



Academic procrastination, task values, and self-efficacy of pre-service biology teachers in online learning based on a gender perspective

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ABSTRACT

Online learning can contribute to increased academic procrastination, often linked to low self-efficacy and perceived task value. This study investigates academic procrastination, self-efficacy, and task values from a gender perspective using a cross-sectional approach with students in their 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th semesters. An independent t-test assessed differences between male and female students. Findings showed no significant differences in academic procrastination across genders in any semester; however, notable differences in self-efficacy and task value emerged only in the 5th semester. The lack of significant differences in procrastination is attributed to similarities in environmental, psychological, and social factors, alongside common challenges in time management and distractions. Male and female students demonstrated comparable self-efficacy due to shared academic settings, social support, and media influences, while similar task values stemmed from common interests and experiences. The differences in the 5th semester likely arise from increased academic demands and evolving social dynamics, including gender stereotypes. Future research should employ qualitative methods, such as interviews or focus groups, to gain deeper insights into student experiences. Longitudinal studies could also track changes in self-efficacy and task value over time for a more comprehensive understanding. Targeted interventions to enhance self-efficacy and task value could be particularly beneficial in semesters with significant differences, thereby addressing academic procrastination more effectively.

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INTRODUCTION

The development of science and technology is very rapid and occurs in a short time, and changes in student orientation and priorities, as well as how to handle their academic tasks (AlQudah et al., 2014). However, it turns out that many students do not succeed and experience academic failure (Goroshit, 2018; Vossensteyn et al., 2015). Academic failure is often associated with academic procrastination. According to Onwuegbuzie (2004), approximately 40% to 60% of students put off writing papers, preparing for tests, doing other academic work, and reading weekly assignments. According to Ghazal (2012) the study, the rate of procrastination among college students has risen to 25%. According to studies by and, 23-52% of students procrastinated Özer et al. (2009). 80–95% of students in higher education, or nearly half of them, exhibit procrastination, according to a meta-analysis (Kim & Seo, 2015). According to Steel's (2007) research, 50% of college students habitually procrastinate, with over 80% of them doing so. Due to changes in technology and the learning environment, procrastination in online learning requires particular attention (You, 2015).

Online learning cannot be separated from the use of gadgets and the internet. Procrastination is made more likely by a number of "temptations" including the tendency to open numerous "tabs" simultaneously when learning online, mobile games (Nordby et al., 2019), social networking sites (Meier et al., 2016; Muslikah et al., 2018), messaging applications (Steel, 2007). Because of its online and engaging applications, internet addiction is a major source of distraction (Nwosu et al., 2020).

Academic procrastination is described as delaying the commencement of or timely completion of assignments (Sepehrian, 2012) or delaying the preparation for exams (Beck et al., 2000). Senécal et al. (1995), Tice & Baumeister (1997), and Wolters (2003) all define academic procrastination as a continuous failure to complete academic work on time. Procrastinators would rather do other things than finish the assignment (Klingsieck, 2013). As stated by Akinsola et al. (2007), they frequently decide to allocate their spare time on other pursuits like media enjoyment or seeking out pleasure or excitement. In agreement with this assertion, Noran (2000) notes that some people choose to engage in leisure activities over mandatory ones, for example enjoying movies or hanging out with friends.

Procrastinators have an awareness of the expenses that will result from their actions (Steel, 2007). They understand what to do, know what to do, and how to do it, but still don't do it (Popoola, 2005) because they tend to procrastinate (He, 2017) and procrastinate (Gustavson & Miyake, 2017). Due to their inability to complete assignments to the best of their abilities while learning, students who procrastinate often end up failing (Kandemir, 2014).

Zeenath & Orcullo (2012) research found that academic procrastination in students is influenced by both internal and external factors such as the lecturers' teaching methods, time management challenges, a lack of enthusiasm, and social pressure. Abu and Saral (2016) state that several factors cause procrastination, including students who feel academic assignments are less interesting, fear failure, desire not to tire themselves out, and prefer encouraging activities, and social environment, to physical conditions. A study conducted by McGhie (2012) revealed that lack of planning and time management can cause students to procrastinate, turn in overdue or absent tasks, and fail to meet exam requirements. Another factor identified as a cause of procrastination is perfectionism (Rice et al., 2012).

Self-efficacy and task value are frequently linked to academic procrastination. The concept of "self-efficacy" is referring to a person's trust in his or her capacity to learn or perform a task, as well as their belief in their ability to set up and carry out a number of activities to achieve a certain objective (Kitsantas & Zimmerman, 2009). Someone's trust in their capability to succeed is sometimes used to define self-efficacy (Bandura, 2006). Understanding one's own thoughts, feelings, and behaviors is known as self-efficacy (AlQudah et al., 2014).

