

IMPACT OF MUSIC CONCENTRATION LEVELS OF STUDENTS

AUTHOR – S. SHUNMUGA SUNDARI* & DR. S. MARUTHAVIJAYAN**

* STUDENT AT THE SCHOOL EXCELLENCE IN LAW, TNDALU

** ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AT THE SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE IN LAW, TNDALU

BEST CITATION – S. SHUNMUGA SUNDARI & DR. S. MARUTHAVIJAYAN, IMPACT OF MUSIC CONCENTRATION LEVELS OF STUDENTS, *INDIAN JOURNAL OF LEGAL REVIEW (IJLR)*, 5 (12) OF 2025, PG. 951-968, APIS – 3920 – 0001 & ISSN – 2583-2344

ABSTRACT

Music has long been recognized as a powerful influence on human emotions and behavior, but its effect on students' concentration levels remains a subject of growing interest. This study explores how different types of music—such as classical, instrumental, and lyrical—affect students' ability to focus during academic tasks. A group of students was observed under controlled conditions, performing concentration-based activities both with and without background music. The findings indicate that while soft instrumental and classical music can enhance focus and improve task performance by creating a calm mental state, loud or lyrical music tends to distract and reduce concentration efficiency. The results highlight that the impact of music on concentration largely depends on the genre, volume, and individual preferences of students. This study suggests that incorporating suitable background music in study environments may positively influence learning outcomes and cognitive performance.

Keywords – Music, Concentration, Students, Academic Performance, Cognitive Function, Focus, Study Habits, Learning Environment, Productivity, Attention span.

CHAPTER 1 : INTRODUCTION :

1.1 Background of the Study :

Music has always been an inseparable part of human life, serving as a universal language that transcends cultural and linguistic barriers. It has the power to influence emotions, thoughts, and behaviors, making it a significant element in both personal and social contexts. Over the years, researchers have become increasingly interested in understanding how music affects human cognition, particularly in areas related to focus, memory, and learning.

In the academic setting, concentration is one of the most essential factors influencing a student's ability to learn effectively.

Concentration allows students to absorb, process, and retain information, which ultimately determines their academic performance. However, with the rise of digital distractions and changing study habits, maintaining consistent focus has become more challenging for many learners. As a result, students often turn to music as a tool to help them concentrate, reduce stress, and create a comfortable study environment.

Despite its widespread use, the effect of music on concentration levels is not universally agreed upon. Some studies indicate that certain genres of music—particularly instrumental or classical—can enhance concentration by improving mood and reducing anxiety. This phenomenon,

sometimes referred to as the *Mozart Effect*, suggests that specific musical compositions may temporarily boost spatial-temporal reasoning and mental performance. Conversely, other researchers argue that music, especially those with lyrics or high tempo, can divert attention from cognitive tasks, leading to reduced comprehension and lower productivity.

The influence of music on concentration may also depend on individual differences such as personality type, task complexity, and personal preference. For instance, some students may find background music beneficial for repetitive tasks, while others may perform better in complete silence. These variations highlight the complexity of the relationship between music and concentration and the need for further investigation.

Given the increasing use of music during study sessions, this study seeks to explore how different types of music impact the concentration levels of students. It aims to determine whether music serves as a facilitator or a hindrance to academic focus and how specific characteristics of music—such as tempo, rhythm, and presence of lyrics – affect students' ability to concentrate. The findings of this research are expected to provide valuable insights for students, educators, and psychologists in understanding the cognitive effects of music and developing strategies to enhance learning efficiency.

1.2 Rationale of the Study :

In today's world, students are constantly surrounded by various forms of noise and digital distractions. Many of them turn to music as a way to focus or relax while studying, believing that it helps them concentrate better. However, not everyone experiences the same results – for some, music seems to improve attention, while for others, it becomes a source of distraction. This difference in experience raises an

important question: *Does music really help students concentrate, or does it interfere with their ability to focus?*

This study is conducted to better understand how music influences the concentration levels of students during academic tasks. It aims to identify whether certain types of music, such as instrumental or lyrical, have positive or negative effects on focus and productivity. By studying this relationship, we can gain insights into how background music can either enhance or hinder learning performance.

The rationale behind this research is based on the growing importance of creating effective learning environments. Since music is a common part of students' study habits, understanding its true impact can help teachers, parents, and students themselves make better choices about when and how to use music for studying. The results of this study may also encourage further exploration into how personal preferences, task types, and music genres influence concentration and academic outcomes.

In short, this research seeks to bridge the gap between personal belief and scientific understanding – providing a clearer picture of how music affects the mind during study sessions and how it can be used to support better learning practices.

1.3 Scope and Significance of the Research :

This study focuses on understanding how different types of music affect the concentration levels of students while performing academic tasks such as reading, writing, or studying. The research mainly targets students from various educational levels to see how background music influences their focus, attention span, and overall performance. The scope of this study includes analyzing the effects of different genres of music—such as classical, instrumental, pop, and lyrical—on

concentration and comparing the results among students who study with music and those who prefer silence.

The research does not aim to cover all psychological or neurological effects of music but rather concentrates on its immediate influence on students' study habits and ability to focus. Surveys, observations, or simple experiments may be used to collect data on how students respond to music while studying. Factors such as type of task, duration of exposure to music, and personal music preferences are also taken into consideration within the limits of this study.

The **significance** of this research lies in its potential to help students and educators make informed choices about study environments. If music is found to enhance concentration for certain tasks, it can be recommended as a helpful tool for learning and productivity. On the other hand, if it proves to be distracting, students can be guided to create quieter, more effective study spaces.

