

A STUDY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND EFFECTIVENESS OF HOME - BASED ONLINE HSK TESTING IN SRI LANKA: A CASE STUDY OF THE CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA

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The Chinese Language Proficiency Test (HSK) is a globally recognized assessment designed to evaluate the Mandarin Chinese language proficiency of non-native speakers. Considering technological advancements and the transformative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on education and assessment, this study investigates the implementation and effectiveness of the HSK home-based online test in Sri Lanka, with a specific focus on the experiences within the Confucius Institute at the University of Kelaniya. Utilizing a mixed-methods research approach, this study combines quantitative analysis of test performance data with qualitative interviews and surveys involving test-takers, instructors, and administrators engaged in the HSK online testing process. The research addresses two key aspects. Firstly, it assesses the degree of student awareness and adherence to the requirements for the home-based online exam. Secondly, it conducts a comparative analysis of students' subjective attitudes toward this mode of assessment, scrutinizing its advantages and challenges. The findings underscore the importance of students' understanding of home-based online exam requirements, which is crucial for ensuring equitable and effective assessment methods, especially during emergencies. The comparative analysis of students' attitudes reveals key aspects to consider when improving the design and administration of online tests, thus enhancing their adaptability and reliability during public safety crises. Test takers appreciated the convenience and flexibility offered by the online format, eliminating the need for physical travel, and providing a comfortable testing environment. However, technical issues, such as internet connectivity and device compatibility, emerged as significant challenges for some participants. In conclusion, home-based online exams offer several advantages, including flexibility in terms of scheduling and location, as well as potential cost savings. This research not only enriches the discourse surrounding online language proficiency testing but also highlights the continued need for improvements to ensure the adaptability and reliability of home-based online exams in Sri Lanka and similar educational contexts. These enhancements are essential to meet the evolving needs of learners and to effectively address unforeseen challenges, such as those posed by public safety emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic.

Keywords: Assessment, COVID-19, HSK (Chinese Language Proficiency Test), Online Testing, Sri Lanka

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