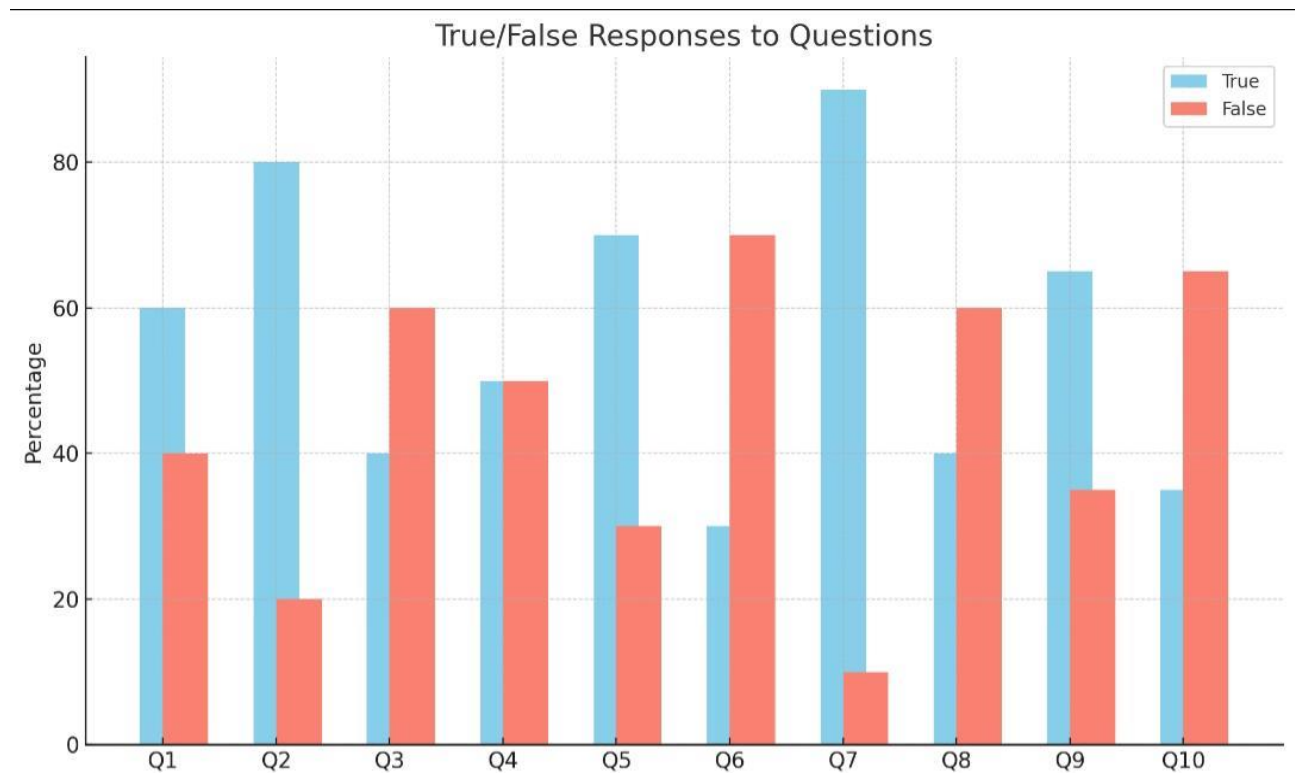


Research findings reveal that it is crucial for teachers to consider various factors to ensure students’ compliance. The question with the highest “True” responses indicates that teachers acknowledge the significant role of authority and reputation in increasing students’ respect. This implies that educators can achieve better outcomes not only by maintaining discipline but also by setting a positive example and fostering constructive communication with students.

Additionally, the question with the highest “False” responses shows that teachers do not attribute students’ noncompliance solely to parental influence. They recognize that disobedience may stem from various other factors, such as the school environment, personal traits, and the impact of modern technology.

These findings highlight the importance for teachers to not only enhance their pedagogical skills but also to develop a deeper understanding of students’ needs and challenges, paving the way for more effective teaching strategies.

The students’ responses highlight different views on classroom dynamics, teacher authority, and the use of technology. Many students believe that “teachers understand their personal challenges,”¹³ but some feel that teachers do not fully grasp all their issues.



Regarding mobile phone use, most students think that “phones are a distraction in class, as they often use them for social media rather than learning.”¹⁴ However, a few believe phones can be helpful for educational purposes.

Respect for teacher authority varies; some students feel more confident questioning teachers when “they don’t strictly enforce authority,”¹⁵ while others value strong authority in the classroom.

Parental influence is also significant, with students behaving better when their parents respect teachers.¹⁶ Group activities were seen positively, as “they help students follow rules and collaborate.”¹⁷

Most students do not let stress from exams affect their focus, but some admit it can be a challenge.¹⁸ Social media’s impact on behavior toward teachers was acknowledged, as “it shapes students’ perceptions of authority.”¹⁹

Finally, students generally agree that “classroom rules are important for maintaining order and promoting effective learning.”²⁰ These responses show the importance of balance between respect, technology use, and discipline in the classroom.

Conclusion:

The issue of students’ lack of respect for teachers reflects diverse views on their relationships with educators and classroom dynamics. While some students emphasize the importance of showing respect to teachers, others feel that teachers should maintain strict authority. Students value freedom but also understand the necessity of rules and discipline in class. The use of mobile phones and social media was seen as a distraction that affects attention and behavior. Ultimately, creating an effective learning environment requires a balance of respect, firm authority, and careful management of technology use by teachers.

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