

# Role of Motivation on Academic Achievement of Students

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## ABSTRACT

Motivation is one of the most significant psychological factors influencing students' academic achievement and overall educational development. It energizes, directs, and sustains learners' behaviour toward educational goals and successful performance. In the contemporary educational environment, where students face academic pressure, competition, technological distractions, and psychological stress, motivation plays a crucial role in determining learning outcomes and academic success. The present qualitative study examines the role of motivation on students' academic achievement by analyzing different types of motivation, motivational theories, influencing factors, and their impact on learning behaviour and educational performance. Secondary data were collected from books, journal articles, educational reports, and psychological studies. The findings indicate that motivated students demonstrate higher concentration, persistence, confidence, creativity, classroom participation, and academic performance. The study concludes that both intrinsic and extrinsic motivation significantly contribute to students' educational achievement, and teachers, parents, schools, and society play important roles in developing motivational learning environments.

**KEYWORDS:** *Motivation, Academic Achievement, Learning, Educational Psychology, Intrinsic Motivation, Extrinsic Motivation, Student Performance.*

## INTRODUCTION

Education is a dynamic process that aims to bring about desirable changes in learners' behaviour, knowledge, skills, attitudes, and personality. Academic achievement is one of the major indicators of educational success and reflects students' learning outcomes, intellectual growth, and performance in educational activities. However, academic success does not depend solely on intelligence or cognitive ability; psychological factors such as motivation, interest, attitude, self-confidence, emotional stability, and learning environment significantly influence educational achievement.

Among these factors, motivation occupies a central place in the teaching-learning process. Motivation refers to the internal and external forces that stimulate individuals to act toward achieving specific goals. In educational settings, motivation encourages students to participate actively in learning activities, complete academic tasks, overcome difficulties, and strive for excellence.

Educational psychologists such as Maslow, Skinner, McClelland, and Deci and Ryan emphasized that motivation is essential for effective learning and achievement. Motivated students generally show greater interest, concentration, persistence, creativity, and confidence in academic activities. On the other hand, lack of motivation often leads to poor academic performance, absenteeism, school dropout, anxiety, and educational disengagement.

In the present educational context characterized by digital distractions, examination pressure, competition, and changing social environments, understanding the role of motivation has become increasingly important for improving students' academic achievement and psychological well-being.

The present study attempts to examine the role of motivation on academic achievement of students and explores various motivational factors influencing educational success.

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## Objectives of the Study

1. To understand the concept and nature of motivation.
2. To examine the relationship between motivation and academic achievement.
3. To analyze different types of motivation affecting learning.
4. To identify factors influencing students' motivation.

## Methodology

The present study is qualitative and descriptive in nature. Secondary data were collected from books, educational journals, psychological studies, policy documents, and online academic resources. The collected information was analyzed through thematic and descriptive interpretation.

## Review of Related Literature

Several educational psychologists and researchers have studied the relationship between motivation and academic achievement. **Maslow (1954)** proposed the Hierarchy of Needs Theory and emphasized that fulfilment of physiological, safety, love, esteem, and self-actualization needs motivates individuals toward achievement and personal growth.

**Skinner (1953)** highlighted the role of reinforcement and external rewards in motivating behaviour and learning. Positive reinforcement such as praise, rewards, and recognition encourages students to perform better academically.

**Deci and Ryan (1985)** developed the Self-Determination Theory and emphasized intrinsic motivation, autonomy, competence, and relatedness as major determinants of effective learning and academic success.

**McClelland (1961)** argued that the need for achievement motivates individuals to pursue excellence and academic accomplishment.

Research studies indicate that motivated students demonstrate higher academic performance, better attendance, stronger classroom participation, and greater educational persistence.

Recent educational discussions also suggest that motivation positively influences students' confidence, creativity, problem-solving abilities, and emotional well-being. (reddit.com)

Studies on online and digital learning environments reveal that motivation significantly affects students' engagement and learning outcomes in technologically mediated education. (reddit.com)

The reviewed literature clearly indicates that motivation plays a vital role in students' academic achievement and overall educational development.

## Discussion of the Study

### Concept of Motivation

Motivation refers to the internal drive or external stimulus that initiates, directs, and sustains behaviour toward achieving goals. In educational psychology, motivation is considered the process that energizes learners to engage actively in learning activities.

### Motivation influences:

- Attention,
- Interest,
- Persistence,
- Effort,
- Goal orientation,

### Academic performance

Educational motivation encourages students to learn effectively, complete tasks, and overcome challenges.

### Nature of Motivation

The major characteristics of motivation are:

- Motivation is goal-oriented
- It directs human behaviour toward desired objectives.
- Motivation may be internal or external
- It energizes and sustains behaviour.
- Motivation differs from person to person.
- It continuously changes according to needs and situations.
- Motivation strongly influences learning and achievement.

### Types of Motivation

#### Intrinsic Motivation

Intrinsic motivation originates from within the individual. Students learn because of:

- Interest,
- Curiosity,
- Enjoyment,
- Personal satisfaction,

#### Love for learning

Intrinsic motivation leads to deeper understanding and long-term learning.

#### Examples:

- Reading for pleasure,
- Solving problems out of curiosity,

#### Learning for self-development

#### Extrinsic Motivation

Extrinsic motivation arises from external rewards or pressures such as:

- Marks,
- Praise,
- Certificates,
- Parental expectations,
- Competition,

### **Punishment avoidance**

Extrinsic motivation may increase short-term performance.