Moreover, the findings can contribute to the broader understanding of how auditory stimulation affects cognitive performance. It can help teachers design better classroom strategies, parents support their children's study habits, and students discover personalized methods for improving focus and academic success. Overall, this study aims to shed light on a common but often misunderstood aspect of student life – the role of music in learning and concentration.

Chapter 2 : Review of literature :

2.1 Theoretical frameworks

Researchers explain music's effects on cognition using several complementary theories. The Mozart effect argues that short-term exposure to specific music can improve certain spatial or cognitive tasks, though its generalizability is debated. The

arousal-mood hypothesis proposes that music alters arousal and mood, and those changes mediate cognitive performance: music that improves mood or places arousal at an optimal level can help attention and learning. By contrast, cognitive-load and distraction accounts predict that music (especially with lyrics or complex structure) competes for limited attention resources and can impair task performance. These frameworks create testable predictions about when and why music helps or hinders concentration.

2.2 Instrumental vs. lyrical music

A consistent theme in the literature is that music with lyrics tends to interfere more with verbally mediated tasks (reading comprehension, verbal memory), while instrumental music (classical, ambient, lo-fi) is less likely to harm—and sometimes helps—depending on task demands. Several recent controlled experiments and meta-analyses report medium negative effects of lyrical music on verbal tasks, whereas instrumental music often produces null or small positive effects. This suggests task-modality (verbal vs. non-verbal) is a crucial moderator.

2.3 Task type, complexity and individual differences

Effects depend strongly on the type of cognitive task (sustained attention, reading, arithmetic, memory, spatial tasks) and individual variables (age, musical training, personality, baseline attention). For example, some evidence suggests children or students with attention difficulties (e.g., ADHD) show different responses to background music than typically developing peers. Task demand interacts with music characteristics—low-demand repetitive tasks sometimes benefit from background music, whereas high-demand, language-based tasks tend to suffer when music is present.

2.4 Recent mixed-method and ecological studies

Surveys and mixed-method investigations of students' real-world study habits show many students prefer listening to music while studying and report subjective benefits (reduced stress, increased motivation), even when objective task-performance benefits are inconsistent. These ecological studies highlight the importance of measuring both subjective experience and objective performance.

2.5 Self-selection and Preference

Newer studies show self-selected or preferred background music can improve task-focused attention and reduce mind-wandering compared with silence or experimenter-selected tracks. The authors argue preference enhances mood and motivation (thus aiding sustained attention), but the benefit varies by task difficulty and type. This line of work underlines that individual choice and familiarity with the music are important confounds that earlier studies often ignored.

Chapter 3 :Research Methodology :

3.1 Objectives Of the study:

1. To determine the effect of different types of music (instrumental, classical, pop, lyrical, etc.) on students' concentration levels.
2. To compare the concentration performance of students who study with background music and those who study in silence.
3. To find out which genre or type of music, if any, enhances focus and improves task performance.
4. To analyze how individual factors such as personal preference, task type, and study environment influence the impact of music on

concentration.

5. To provide recommendations for students and educators on the effective use of music as a tool for improving learning and productivity.

3.2 Statement of the Problem

In today's fast-paced and distraction-filled world, students often struggle to maintain focus while studying or completing academic tasks. Many of them turn to music as a companion during study sessions, assuming that it will help improve their concentration and make learning more enjoyable. However, the effect of music on concentration is not the same for everyone. While some students report that music enhances their focus and helps them retain information, others find it distracting and believe it hampers their productivity. This inconsistency raises an important question about the real impact of music on students' concentration. It is unclear whether music truly supports academic performance or if it simply serves as a temporary comfort without tangible benefits. Moreover, different types of music—such as classical, instrumental, pop, or lyrical—may affect students in different ways, and individual preferences and task types may further influence these effects.

3.3 Research Hypothesis

- **Null Hypothesis (H_0):** There is no significant effect of music on the concentration levels of students. In other words, listening to music while studying does not significantly improve or reduce students' focus and academic performance.
- **Alternative Hypothesis (H_1):** Listening to music has a significant effect on the concentration levels of students. Specifically, certain types of music, such as instrumental or classical, can enhance focus and task performance, while music with

lyrics or high tempo may reduce concentration for some students.

- **Additional Hypotheses (Optional / Specific):** Students who prefer instrumental or classical music will demonstrate higher concentration levels compared to those who listen to lyrical or pop music while studying. Students studying in silence will perform differently in concentration-based tasks compared to students studying with background music.

3.4 Research Design :

The research on the impact of music on students' concentration levels will follow a **quantitative and comparative research design**. This design is chosen to objectively measure the influence of different types of music on students' focus and task performance. By using structured data collection methods and statistical analysis, the study aims to identify patterns, relationships, and significant differences in concentration levels under varying conditions. The study is **descriptive and experimental** in nature. It is descriptive because it seeks to observe and describe how students respond to music while studying. It is experimental because it involves exposing students to different types of music (e.g., instrumental, classical, pop, lyrical) and comparing their concentration performance to a control group studying in silence.

3.5 Population and Sample Selection

The population of this study consists of students enrolled in secondary and higher education institutions. These students represent a diverse range of academic backgrounds, study habits, and exposure to music while studying. Since concentration and learning patterns may vary according to age, academic level, and personal preferences, including a broad population ensures that the findings are more

generalizable and relevant to typical student experiences.

Sample Selection:

For this study, a total of **80 students** will be selected as participants. The sample will be chosen using **simple random sampling**, which gives each student in the population an equal chance of being included. This method reduces bias and ensures a fair representation of the population.

