

# Attitude of the HNDE Students towards the Use of WhatsApp as a Pedagogical Tool in Teaching and Learning English

## Literature

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**Abstract** –With the Covid- 19 outbreak, the use of electronic devices and mobile applications in the teaching learning process instantly became the new normal in Sri Lankan academic context. WhatsApp, in view of the above is a mobile application that allows smartphone users to exchange text, image, video and audio messages. Recent studies ascertain that incorporating WhatsApp into higher education has boosted effective learning. Attempting to know whether the students perceive WhatsApp as a recognised learning platform is thus sensible. The study involved WhatsApp in teaching English Literature and examined the students’ attitude towards the incorporation of WhatsApp in the teaching process. The study engaged 80 students of Higher National Diploma in English (HNDE) from Advanced Technological Institute – Anuradhapura as the sample. The data collected from an Online Questionnaire were analysed using Ms Excel and Qualitative Data Analysis Model (Seidel, 1998) under a mixed quantitative –qualitative research approach. The key findings revealed the students perceived this approach, a comfortable mode to contact the teacher. Although online teaching receives fewer preferences compared to classroom teaching, the students identify using WhatsApp to share texts, videos and audios relevant to the course content of English Literature as an effective and efficient way to sustain learning in the period of remote learning. The study accordingly revealed that the HNDE students perceived WhatsApp as a productive virtual platform to support teaching and learning of English Literature during the remote learning processes as well as in blended learning approaches.

**Keywords:** WhatsApp as a pedagogical tool, Teaching English Literature, Students’ Attitude