

STRETCHING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT BY CAPITALISING ON STUDENTS' EXPERIENCES BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

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STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

- Time, energy and resources students devote to participating in activities designed to enhance their learning

THE CURRENT SCENE AMONG TERTIARY EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

- Student engagement is essential to a high quality undergraduate experience.
- Actively striving to provide conditions and environment in which learning will flourish.

IT IS WIDELY RECOGNISED THAT
THERE IS A STRONG CORRELATION

between

students' participation in
educationally-oriented activities
(like class contact, study and research)

and

effective and successful engagement

HOWEVER,

- Multitasking Z generation students no longer commit the same hours of work to their studies as previous generations have.
- They have completely different learning styles.
- Number of students engaged in extra-curricular activities and paid employment during semesters on the rise.

HENCE,

- It is necessary
 - to revisit the current thinking,
 - to look beyond the measure of time students spent on campus or studying,
 - to examine how they could capitalise on not what they learn inside but also outside the classroom.

AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH

- Intentional focus on student engagement inside and outside the classroom will have a positive effect on students' learning outcomes.
- This study aims at exploring how students can integrate their work experiences in educationally and meaningful ways.

THE HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (HRM) GROUP PROJECT

- Groups of 4 to 6 students – identifying an organisation's staffing practice
- The challenge –
 - no guarantee that the potential learning benefits of group work can be materialised
 - lacking cohesive efforts
 - overwhelmed with a sense of confusion

SHIFTING STUDENTS' MINDSET

- Redefining their understanding of the project objective
- Stimulating students to reflect and build up links between academic inquiry and work experiences
- Applying content learned in the classroom in the context of their own work experiences, in which students are personally involved
- The involvement produces a perception that the learning task is authentic

ENHANCING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

- **Student-centred Learning Experiences**
 - Students in the group are engaged intellectually, emotionally and socially
- **Capitalising students' lived experiences to stimulate their academic inquiry**
 - Recognising and encouraging spontaneous opportunities for learning

STUDENTS INVOLVED IN PAID EMPLOYMENT

- Improved knowledge and skills that they have acquired have enhanced their **career readiness** and contributed to their **employability**.