

Impact on Online Teaching Learning Process during COVID-19: with Reference to Faculty of Education, The Open University of Sri Lanka

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Abstract

The Open University of Sri Lanka played a vital role by teaching online during covid 19 pandemic to prove the educational system through open and distance mode. This study aims to identify the effectiveness of online teaching-learning process and investigate the possibilities of increasing online teaching learning process for undergraduate Students in faculty of education due to covid 19 Pandemic. This paper employs qualitative descriptive study using survey methods conducted online. The sample comprised the undergraduate students (117) the Departments of Early Childhood and Primary Education and Department of Special Need Education at The Open University of Sri Lanka. Online survey questionnaire for students and interviews via phones were used to collect data. One of the keys finding revealed that ICT and English knowledge of the majority of students are in average level. Further the findings revealed Saving time is one of the advantages of online teaching-learning process. 50% of the respondents have been identified due to network issues. Students have suggested a need of a broad bandwidth of internet access. According to data analysis 50.60%, Students are satisfied, and 35.5% students are quite satisfied about conducting online lectures during the covid19 pandemic. It can be concluded that the online learning system carried out during the COVID-19 pandemic is effective and possibilities of increasing online teaching learning process.

Key Words: Online, Teaching, Learning, Education, COVID-19,

Background of the Study

Educationalist a tool to change the way of thinking and acting towards a goal that has meaningful value in life with individually, society, and state. Understanding education based on Law No.20 of 2003 is a conscious and planned effort to create an atmosphere of learning and learning process so that students actively develop their potential to have spiritual strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble character, and the skills needed by themselves, society, nation, and state. So, through education, the pattern of thinking is instilled, instilling values, developing self-potential and forming personality, so that it can be transformed from generation to generation for the sake of human civilization in the life of society, nation and state. As a result of the wide spread of technology in our modern days, educationalists are

forced to integrate technological equipment and programs through educational strategies and methods, for the main purpose of facilitating the learning experience. Implementation of technologies for distance studies is dependent on individual comfort levels, monetary resources, and visionary leadership (Beldarrain, 2006). The educational institution must be aware of the influence and outcome of the technologies that have been used for facilitating learning pathways. It is also equally important to train the educators to familiarize them with a new technology including its possible flaws during the process.

Various studies have been carried out regarding online learning while pandemic COVID-19. Wisdom, Endang Hermawan, Aldim, Irwandi (2020) conducted a study entitled "Effectiveness of Online Learning During the Covid-19 Pandemic Period: An Online Survey" of home learning policies by implementing online learning using the Zoom application for k face-to-face and WhatsApp to provide lecture material and assignments for online learning media. The test results found that online learning with Zoom and WhatsApp is only effective for theoretical and theoretical courses and practicum, while in online lecture practice and course subjects are less effective.

Corona Virus Disease (Covid-19) outbreak has provided challenges itself for educational institutions, especially higher education. Anticipating the transmission of the virus the government has issued various policies, such as isolation, social and physical distancing to large-scale social restrictions (PSBB). This condition requires its citizens to stay at home, work, worship, and study at home (Jamaluddin et al.2020). Due to COVID-19, all universities in Sri Lanka and even throughout the world are required to implement Information Technology (IT) to be used as an online learning media.

Distance education originated to fulfill the demand for education by those who would not be able to participate in face-to-face courses. It is suitable for those courses, which do not require physical attendance during the learning process. Due to the corona virus Students could not attendance to lectures because Students are lived in various districts. However, lectures are unable to stop because of this situation. Therefore, University starts to teach by online method. This research tried to identify the effectiveness of online teaching-learning process and investigate the possibilities of increasing online method for undergraduates in faculty of education, Open University Sri Lanka.

Objectives

Main Objective: To identify the effectiveness of online teaching learning process and investigate the possibilities of increasing online method for undergraduates in faculty of education of Open University Sri Lanka.

