

Factors Contributing to Student Absenteeism and their Impact on Student Engagement

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Abstract: Student absenteeism is an important issue in tertiary education as it influences student participation and their engagement process. This research is designed to analyse the effect of absenteeism related factors affecting student engagement amongst students pursuing B.Com Computer Applications, B.Com BFSI and MBA courses. The theoretical basis of this research is Self Determination theory, which focuses on the effect of Student Factors, Teacher Factors, Institutional Factors, Social Factors, External Factors, and Placement & Career Factors on Student Engagement. The methodology adopted for this study is Quantitative Research Methodology, where primary data were collected using a structured questionnaire on a five point Likert Scale among 580 participants studying selected courses. Stratified sampling technique was applied for this research. Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) and Smart PLS software were used to analyse the data. Cronbach Alpha, Composite Reliability, Average Variance Extracted (AVE) and Discriminant Validity were conducted to establish reliability and validity of the research constructs. From the results, it can be seen that Student Factors, Teacher Factors, Institutional Factors, Social Factors, and External Factors were found to have significant and negative influences on Student Engagement, while Placement and Career Support had significant positive influences on Student Engagement. Student Factors were found to be the most influential factor negatively predicting Student Engagement, while Placement and Career Support were found to be the most influential factors positively predicting Student Engagement. The overall model accounted for 72% of the variance in Student Engagement.

Keywords: Higher Education, PLS-SEM, Self-Determination Theory, Student Absenteeism, Student Engagement

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