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A Study of Drivers of Student Disengagement Issue in Higher Education

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ABSTRACT

The participation is the vital factor for academic success of the learner. The engagement level may differ based on subject, teaching pedagogy or content discussed. In the digital world lot of doors of multiple new opportunities have been opened for students instead of traditional curriculum and courses. At the same time, in this competitive world, the percentage of disengagement is also been observed in higher education. The paper studies the current trends, challenges of the disengagement problem and explores the probable determinants for the student lack of concentration.

Keywords: Higher Education, Student Engagement, Study methods, Technology

INTRODUCTION

The learning process becomes more effective depending on involvement and interest shown by the students. The academic success and future sustainability could be achieved with the help of engagement level during leaning sessions. Technology enhanced learning has become essential part of variety of courses. Digital tools provide maximum benefits, new career opportunities on single click. We find newly included study methods, their effectiveness and also the issues. Definitely for today's learners sky is the limit due to availability of multiple learning resources. Technology supports self-regulated learning behaviour and improves confidence during learning. (Heikkinen et al.2025). The other side of this scenario is to identify the level of engagement students could retain with the help of these digital tools. It has been observed that the percentage of students who focus and show participation in the classrooms and submissions may be lower as compared to the expectations. The paper describes the latest trends, challenges faced by educators and possible reasons of disengagement. (Fredricks et al.; Wong et al.).

Modern Learning Process

In modern learning environment technology plays essential role with the help of software, hardware and Artificial intelligence tools. It facilitates learner- centred, skill- based and active learning approach(Detyna et al.; Li and Xue)**.**Following figure shows the components of modern learning process: (Bond et al.; Bilyalova et al.).

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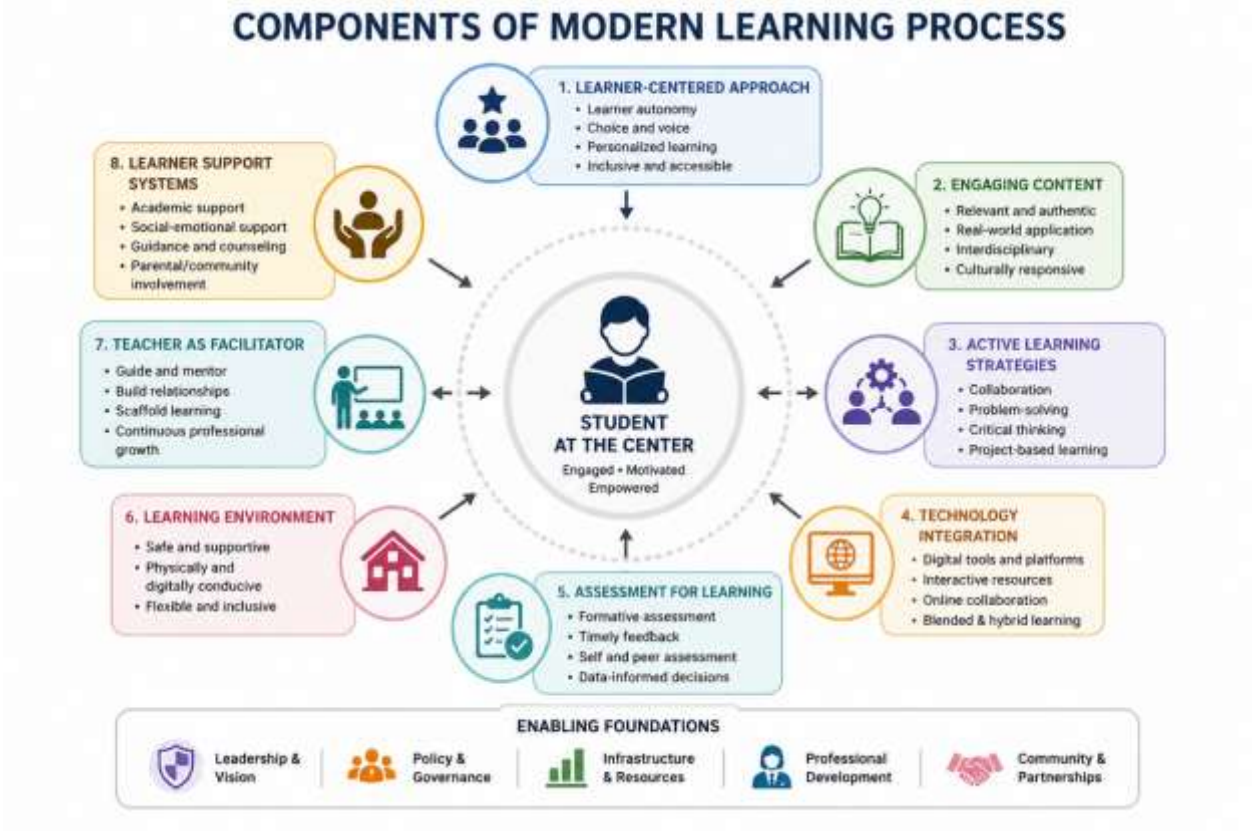


