

School Dropout and Associated Concepts and Types

Abdelbasset Gouni ¹, Atallah Benyahia ²

¹ Ammar Thaliji University of Laghouat (Algeria), Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Psychology And Education Sciences And Orthophonie, laboratory of Guidance Psychological Development Tools Measurement In the middle School, a.gouni@lagh-univ.dz

² Ammar Thaliji University of Laghouat (Algeria), Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Psychology And Education Sciences And Orthophonie, laboratory of Guidance Psychological Development Tools Measurement In the middle School, a.benyahia@lagh-univ.dz

Received: 08/2023, Published: 09/2023

Abstract:

The issue of educational dropout has received significant attention from educational specialists noticeably and objectively, considering it one of the most challenging academic problems faced by any educational system worldwide. Through extensive studies conducted on this subject, multiple concepts and definitions of dropout have been observed, resulting in various types. However, they have revealed clarity amidst the ambiguity surrounding the idea of dropout. Each type has been given terminological and conceptual precision through this diversity, facilitating differentiation between them.

Keywords: Educational problems, School dropout, school failure.

Tob Regul Sci. TM 2023;9(1): 4615 - 4624

DOI: doi.org/10.18001/TRS.9.1.322

1- School dropout:

Linguistically:

"Saraba" and "Suruban" mean going out on the earth's surface. It is mentioned in the Quran: "And whether one is hidden by night or conspicuous [among others] by day." It is also said: "Saraba Fi Hajatihi": He went discreetly into his need. "Wa saraba al-maa'u suruban." Means; water flowed continuously.(Al-Hadj Ali, 2019:187).

"Tasarraba, tasarruban." means to enter reality, like a person sneaking into a country, meaning entering it secretly and covertly.

"Al-Sarib" refers to someone who goes to the earth's surface without guidance. In Lissan El Arab by Ibn Manzur, Volume 3, it is mentioned that the word "tasurub" has many meanings, including the burrow dug under the ground, and it is said under the earth. It may also refer to digging by taking the tool in the right and left hands.

"Al-Sarab" refers to where a wild animal enters and flocks gather. The flocks of the wild animals are in their flocks," and the fox is in its hole. "Sarab al-inaa" refers to the leaking of water from a container. It is also said, "The news leaked to the enemy," meaning it spread secretly. (Nassisa et al., 2020 :320).

The Al-Mawrid Encyclopedia indicated that "school dropout" carries the meaning of "falling" or "failure" and "leakage" and "decrease" in voltage. (Mohammed Abbas, 2020:268).

Accordingly, "leakage" in its linguistic sense means something from its vessel, environment, or surroundings.

Terminologically, the concept of school dropout varies from one educational system to another, according to each country's specific conditions and educational foundations. The concept of school dropout in a particular country may mean that a student leaves school before the start of the grade or stage they are studying. Some educational systems do not consider a student who leaves education after completing the current stage as a dropout. In contrast, other systems consider them educational dropouts because they must still complete the compulsory educational stages.

UNESCO defines a *dropout* as a student who leaves school before the final year of the enrolled stage.

The Arab Organization for Education, Culture, and Science defines *school dropout* as educational poverty when students leave their studies at a particular stage. (Al-Salman, 2018:4).

UNESCO (1972) defines *school dropout* as a student who leaves school before the end of the final year of the enrolled stage. (Al-Dakla, 2008:38).

UNICEF (1998) defines school dropout as "the failure of children of school age to enroll in school or leaving school without completing the educational stage they are studying, whether by choice or due to other factors." (Sallam et al., 2017 p. 3)

Quracín (2009) defined school dropout as "the complete discontinuation of a student's attendance and leaving school after enrolling, whether this discontinuation occurs immediately after enrollment or at any grade level before completing the designated period of the educational stage they enrolled in." (Abou Mansour, 2016: 18)

Some researchers consider a school dropout to be a student who has enrolled in school, attended regularly, and then left at an early age, being deprived of the right to education and continuing their studies.

Another definition states: "The student's complete absence from school and leaving it after enrolling, whether this absence occurs immediately after enrollment or at any grade of the study before completing the designated period of the enrolled educational stage." (Al-Hajj Ali, 2019:187).

Dropout refers to a student leaving school after spending part or most of the designated period for the academic year in any grade of any educational stage. (Al-Adwani, 2012:28).

School dropout: UNESCO has defined it as: What happens to an education system in a particular country that affects its efficiency and results from two factors: leaving school early or failing grades or repetition. (Barakane, 2007, p.38).

