


Chapter 12

Affectagogy Unleashed: Redefining Pedagogy Through Emotional Engagement

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ABSTRACT

Affectagogy reimagines pedagogy by centering emotional engagement, weaving emotional intelligence (EI), social-emotional learning (SEL), and positive psychology into education. This chapter explores its theory and practice, proposing emotionally rich classrooms. EI aids in navigating challenges and fostering rapport; SEL builds empathy and decision-making, boosting outcomes. Practical tools—safe spaces, emotion-driven tasks, and tech like VR—enliven affectagogy, despite hurdles in assessment and educator well-being. Benefits include deeper engagement, stronger bonds, and lifelong skills. Technology enhances reach, balanced by ethics. Professional growth is vital for longevity, with research urged for diverse, long-term impacts. Affectagogy crafts resilient, empathetic learners, urging educators to embrace emotion as education’s core for a compassionate future.

INTRODUCTION

Historically, traditional pedagogy has centered on cognitive development and the systematic transmission of knowledge, often marginalizing emotions as secondary to learning (Harley et al., 2016). Yet, contemporary scholarship illuminates emotions as dynamic forces that drive motivation, engagement, and well-being in educational contexts (Tyng et al., 2017). This paradigm shift has given rise to *Affectagogy*, a

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transformative framework first proposed by Chee (2024) and revitalized in recent years, which redefines pedagogy by placing emotional engagement at its core. Affectagogy, defined as a pedagogical approach that harnesses emotional resonance to enhance learning outcomes, integrates three synergistic pillars—emotional intelligence (EI), social-emotional learning (SEL), and positive psychology—to foster a holistic, human-centered model of education. By cultivating environments where students and educators thrive emotionally and intellectually, Affectagogy transcends conventional approaches, offering a vision of learning that is inclusive, empathetic, and adaptive to diverse needs.

This chapter undertakes a comprehensive exploration of Affectagogy’s theoretical foundations, practical applications, challenges, and opportunities, emphasizing its potential to reshape education across varied settings. Grounded in over 40 peer-reviewed sources spanning mostly 2020 to 2025, it bridges cutting-edge theory with actionable practice, addressing emerging trends such as neurodiversity and cross-cultural adaptability to ensure a robust and inclusive scope. To enhance clarity, key concepts—EI (the ability to perceive and regulate emotions), SEL (structured competencies for social and emotional growth), and positive psychology (an ethos of flourishing through strengths and resilience)—are defined early. The literature is organized thematically to highlight their interplay, creating a cohesive narrative. By examining technological advancements, systemic challenges, and transformative possibilities, this analysis positions Affectagogy as a revolutionary force for reimagining 21st-century education, fostering equitable, connected, and emotionally vibrant learning communities.

THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF AFFECTAGOGY

Affectagogy reframes pedagogical practice by prioritizing emotional engagement, integrating four theoretical frameworks: emotional intelligence (EI), social-emotional learning (SEL), positive psychology, and neurodiversity considerations. These frameworks collectively underpin a dynamic, inclusive, and human-centered educational paradigm. To enhance conceptual clarity and coherence, this section organizes the literature thematically—individual development, interpersonal dynamics, and inclusive equity—while defining foundational constructs to ensure accessibility for diverse scholarly audiences.

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