

Virtual Learning Environment in ESL Teaching and Its Impact on Students' Involvement in Learning

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Abstract - All over the world, the education system has been shifted to virtual learning environment from face-to-face learning environment at present as the result of the COVID 19 – the global pandemic. Therefore, in order to carry out the teaching and learning process the use of technologies in methodological adaptation highly influences the teachers as well as the students. The knowledge on technological aspects also plays a major role in the present educational system. It has become as a challenge to the teachers too to conduct online lectures successfully. The purpose of this research is to investigate the impact of virtual learning environment on students' involvement in learning English as a second language. As the participants of this research, thirty tertiary level students from several areas of Sri Lanka were selected randomly. Qualitative methodology was applied to carry out this research. As the research tools, questionnaires and informal interviews were used to collect the data of this research. Through the research tools, the researcher was able to understand the feasibility of the application of virtual learning method in teaching English as a second language. Finally, it was able to identify the real situation of the students in learning English as a second language in a virtual learning environment. Even though the students face impediments to involve in learning activities virtually, they still have the motivation towards learning English.

Keywords: Virtual Learning, Involvement, Motivation