Confident people will be able to view difficult tasks as challenges and will feel assured in their capability to accomplish them. They avoid difficult tasks, in contrast to suspicious people. They perceive tough jobs as a danger and hence lack motivation to complete tasks. According to Baird et al., (2009), one aspect that affects students' ability to complete academic tasks and achieve their goals is their level of academic self-efficacy. Students with strong academic self-efficacy like and enjoy learning; they have the belief to excel in tests, do research, and effectively control their education. Meanwhile, academic failure is more likely to occur in students who lack self-efficacy (Elias, 2008).

Studying academic procrastination requires consideration of task importance on significant academic tasks (Dietz et al., 2007). Students that recognize the importance of a task (task value) will work hard to fulfill their learning objectives. Students who fail to understand the task value of a certain

academic assignment will engage in academic procrastination. (Senécal et al., 2003). Procrastinators frequently exhibit a lack of motivation and a diminished sense of the importance of their academic work in comparison to non-procrastinators (Schraw et al., 2007).

Lecturers may often find some students tend to turn in assignments close to the deadline. Even a deadline extension request was made. Some students tend to study systematically and consistently over time, whereas some students begin their study sessions just a couple of days before the exam. Observations and student and lecturer interviews, along with other findings, shows that students tend to procrastinate in completing assignments so that they pass the specified deadline, which has an impact on the low score of assignments obtained by students.

Students who experience procrastination produce low-quality assignments or are late for assignments, causing stress. Failing to complete assignments by the due date and postponing preparing for examinations, and receiving poor grades are all common occurrences (Beswick et al., 1988; Semb et al., 1979) that occurs among individuals with procrastination behavior. Procrastination also produces other negative consequences including low academic achievement, diminished self-esteem, and elevated emotions of dissatisfaction and anxiety in the offender as well as in those to whom they are related (Klingsieck, 2013). Low academic achievement is mainly caused by delays in starting assignments (Day et al., 2000). Mistakes in planning may be a factor in someone's procrastination of beginning an academic task. The propensity to predict the time needed to finish a specific activity with an excessively optimistic outlook is known as planning mistake (Buehler et al., 2010).

Research that investigates into biology education students' self-efficacy, task value, and procrastination in the classroom and during online learning based on gender and level is rarely done. The findings of various studies also show varying results. According to Steel (2007), procrastination is more common among males than females. In contrast, stated that females are more likely to experience procrastination than males. Contrarily, according to Haycock et al. (1998), procrastination is more common in females than in males. Other research, on the other hand, found no difference between males and females when it came to procrastinating (Beswick et al., 1988). The same thing was also found in the self-efficacy and task value variables. This inconsistent information makes researchers want to investigate further if the research is carried out at the higher education level during online learning. Based on gender, this study gives information about academic procrastination, self-efficacy, and task values. For lecturers, the study's findings provide an obvious picture, seeking an in-depth grasp of the scope of this phenomenon among parents and educational institutions, and allow developing programs to reduce the phenomenon of procrastination and increase task value and student self-efficacy.

METHODS

Research Design

This study uses a cross-sectional exploratory design with a quantitative approach that includes comparison analysis.

Population and Samples

The participants in this study were biology education students. The samples in this study were students in the 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th semesters, with a total of 381 students. A stratified random sampling procedure was used.

Instrument

The scale utilized in this study is based on Tuckman's (1991) scale, which was translated into Indonesian. Items totaled 16 statements, made up of 12 favorable and 4 unfavorable items. Measurements using a 4-point Likert scale are completely acceptable, acceptable, not acceptable, and completely unsuitable. Bashir (2019) This created the academic self-efficacy scale that was used in this study. The scale has 16 favorable items and 4 unfavorable items and was adapted into Indonesian which includes 4 aspects, namely Self Confidence, Efficacy Expectation, Positive Attitude, and Outcome Expectation. The scale is a 5-point Likert scale with the following options: strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, and strongly disagree. The task value scale used in this study is a questionnaire consisting of 47 statement items, modified and translated into Indonesian from Hagemeyer and Murawski (2014) and Pintrich et al. (1991). Additional statement items that were modified to fit the four dimensions of task value. A total of 39 favorable and 8 unfavorable elements were employed in the study.

Procedure

The survey approach was used to obtain data. Participants' data is kept private, and their involvement has no negative effects. Online questionnaires were distributed to participants and the total duration for completing all questionnaires was within 30 minutes.