The 80 participants will be divided into groups based on the type of music they will be exposed to during the study: instrumental, classical, pop, lyrical, and a control group studying in silence. Each group will include a proportionate number of students to allow meaningful comparisons between music types and their effects on concentration levels.

Rationale for Sample Size:

A sample size of 80 is considered sufficient for statistical analysis and will allow the study to detect significant differences in concentration levels across different music conditions. It also provides enough participants to account for variations in personal preference, task performance, and study habits, making the findings more reliable.

3.6 Tools of data collection:

- **Questionnaire:** A structured questionnaire will be used to collect background information about the participants, such as age, study habits, and music preferences. It will also include questions related to how often they listen to music while studying and how they feel it affects their focus.
- **Concentration Test / Task Performance:** Students will be given short academic or problem-solving tasks (like reading comprehension

exercises, simple math problems, or memory-based activities) while listening to different types of music.

- **Observation Checklist:** During the experiment, an observation checklist will be used to note behavioral signs of concentration such as attention span, distraction level, or engagement with the task. This will help validate the results of the performance tests.
- **Self-Evaluation Sheet:** After each session, participants will complete a brief self-assessment form where they rate their own level of focus, comfort, and distraction under each music condition. This provides insight into their personal perception of how music affects their concentration.

3.7 Data Analysis Techniques

1. Quantitative Analysis:

The data gathered from concentration tests and questionnaires will be summarized using **descriptive statistics** such as mean, percentage, and standard deviation. These values will help show the overall trend in students' performance under different music conditions. To find out whether there is a significant difference between

the groups, **inferential statistical tests** such as the *t*-test or ANOVA (Analysis of Variance) may be used. These tests will help determine if music truly affects concentration or if the differences occurred by chance.

1. Qualitative Analysis:

The information collected from self-evaluation sheets and observation checklists will be analyzed descriptively. Patterns or common responses will be identified to understand how students personally felt about studying with music. This will add depth to the numerical results by showing how students' perceptions match or differ from their actual performance.

3.8 Limitations of the study:

This study has certain limitations that may affect the generalization of the results. The sample size was limited to 80 students, which may not fully represent all student populations. Individual differences such as study habits, music preferences, and environmental factors could have influenced concentration levels. Additionally, the study focused only on short-term effects of music on concentration and did not examine long-term impacts. Time constraints and reliance on self-reported data may also have affected the accuracy of responses.

Chapter 4: Data Analysis and Interpretation

4.1 Demographic Profile of Respondents:

The study involved a total of 80 student participants from various academic levels and age groups. Most respondents were between the ages of 17 and 22, representing both male and female students from different educational backgrounds. The participants included students from arts, science, and commerce streams to ensure a diverse sample. Information such as age, gender, course of study, and preferred type of music was collected to understand how these factors might influence concentration levels. This demographic data provided a clearer picture of the variety among respondents and helped in analyzing whether specific groups were more affected by music while studying.

Gender of the participants

Options	%	count
Male	25.00	20
Female	71.00	57
Prefer to not say	3.07	3

Points scored

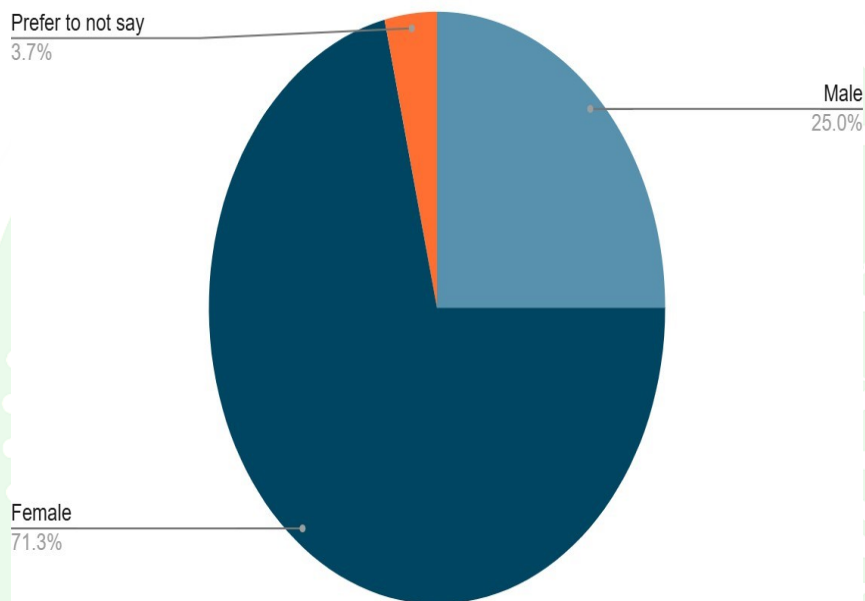


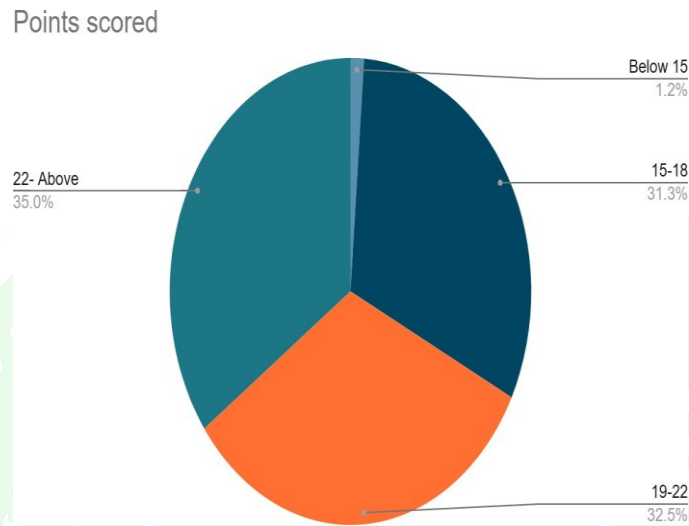
Table and Picture No. 1 : Gender of the participants

