

YOGA AS A BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION TO REDUCE PROCRASTINATION TENDENCIES

**Dr. Vasant Gajaba Zende,*

*Associate Professor and Head, Department of Physical Education and Sports, Pratishthan Mahavidyalaya
Paithan, District Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Maharashtra.*

Abstract:

Procrastination, a prevalent behavioral issue among students and professionals, often leads to decreased performance, anxiety, and low self-efficacy. Behavioral interventions such as Yoga, integrating physical postures, breathing techniques, and meditation, have shown promise in enhancing focus, discipline, and emotional regulation. This study aims to analyze the effect of Yoga as a behavioral tool to reduce procrastination tendencies among college students. Sixty participants aged 18–25 years were divided into two groups: experimental (Yoga) and control (no intervention). The experimental group practiced a 45-minute Yoga session daily for six weeks. Data were collected using the Tuckman Procrastination Scale and analyzed through paired t-tests. Results indicated a significant reduction in procrastination scores in the Yoga group compared to the control group. Findings suggest that Yoga can serve as an effective behavioral intervention to improve self-regulation and time management among young adults.

Keywords: *Yoga, procrastination, behavior modification, mindfulness, self-regulation, college students*

Copyright © 2025 The Author(s): This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC 4.0) which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial use provided the original author and source are credited.

Introduction:

Procrastination is a complex behavioral tendency characterized by the intentional and voluntary delay in initiating or completing tasks that are necessary or personally important, even when individuals are aware that such postponement is likely to lead to negative outcomes. It is not merely a time-management issue but a multidimensional self-regulatory failure involving emotional, cognitive, and behavioral components. Research in psychology has identified procrastination as closely associated with increased stress, anxiety, guilt, and reduced overall well-being. Persistent procrastination can lead to lower academic achievement, occupational inefficiency, and a general sense of dissatisfaction and helplessness, thereby affecting both personal growth and professional productivity.

In today's fast-paced and technologically driven world, procrastination has become increasingly prevalent, particularly among students and working professionals. Factors such as digital distractions, information

overload, lack of intrinsic motivation, and poor emotional regulation contribute significantly to this growing behavioral challenge. Individuals often delay important activities as a coping mechanism for dealing with performance anxiety, fear of failure, or low self-efficacy. Consequently, procrastination serves as both a symptom and a cause of psychological distress, forming a cyclical pattern that is difficult to break without conscious behavioral intervention.

In contrast, Yoga, rooted in ancient Indian philosophical traditions, provides a holistic approach that emphasizes the integration of body, mind, and spirit. The classical system of yoga, as described in Patanjali's Yoga Sutras, offers a structured method for achieving self-mastery through practices that cultivate awareness, discipline, and inner balance. The main components of yoga—Asanas (physical postures), Pranayama (breath regulation), and Dhyana (meditation)—are designed to enhance physiological stability, mental clarity, and emotional resilience.

Modern scientific studies have validated many of yoga's psychological and physiological benefits. Regular yogic practice has been shown to lower cortisol levels, reduce perceived stress, enhance concentration, and improve emotional regulation and self-control. By promoting mindfulness and introspection, yoga strengthens the ability to remain present and focused, which can counteract the habitual avoidance patterns characteristic of procrastination. Moreover, yoga fosters self-awareness, enabling individuals to recognize and manage the internal conflicts and emotional discomforts that often trigger task delay. The integration of yoga into behavioral psychology offers a promising interdisciplinary perspective. While traditional cognitive-behavioral interventions target thought patterns and behaviors directly, yoga complements these approaches by engaging both physiological relaxation and mental discipline. Through the synchronization of breath, posture, and attention, yoga enhances executive functioning and motivational regulation, essential capacities for overcoming procrastination.

Therefore, the present study seeks to examine Yoga not merely as a form of physical exercise, but as a comprehensive behavioral and therapeutic intervention for managing procrastination. By bridging ancient wisdom with modern psychological science, this research aims to explore how consistent yogic practices can improve self-regulation, attention control, emotional balance, and intrinsic motivation, thereby reducing procrastinatory behavior and enhancing overall well-being.

Objectives:

1. To assess the level of procrastination among college students before and after Yoga intervention.

- 2.

3. To examine the effect of Yoga on self-regulation and motivation.
4. To compare changes in procrastination tendencies between Yoga and control groups.

Hypotheses:

1. **H₀:** There is no significant difference in procrastination tendencies before and after Yoga intervention.
2. **H₁:** There is a significant reduction in procrastination tendencies after regular Yoga practice.