Data Analysis Techniques

The t-test was used to compare academic procrastination, task value, and self-efficacy between male and female biology education students.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Academic Procrastination of Pre-Service Biology Teachers Based on a Gender Perspective

An independent t-test can be used to compare academic procrastination between male and female students at each semester level. In the 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th semesters, male and female students did not demonstrate significantly different levels of academic procrastination, according to the analysis's findings ($p > 0.05$). However, based on the average, the highest procrastination was found in male students in 1st semester. The findings of the entire t-test study are displayed in [Table 1](#).

Table 1

Differences in Academic Procrastination of Male and Female Students

Semester	Gender	N	Average \pm SD	p
1 st Semester	Male	22	2,35 \pm 0,274	0,694
	Female	147	2,32 \pm 0,337	
3 rd Semester	Male	10	2,16 \pm 0,386	0,176
	Female	75	2,32 \pm 0,335	
5 th Semester	Male	10	2,32 \pm 0,268	0,924
	Female	62	2,33 \pm 0,352	
7 th Semester	Male	7	2,22 \pm 0,279	0,211
	Female	48	2,34 \pm 0,312	

Academic procrastination from a gender perspective is one of the most researched topics. Various studies were conducted and the results obtained were inconsistent. As showed in [Table 1](#), the study's findings showed that there was no significant difference in academic procrastination between male and female students in the 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th semesters ($p > 0.05$). Several studies also stated the same thing, where there is no difference in academic procrastination by gender (Ferrari, 1991; Hess et al., 2000; Whatley, 2009; Şirin, 2011). Males, on the other hand, procrastinate more than females, according to Yong (2010).

Gender variations in academic procrastination, according to Steel (2007), are difficult to predict. Broadly speaking, there are three categories of academic procrastination research results based on gender. There is no significant difference in academic procrastination between male and female, according to a number of studies (Akinsola et al., 2007; Day et al., 2000; Demeter & Davis, 2013; Effert & Ferrari, 1989; Ferrari et al., 1995; Gafni & Geri, 2010; Howell & Watson, 2007; Joubert, 2015; Klassen & Kuzucu, 2009; Motie et al., 2012; Owens & Newbegin, 2000; Özer, 2011; Rothblum et al., 1986; Shahrizal & Malina, 2020; Solomon & Rothblum, 1984; Yun, 2019; Zarick & Stonebraker, 2009).

Academic procrastination between male and female students may not show significant differences due to several factors that influence this behavior in general. Some possible reasons include environmental similarity, psychological factors, time management strategies, social influences, and technology and distractions. The similarity of the academic environment contributes to academic procrastination between male and female students because they face similar challenges and pressures. First, both male and female students are often faced with the same workload, including assignments, exams, and projects that have tight deadlines. According to Steel (2007), procrastination can be triggered by feelings of anxiety and pressure that arise due to academic demands, regardless of gender. In addition, equal access to learning resources, such as technology (Afzal et al., 2023), libraries, and academic guidance, allows both groups of students to experience the same obstacles in managing time and their duties (Adams & Blair, 2019). Students are taught to prioritize learning in an academic environment. However, they often get caught up in distractions, especially with digital technology that

influences learning focus (McGarr, 2024; Pérez-Juárez et al., 2023). Peers also play an important role; peers who experience procrastination can spread to all group members, regardless of gender (Arfah et al., 2022). Thus, the combination of these factors creates a situation where academic procrastination can occur similarly among male and female students in the same context.

Psychological factors play an important role in academic procrastination, and research shows that the impact is similar between male and female students. One of the main factors is the anxiety that students often experience when facing academic assignments. According to Sirois (2023), individuals who experience anxiety may feel depressed so they tend to postpone tasks that make them uncomfortable. This anxiety can be felt by male and female students, resulting in the same pattern of procrastination. Perfectionism, which often influences motivation and self-confidence, is also a significant factor (Ashraf et al., 2023). Those who are perfectionists often feel trapped in a cycle of dissatisfaction with the results of their work, which in turn exacerbates procrastination (Sederlund et al., 2020). In this case, both male and female students can experience similar levels of perfectionism, causing them to fall into the trap of procrastination. Additionally, low intrinsic motivation, which also contributes to procrastination (Andraško et al., 2022) may affect students of both genders similarly. Low motivation can lead to task avoidance, which is not limited to one gender. Thus, the combination of anxiety, perfectionism, and low motivation contributes to similar academic procrastination behavior among male and female students.

Ineffective time management strategies contribute to academic procrastination among male and female students, because both often lack the skills to plan and manage time well. Research shows that students who do not have good time management strategies tend to postpone assignments more often, and this applies to all genders (Britton & Tesser, 1991). Additionally, relying on methods such as completing work at the last minute can increase stress and anxiety, which in turn exacerbates procrastination behavior (Steinert et al., 2021). Students are also often affected by distractions from the surrounding environment, both from technology and social interactions, which have a negative impact on their time management (Kolhar et al., 2021). Thus, similarities in time management skills and strategies used lead to similar academic procrastination between male and female students.