#### **Examples:**

- Studying for examination marks,
- Completing assignments for rewards.

### **Relationship Between Motivation and Academic Achievement**

Motivation and academic achievement are closely interconnected. Highly motivated students generally:

- Attend classes regularly,
- Participate actively,
- Complete assignments,
- Maintain concentration,
- Develop confidence,

### **Perform better academically**

Motivation improves:

- Learning efficiency,
- Memory retention,
- Goal commitment,
- Problem-solving ability,

### **Creativity**

Lack of motivation often leads to:

- Poor concentration,
- Academic anxiety,
- Low performance,
- School dropout,

### **Educational disengagement**

#### **Role of Motivation in Academic Achievement**

- Enhances Learning Interest

Motivated students show greater interest and enthusiasm in learning activities.

- Improves Concentration and Attention  
Motivation increases focus and attention during classroom learning and study.

- Encourages Persistence

Motivated learners continue working despite difficulties and academic challenges.

- Develops Self-Confidence

Achievement motivation strengthens students' confidence and positive self-concept.

- Promotes Goal-Oriented Behaviour

Motivation encourages students to set educational goals and work systematically toward achieving them.

- Enhances Classroom Participation

Motivated students actively participate in:

- Discussions Group activities,
- Projects,

### **Presentations**

- Increases Creativity and Innovation
- Motivation encourages curiosity, critical thinking, and creative problem-solving abilities.
- Reduces Academic Anxiety
- Positive motivation decreases fear, stress, and examination anxiety.
- Improves Academic Performance
- Research consistently shows positive correlation between motivation and educational achievement.

### **Theories of Motivation Related to Academic Achievement**

#### **Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Theory**

Maslow proposed that individuals are motivated by hierarchical needs:

- Students achieve academically when their basic needs are fulfilled.

#### **Skinner's Reinforcement Theory**

Skinner emphasized reinforcement in motivating learning behaviour.

#### **Positive reinforcement:**

- Praise,
- Rewards,
- Recognition

Encourages desirable academic behaviour.

#### **McClelland's Achievement Motivation Theory**

McClelland emphasized the need for achievement as a major motivational force influencing academic success.

#### **Self-Determination Theory (Deci & Ryan)**

The theory emphasizes:

- Autonomy
- Competence,
- Relatedness

as important factors for intrinsic motivation and effective learning.

### **Factors Influencing Students' Motivation**

#### **Family Environment**

Parental encouragement, emotional support, and educational expectations strongly influence students' motivation.

#### **Teacher Behaviour**

Supportive and encouraging teachers create positive learning environments that enhance motivation.

#### **School Environment**

Well-managed schools with proper facilities and healthy relationships promote academic motivation.

### Peer Influence

Friends and classmates significantly affect students' learning attitudes and motivation.

### Socio-Economic Status

Economic stability provides educational resources and opportunities that influence motivation.

### Technology and Media

Technology can both enhance and distract learning motivation depending on its use.

### Self-Confidence and Self-Efficacy

Students who believe in their abilities demonstrate stronger motivation and achievement.

### Role of Teachers in Motivating Students

Teachers play a central role in enhancing students' motivation through:

- Positive reinforcement,
- Interactive teaching,
- Encouragement,
- Individual attention,
- Goal setting,

### Constructive feedback

Effective teachers inspire learners and create supportive educational environments.

### Role of Parents in Motivation

Parents contribute to students' motivation by:

- Providing emotional support,
- Encouraging learning,
- Monitoring academic progress,
- Appreciating achievements,

### Creating positive home environments

Parental involvement positively influences academic performance.

### Challenges Affecting Student Motivation

Several factors negatively affect students' motivation:

- Examination stress,
- Fear of failure,
- Excessive competition,
- Family conflict, Poor teaching methods,
- Digital distractions,
- Economic hardship,

### Lack of career guidance

These challenges may reduce academic engagement and achievement.

### Suggestions for Enhancing Motivation

- Teachers should adopt learner-centered and interactive teaching methods.
- Positive reinforcement and encouragement should be used regularly.
- Schools should create supportive and stress-free learning environments.

- Parents should provide emotional and academic support to children.
- Career counseling and guidance services should be strengthened.
- Educational activities should promote creativity and experiential learning.
- Technology should be used constructively for educational purposes.
- Students should be encouraged to set realistic academic goals.
- Co-curricular and extracurricular activities should be promoted.
- Mental health support and counseling services should be available in schools and colleges.

### Conclusion

Motivation is a vital psychological factor influencing students' academic achievement and overall educational development. It energizes, directs, and sustains learners' behaviour toward academic goals and success. Motivated students demonstrate greater concentration, persistence, confidence, participation, creativity, and educational achievement.

Both intrinsic and extrinsic motivation contribute significantly to learning outcomes. Psychological theories of motivation emphasize that fulfilment of needs, reinforcement, achievement orientation, autonomy, and supportive learning environments positively affect students' academic performance.

Teachers, parents, schools, and society play crucial roles in developing motivational educational environments that encourage learners to achieve their potential. In the contemporary educational context marked by competition, technological distractions, and psychological stress, promoting student motivation has become increasingly important.

Ultimately, effective motivation not only improves academic achievement but also contributes to holistic personality development, emotional well-being, lifelong learning, and responsible citizenship.

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