Sub Objectives

- To identify the level of English and ICT of departments of Early Childhood & Primary education and Special Need Education Undergraduate Students.
- To identify level of satisfaction attending lectures in online
- To identify advantages that using online teaching learning process
- To identify Obstacles that are often found during online lectures
- To determine Suggestion for overcome the obstacles
- To get the Students Responses regarding effectiveness of online teaching learning process.

Methodology

This research is qualitative descriptive study using survey methods conducted online (Sugiyono, 2017). The sample collection method uses simple random sampling, where the sample of this study is an active undergraduate student in the Departments of Early Childhood and Primary Education and Department of Special Need Education at The Open University of Sri Lanka. Primary data collection in this study was carried out by distributing questionnaires online to 117 respondents out of the 180 students. Data was obtained through filling in questions that were distributed to all respondents in the form of Google. Then the data collected is analyzed to be described. The components contained in the questionnaire consisted of several questions, according to objectives. Namely (1) Respondent Age Group; (2) Level of Knowledge English and ICT; (3) Level of satisfaction in attending lectures online; (4) Advantages of online teaching-learning Process (5) Obstacles that are often found during online lectures; (6) Suggestion for overcome the obstacles (7) Students Responses regarding effectiveness of online lecturing

Results and Discussion.

Respondents in this study were students of the Faculty of Education, The Open University Sri Lanka education degree programs who actively participated in online lectures during the COVID 19 pandemic, amounting to 117 respondents.

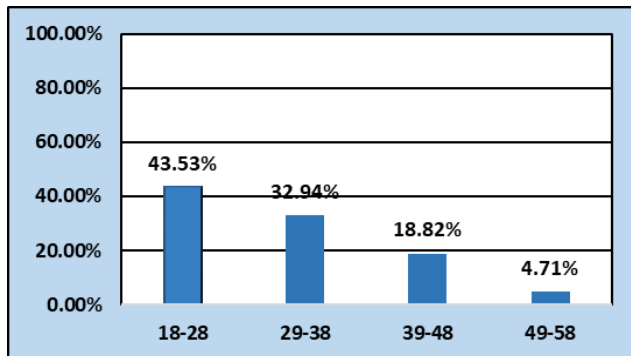
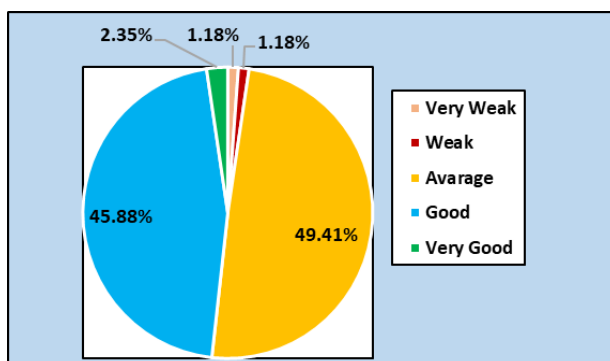


Figure 01-Respondent's Age Group

Figure No 01 shows that the data distribution of respondent's age group. According to above data majority of the respondents represented for age group in 18-28. That indicate majority of respondents are very young.



Figure

No 02-Level Of Knowledge of English and ICT.

Above figure 02 explains the level of knowledge in ICT and English represent the similar percentage of 1.18% respondents as weak and Very weak. 49.41% shows average, 45.88% shows good and 2.35% of respondent's knowledge were very good. Here maximum respondents have been shown average knowledge regarding English and ICT.