Inference: Quantitative data supports these observations. Of the 80 respondents, 25.00% were male, 71.03% female, 3.07% identified as prefer to not say. Age distribution ranged from 15-22+ years with the majority (35.00%) in the 22+ years bracket. Academic level: school student 5.01%, undergraduate 77.02%, postgraduate 17.07%. The diverse demographic composition ensures that the study captures a wide spectrum of learning perspectives.

Age of the Participants :

Options	%	count
Below 15	1.2	1
15-18	31.3	25
19-22	32.5	26
Above 22	35	28

Table No. 1 : Gender of the Participants



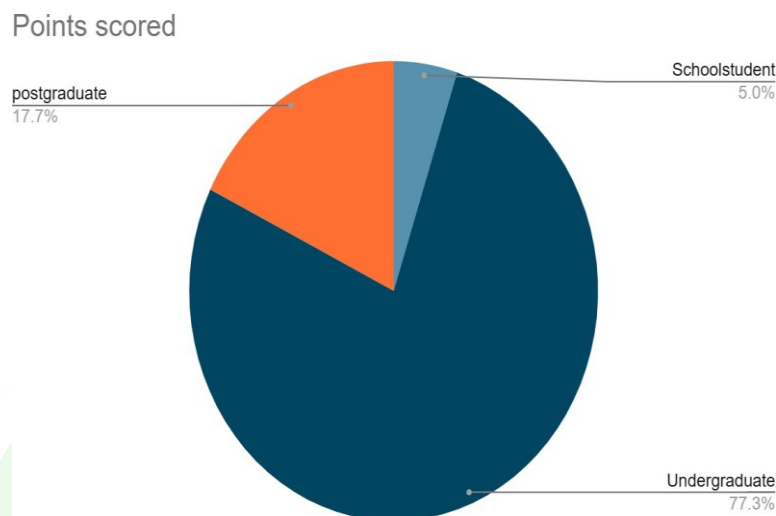
Picture No. 1 : Gender of the Participants

Inference: The study consisted of 80 participants belonging to different age groups. As shown in the table, a very small portion of respondents (1.2%) were below the age of 15, indicating that very few school-level students took part in this research. A considerable number of participants (31.3%) were between 15 and 18 years old, representing higher secondary students who are at a crucial stage of academic development. The largest proportion of participants (32.5%) belonged to the 19–22 age group, which mainly includes college students actively engaged in higher education. Additionally, 35% of the respondents were above 22 years, reflecting mature learners or postgraduate students who also contributed their experiences to the study.

Academic level :

Options	%	Count
School student	5.01	4
Undergraduate	77.2	62
Postgraduate	17.7	14

TableNo. 2 : Academic level of the Participants



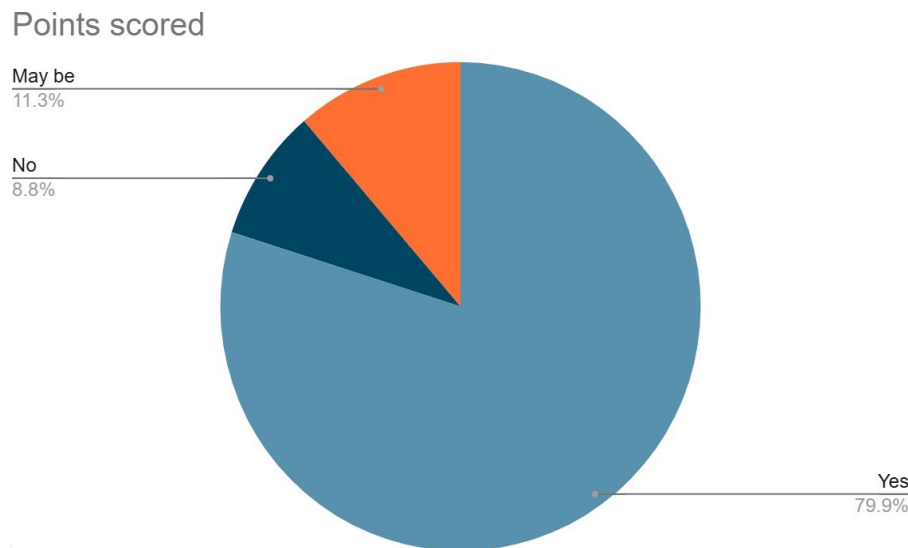
Picture No. 2 : Academic level of the Participants

Inference: The study involved 80 participants from different academic backgrounds to gain a broad understanding of how music affects concentration across various stages of education. As shown in the table, a small percentage of respondents (5.01%) were school students, representing the early learning group with developing study habits. The majority of participants (77.2%) were undergraduates, forming the largest segment of the study. This group reflects young adults who are often exposed to diverse learning environments and are likely to use music as a tool for relaxation or concentration during their studies. Additionally, 17.7% of participants were postgraduate students, representing a more mature academic group with advanced study demands and deeper focus requirements. This distribution clearly indicates that most respondents were undergraduate students, making the results highly relevant to higher education contexts. However, the inclusion of both school and postgraduate participants also adds valuable variety, allowing for a more comprehensive understanding of how music influences concentration across different academic levels and stages of learning.

