Analysis of Peer Group Behavior Among University Students
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Contributions
- We undertake a pre-study survey of 177 students within a fully residential university using accepted contextual inquiry methods to understand the correlational factors (e.g., group size, category, time spent etc.) behind students’ group satisfaction.
- We present insights into qualitative aspects of group behavior that may aid university counselors in diagnosing mental well-being relating to peer-rejection and unsatisfactory social interactions in a residential campus.
- We make the case for a smartphone-based sensing study for peer interaction analysis and provide design recommendations for StuGru – a platform for group-detection and monitoring, augmented by utilizing event-triggered Ecological Momentary Assessments (EMAs).

Introduction
Understanding students’ interactions and their emotional impact within peer groups is crucial in order to assess their overall mental state. While previous work such as[1, 2, 3] have focused on correlating individual physical and mental states, we intend to bring attention to more aspects of student life within universities by analyzing emotive factors within student groups.

Survey Design

Preliminary Results

- 78% of the participants reported that their group engagement is most influenced by the constituent people, rather than Location, Activity or Time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group Size</th>
<th>2-4</th>
<th>4-6</th>
<th>6-10</th>
<th>&gt;10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Study</td>
<td>76.3%</td>
<td>18.52%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>1.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dining</td>
<td>31.58%</td>
<td>42.11%</td>
<td>23.31%</td>
<td>3.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workout/Sports</td>
<td>68.25%</td>
<td>15.87%</td>
<td>11.11%</td>
<td>4.76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual</td>
<td>27.13%</td>
<td>33.33%</td>
<td>33.33%</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table: Average group sizes among different group types within the student community

Study Recommendations

- Students spend the maximum amount of time with their peer groups in Hostels and the Cafeteria - 29.82% and 21.34% of their time respectively, on average.
- 63% of respondents are ‘Highly’ or ‘Mildly Satisfied’ with their Casual and Dining Groups, whereas 41% are ‘Neutral’ towards Study and Workout/Sports Groups.

References