



Predictive Model for Student Academic Decline During Virtual Education in the COVID-19 Pandemic

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E d i t o r

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R e v i e w e r s

Reviewer 1: Ali Khodaei¹
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1. Round 1

1.1 Reviewer 1

Date: 06 July 2024

Reviewer:

"Recently the COVID-19 pandemic has shed new light on this phenomenon."

This sentence should be expanded to include how the pandemic has specifically influenced academic decline, referencing recent studies that have investigated this relationship.

"A sample of 30 individuals was selected through purposive sampling due to data saturation."

Provide more details on how purposive sampling was conducted. What criteria were used to select participants? How was data saturation determined?

"After extracting important factors influencing academic decline during the COVID-19 pandemic, each factor was formulated as a question in the questionnaire."

Include a brief description of the process used to develop the questionnaire items. Were there any pilot tests or expert reviews?

"The variable 'electronic tool background' has a mean of 3.75 and a standard deviation of 0.751."

Provide a summary table for the descriptive statistics of all variables, which should include means, standard deviations, and ranges.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

1.2 Reviewer 2

Date: 10 July 2024

Reviewer:

"The duration of each interview considering the conditions tolerance and interest of the participants was 45 to 60 minutes."

Mention how interviews were conducted (e.g., face-to-face, online) and how the data was recorded and transcribed.

"Qualitative analysis using grounded theory was performed."

Specify the steps of grounded theory used in your analysis (e.g., open coding, axial coding, selective coding). Provide a brief rationale for using grounded theory.

"For analyzing the data from the researcher-made questionnaire, factor analysis and structural equation modeling (SEM) were used."

Explain the specific type of factor analysis performed (e.g., exploratory, confirmatory) and justify the use of SEM for this study.

"Demographic information in the teacher section indicates that most teachers were between 31 to 40 years old."

Include a table summarizing the demographic information of participants. This makes it easier for readers to visualize the sample characteristics.

"The KMO value in this study is 0.707 which is above 0.6 indicating that the sample is adequate for factor analysis."

Include Bartlett's test of sphericity results along with the KMO value to strengthen the justification for factor analysis.

"As shown in Table 4, the variables 'lack of motivation' and 'academic isolation' can explain 61.1% of the variance in academic decline during the COVID-19 pandemic."

Clearly state all model fit indices used (e.g., CFI, TLI, RMSEA) and their respective values. Discuss how these indices indicate the model's fit.

"The meaningful paths of various factors affecting academic decline during the COVID-19 pandemic led to the creation of a significant model."

Discuss the theoretical implications of your findings in more detail. How do these findings contribute to the existing literature on academic decline?

"Therefore if virtual education is to be effective, it must be reformed in all paths from causal and core factors to intervening and contextual factors and strategies."

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.