

Literature Survey on Student Dropout Rates in Higher Education Institutions

This survey explores existing studies that examine factors contributing to student dropout rates in higher education institutions. The following key factors are considered: academic performance, demographic influences, socioeconomic factors, attendance and displacement, and course selection.

Academic Performance

Academic performance is a significant predictor of student dropout rates. Studies have shown that students with lower grades, particularly in the second semester, are at higher risk of dropping out. Research by Tinto (2012) suggests that early academic difficulties can lead to attrition, highlighting the need for academic support programs . Similarly, Astin's theory of involvement (1984) underscores the correlation between student engagement in academic activities and retention .

Demographic Influences

Demographic factors such as marital status, gender, and nationality have varying impacts on student retention. According to a study by Bean (1980), single students are less likely to drop out, suggesting fewer family commitments might contribute to higher retention rates . Additionally, gender disparities are noted, with males exhibiting a higher dropout rate compared to females. Research has not shown a significant relationship between nationality and dropout rates, suggesting other factors play a more critical role.

Socioeconomic Factors

Socioeconomic factors play a considerable role in student attrition. A study by Pascarella and Terenzini (2005) indicates a positive correlation between parental education levels and student retention . However, the relationship is stronger for a mother's qualification than a father's. Parental occupation also influences dropout rates, with students from families with higher parental occupations less likely to drop out. This finding aligns with a report by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), which emphasizes the importance of socioeconomic status in student success .

Financial factors are also critical in understanding student dropout rates. Students with scholarships demonstrate higher retention rates, likely due to reduced financial stress. On the other hand, higher debt levels are associated with increased dropout rates, indicating that financial pressures may contribute to student attrition. This observation aligns with studies that emphasize the need for financial aid and support services to reduce dropout rates .

Attendance and Displacement

Research has shown that regular class attendance correlates with higher graduation rates, reinforcing the importance of student engagement. A study by Kuh (2008) supports this observation, suggesting that student engagement and participation in academic activities are crucial for retention . Additionally, students who move during their studies tend to have higher retention rates, indicating a potential adaptability or motivation to succeed despite displacement.

Course Selection

The impact of course selection on dropout rates appears minimal. Studies suggest that the choice of academic discipline has a negligible effect on student attrition, indicating that other factors play a more significant role. This finding aligns with the work of Spady (1970), who noted that academic integration is a key determinant of student retention .

This literature survey provides a comprehensive overview of the existing studies on student dropout rates in higher education institutions. It highlights the importance of academic performance, socioeconomic factors, and student engagement in predicting student retention. Using this info we can reduce the dropouts rates.