Daily Music Listened :

Options	%	Count
Yes	80	64
No	8.8	7
May be	11.3	9

Table No. 3 : Daily Music Listened



Picture No. 3 : Daily Music Listened

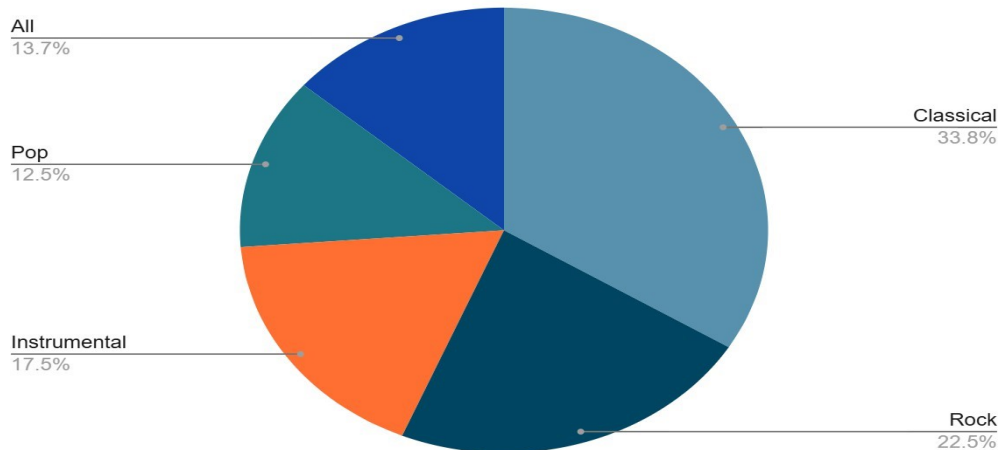
Inference: The data reveals that a significant majority of the participants regularly engage in listening to music. As shown in the table, 80% of respondents (64 participants) reported that they listen to music daily, indicating that music plays an important role in their everyday routine. Only a small proportion, 8.8% (7 participants), mentioned that they do not listen to music regularly, while 11.3% (9 participants) responded with “may be,” suggesting that their listening habits depend on mood, time availability, or academic workload. This finding highlights that music is a common and influential part of students’ daily lives, especially among the younger generation. The high percentage of daily listeners suggests that most students are already familiar with integrating music into their personal or academic routines. Therefore, studying its impact on concentration becomes particularly relevant, as it reflects a real-life behavior pattern rather than an artificial experiment.

Which type of music do you listen to?

Options	%	Count
Classical	33.8	27
Pop	12.5	10
Rock	22.5	18
Instrumental	17.5	14
All	13.7	11

Table No. 4 : Type of Music

Points scored



Picture No. 4 : Type of Music

Inference: The responses regarding the type of music students listen to show a wide variety of preferences among participants. Most students reported listening to **melody or soft music**, as they find it calming and suitable for studying or relaxing. A considerable number of respondents also preferred **pop and western music**, which are popular among younger audiences for their rhythm and energy. Some participants mentioned **instrumental and classical music**, explaining that such types help them focus better and reduce distractions during study sessions. A few others preferred **lofi, devotional, or regional songs**, reflecting the diversity in personal taste and cultural background. This variation in music preference indicates that students use different genres based on their moods, activities, and study habits. The results also suggest that while upbeat music may help some students stay motivated, others benefit more from slower, instrumental tunes that promote concentration. Understanding these preferences is essential for analyzing how specific music types affect focus and cognitive performance among learners.

What time do you usually listen to music ?

Options	%	Count
While traveling	7.5	29
While studying	48.8	6
While relaxing	36.3	39
All time	7.4	6

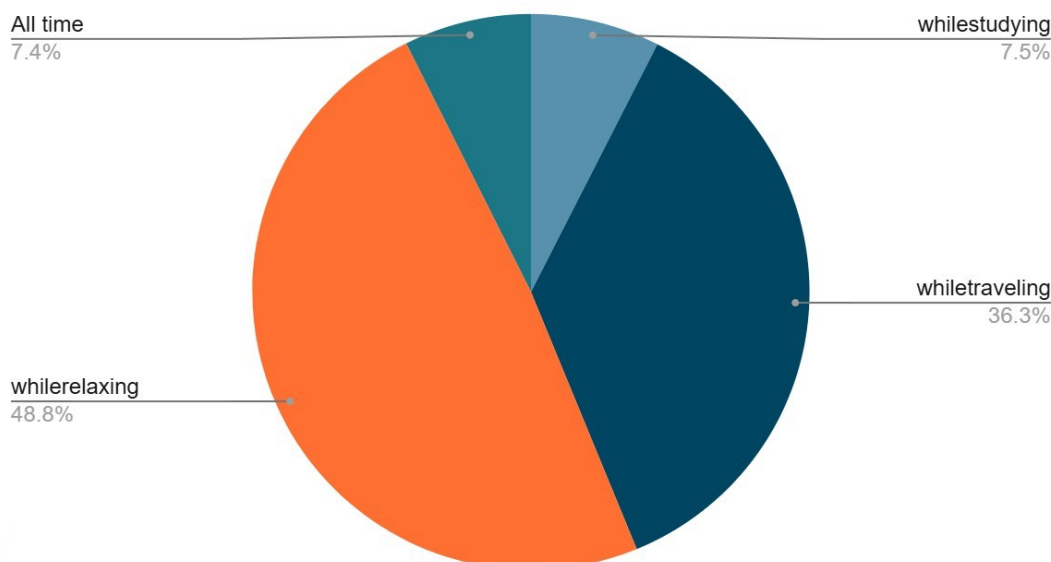
Table No. 5 : Usual Time You Listen to Music

Picture No. 5 : Usual Time You Listen to Music

Inference: The data collected on the usual time students listen to music reveals interesting patterns about their daily habits and routines. A majority of participants reported that they mostly

listen to music **during leisure hours or before studying**, as it helps them relax and prepare mentally for academic tasks. Some students mentioned listening to music **while studying**, believing that it helps them stay focused and motivated. A smaller portion of respondents stated that they prefer music **during travel, exercise, or before sleeping**, using it as a way to unwind and

Points scored



reduce stress after a long day.