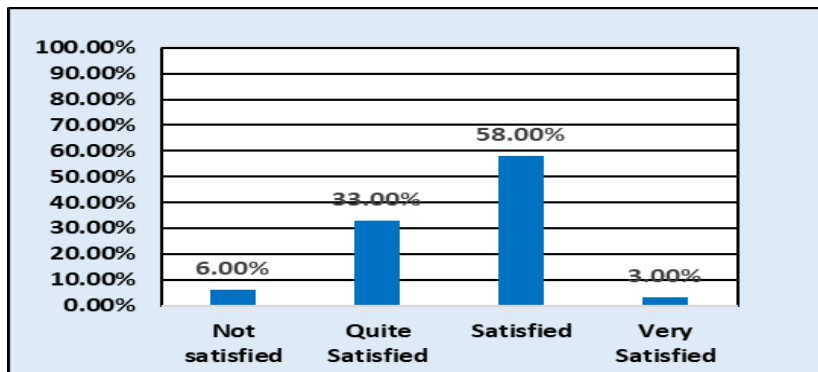


Figure 03-Level of satisfaction in attending Lectures in online

Figure No 03 shows the level of satisfaction of respondents in attending online lectures during the COVID19 pandemic, 58% expressed satisfaction, 33% were quite satisfied, 6% were not satisfied and 3% of respondents were very satisfied. Respondent's lack of expertise because they are still adjusting the online learning method because they are accustomed to taking part in face-to-face lectures recovery so far. The satisfaction of respondents in following recovery with an online system because recovery is still ongoing even in emergencies due to COVID 19 and respondents who stated that they were very satisfied because they could attend lectures while gathering with family and carrying out other activities that had been delayed due to face-to-face lectures recovery.

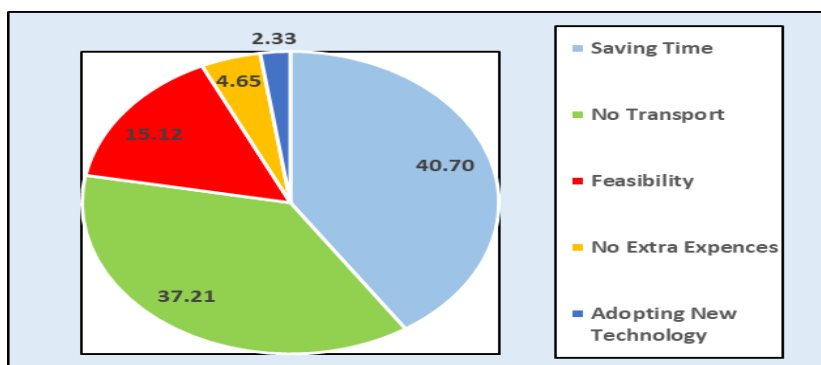


Figure 04-Advantages of using online teaching-learning process.

Figure No 04 shows percentage wise that advantages gain by the respondents using the online learning. Majority of respondents (40.7%) confirmed that they have been saved time. Zero transport represent 37.21% and 15.12% represented that they have easy to connect the online lectures as well as 4.65% are represented no extra expenses and 2.33% respondents were adopting to the new technology

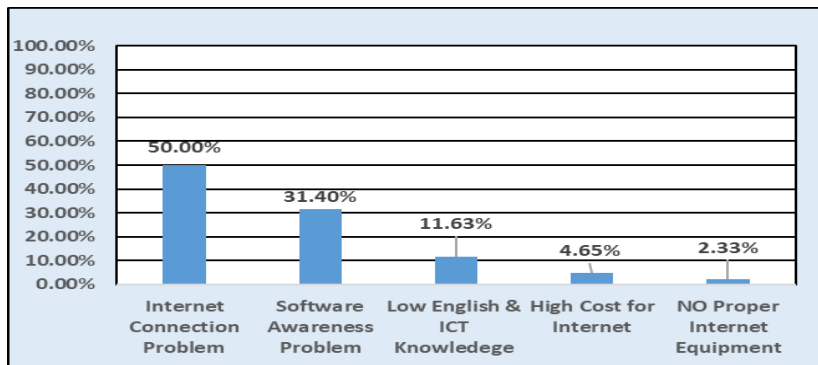


Figure 05- Obstacles that are often found during online lectures

In figure 05 explained that constraints experienced by respondents during online lectures. 50% of respondents stated network problem, 31.40% has been shown awareness problem regarding the online software. 11.63% respondent's lack of knowledge in English, and ICT hence they have problems to connect the online sessions. 4.65% respondents said that they had issues with quotas. Network constraints explain the difficulty of getting a network in their place of residence due to the lack of supporting infrastructure so they have to find places that can reach the network such as in trees, on riverbanks, on mountains, and need time to reach these places. The quota constraint in this case is the limited cost of buying a quota. Moreover, many parents of respondents low income due to being economically affected during the COVID19 pandemic