Social influences play a significant role in academic procrastination, which explains why this behavior is similar between male and female students. Students are often influenced by norms and expectations from peers, which can encourage them to postpone assignments, especially if the social environment considers procrastination to be normal (Svardal et al., 2020). This is confirmed by Salguero-Pazos & Reyes-de-Cózar (2023), who show that the risk of academic procrastination is higher in social contexts. Intense social interactions, especially in collaborative or group work situations, can lead to procrastination if group members do not share the same motivation. This tendency is further exacerbated by the use of social media, where information and distractions can quickly divert students' attention from academic tasks, affecting male and female students in similar ways (Anwar et al., 2022). However, collaboration in groups can also reduce procrastination (Koppenborg et al., 2024) because group members depend on each other. This was also expressed by Klingsieck (2013), Koppenborg & Klingsieck (2022a), and Koppenborg & Klingsieck (2022b).

Research shows that college students of both genders can have similar levels of sensitivity to peer influence, which is influenced by a variety of social and psychological factors. First, students are often in similar environments, where the norms and expectations of their peer groups greatly influence their behavior (Filade et al., 2019). Additionally, the desire to be accepted and recognized by peers is a common phenomenon in educational institutions (Chakraborty, 2023) which can be a strong motivator to neglect academic responsibilities. For example, if classmates prefer having fun to studying, students tend to follow that pattern even though they realize the importance of studying. Apart from that, there are psychological aspects such as fear of loss or failure in social relationships (Filade et al., 2019) which can encourage students to postpone assignments. In this context, gender differences may not be significant, because both groups feel the same impact from their social environment. Therefore, similar social influences on decision making and study habits help explain the phenomenon of procrastination which does not differ between male and female students.

Other research shows that communication and interaction among peers can increase or decrease learning motivation (Eisenkopf, 2010). This opens up the opportunity to further discuss that students of both genders have similar levels of sensitivity to peer influence, and we can explore ways to support each other in creating a more productive environment. Discussions can include strategies for

encouraging good study habits, sharing motivation, and building positive norms among peers, regardless of gender. The goal is to increase focus on academic tasks and reduce procrastination behavior, so that all students can thrive in a mutually supportive atmosphere.

Technology and distractions contribute to similar academic procrastination among male and female students, as both have equal access to a variety of digital tools that can divert attention from academic tasks. Research shows that the use of social media, applications and online games can reduce focus, motivation and productivity (Abbas et al., 2019; Sun et al., 2023), which impacts all students regardless of gender (Zahedi et al., 2021). Additionally, research by Reinecke et al. (2018) show that dependence on the internet often encourages students to postpone assignments, especially when they are more interested in entertainment content available online. This situation is further exacerbated by the "FOMO" (fear of missing out) phenomenon, where students feel they have to stay connected with their friends in cyberspace, so they neglect their academic responsibilities which results in a decrease in GPA (Abel et al., 2016).

The use of digital devices often creates constant distractions, creating an environment that hinders student concentration. According to research by Sirois (2023), individuals who are exposed to this distraction experience difficulty in time management and completing tasks according to schedule, which in turn causes procrastination behavior. In addition, both male and female students show similar behavioral patterns in using technology, so the negative impacts are felt equally. Thus, reliance on technology and general distractions contribute to similar academic procrastination among male and female students.

The results of other studies reported that males have a greater risk of experiencing academic procrastination (van Eerde, 2003; Steel, 2007). This notion was further confirmed by Choi and Moran (2009), Klassen and Kuzucu (2009), and Özer et al. (2009). Many recent research has found that males tend more than females to procrastinate (Beutel et al., 2016; Pala et al., 2011; Steel & Ferrari, 2013). Senécal et al. (1995) and Özer et al. (2009). Balkis & Duru (2009) Khan et al. (2014) Zarick and Stonebraker (2009), although neither the test scores nor the quality of the papers significantly differed between male and female. Mandap (2016) revealed that male students showed higher procrastination scores because they had difficulty completing assignments. Senécal et al. (1995) stated in their research that when it comes to academic activities, the female generally reports being more intrinsically motivated than males. Another possible reason that can be used to express this idea can be related to self-control which is generally greater in females (Gibson et al., 2010). Strong self-control can reduce a person's risk of experiencing procrastination (Kim et al., 2017). Meanwhile, the results of research by Rodarte-Luna and Sherry (2008) discovered that male student procrastination was linked to a fear of looking for help, although Brownlow and Reasinger (2000) found that men's procrastination was linked to a lack of extrinsic motivation. Therefore, males prefer to procrastinate academic tasks more than females.