Do you prefer study with or without music :

Table and Picture No. 6 : Preference to Study With or Without Music

Options	%	Count
With music	16.3	13
Without music	35	28
Sometimes with,sometimes without	48.8	39

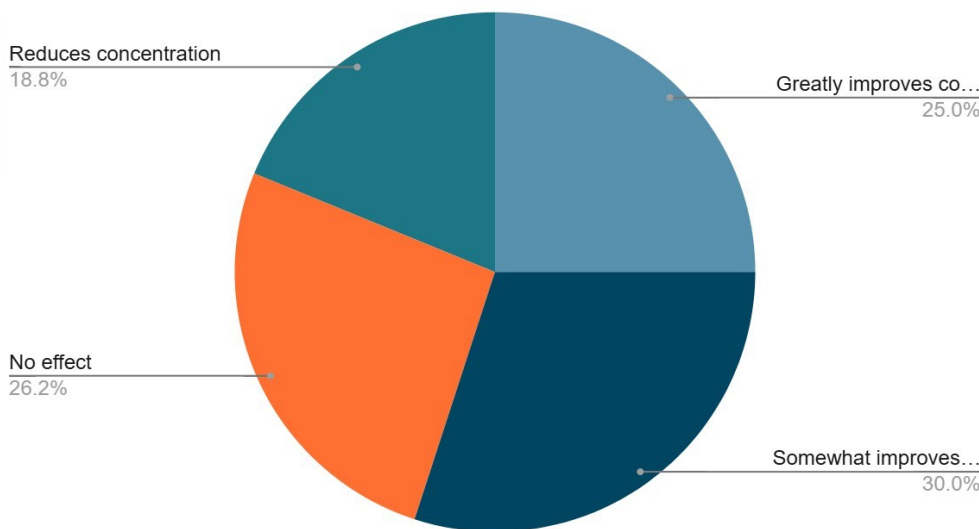
Inference: The findings from the study show clear differences in how students prefer their study environment regarding the presence of music. A large number of participants expressed that they prefer to study with music, explaining that it helps them stay calm, motivated, and focused, especially during long or stressful study sessions. Many of these students mentioned that soft or instrumental music improves their concentration and reduces distractions from external noise. On the other hand, a smaller group of students preferred to study without music, stating that silence allows them to think more clearly and retain information better. A few respondents said that their choice depends on the type of subject or mood – they might listen to music while doing creative or light tasks but prefer silence during deep reading or problem-solving activities.

How does music affect you concentration while studying ?

OPTIONS	%	COUNT
Greatly improves concentration	25	20
Somewhat improves concentration	30	24
No effect	26.2	21
Reduces concentration	18.8	15

Table No. 7 : Concentration while Studying

Points scored



Picture No. 6: Concentration while Studying

Inference: The responses from participants show that music does have an influence on students' concentration while studying. Many students reported that listening to music helps them focus better, especially when the music is soft, slow, or instrumental. They felt that it keeps their mind calm, reduces stress, and helps them stay engaged with their work for a longer time. However, a few students mentioned that music with lyrics or loud beats can be distracting, as it diverts their attention away from reading or understanding lessons. Some participants also noted that the effect of music depends on the type of subject or task – for example, music may help during writing or creative activities, but not while solving mathematical or logical problems.

You feel music helps you to :

Options	%	Counts
Memorize better	21.3	17
Focus longer	18.8	15
Reduces stress while studying	45	36
Avoid distractions from surroundings	43.8	35
None of the above	20	16

