Assignment-1: Needfinding Process

Smart Study Planning App

User Interviews

Human Computer Interaction (CS261)

Submitted by:

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Zaina Zia

Q: What is your current study routine?

A: Honestly, I don't have a fixed study routine. I always plan to start early, but I end up procrastinating until the last minute. When exams get close, I panic and pull all-nighters.

Q: what features would be most helpful in a study app according to you?

A: A planner that actually forces me to study! Maybe AI-generated schedules with strict reminders, so I don't keep delaying everything.

Q: How are distractions handled by you during study hours?

A: I don't. I tell myself, "Just 5 minutes on TikTok," and suddenly an hour is gone. A feature that blocks distractions and tracks wasted time would be great.

Q: Have you used any study planner apps before to help you out? What did you like or dislike about planner apps?

A: I tried Notion, but setting it up took so much time that I just gave up. I need something that works instantly without effort.

Q:Do you prefer AI planners or customized planners?why?

A: AI should just plan it for me because if I start customizing, I'll just keep making "flexible" schedules and never follow them.

Saba Islam

Q: what is your current study routine?

A: "I follow a structured routine, planning my week in advance and allocating time based on urgency and difficulty."

Q: what features would be most helpful in a study app according to you?

A: "AI-generated schedules and progress tracking to help me stay on top of deadlines."

Q:How are distractions handled by you during study hours?

A: "I use the Pomodoro technique—25 minutes of focused study, then a 5-minute break."

Q: Have you used any study planner apps before to help you out? What did you like or dislike about planner apps?

A: "Yes, I've tried Notion and Todoist. I like their flexibility but dislike the manual setup."

Q: Do you prefer AI planners or customized planners?why?

A: "I prefer a mix—automated suggestions but with the ability to tweak my schedule."

Irtaza

Q: What is your current study routine?

A: "I don't really have a set routine. I usually study right before exams or assignments."

Q: what features would be most helpful in a study app according to you?

A: "I need reminders and urgent task prioritization."

Q: How are distractions handled by you during study hours?

A: "I struggle a lot with distractions, so a focus timer with website blockers would help."

Q: Have you used any study planner apps before to help you out? What did you like or dislike about planner apps?

A: "No, but I'd try one if it kept me accountable."

Q: Do you prefer AI planners or customized planners?why?

A: "A fully automated AI planner would be great since I'm not good at organizing my own schedule."

Asma

Q: What is your current study routine?

A: "I plan my study sessions based on upcoming exams and assignments, trying to balance everything."

Q: what features would be most helpful in a study app according to you?
 A: "A mix of reminders, focus timers, and progress tracking would be helpful."

Q:How are distractions handled by you during study hours?
 A: "I turn off notifications and use instrumental music to stay focused."

Q: Have you used any study planner apps before to help you out? What did you like or dislike about planner apps?
 A: "Yes, I've used Google Calendar and Forest. I like the structure but wish it adapted to my productivity levels."

Q: Do you prefer AI planners or customized planners?why?

 A: "I want some AI assistance, but I still need control over my schedule."

Ifra

Q: What is your current study routine?
 A: "I use mind maps and color-coded notes to break down topics."

Q: what features would be most helpful in a study app according to you?
 A: "A visual progress tracker and adaptive scheduling would be useful."

Q: How are distractions handled by you during study hours?
 A: "I use physical planners and write things down—it keeps me off my phone."

Q: Have you used any study planner apps before to help you out? What did you like or dislike about planner apps?
 A: "I tried Study Bunny, but I found it too simplistic."

Q:Do you prefer AI planners or customized planners?why?

 A: "I'd like a hybrid—AI suggestions but with the ability to customize my plan."

Iqra

Q: What is your current study routine?

A: "I try to plan, but I often procrastinate and get overwhelmed."

Q: what features would be most helpful in a study app according to you?

A: "A planner that adapts when I fall behind and reschedules automatically."

Q: How are distractions handled by you during study hours?

A: "I set small goals and reward myself to stay motivated."

Q:Have you used any study planner apps before to help you out? What did you like or dislike about planner apps?

A: "No, but I think reminders and structured schedules could help me."

Q: Do you prefer AI planners or customized planners?why?

A: "I need something AI-driven to manage my time for me."

Moaz

Q: What is your current study routine?

A: "I use digital tools like Notion, Anki, and Obsidian for active recall."

Q: what features would be most helpful in a study app according to you?

A: "AI-generated schedules with adaptive learning paths would be ideal."

Q:How are distractions handled by you during study hours?

A: "I use dark mode, blue light filters, and the Pomodoro technique."

Q: Have you used any study planner apps before to help you out? What did you like or dislike about planner apps?

A: "Yes, Notion is great for organization, but it lacks automation."

Q: Do you prefer AI planners or customized planners?why?

A: "A fully AI-based planner that syncs with my digital notes would be awesome."

Ajwa

Q: What is your current study routine?

A: "I mostly follow what my teachers assign and revise at night."

Q: what features would be most helpful in a study app according to you?

A: "A simple app with reminders and a study timer would help me stay on track."

Q: How are distractions handled by you during study hours?

A: "I ask my family to remind me to study if I get distracted."

Q: Have you used any study planner apps before to help you out? What did you like or dislike about planner apps?

A: "No, but I'd like something easy to follow."

Q: Do you prefer AI planners or customized planners?why?

A: "I'd prefer a guided AI planner since I don't always know how to plan my studies."

User groups:

Procrastinator:

Users: Zaina, Iqra, Irtaza

Difficulty:

They struggle a little with procrastination and are distracted.

Need:

An AI model that schedules the whole routine, has blockers, has reminders, etc.

Structured planners:

Users: Saba, Moaz, Ifra

Difficulty:

They prefer a well structured planning but also need flexibility and automation

Need:

A planner with progress tracking and an AI planner.

Overwhelmed Students:

Users: Iqra, Irtaza

Difficulty:

Feel overwhelmed by planning. They struggle to keep the track of deadlines.

Need:

A simple and easy to use planner that provides functionalities without complexity.

User personas:

Zaina Zia (Last minute crammer)**:**

Age: 20

Education: 1st year student in computer science.

University: NUST

Study style: procrastinates and studies at the last hour

Devices Used: Smartphone & Laptop

Main points:

1. Struggling with procrastination.
2. Easily distracted
3. Find manuals time consuming.

Goals:

Needs an AI driven planner and a strict reminder. Zero efforts in setting up the app.

Ideal Feature:

An automated AI study schedules with enforced study and distraction blocking.

Saba Islam (Structured Planner)**:**

Age: 19

Education: 2nd year student in computer science.

University: NUST

Study style: Organized and disciplined

Devices Used: Laptop & Tablet

Main points:

1. Struggling with manual efforts in setting up
2. Balance of AI and personal Customization

Goals:

AI powered suggestions

Ideal Feature:

AI scheduling with some manual options.

Irtaza Khan (easily distracted):

Study style: Organized and disciplined

Age: 21

Education: 3rd year student in civil engineering.

University: NUST

Study style: studies when the exams are close by.

Devices Used: Smartphone mostly

Main points:

1. Does not have a fixed routine
2. Struggles with distractions
3. Have not used a study planner before as it is hard to maintain

Goals:

A reminder that will force her to study before deadlines. An easy and a simple app that doesn't require a lot of efforts

Ideal Feature:

A mode that will block the distraction and help in prioritizing the tasks.