

Students' Perspectives on Challenges Encountered due to Online Learning

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Abstract - University education of Sri Lanka was bounded to face-to-face classroom interaction. Due to the uprising of this deadly infection Covid-19 has led to the existence of physical classrooms impossible. Online lectures has now become one of the best solutions for the continuation of education. The main objective of the study is to explore the challenges students had to encounter and to recommend possible solutions since online learning is a new approach in the Sri Lankan education system. The research question is to find out the different challenges students have to meet. Questionnaires were distributed to a randomly selected sample of 100 first-year undergraduates in the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Ruhuna. Analysis of data was done by descriptive data analysis. The outcome of the results depicts that synchronous learning is a new concept in the education system of Sri Lanka hence it carries a new platform combined with advanced technology and computer literacy. This generates certain difficulties and capitulating conditions in the minds of students. Guarantee digital equity is of vital importance at this rough moment. Inaccessibility of legitimate advanced assets, computerized apparatuses, openness to the web, speed Wi-Fi associations are obligatory prerequisites for online learning. It was found out that hitches in these key regions driven students to miss the chance of learning and subsequently students get disappointed and demotivated. The sudden implementation of online learning is insufficient. The major outcome of the research would enable to draw the attention of authorizing authorities to manipulate solutions to these newly emerged confrontations.

Keywords: confrontation, digital equity, online learning