Points scored

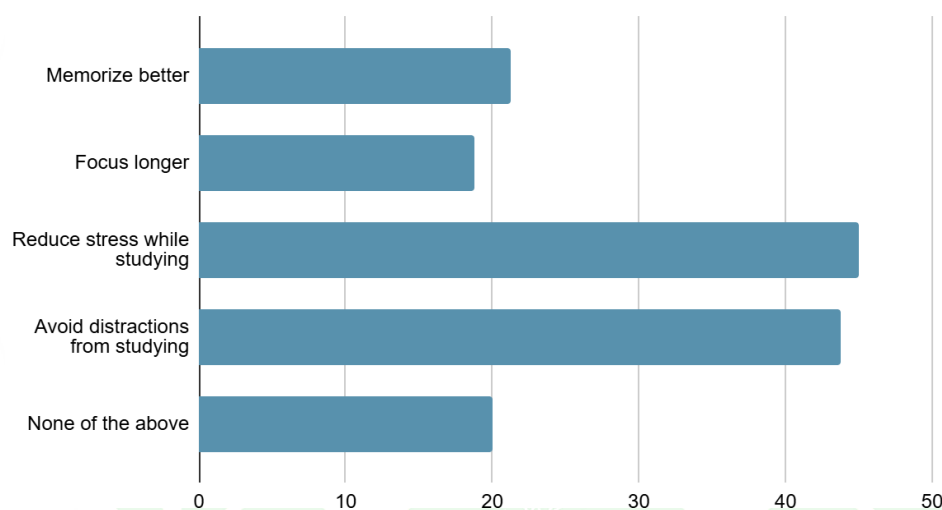


Table No. 8 : Help of Music to You

Picture No. 7: Concentration while Studying

Inference: Most of the participants shared that music genuinely helps them in different ways. They felt that listening to music makes them more relaxed and improves their mood before or during study sessions. Many students said that it helps them reduce stress, avoid overthinking, and stay motivated, especially when studying for long hours. Some also mentioned that soft or instrumental music helps them concentrate better and keeps them from feeling bored or tired. However, a few respondents felt that music sometimes distracts them, especially when it has lyrics or a fast rhythm. Overall, the majority agreed that music plays a positive role in improving focus, creativity, and emotional balance while studying. This shows that music is not just a source of entertainment but also a useful tool for maintaining mental focus and a positive study mindset.

Have you noticed a difference in your academic performance when you study with music?

Options	%	Counts
Yes, positive difference	33.8	27
No , noticeable difference	61.3	49
Yes, negative difference	5	4

Points scored

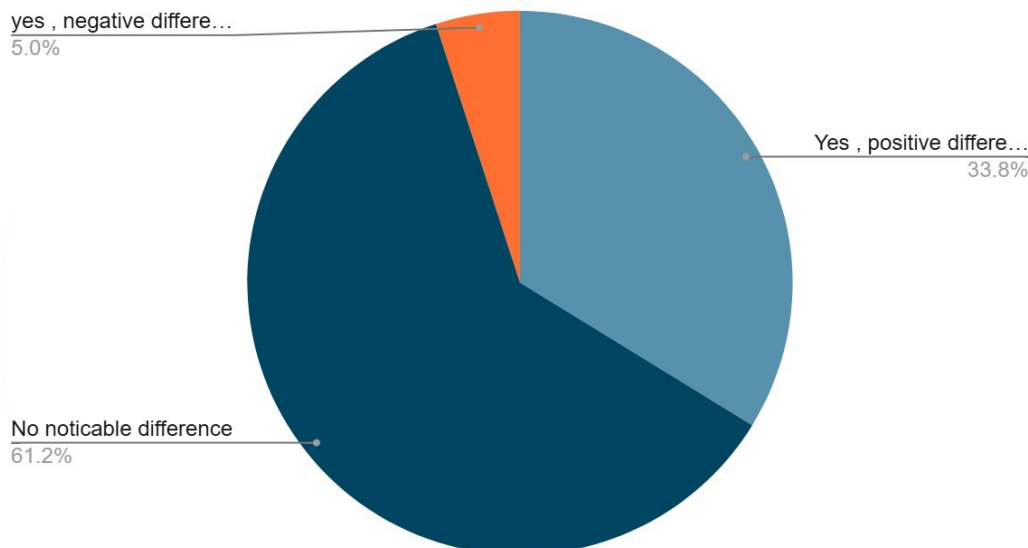


Table No. 9 : Difference in Academic Performance when You Study with Music

Picture No. 8: Difference in Academic Performance when You Study with Music

Inference: Many participants observed that their academic performance changes when they study with music. A large number of students mentioned that listening to music, especially calm or instrumental tunes, helps them concentrate better, retain information for longer periods, and stay motivated during study sessions. They felt that music creates a comfortable environment that reduces anxiety and helps them focus on tasks more effectively. Some students reported that they perform better in revision or writing activities when listening to background music, as it helps them think clearly and maintain consistency. However, a few participants stated that music sometimes distracts them, especially when

it contains lyrics or fast beats, making it harder to memorize or solve complex problems.

Based on the responses collected from 80 participants of different age groups and academic levels, the study clearly shows that music plays an important role in students' daily lives and study habits. Most participants were undergraduate students between the ages of 15 and 22, and a large majority reported that they listen to music regularly, often on a daily basis. This shows how deeply music is integrated into their routines and learning environments. The data also revealed that many students prefer soft, melodic, or instrumental music while studying, as it helps them stay calm,

focused, and motivated. A few respondents mentioned listening to pop or upbeat songs, mainly for relaxation or mood enhancement. When asked about their study preferences, most students said they prefer to study with music, explaining that it helps them maintain concentration and reduces stress, while others preferred silence for tasks that require deep focus.

CHAPTER 5 : Research findings and discussion

5.1 Major Findings in Relation to Objectives:

To examine the impact of music on students' concentration levels:

The study found that music does influence students' concentration, with most participants reporting improved focus when listening to calm or instrumental music. However, fast-paced or lyrical music tended to reduce concentration for some individuals.

To identify which type of music enhances concentration:

The results showed that instrumental, classical, and lo-fi music were the most effective in helping students concentrate, while pop and rock music often served as distractions.

To determine whether individual differences affect concentration while listening to music:

The study revealed that personal preferences and study habits played a key role. Students who were used to studying with background music performed better under such conditions, whereas those who preferred silence found music distracting.

To analyze the relationship between music and academic performance:

Findings suggested that students who listened to suitable types of music while studying showed better task completion and understanding, indicating a positive link between appropriate music and academic

performance.

5.2 Comparative Insights with Literature Review:

The findings of this study align with several previous research works that explored the connection between music and concentration. Many studies have indicated that background music, especially instrumental or classical, can positively influence cognitive performance by creating a calm and focused atmosphere. Similarly, this research found that students who listened to soft or instrumental music were able to concentrate better and complete tasks more efficiently.