The Arab Organization for Education, Culture, and Science (1973) defines *dropout* as a form of educational poverty in education, where students leave their studies at various stages. In a comprehensive sense, it includes any student who leaves school for any reason before completing the educational stage, representing a waste of future societal potential and a negative economic loss to the educational process. (Zahia, 2020:17).

Furthermore, dropout can also be described as:

- Discontinuation of school at an early stage.
- Refusal, rejection, and abstention from studying.
- Complete withdrawal or non-enrollment in an educational institution for personal or objective reasons.
- Deliberate frequent absence and irregularity in attending school.
- Leaving school before completing the elementary stage. (Mohammed Abbas, 2020:268).

Based on these definitions, we can extract a general and precise concept encompassing the contents provided: School dropout is when a learner leaves the pedagogical seat during, before, or after the educational stage in which they should be enrolled in the current academic year. The pedagogical seat becomes vacant at any moment, time, or duration of the school day, with the condition that the learner does not transfer to another educational institution or in the case of death.

2- Concepts Related to the School Dropout:

Multiple concepts are closely related to school dropout, based on logical and objective considerations such as methodological and qualitative aspects of the dropout's timing. Here, we will delve into several concepts that cannot be separated from the notion of school dropout in

any way, as they are either related to its occurrence or causal factors. These concepts will be presented as follows:

A. School Withdrawal: In this case, the student remains or is kept at home by parents.

B. Truancy: In this case, the student remains absent from school without excuse or consent from parents or the school.

C. School Phobia: In this case, the student continues to stay at home despite the efforts made by the family to bring them to school.

D. Truant: The term "truant" refers to a student absent from school without permission.

Hamed Zahrane (1972) defines *school escape* as being absent from school without excuse or permission.

Malcolm Saunders refers to school escape as one form of unauthorized absence or unacceptable excuse from the school administration. (Adakla, 2008:38).

E. Refusal and Rejection: Refer to the student's refusal to continue their studies and enroll in an educational institution at a time when they still have the right to pursue their learning. This can be due to personal reasons related to the student or the social and educational environment.

F. Discontinuation: Intersection between the Concept of School Dropout and Other Concepts. Dropout is the discontinuation of school before completing the educational stage in which one is enrolled for any reason except death. (Chaabani, 2020:3).

G. Educational Waste:

The term "waste" linguistically means to abolish or invalidate someone or something. (Mansour, 2022:202).

Linguistically, school waste is defined as invalidating something useful. "Hadara" with kasrah means to waste or invalidate something, while "hadara" with a dammah means to waste or spoil something. "Hadara" with a fathah on the dal means to invalidate or nullify something. "Hadartuhu" means I invalidated it or made it permissible. The sultan nullified it and made it permissible. (Haddid, 2016: 64)

Similarly, waste in language means something that is discarded. (Al-Adwani, 2012:28).

Ibrahim Dawood Al-Dawood defines *educational waste* as a result of the weakness of the educational process, which leads to educational and social problems. It manifests as the inability of the education system to retain all enrolled students to complete their studies, resulting in high dropout rates. (Mansour, 2022:202).

It is also known as the expenditure of human and material resources on students who either repeat a grade or drop out of school before completing an educational stage. It indicates the inefficiency of the school system and the missed opportunities for these children to develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values they need to lead productive lives and continue their learning journey.

Educational waste is defined as the volume of loss in education resulting from the learner's failure to progress smoothly between grades or educational stages, or from their voluntary or administrative discontinuation and departure from school seats before completing the designated study period." (Sallam et al., 2017:4)

Al-Afifi defines it as any material or intellectual effort exerted by the state in the field of education without achieving the desired goal in terms of quantity and quality. (Al-Adwani, 2012:28)

Ibrahim Dawood Al-Dawood views educational waste as a result of the weak output of the educational process, leading to educational and social problems. It manifests as the education system's inability to retain all enrolled students to complete their studies, resulting in dropout and its failure to bring many students to the desired levels within the specified period, leading to failure. (Haddid, 2016:64)

Failure: Is the inability to pass a particular stage of education according to specific educational criteria. It signifies academic failure and a lack of success. One of the main factors contributing to failure is the student's weakness in reading or other subjects and difficulty transitioning from one academic level to a higher one due to challenges in comprehending curriculum content or lesson material.

Failure is also described as the repetition of a school year due to the student's inability to meet the required standards and pass the exams. It represents the outcome of insufficient academic achievement, which may result in discontinuation and abandonment of studies. (Chaabani, 2020 :3)

Through these concepts related to school dropout, we can clarify each concept and its meaning, linking it procedurally to the concept of dropout in the following points:

Withdrawal: The learner intentionally, personally, or by the parent's decision, refrains from joining the school class, with or without reason.

