

Influence of the Reasons for going to University on Learning Engagement and Disaffection in Japanese Undergraduate Students

1. Research Objective. There are many reasons that Japanese choose to go to university; making new friends, financially giving back to their family after graduation, or keeping up with their high school friends who are going to university. This study investigates how these three reasons influenced learning engagement and disaffection of Japanese undergraduate student. 2. Method and Results. Data were collected by questionnaire from 187 Japanese undergraduate students (48.1% male; mean age = 19.65 years). It was found that making friends significantly increased learning engagement, keeping up with high school friends' significantly increased learning disaffection, and giving-back-to-family did not have a significant effect on engagement or disaffection. 3. Conclusion and Discussion. While it may be thought that making friends is a less desirable reason for going to university, this study indicated that this reason improved learning engagement. Conversely, while it was expected that keeping up with friends would be a strong motivator to learn, it was found to demotivate students. These results suggested that our intuitions about education are often incorrect, which can lead to misdirected advice.