

## Perception of Students on Learning English Online

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**Abstract** - Covid-19 pandemic has elevated considerable fluctuations of the habitual life style of people around the world. The field of education has deviated its originality and its continuity in the process of learning. The mode of education has transformed from learning in a physical classroom to remote or distant learning. Hence the study endeavors to demonstrate the students' perception on learning English online. A number of 130 First year students following Higher National Diploma in Mechanical Engineering at the Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Education are selected as the participants of the study. A questionnaire consisting of 20 close ended questions is distributed through a Google Form for data collection and 98 respondents are noticeable. The questionnaire mainly focuses on the overall perception of virtual learning, technical facilities used for online access, impact of time allocation for hobbies while engaging in remote learning, the peacefulness of learning environment and their opinions on the continuity of online education under ordinary circumstances of the country. According to the data analysis, nearly one fourth (27.6%) of the students perceive online education as effective in general. However, a majority specifically 60.2% comprehends the online education neither positive nor negative. A majority (82.5%) of the students use smart phones as the device for online access. 64.9% of the students discover the home environment to be peaceful supporting the learning process, which may be a reason for 72 students to identify learning from home as the most effective advantage of remote learning. The findings of the study focuses on data analysis which supports the fact that majority bears a neutral opinion of learning online both during and aftermath of Covid-19 pandemic.

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