UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

UiTM di hatiku

80th ISSUE
VID

UiTM Sarawak Bulletin

INFOKAMPUS

Feb 2021

UiTM
SARAWAK
pays courtesy visit to the
Chief Minister
of Sarawak

Courtesy Visit
YB Datuk Hj Abdul Karim
Rahman Hamzah

MOA
UiTM & STOMA SDN BHD

KAIB 2020
Soars to Greater Heights

innosTRE
First Hybrid Conference

Open and Distance Learning
EXPERIENCE: VOICES
from BA1193A, UiTM Mukah

Robin Anak Jantai

Since the start of the Open Distance Learning (ODL) mode early this semester due to the Covid 19 pandemic, much of our daily routine involves studying at home using any available learning platform. Hence, I would like to take this opportunity to share about my challenges as a student using ODL.

First, my main challenge in the use of ODL is poor internet connection. This has resulted in much difficulty especially in doing any academic task online. For example, when I want to submit my assignments through Google Classroom, sometimes they could not be sent on time. Sometimes, it will take up to 20 minutes or more to get through. Striking evidences of poor internet access are shown through viraled photos of rural students going up hills in the jungle to take an exam. That is what Veveonah Mosibin, a student from University Malaysia Sabah did recently. Good internet access is very important to students to get connected to their lecturers and fellow classmates.

The other challenge during ODL is the environment factor. What I meant here is while students are engaged with their lecturers and classmates online, there will be various forms of distractions coming from the sound of cars, machinery and so on. In my case, my house is near the road and this means a lot of sounds coming from passing vehicles. Because of these extraneous noises, I found it hard to concentrate on my work or study comfortably even though I managed to get the work done. It can be very stressful.

My final challenge regarding ODL is the issue of understanding what is taught in my online classrooms' vis-a-vis the the conventional face-to-face classroom. To me, learning and understanding what was taught is a lot more effective than going through unproductive online lessons. In a nutshell, poor internet connection, a-less-than-conducive environment, and difficulties in trying to understand online lectures are my greatest challenges in ODL. I hope in the following semester, we can resume our usual face-to-face classroom in campus.

Alistairson Kudi Anak Ranggi

In recent years, distance teaching and learning has become increasingly popular among students, and this trend is felt by students. Most students find it helpful in improving learning techniques, while others find that they are not as effective as classroom teaching. My essay will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of distance learning.

Studying online provides flexible schedules and low-cost spending for students. They can learn the courses and subjects they want at the right time. This gives students a great opportunity to gain new skills and accumulate their level of knowledge while staying in their own homes. For example, students from another state studying in Sarawak who wants to do a Diploma in Business Management course does not necessarily have to come over to Sarawak because he or she can study online and complete the course by staying at home. Thus, distance learning is economical and time saving for students.

However, online learning places more emphasis on learning theory and less teacher-student interaction. It lacks the practical aspects of learning and promotes passive learning. As a result, students consider it as a less effective method of learning than those used in the traditional classroom. A recent study showed that a large number of students find classroom teaching far more effective than distance learning.

In addition, online learning also makes students less confident when doing subjects that require calculation such as Maths and Accounting. These two subjects definitely need more attention from the lecturers who are teaching the subjects. Studying online is very difficult for students who are weak in computing and having difficulties to calculate. The method of teaching calculations is not very effective for students when it is done via ODL.

In conclusion, the increasing availability of online learning has gained popularity among young adults in years to come although some consider it to be less effective. Emphasis can be given to its effectiveness in making it a more economical way of learning than classroom teaching.

Monica Banun Anak Musa

Online Distance Learning (ODL) is where the students especially university students have to study from their homes by using any teaching and learning platform that their lecturers use. It is known as online classes. ODL was conducted since the Movement Control Order (MCO) started. So, the students get new experience during the ODL because this is the first time ODL was used full time as a new mode of teaching and learning at university. Online classes are great because the students can improve their knowledge of new technologies, although some students would not agree if the government wants to continue these online classes.

Firstly, the positive side of ODL is online classes can be conducted from home or anywhere we are. The students do not have to go back to university. So, they can reduce their expenses because they can join the online classes at home. Then, when they are at home, family relationships can be strengthened. It is because they can spend more time with their family members. For example, they can help their parents over the weekend, and this will ease the burden on their parents.

However, there is also the negative side about ODL which is some students cannot join the online class due to poor internet connection. It is because not all of the students who are studying at university come from the city. Students from remote village or rural areas will face this problem the most. So, it is not fair for them when they cannot join the online classes and their attendance is zero. The problem will get worse when the lecturers conduct online tests for that day. For example, during the online test, some students lost their internet connection and the result is they cannot submit their answers. So, this would naturally affect their results.

Last but not the least, the negative side about ODL is the students cannot experience university life. It is because they study from home. Life in university is the best experience because they can meet more friends from different places. At university, they learn to be independent because at university they have to do all things by themselves. For example, they have to wake up early if they have class early on the day and then after their class finishes, they have to go and buy food supplies since they are not allowed to cook in their hostels. Sometimes they have to skip their lunch if they have packed a schedule on certain days.

In conclusion, online learning is a viable alternative to the traditional classroom but it will give rise to problems for some students. So, it is normal if many students do not like online classes. Most students prefer to go back to university because campus life is the best moment in their lives. It is because they will learn how different life can be when they are away from their family.

Naomi Rachel Naphatalie Anak Donny

This year has been a rather hectic year for me as the Online Distance Learning became the new normal for students. The study schedules were enough to cause students much stress and anxiety as we had to go about our academic tasks in a whole new fashion. What's more, having to study from home is not quite the same as attending the usual in-campus classes. Despite being in the comfort of home and the family, life is not what a student is used to experiencing before the pandemic forced millions of students worldwide to study using the online platform. The problem of poor internet connectivity and distractions in their home environment are among major issues that have remained unsolved.

However, studying using ODL is not without its blessings too despite the difficulties it posed to students. I have learned to appreciate the value of discipline and commitment much more compared to my pre ODL days. I found out that I constantly need to ensure there is a fine balance between allocating time for my online studies and my daily household chores. ODL has actually taught students a lot in terms of time management and the need to be on top of their game to be able to cope and perform well in their studies. This year has been the most challenging time for me and many other fellow students. But I have survived and overcome the odds. And I'm loving every moment of it, even though I do sometimes missed campus life and wished we could all return to familiar ground doing what we loved most. Thank you and stay safe.

INFO**KAMPUS**