Methodology:

Research Design:

A pre-test and post-test experimental design with a control group was used.

Sample:

Sixty college students aged 18–25 years from Pratishthan Mahavidyalaya Paithan, District Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar were selected using random sampling. They were divided equally into two groups:

- **Experimental Group (n=30):** Received Yoga training.
- **Control Group (n=30):** No intervention.

Tools:

- **Tuckman Procrastination Scale (TPS):** A 16-item self-report questionnaire measuring procrastination behavior.
- **Self-Regulation Questionnaire (SRQ):** Assessed participants' ability to plan, monitor, and execute tasks.

Intervention:

The experimental group underwent a **6-week Yoga program**, 5 days per week, for 45 minutes each session.

Structure of the Session:

Component	Duration	Details / Practices
Warm-up and Loosening	5 minutes	Gentle stretching and joint movements
Asanas	20 minutes	Surya Namaskar, Tadasana, Trikonasana, Bhujangasana, Shavasana
Pranayama	10 minutes	Anulom-Vilom, Bhramari
Meditation and Relaxation	10 minutes	Guided meditation and deep relaxation techniques

Data Collection:

Both groups completed pre- and post-tests using TPS and SRQ scales.

Data Analysis:

Data were analyzed using **paired t-tests** and **independent t-tests** to evaluate within- and between-group differences.

Results:

Comparison of Pre-test and Post-test Mean Scores between Experimental and Control Groups

Group	Pre-test Mean	Post-test Mean	Mean Difference
Experimental Group	62.4	45.8	16.6 ↓
Control Group	61.7	60.2	1.5 ↓

A significant reduction in procrastination scores was observed in the experimental group ($p < 0.01$), while the control group showed no meaningful change. Improvement was also reflected in higher self-regulation and motivation scores post-intervention. The

experimental group showed a substantial reduction in mean scores following the intervention, indicating a significant positive effect of yoga practice compared to the control group.

Discussion:

Yoga positively influences procrastination through several psychological mechanisms. **Mindfulness practices** enhance present-moment awareness, which reduces avoidance behaviors commonly associated with task delay. **Breath regulation** techniques help lower stress and anxiety, both of which are key contributors to procrastination. The practice of **body–mind integration** improves focus, self-discipline, and the ability to sustain attention on goal-directed activities. Additionally, **meditation** has been shown to strengthen prefrontal cortex activity, which is linked to decision-making, willpower, and self-regulatory capacity. These findings align with previous research highlighting Yoga's role in promoting **emotional stability, effective time management, and enhanced self-control**. The consistent practice of Yoga in this intervention resulted in increased motivation and a reduction in delays associated with completing important tasks.

Conclusion:

The study concludes that Yoga serves as an effective behavioral intervention for reducing procrastination tendencies. Regular practice enhances mindfulness, discipline, and self-regulation, thereby minimizing task avoidance and delay. Integrating Yoga sessions in educational settings could help students develop better focus, reduce procrastination, and improve academic outcomes.

Recommendations:

It is recommended to **incorporate short daily Yoga sessions into college timetables** to enhance students' behavioral habits. Future research should **conduct longitudinal studies** to assess the long-term impact of Yoga on procrastination and self-regulation.

Combining Yoga with **counseling or time-management workshops** may yield stronger improvements in behavioral outcomes. Additionally, extending such research to **working professionals** could help examine the generalizability of these findings across different populations.

References:

1. Mishra, V., Singh, P., & Kumar, A. (2020). *Impact of Yoga practice on impulsivity and self-control among youth. International Journal of Health Sciences, 14(3), 125–132.*
2. Rao, A., & Paranjape, P. (2017). *Yoga intervention for academic stress and motivation among college students. Journal of Education and Health Promotion, 6(12), 1–8.*
3. Sahdra, B. K., et al. (2011). *Mindfulness training and self-regulation. Journal of Behavioral Psychology, 45(2), 123–132.*
4. Sharma, R., & Haider, S. (2018). *Effects of meditation on cognitive control and mindfulness. Indian Journal of Psychology, 93(3), 45–53.*
5. Tuckman, B. W. (1991). *The development and concurrent validity of the procrastination scale. Educational and Psychological Measurement, 51, 473–480.*

Cite This Article:

Dr. Zende V.G. (2025). *Yoga As A Behavioral Intervention to Reduce Procrastination Tendencies.* In **Aarhat Multidisciplinary International Education Research Journal: Vol. XIV (Number VI, pp. 25–28).**

Doi: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18171401>