


Chapter 6

Enhancing Student Engagement in Online Learning: An Exploration of Classroom Environment Dynamics

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ABSTRACT

This study assessed how students' engagement is influenced by the online classroom environment. The term 'classroom environment' encompasses instructors, students,

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and peers, while 'student engagement' includes four interrelated dimensions: cognitive, emotional, social, and behavioral engagement. A quantitative research approach was employed for this study. A multistage sampling method was used to select the appropriate sample. This sample comprised universities from various academic disciplines, including Management, Commerce, Humanities, Science, and Engineering, which were selected based on their rankings under the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF). In total, 600 students completed a 41-item survey on the online classroom environment, as well as on cognitive, emotional, social, and behavioral engagement. The data obtained were analyzed using PLS-SEM. The findings reveal that strategies promoting engagement between students and instructors, as well as among peers, were highly valued in the online classroom environment.

INTRODUCTION

India, with its rich diversity in culture, language, and traditions, reflects these variations within its educational system, which has evolved significantly due to societal transformations. Information technology has been a major driver in reshaping traditional classrooms, producing substantial effects on education. The Covid-19 pandemic intensified this transformation, closing schools nationwide and challenging educational delivery (Huang & Wang, 2023). Online learning recently emerged as a critical method for enhancing access to HE across India's diverse populations. Numerous studies have highlighted the advantages of e-learning in HE, while others have investigated barriers to its effective implementation, especially concerning quality assurance. Given its well-documented benefits, e-learning presents a sustainable pathway for education, aligning with the necessary pivot to digital platforms brought on by the pandemic.

Continued advancements in technology reshape educational practices, calling for focused research on the influence of new tools on learning. Today's students encounter various learning formats worldwide, from traditional classrooms to fully digital platforms. This transition underscores the importance of studying learning dynamics within technologically mediated contexts. The shift to online education has opened doors for students globally, supporting the fourth Sustainable Development Goal (SDG-4), which strives to ensure inclusive, equitable, and high-quality education and lifelong learning opportunities. Online learning advances SDG-4 by addressing barriers to education, enhancing accessibility, and improving educational quality.

A critical factor in online learning is the environment where it takes place. The impact of digital learning settings on student engagement has become a central focus, driven by rapid technological integration (Luan et al., 2023). Research conceptu-

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