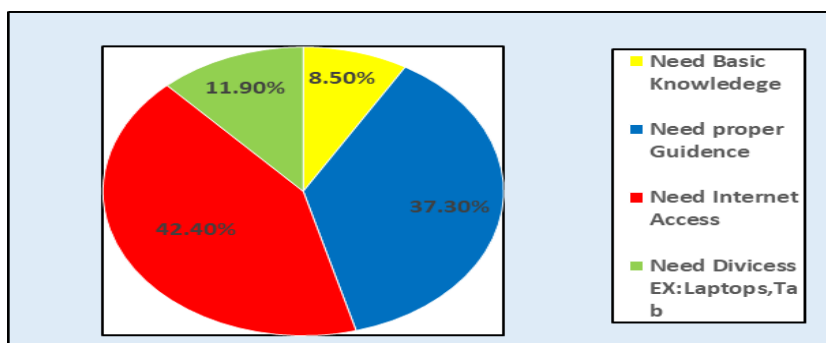


Figure 06- Suggestion for overcome the obstacles

Figure No 06 shows that the Suggestion to overcome the obstacles. Most of the respondents (50%) had network problem. Hence 42.40% respondents said that they want internet access. It can be overcome by recording lectures and uploading to the LMS account. Then if somebody does not have connection that time, students can refer the recording when they able to access the internet. 37.30% Respondents requested that they want a proper guidance. Before starting the online Lecture sessions lecturer can make aware the students by specifying the steps to be followed to log in the session such as pdf or video. 11.9% respondents shows that without

proper devices. University management can organize some arrangement for that .8.50% respondents said that they need basic Knowledge. Awareness program can be solved this problem.

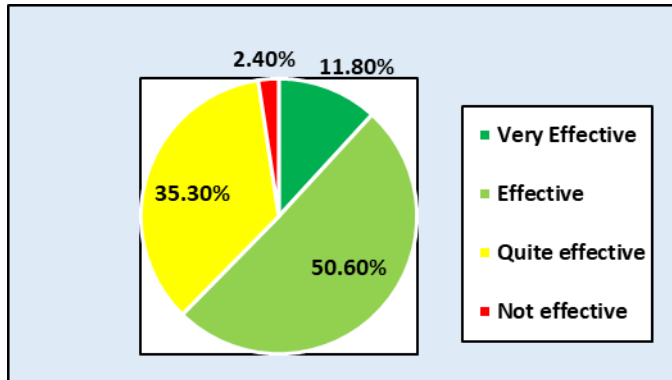


Figure 07-Students Responses regarding effectiveness of online lecturing

Student's responses regarding effectiveness online lectures during the COVID-19 pandemic are shown in Figure No 07. 50.60% of respondents stated that they were effective regarding online lectures, 35.30% of respondents said that they are quite effective, 11.8% of respondents said that they were very effective, and 2.40% respondents are not effective. Majority (62%) of the respondents said that the online lectures are effective.

Conclusion

Based on the results of data analysis obtained from filling student questionnaires and interview via phones, it can be concluded that the online teaching learning process conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic is effective and possibilities of increasing online teaching learning process. By make aware the students with basic ICT knowledge and with a proper guidance for online teaching learning process the impact would be more effective in future. The government must ensure the availability of reliable communication tools, high quality digital academic experience, and promote technology-enabled learning for students to bridge the disparities originated in the education system before and after COVID-19 catastrophe which is also inevitably necessitated for uninterrupted learning This research was carried out during the initial phase of the COVID-19 outbreak. In the next phase, there will be a markable rapid development. The study recommends that other researchers uncover the resolution of obstacles experienced by students when learning online during COVID-19 period and the development of the use of other media in the implementation of online lectures that are better and more effective.

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