

Investigating the Effectiveness of Conducting Team-teaching Online: Perception of Student Teachers of English

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Abstract - With the outbreak of the Covid 19 pandemic the mode of education in Sri Lanka was totally converted to an online mode. With the closure of higher education institutes, employing online mode became a paradigm shift in the learning-teaching process since it was not given much priority before the Covid 19 outbreak. Amidst enormous constraints and challenges student teachers also adapted to the new online mode since it was the only alternative during this pandemic period. Despite this catastrophic situation, the continuation of the study programme of the student teachers was a paramount need. Therefore the objectives of this study were to examine the challenges faced by 45 student teachers of English at Pasdunrata National College of Education while engaging in online education, their perceptions on the effectiveness of conducting team-teaching online and employing effective techniques to improve their teaching skills. An action research was conducted which included three cycles and both qualitative and quantitative data were collected using a questionnaire, notes of the reflective journal, and marks of the pre and post-tests. Thus, the data collected were analysed using MS Excel software, paired sample t-test, and thematic analysis. The findings of the study show that proper planning and implementation of activities, constant practice and feedback enable the student teachers to minimize the errors in planning lessons and classroom language during the team teaching. It was evident that team teaching can be conducted online effectively so as to give the student teachers their first-hand experience before stepping into the authentic classroom.

Keywords: student teachers, team teaching, online mode