Studies on procrastination based on gender indicate that female students procrastinate more, while several studies prove otherwise where female students have lower academic procrastination tendencies (Prohaska et al., 2000). Paludi and Fankell-Hauser (1986) and Haycock et al. (1998). Female students stated that academic procrastination was brought on by a stronger sense of laziness and a fear of failure (Özer et al., 2009). Rothblum et al. (1986) stated that females might experience more anxiety than males, so they tend to experience procrastination. Perfectionism, dependence, difficulty in making decisions and lack of extrinsic motivation are also stated as factors that cause procrastination in females (Brownlow & Reasinger, 2000). Higher internet addiction among female college students (Yen et al., 2009) was also associated with procrastination behavior (Geng et al., 2018).

Research on academic procrastination from a gender perspective shows inconsistent results. When it comes to procrastination and gender, the important phrase is a cultural framework (Şirin, 2011). In a male-dominated culture, Şirin (2011), males will play the role of success, while females will be left behind. Furthermore, females tend to credit their success to chance events, whereas their failures are attributed to a lack of ability. Males, on the other hand, credit their achievements to their capabilities (Hackett & Campbell, 1987; Meyer, 2000). However, according to Vij (2016), there is no gender difference in the causes of academic procrastination. Gender has always been an interesting variable to study. As a result there has been much research on the relationship between gender and academic procrastination.

Self-efficacy of Pre-Service Biology Teachers Based on a Gender Perspective

Male and female students can be compared in terms of self-efficacy at every semester level using an independent t-test. In semester 5 of the study, there was a statistically significant difference in self-efficacy between male and female students ($p < 0.05$). The self-efficacy of male and female students did not differ significantly in the 1st, 3rd, and 7th semesters ($p > 0.05$). The entire t-test analysis results are shown in [Table 2](#).

Table 2
Student Self-Efficacy Differences between Male and Female

Semester	Gender	N	Average \pm SD	p
1 st Semester	Male	22	3,809 \pm 0,274	0,894
	Female	147	3,829 \pm 0,337	
3 rd Semester	Male	10	3,845 \pm 0,445	0,900
	Female	75	3,863 \pm 0,428	
5 th Semester	Male	10	3,455 \pm 0,341	0,013
	Female	62	3,822 \pm 0,434	
7 th Semester	Male	7	3,750 \pm 0,522	0,711
	Female	48	3,822 \pm 0,470	

Regarding the study's findings, which found no statistically significant difference in the first, third, and seventh semesters between male and female students' levels of self-efficacy ($p > 0.05$), multiple other research found comparable results. This study's findings are consistent with those of Busch (1995), Uzun et al. (2010), Vuong et al. (2010), Sawari and Mansor (2013), Gökçek et al. (2013) who showed that self-efficacy by gender was not significantly different. There were no differences between males and females in terms of self-efficacy, according to Husain (2014) and Schnell et al. (2015).

The results of studies by Asakereh and Yousofi (2018) and Baji (2020), which discovered no appreciable variations in self-efficacy between males and females, support this. Regarding disparities in self-efficacy in mathematics between male and female students in British Columbia public schools, Lloyd et al. (2005) did a similar investigation. According to the study, there was no discernible gender difference in students' self-efficacy. Other research have shown no evidence of a substantial difference in self-efficacy of prospective teachers based on gender (Choi, 2005). According to Çimen et al. (2011), male and female students do not differ in their levels of self-efficacy, particularly among prospective biology teachers.

The same academic environment contributes to equal self-efficacy between male and female students because both experience similar challenges and opportunities in the educational context. In this environment, students of both genders gain equal access to resources, academic support, and learning experiences, which in turn increases their confidence in their academic abilities. Additionally, research shows that organizing group work to support collaborative discussions and help-seeking behavior among peers can be highly beneficial in increasing self-efficacy (Aikens & Kulacki, 2023) similarly among all college students. Increasing gender equality in education also means that female are increasingly encouraged to get involved in fields previously dominated by male, thereby increasing their self-efficacy (Lwamba et al., 2022). Therefore, equality in the academic environment provides a solid foundation for the development of equal self-efficacy between male and female students.

