

# Chapter 16

## Student Engagement in Personalized Learning of Indian Literature in Sanskrit Language

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### **ABSTRACT**

*The study of Indian literature in the Sanskrit language has long been rooted in traditional pedagogical approaches that emphasize rote learning and memorization. However, these methods often result in low levels of student engagement and hinder deeper intellectual and emotional connection with the content. This research explores the potential of personalized learning strategies in enhancing student engagement with Sanskrit literature. Through the integration of modern educational technologies, competency-based learning, and culturally contextualized instruction, the study investigates how personalized learning can cater to individual learner needs, fostering greater cognitive, emotional, and behavioural engagement. A pilot study was conducted to assess the effectiveness of this approach, revealing promising results in enhancing engagement and learning outcomes in Sanskrit education. This chapter presents the study's findings and offers recommendations for implementing personalized learning in the teaching of Indian literature in Sanskrit.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Sanskrit, one of the oldest languages in the world, holds a central place in Indian culture and literature. Its vast corpus of literary works, ranging from epics like the Ramayana and Mahabharata to philosophical texts such as the Upanishads, presents a rich resource for linguistic, cultural, and intellectual exploration. However, the study of Sanskrit, especially its literature, has traditionally been approached through teacher centered instruction, often focusing on rote learning and memorization (Sharma, 2017). These methods have resulted in low levels of student engagement, with learners finding the subject inaccessible, distant, and disconnected from contemporary life (Hermes, 2007). With advancements in educational pedagogy, personalized learning is emerging as a promising approach to enhance student engagement. Personalized learning tailors' educational experiences to the unique needs, interests, and abilities of individual

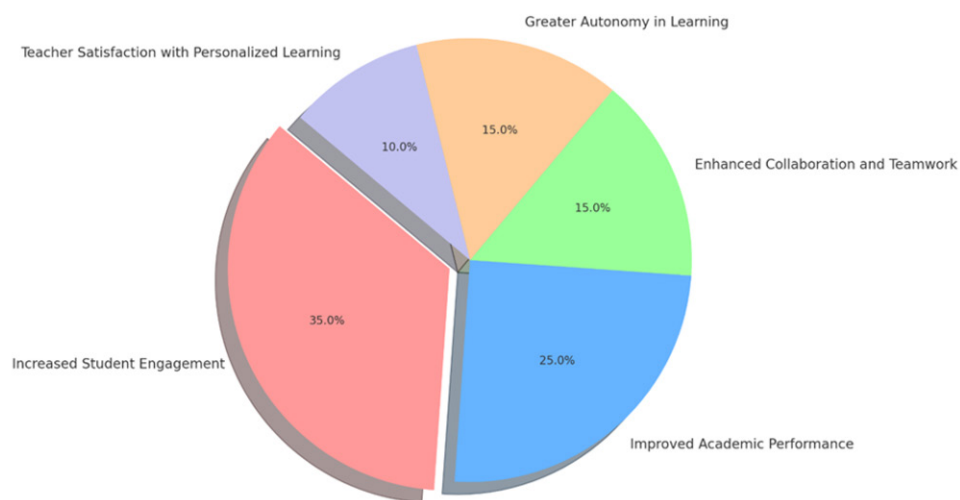
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students (Hidi & Renninger, 2006). When applied to Sanskrit education, this approach can transform the learning process by making it more interactive, culturally relevant and adaptive to the learner's pace and preferences. Following are some of the notable universities in Bihar, focussed on student engagement in personalized learning for Indian literature studies:

- *Nalanda Open University, Nalanda*: Known for its flexible distance education, it offers courses in Indian literature that could be tailored for personalized learning experiences.
- *Patna University, Patna*: One of the oldest universities in Bihar, offering a variety of literature courses, including Indian Literature, and has the resources to foster student engagement in personalized learning.
- *Kameshwar Singh Darbhanga Sanskrit University, Darbhanga*: Specializes in Sanskrit literature and ancient texts, with personalized learning opportunities for students focused on classical Indian literature.
- *Lalit Narayan Mithila University, Darbhanga*: Offers strong programs in regional languages like Maithili, making it a great choice for students interested in local literary traditions and personalized learning paths.
- *Tilka Manjhi Bhagalpur University, Bhagalpur*: Provides courses in Hindi and other Indian languages, promoting flexible and personalized learning in literature.

These institutions offer a range of programs that cater to various aspects of Indian literature and engage students through flexible and personalized learning approaches. Here is the pie chart illustrating the impact of personalized learning on STEAM education as shown in Figure 1. This breakdown highlights how personalized learning primarily increases student engagement and improves academic performance while fostering teamwork, autonomy and teacher satisfaction.

Figure 1. Impact of personalized learning on STEAM education



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