

## Student Engagement- A catalyst in Online Learning

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### Abstract:

Student engagement play an important role in any form of learning. Be it is a physical or online learning. In case of physical form where the learner and the teacher are physically present in a class room, the teacher can identify the requirements and problems of the learner and assist in solving the problems. In case of online learning, both the learner and the teacher are situated at distant place, it is not possible to identify the requirements and problems of the learners. It is in this setting, the function of student participation play a crucial role. Executives tasked with boosting student participation play a crucial role here. In order to facilitate communication between online educators and their students, it is necessary to implement student engagement activities. This study makes an effort to describe how student engagement executives might help students and instructors better communicate with one another. The major activities of the student engagement executives include to identify the expectations and requirements of learners and to act as a catalyst in meeting these requirements.

**Key words:** student engagement executives, on line learning, catalyst

### Introduction:

In any form of learning, either in physical or online form, identification of the requirements, expectations and problems of the learners play an important role in improving the academic relations between academic institutions and the learners. If the learners are happy with the academic institutions, word of mouth advertisement will improve the image of the institutions which will effect admissions in future. The problems, expectations relating to learners include:

- Smooth process of admission
- Academic support for learning

- Smooth and open process of evaluation
- Early declaration of results
- Solving the grievances

Meaning: Student engagement refers to students desire to participate in and be successful in their learning process. There are three components of student engagement: affective, behavioural, and cognitive.

Characteristics of student engagement:

The following are the characteristics of student engagement:

- Competition: Student engagement activities promote competition among the learners.
- Challenge: This provides a challenge to the academic institutions to continuously satisfy the expectations of the learners.
- Curiosity: The learners are curious about the student support activities from the academic institutions.
- Choice: The learners will have a choice to choose from a variety of learning activities.
- Creativity: The academic institutions will be creative to implement a variety of student engagement activities.
- Cooperation: The different departments of the academic institutions should cooperate to improve the better engagement activities.

### **Importance of student engagement:**

The level of student involvement is directly correlated with how much students learn and develop. Learners' social and emotional health improves and they feel more connected to the school when they demonstrate high levels of behavioural, emotional, and cognitive engagement. On the other side, poor student involvement is related with a plethora of undesirable consequences such as delinquency, aggression, and drop from courses. A lack of interest in learning may have a devastating effect on students. Therefore, encouraging participation from students of all ages is essential.

Motivating factors for students:

The following factors influence student engagement:

- a) Academic challenge: The academic challenges will influence the academic institutions to take up a variety of student engagement activities.
- b) Collaboration: There are built-in opportunities for students to collaborate and get constructive criticism from their peers.
- c) Curriculum and academic design: The educator plans the lessons, the lessons' content and evaluation, and the chances for student participation, self-analysis, and in-depth learning. Success criteria are defined and tracked regularly.
- d) Facilitation: Teachers are kind, helpful, eager, and engaging in their lessons. This includes the possibility of receiving instructive criticism.

Types of student engagement: The following are the different types of student engagement:

- a) Behavioral engagement: The emphasis here is on being involved in extracurricular, social, and intellectual endeavours.
- b) Emotional engagement: The amount and character of both positive and negative responses to academic institutions, including but not limited to professors, classmates, and other students, are the primary foci here.
- c) Cognitive engagement: The student's enthusiasm for learning is seen here.

Challenges of student engagement:

The following are the challenges of student engagement:

- a) Limited technical skill: As the learners of online education are situated across the country and may be located in villages and places of remote, where the internet facilities are less or moderately available, this will be a bigger challenge for the learners of online education.
- b) Lack of motivation: Unlike the physical form, the motivational aspects of online learners will be less as the teachers and learners are located in different and distant parts of the country.
- c) Complex learning material: If the learning material provided by the academic institutions is complex, the learners lose interest in learning and chances of drop outs will be more.
- d) Inadequate support: The learners requires support in different aspects from admission to result and to career promotion, lack of required support in these aspects will make the learner demotivated.

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e) Lack of interest: If the learners lose interest because of any reason, it will also influence the student engagement and will lead to drop out.

Suggestions for improving student engagement:

The following suggestions may be implemented to improve the student engagement:

- a) Ask open end questions: By asking open end questions the thinking, behaviour, attitude of learner can be understood which will help to take remedial steps to improve student engagement.
- b) Know the views of students about a topic: It is also important that the information relating to the idea of the students about a topic can be obtained so that teachers can prepare a better material and better class.
- c) Convert students discussion into activities: Any formal and informal discussion with students can be converted into activities so that the attention of the student is retained.
- d) Role model: If any one or few students are active in online learning, they can be used as a model to motivate the other students.
- e) Use more ungraded assignments: Use of more ungraded assignments will also improve student engagement.

### **Conclusion:**

Thus the student engagement play an important role in improving the relations between online learners and institutions offering online academic courses. Therefore, the executives in charge of student engagement play a crucial role as a catalyst in bringing together students and educational institutions.

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