Truancy or Absenteeism: Refers to the learner's absence from the classroom, either late or completely absent. The learner remains wandering or loitering in the streets, and an absent remark is recorded in the administrative records.

Fear: In this case, the learner experiences anxiety and tension in the school environment, perhaps due to the shock of joining for the first time, known as "school shock." The school environment becomes uncomfortable and unsettling for the learner.

Escape: The student has initially attended the classroom, possibly in a previous session or during the morning shift, yet there is an observation of their absence from the classroom at a later time. It's important to note that their exit was not regular or lawful; rather, it occurred in an irregular manner through sneaking or climbing over the school walls, especially towards the end of the morning session or the late hours of the evening shift."

Refusal and Rejection: In this case, the learner becomes completely unwilling to attend school, believing, for example, that learning is futile or due to a misconception in their mind influenced by environmental factors (such as the low value of education in the family or society, materialistic ideas about their future destiny).

Discontinuation: Refers to the sudden or unexpected abandonment of a specific educational stage. It can be temporary, permanent, or intermittent, occurring across different periods.

Waste: Refers to the quantitative loss and the one resulting from learners not enrolling or completing their education in advanced educational stages. It signifies the loss of what the state has invested and the expenditure allocated to forming and preparing qualified human resources (lost elites).

Failure: In this case, the learner remains in the same grade, repeating it for the second time, which burdens the student population in the classroom, leading to dropout.

3- Types of school dropout: School dropout is divided into two types:

A. Total Dropout:

In this type, the student completely discontinues his education. In this case, the dropout reverts to illiteracy. This type of dropout refers to students leaving the educational stage before completion. They do not acquire knowledge related to reading, writing, and arithmetic, making them more prone to returning to illiteracy. This type of dropout is primarily associated with the early stages of education. In middle and secondary school, it is not considered total dropout since the students acquire skills and abilities that qualify them to perform various tasks to some extent without relying on others.

B. Partial Dropout:

This type involves intermittently escaping and being absent from school, then returning at a later time. This type of dropout is characterized by the possibility of temporary dropout, where the dropouts return to complete their studies. They may rejoin the same grade or join the following academic year (Ben Ammar et al., 2020, p. 8).

Additionally, dropout is classified into other types as well, such as:

1- Primary School Dropout:

This type is considered one of the most dangerous forms of dropout because it increases illiteracy and ignorance in society, especially in cases where compulsory education laws are not enforced for all. In some communities, certain families prioritize enrolling children who have reached the legal age for primary school (i.e., first grade) for social or economic reasons. Efforts have been made to mitigate this phenomenon at an early age. UNESCO has issued reports showing an increase in the number of children between the ages of 6 and 11 affected by dropout from 1980 to 2000.

2- Dropout before completing primary education (middle school):

This type of dropout is the most widespread in all educational systems, not limited to developing countries but also affecting advanced countries. In the United States, for example, a report from the National Center for Education Statistics indicates that approximately 85.7% of enrolled students in the years 1991-1993 and 85.8% in the years 1994-1996 did not complete high school, with only about 14% obtaining a high school diploma. The remaining percentage represents the dropout rate. It is important to note that calculating the exact percentage of this phenomenon is challenging.

3. School Dropout in Middle School: This type pertains to students whose ages range from 12 to 17 years old. They lack the ability to successfully pass through the stage they are enrolled in (Primary/Middle School).

4. School Dropout in Secondary School: This concerns students whose ages range from 16 to 19 years old. It has become more prevalent in Algerian secondary schools.

5. Stage-Based School Dropout: This type emerges at the end of each educational stage, where some students do not advance to the examination for completing the certificate of that particular stage of education they are studying, or there is a dropout of those who fail the final examination for that stage (whether it is primary, preparatory, middle school, or secondary school).

There are also other categories of researchers who have identified additional types of school dropout as follows:

6. Permanent School Dropout: This means the complete abandonment of school by the student, permanently. (Chaabani, 2020: 9).

7- Temporary Dropout:

This occurs daily and gradually transforms into intermittent absence, eventually resulting in the student's expulsion from school. (Morsi, 1976: 25).

According to the opinions of other researchers and education enthusiasts, three forms have been identified:

- Dropout upon school enrollment, which refers to involuntary dropout taking various forms, including:

a) Disparity in enrollment rates between females and males in primary education.

b) Disparity in enrollment rates between small villages and cities.

- Dropout of students from primary school before reaching the end of the stage is considered by education enthusiasts as one of the most dangerous types of dropout.