Fig.1 Components of Modern Learning Process

Characteristics of Modern Learning Approach

a) **Technology Integration:** Learner acquires knowledge with the help of mobile applications or digital tools.

a) **Active Learning:** Instead of passive learning, student actively participates in the classroom activities.

b) **Personalized Learning:** Based on skills of a learner, learning styles and resources are recommended.

c) **Continuous Assessment:** There is a continuous evaluation of progress of a learner.

The inner architecture of the modern learning process shifts the focus entirely onto the learner, establishing an ecosystem designed to optimize classroom participation. At the apex, a learner-centered approach grants autonomy and voice, ensuring that educational pathways are tailored to individual student needs rather than rigid, traditional curriculums. This autonomy is sustained by engaging, culturally responsive content that leverages real-world applications to bridge the gap between theory and practical career opportunities. To prevent passive learning, active learning strategies such as collaborative problem-solving and project-based learning compel students to critical think alongside peers, while technology integration provides interactive digital tools and platforms that support self-regulated behaviour. Finally, this active engagement cycle is monitored through continuous assessment for learning, which utilizes timely, data-informed feedback and self-peer assessments to maintain momentum and transparently track student progress.

The outer ring and base of the framework provide the crucial scaffolding required to sustain an engaged student body. A holistic learning environment must be safe, inclusive, and physically and digitally conducive to minimize information overload and technology-driven distractions. Within this space, the teacher acts as a facilitator, stepping away from rote lecturing to build relationships, mentor students, and scaffold learning dynamically. This entire ecosystem is reinforced by comprehensive learner support systems that offer academic, social-emotional, and parental guidance to prevent student isolation and burnout. Powering all eight components

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are the enabling foundations at the base: strong leadership and vision, robust policy and governance, infrastructure and resources, professional development for educators, and active community partnerships. Together, these structural pillars ensure that modern digital resources are deployed effectively and sustainably, directly addressing the roots of academic disengagement.

Student Disengagement Issue

Although digital world offers many opportunities for a learner, student disengagement problem have been increasing today. Despite of many resources, students are unable to involve in the classroom activities. Educators observe lack of focus, less attendance issues among students. Higher education institutes provide latest technology and subject experts. Rote learning is the still favourite method of learners. It is also observed that reading habit is also decreasing among students. Another problem is excessive dependency on chatgpt for instant notes and assignment submission rather delayed submissions. Possible Reasons for disengagement problem are given as below: (Thompson and Rivera-Munoz; Cabalbag).

a) **Overload of information:** Due to the availability of multiple resources, it may lead to confusion for selection of relevant way to study.

b) **Distraction from technology:** Students may have lack of focus during classroom activities as they are the users of social media and entertainment applications.

c) **Limited Emotional Connection:** Lack of social interaction may reduce concentration.

d) **Insufficient Use of Resources:** There is a possibility of effective utilization of resources and training.

CONCLUSION

Student disengagement remains a significant challenge in higher education despite the availability of technology-enhanced learning resources. Modern learning environments provide flexibility, personalization, and access to diverse educational opportunities; however, issues such as information overload, digital distractions, reduced attention span, and excessive dependence on automated tools may negatively affect student participation. Educational institutions should adopt learner-centred pedagogies, active learning strategies, continuous assessment, mentoring, and responsible technology integration to improve engagement. Future research should focus on identifying context-specific factors influencing disengagement and developing evidence-based interventions for sustainable student success.

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