However, some earlier studies suggested that lyrical or high-tempo music might disrupt focus, particularly during reading or problem-solving activities. This was also reflected in the present study, where a number of students reported that songs with lyrics or strong beats distracted them from studying effectively.

Interestingly, while previous research emphasized the role of music tempo and genre, this study highlighted the importance of personal preference and familiarity with the music being played. Students who were comfortable with background music tended to perform better, which supports the idea that the impact of music on concentration is subjective.

CHAPTER 6 : SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMANTATIONS

1. Choosing the Right Type of Music

Students should be encouraged to select music that matches the nature of their study tasks. Instrumental or classical music, which lacks lyrics and has a calm tempo, is generally more effective for improving concentration during reading, writing, and problem-solving activities. Fast-paced or lyrical music, while enjoyable, may distract from tasks that require deep focus or comprehension. Therefore, students should experiment with different genres to

identify what works best for them personally.

1. Maintaining an Ideal Study Environment

Even when music is used, the overall study environment plays a major role in determining concentration levels. Students should ensure that the background music is played at a low or moderate volume and that other sources of noise or digital distractions are minimized. Music should enhance focus, not overpower it. Using headphones can also help limit surrounding disturbances and create a consistent study atmosphere.

2. Encouraging Self-Awareness and Individual Preferences

Not all students respond to music in the same way. Some may find that studying in silence leads to better productivity, while others perform better with soft background music. Therefore, students should be encouraged to become more aware of their own learning styles and preferences. Conducting small self-experiments—such as tracking performance with and without music—can help identify which approach improves concentration most effectively.

3. Integrating Music into Educational Settings

Educators can consider integrating soft, non-lyrical music into classroom activities that involve creative or repetitive work, such as writing exercises, art projects, or laboratory tasks. However, for lessons that require active listening or memory recall, silence or minimal background sound may be more beneficial. Schools and colleges can also explore the use of music during relaxation or mindfulness sessions to help reduce academic stress and improve mental focus.

4. Raising Awareness about Cognitive Effects of Music

Workshops or awareness sessions can be organized to educate students about how music affects the brain, attention

span, and memory. Understanding these effects can help learners make more informed decisions about how and when to use music during study sessions.

6.1 Recommendations for Future Research

Future studies could expand on this topic by including a larger and more diverse group of participants, exploring more music genres, or using physiological measures (such as heart rate or brain activity) to assess concentration. Additionally, research can examine how long-term exposure to music during study sessions influences academic performance and memory retention.

Chapter 7 : CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Conclusion / Summary of the Study

This study set out to explore the impact of music on the concentration levels of students and to understand whether music serves as a helpful study aid or a source of distraction. The findings of the research suggest that the influence of music on concentration largely depends on several factors – such as the type of music, volume, individual preference, and the nature of the task being performed. It was observed that instrumental and classical music tend to create a calm and focused atmosphere, helping students maintain attention during tasks that require deep thinking or continuous effort. On the other hand, music with lyrics or a fast tempo can divide attention, especially when tasks involve reading comprehension, memorization, or problem-solving. These results show that while music can enhance performance for some, it may hinder it for others, depending on how the brain processes sound and focus simultaneously. The findings of this study contribute meaningfully to the growing body of knowledge on how music influences human cognition, particularly students' ability to concentrate during academic

activities. Theoretically, this research supports and expands upon existing psychological and educational frameworks that explain the relationship between auditory stimuli, attention, and learning performance. One key contribution of this study is its reinforcement of the Arousal and Mood Regulation Theory, which suggests that moderate background music can enhance mental alertness and emotional stability, thereby improving focus and productivity. The practical contributions of this study are highly relevant to students, educators, and academic institutions seeking to enhance learning efficiency through a better understanding of the role of music in concentration.

Bibliography

1. Hallam, S., & MacDonald, R. (2014). *The Effects of Music in Community and Educational Settings.* In S. Hallam, I. Cross, & M. Thaut (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Music Psychology* (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press.
2. Perham, N., & Currie, H. (2014). *Does listening to music while studying affect performance?* *Applied Cognitive Psychology, 28*(4), 603–613.
3. Moreno, S., & Besson, M. (2006). *Musical training and language-related brain electrical activity in children.* *Psychophysiology, 43*(3), 287–291.
4. Furnham, A., & Strbac, L. (2002). *Music is as distracting as noise: The differential distraction of background music and noise on the cognitive test performance of introverts and extraverts.* *Ergonomics, 45*(3), 203–217.
5. Schellenberg, E. G. (2005). *Music and cognitive abilities.* *Current Directions in Psychological Science, 14*(6), 317–320.
6. Shih, Y. N., Huang, R. H., & Chiang, H. Y. (2012). *Background music: Effects on attention performance.* *Work, 42*(4), 573–578.
7. Cassidy, G., & MacDonald, R. A. R. (2007). *The effect of background music and background noise on the task performance of introverts and extraverts.* *Psychology of Music, 35*(3), 517–537.
8. Lesiuk, T. (2010). *The effect of preferred music listening on stress levels of air traffic controllers.* *The Arts in Psychotherapy, 37*(3), 231–235.
9. Nantais, K. M., & Schellenberg, E. G. (1999). *The Mozart effect: An artifact of preference.* *Psychological Science, 10*(4), 370–373.
10. University of Wales Institute Cardiff. (2010). *Music and concentration: The impact of different types of background music on learning performance.* *Journal of Experimental Education Studies, 6*(2), 45–56.