- Stage-based dropout refers to the dropout that occurs in each stage of general education. (Chaabani, 2020: 9).

It is also classified into different types based on the duration that the student spends outside of school. These types include:

- **Permanent Dropout:** Refers to students permanently abandoning school.

- **Standard Dropout:** This applies explicitly to primary school students before reaching the end of the stage.

- **Stage-based Dropout:** Observed at the end of each educational stage, primarily caused by academic failure. (Morsi, 1976: 25).

Conclusion:

Based on the above, it becomes clear that the concept of school dropout has taken on various precise and distinct terms. Each term has its specificity regarding the educational stage, such as primary, middle, and secondary school dropout. It also differs in terms of continuity, whether permanent or temporary. Additionally, it varies in terms of prevalence, particularly in primary school, due to learners' developmental requirements and characteristics in this stage (citing illness as an excuse to avoid going to school). On the other hand, the concept of dropout is linked to multiple concepts, which gives it specificity as a cause or a result of other educational issues. Moreover, the multiplicity of dropout types (especially regarding educational stage and duration) highlights the distinction between one educational stage and another and to what extent this dropout extends over time.

References list:

- [1] Ahmad Bukhait Salem Al-Adwani (2012). "The Cost of Quantitative Educational Waste in Secondary School Expenditures for Boys in Mecca." Journal of Social Sciences Development, Volume 5, Issue 1, Ziane Achour University, Algeria.

- [2] Ashwak ben Ammar, Fawzi Louhidi, Ahmed Djaloul (2020). **"School Dropout Factors in the Era of Information and Communication Technology."** Comprehensive Journal of Educational and Social Sciences, Volume 03, Issue 02, Ouargla University, Algeria.
- [3] Ayyat Ali Abou Mansour (2016). **"The Effectiveness of an Electronic Guidance Website in Raising Awareness of the Risks of School Dropout Among Tenth-Grade Students in Irbid Governorate."** Unpublished Master's Thesis, Yarmouk University, Jordan.
- [4] Al-Hadj Ali Houaria (2019). **"The Phenomenon of School Dropout in Algerian Educational Institutions: Causes and Proposed Solutions."** Educational Journal, Volume 6, Issue 4, Djilali Liabes University, Algeria.
- [5] Boudjemaa Sallam, Bouhafs Ben Karima (2017). **"Educational Factors of Educational Waste in the Algerian School: Secondary School Teachers' Perspective – Case Study of Ouargla."** Psychological and Educational Studies, Issue 18, Kasdi Merbah University, Algeria.
- [6] Hedid Youcef (2016). **"Educational System Efficiency and the Problem of School Dropout."** Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences, Volume 8, Issue 26, Kasdi Merbah University, Algeria.
- [7] Omar and Fakhir Mohamed Abbas (2020). **"Challenges of Academic Dropout Due to Learning Difficulties."** Journal of Social Studies and Research, Volume 18, Fayoum University, Egypt.
- [8] Mustapha Mansour (2022). **"The Importance of Educational Guidance in Mitigating the Phenomenon of Educational Waste."** Comprehensive Journal of Educational and Social Sciences, Volume 05, Issue 02, Ouargla University, Algeria.
- [9] Mohammed Khudair Salman (2019). **"Geographical Analysis of Primary School Dropout Phenomenon in Abu Al-Khasib City."** Unpublished Doctoral Dissertation, Basra University, Iraq.
- [10] Samira Mohammed Badawi Hussein Al-Dakla (2008). **"The Problem of School Escape and Its Relationship to Some Personality Traits Among Preparatory Stage Students (A Comparative Study between Males and Females)."** Published Master's Thesis, Ain Shams University, Egypt.
- [11] Sayed Abdel Hamid Morsi (1976). **"Psychological Counseling and Vocational School Guidance."** Khanji Office, Cairo, Egypt.
- [12] Shabani Malikah (2020). **"Lessons in the School Dropout Unit."** Specializing in School Psychology, Department of Psychology, University of Algiers 2.
- [13] Zahia Djaballah (2020). **"School Dropout: Causes and Effects."** Journal of Authenticity for Studies and Research, Volume 02, Issue 04, Algeria.
- [14] Nessissa Fatima Al-Zahra, Mounia Zoukai (2020). **"School Dropout in the Context of the New Educational System: A Field Study in Some Primary, Middle, and**

Abdelbasset Gouni.et.al

School Dropout and Associated Concepts and Types

Secondary Schools in Blida Province." Afak Journal of Sciences, Volume 25, Issue 18,
Ziane Achour University, Algeria.