Social support plays a crucial role in building equal self-efficacy between male and female students, because both often get similar emotional and practical support from friends, family, and lecturers. Research shows that solid social support can increase individuals' confidence in their abilities to achieve academic goals (Cohen & Wills, 1985). Support from peers in study groups or collaborative projects also plays a role in building similar self-confidence (Richard et al., 2022), because students of both genders experience and face the same challenges. In addition, increasing awareness of the importance of inclusivity in the academic environment encourages the formation of stronger social bonds (Jardinez & Natividad, 2024), which has a positive impact on the self-efficacy of all students. Thus, equal social support contributes to the development of similar self-efficacy between male and female students.

Equal access to education contributes to similar self-efficacy between male and female students because both have the same opportunities to gain the knowledge and skills needed to achieve academic success. With the increasing participation of females in higher education, they now also have equal

access to academic resources, mentorship programs, and skills training (Elsayed & Shirshikova, 2023). Research shows that when females receive an education equal to that of male, they tend to develop the same beliefs in their abilities to achieve academic goals (Brussino & McBrien, 2022). In addition, support from institutions that encourage gender equality in education further strengthens the self-confidence of students of both genders (Global Partnership in Education, 2019; Munawar et al., 2024), thereby creating a conducive environment for the development of self-efficacy. Thus, equal educational access contributes to the development of similar self-efficacy between male and female students.

A balanced learning experience plays a role in creating similar self-efficacy between male and female students, because both are often involved in the same learning methods, such as group discussions, collaborative projects, and problem-based learning. Research shows that positive interactions in study groups can strengthen students' confidence in their academic abilities (Aikens & Kulacki, 2023), regardless of gender. In addition, success in academic activities helps increase individual and group self-efficacy (Achterkamp et al., 2015). Therefore, students of both genders tend to develop similar self-confidence when they face similar difficulties and succeed in similar situations. Therefore, a balanced learning experience is very important to create the same self-efficacy for male and female students.

Similar self-perceptions contribute to equal self-efficacy between male and female students, as both often have similar views of their abilities in academic contexts. Research shows that individuals' confidence in their abilities, regardless of gender, is influenced by successful experiences and feedback received (Achterkamp et al., 2015). When students of both genders face similar difficulties and succeed, they tend to develop positive self-perceptions, which help them feel better about their own abilities. Additionally, things like social support and inclusive academic norms help shape equal views among male and female students, reducing differences in self-beliefs. Therefore, similar self-perception plays an important role in enhancing self-efficacy.

The influence of media and role models contributes to similar self-efficacy between male and female students, as both are exposed to positive and supportive representations on various platforms. Media that displays successful figures from both genders helps students recognize figures from the same background, thereby increasing their confidence in their abilities. Research shows that when students see positive examples of individuals who are successful in academics, they tend to develop higher self-efficacy (Schunk & DiBenedetto, 2023), regardless of gender. In addition, the existence of diverse role models in the media, especially female figures, can encourage female students to believe that they can be successful in fields previously dominated by male. Role models can provide encouragement and increase self-efficacy, especially for individuals who feel connected to them (Shin et al., 2016). They can also motivate students by showing that desired goals can be achieved (Tal et al., 2024). Thus, the equal influence of media and role models contributes to the development of similar self-efficacy between male and female students.

Additionally, the study's findings showed that there was significant variation in self-efficacy among students in the fifth semester between genders ($p < 0.05$), with female students having greater self-efficacy ($X = 3.822$) than male students ($X = 3.455$). Self-efficacy levels have been found to differ significantly by gender in previous studies (Kumar & Lal, 2006; Usher & Pajares, 2006). The findings of studies by Opare (2008) and Telef and Karaca (2013) confirm this conclusion and found similar things. To further support the research findings, according to the findings of Sachitra and Bandara (2017), self-efficacy differed significantly by gender, with the female having higher self-efficacy. Self-efficacy is higher among female students, which explains why they are more confident than male students (Pajares, 2002). The reason for higher self-efficacy in female students is possible because of their desire to have an equal position with males in terms of education, as well as the high individual awareness that education is very important for them. The encouragement and expectations from parents to have educated and intelligent daughters are also assumed to support the high self-efficacy of female students.

These differences also may be caused by various factors working together during their academic journey. In the initial semester, students of both genders typically enter a fairly similar new environment where they receive the same orientation and introduction to the material, which results in similar self-efficacy. However, students begin to face more complex and specialized academic challenges during the fifth semester, such as more difficult courses and greater assignment demands. Some of them are Biology Education Statistics, Plant Physiology and its Practicum, Genetics and its Practicum, and Microbiology and its Practicum. Research shows that increased academic pressure can negatively

impact self-efficacy, differently for male and female students (Zhao et al., 2023). Female may be more vulnerable to stress and anxiety when facing these challenges (Bahrami & Yousefi, 2011). Additionally, students often experience a stronger influence of gender stereotypes during this period, especially in fields such as technology and science, where male are often perceived as having higher abilities than female. This is also supported by research by (Riegle-Crumb & Peng, 2021) which shows that female may doubt their abilities in mathematics because of the general perception that this field is controlled by male. These stereotypes can reduce female's self-confidence in their ability to compete in these fields.

