



OPEN Retraction Note: Explainable artificial intelligence for predictive modeling of student stress in higher education

Published online: 11 May 2026

Rasikh Tariq¹ , M. G. Orozco-del-Castillo¹ , Muhammad Tayyab Zamir, Maria Soledad Ramírez-Montoya¹  & Tabbi Wilberforce¹ 

Retraction of: *Scientific Reports* <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-025-22171-3>, published online 03 November 2025

The Editors have retracted this Article.

After publication, concerns were raised regarding the use of student stress factors from a public non-curated dataset. The data, described as containing around 20 features across 5 major factors related to student stress, were reportedly gathered through questionnaire responses. However, no physical measurements of stress levels, such as blood pressure measurement, a key variable in the study, appears to have been collected. Additionally, there appears to be no documented ethical oversight, or consent of the participants included in the dataset. The Editors therefore no longer have confidence in the reliability of this Article.

Rasikh Tariq, M. G. Orozco-del-Castillo, and Tabbi Wilberforce did not explicitly state if they agree or disagree with the retraction. Muhammad Tayyab Zamir and Maria Soledad Ramírez-Montoya did not respond to the Editors' correspondence about this retraction.

Open Access This article is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License, which permits any non-commercial use, sharing, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons licence, and indicate if you modified the licensed material. You do not have permission under this licence to share adapted material derived from this article or parts of it. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article's Creative Commons licence, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the article's Creative Commons licence and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>.

© The Publisher 2026