Social dynamics also play an important role; in semester 5, students may experience changes in their peer group or loss of previously existing social support, which may impact their self-confidence. If female feel less supported or isolated in study groups or projects, this can lead to decreased self-efficacy. In addition, practical experiences that occur this semester, such as fieldwork courses, can be an additional challenge for female who may feel less prepared or less confident than male. Therefore, the combination of increased academic demands, the influence of gender stereotypes, changes in social support, and practical demands in semester 5 explains the differences in self-efficacy between male and female students at that time.

Males have more self-efficacy than females, according to other studies (Spence et al., 2010; Pratibha & Sokhi, 2017). Among American undergraduate engineering students, Raelin et al. (2014) looked into the relationship between gender and self-efficacy. The study's results showed that male students exhibited higher academic self-efficacy. Vogt et al. (2007), Fallan and Opstad (2016), and Nartgün et al. (2019) reported similar results. They discovered that male students had stronger self-efficacy than female students. The results of different research findings are explained by Tenaw (2013) who states that individual differences in self-efficacy exist, and even within the same person, it can change depending on the task. Students with high self-efficacy will give their best effort in completing academic tasks so that they will produce better academic achievements.

Task Values of Pre-Service Biology Teachers Based on a Gender Perspective

Task value data is obtained based on different subjects, adjusted for semester level, namely General Biology for 1st-semester students, Biology Learning Methodology for 3rd-semester students, Statistics of Biology Education for 5th-semester students, and elective courses for 7th-semester students. options vary according to student interests. At each semester level, a male-versus-female t-test was conducted to look into any differences in task values. A substantial difference in task value between male and female students was found in semester 5 students, according to the research ($p < 0.05$). A significant difference in task values between male and female students was not found in the first, third, or seventh semesters ($p > 0.05$). The overall t-test analysis's findings are shown in Table 3.

Table 3
Differences in the Task Values of Male and Female Students

Semester	Gender	N	Average \pm SD	p
1 st Semester	Male	22	3,841 \pm 0,312	0,408
	Female	147	3,914 \pm 0,394	
3 rd Semester	Male	10	3,838 \pm 0,346	0,776
	Female	75	3,875 \pm 0,381	
5 th Semester	Male	10	3,419 \pm 0,376	0,001
	Female	62	3,856 \pm 0,361	
7 th Semester	Male	7	3,702 \pm 0,296	0,528
	Female	48	3,795 \pm 0,367	

The study's findings, showed that in the fifth semester, there was a significant difference in task value between male and female students ($p < 0.05$), it could be explained as follows. Male and female students taking the same course may have different assessments of academic assignments in that course. The individual's perceived value in the course, task value, has been suggested as a significant source of learning motivation (Eccles et al., 1998).

The same interests between male and female students contribute to equal task value, namely the value they give to academic assignments. When students are engaged in learning or activities that they find interesting, both male and female students tend to view the tasks as important and useful. Findings from research by Mappadang et al. (2022) show that high academic interest encourages

students to maximize their learning process in order to achieve better results. On the other hand, research by Rusillo & Arias (2004) shows that there are no gender differences in terms of intrinsic motivation. Interest is an important factor in motivating students to learn, and this influences their engagement and academic achievement (Renninger & Hidi, 2020), resulting in similar task values between the two genders. Interest and enjoyment in activity can increase intrinsic motivation by creating a prolonged state of focus and satisfaction when engaged in tasks that can develop individual skills (Nakamura & Csikszentmihalyi, 2009). In addition, a supportive and inclusive academic environment also plays a role in fostering shared interests because students of different genders have equal access to resources. Thus, the similarity of interests in an academic context creates the basis for the development of task values that do not differ between male and female students.

Equal experiences in an academic context play a role in creating equal task values between male and female students because both experience similar learning situations and receive the same feedback from these experiences. When students are involved in group projects, class discussions, or similar assignments, they have the opportunity to develop interests and appreciate the value of the tasks they are working on. A positive attitude toward learning tasks can encourage students to use the feedback received to overcome performance differences and plan strategies to improve future work outcomes (Gibbs & Simpson, 2004), regardless of gender. Additionally, students of both genders can experience equal success in an inclusive and supportive environment. Equal experience strengthens their understanding of task values so that male and female students can develop the same task values.

Equal social support contributes to equal task values between male and female students because both receive equal encouragement and reinforcement from peers, lecturers, and family. Research shows that emotional and practical support can increase motivation and academic engagement, thereby increasing the value given to assignments (Ryan & Deci, 2000). When students feel supported and appreciated, both male and female students tend to find the assignments more meaningful and relevant (Xu et al., 2021). In addition, an inclusive academic environment that encourages collaboration and positive interactions allows students of both genders to share experiences and learn from each other, which further strengthens their perception of task value. This is supported by research by Achdiyah et al. (2023), who show that social support is critical for students' cognitive engagement and academic performance. Thus, equal social support creates the basis for the development of similar task values between male and female students.

The insignificant difference in 1st, 3rd, and 7th semester students revealed that they felt the same benefits in studying certain subjects. Students of all genders share the same perception of the importance of assignments for each individual. They also state that the material learned in certain courses can be used in other courses or everyday life. In addition, they also view that academic assignments received from certain courses will be useful for them in achieving a goal both now and in the future, distinguishing themselves from others, developing potential, as well as a form of self-actualization to show abilities in others. They feel that nothing is in vain when completing college assignments, despite the many assignments and burdens to complete them. They don't worry when they have to devote time, energy, and thought to complete assignments, even if the grades they get are not commensurate with the coursework.

In semester 5, their task values are very different. This can be caused by a number of variables that influence academic and social development in the semester. New students usually experience an adaptation phase during the first semester. At this point, they have high expectations and share the same interest in the material being studied. Positive experiences in facing initial challenges can increase task value, creating balance in task value. Students face more complex and specific challenges in the fifth semester, such as more difficult courses and increased academic demands. In addition, differences in practical experience and social support also began to emerge. During the semester, students are often expected to participate in more complex group projects. This can influence their views about task value depending on the social interactions they have experienced previously (Ryan & Deci, 2000). After semester 5, by semester 7, students have generally overcome these challenges and become more confident in their abilities, especially after receiving positive feedback from previous experiences. Redirecting attention to broader academic goals can help restore perceptions of task value. Thus, differences in task scores between male and female students in semester 5 can be explained by a combination of increased academic demands and changing social dynamics, all of which create unique challenges not faced in other semesters.

Depending on how task values are measured, findings about gender disparities in task values in mathematics and science vary. When task value was calculated as a combination of perceived task relevance and interest, there were no gender differences (Jacobs et al., 2002). When task worth was examined just in terms of the task's importance to individuals, however, it was discovered that males had a larger personal interest in mathematics than females (Updegraff et al., 1996).

Task value is composed of four fundamental elements (Eccles et al., 1998): utility value, achievement value, intrinsic value or interest, and perceived cost. Utility value is the belief that a task will help accomplish a goal or generating short- or long-term rewards. Achieving success is valued by people when they believe it is important, and this value is closely related to how important they believe the work is to their identity. Intrinsic value is the anticipated pleasure experienced during and after completing a task. A task's perceived cost, which also includes people's willingness to sacrifice their time and energy, is the final factor to consider.

CONCLUSION

Academic Procrastination Study: No significant gender differences in procrastination were found among pre-service biology teachers ($p > 0.05$). Both genders faced similar psychological factors and challenges, suggesting that gender does not inherently predict procrastination. **Self-Efficacy Study:** Significant differences in self-efficacy were observed in the 5th semester, with females scoring higher ($p < 0.05$). No differences were noted in other semesters. Increased pressures and gender stereotypes this semester indicate a need for targeted support for female students. **Task Value Study:** Significant differences in task value were found in the 5th semester ($p < 0.05$), linked to higher academic pressures. Generally, task values were similar across other semesters, but unique challenges in the 5th semester required tailored support to boost motivation, especially for female students. Future research should explore these dynamics further.

This research offers valuable insights into the academic experiences of pre-service biology teachers regarding procrastination, self-efficacy, and task value. It reveals that both genders face similar challenges like anxiety and time management, challenging stereotypes about procrastination. The 5th semester emerges as critical, with female students showing higher self-efficacy under pressure, indicating a need for targeted support. Additionally, significant differences in task value during this semester suggest that academic demands influence how students perceive task importance. Overall, the findings emphasize the need for tailored support strategies to enhance motivation and engagement for all students, particularly in high-pressure situations. Future research should further investigate these dynamics to inform educational practices.

This research has several limitations that impact its findings. Focusing solely on pre-service biology teachers may not generalize to other disciplines. The reliance on self-reported measures could introduce bias, as students may not accurately reflect their behaviors. While the study highlights the 5th semester, it may overlook broader trends across other semesters and the cumulative impact of prior experiences. Finally, the evolving nature of academic challenges necessitates ongoing research to capture these dynamics effectively.

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