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Empowering Students Towards Educational Innovation

AGR042 SMART CLASSKIT

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ABSTRACT

The COVID-19 has caused school closures worldwide, and education has changed dramatically. The demand for online learning has risen significantly, and it will continue to do so in the future. Currently, teaching is done remotely and on digital platforms. Online learning necessitates that teachers have a basic understanding of using digital forms of learning. However, this is not always the case. Untrained educators usually use online learning to share notes rather than implement interactive learning that promotes active learning in the virtual classroom. Therefore, students tend to lose interest in learning through online platforms. Therefore, this innovation was designed to be an interactive and collaborative e-learning platform that would engage both students and lecturers. Padlet and Edmodo were used in this study. These education technologies provide cloud-based software as a service, hosting a real-time collaborative web platform. Students can easily click on any links provided in the AGR042 Smart ClassKit on Padlet to view the learning materials and activities, even if it has been a few months' post on Edmodo. Moreover, AGR042 Smart ClassKit is protected with a password. Only the students with a registered Edmodo account can access this platform to ensure they are in a secure online learning environment. This innovation has facilitated the online learning process by focusing on interactive and collaborative learning in a safe online environment, thus attracting students' interest.

Keywords: online learning, interactive, Edmodo, Padlet, learning management system.

1. INTRODUCTION

In March 2020, the World Health Organization [1] declared Covid-19 a pandemic that posed a current threat to humanity. This pandemic successfully shut down educational activities globally, resulting in the migration of universities from face to face traditional teaching to online learning as an educational platform. Online learning is the process of utilising the internet and other significant technologies to create materials for educational purposes, instructional delivery, and programme management [2]. Online education has regularly been viewed from the perspective of a good-to-have alternative but not a serious-mission model to guarantee the steadiness of instructional activities [3]. There is still a reluctance to understand and take advantage of the opportunities to move to a digital environment. Hence, impact the educators' and students' performance in teaching and learning. Digitalization is a necessity in higher education institutions (HEIs) capable of creating a learning community and building an inclusive environment that enhances students' engagement, improving the experience of courses, teaching materials, and the overall training process [4]. To be effective and efficient with online learning, educators must implement an interactive and collaborative learning environment that promotes active learning and a thorough understanding of the benefits and limitations of using educational technology tools. Online education is convenient for students, where they can access online materials anytime and anywhere. Active online learning entails going beyond the passive one-way of online learning. This innovation aims to organise the e-learning content effectively with the integration of Padlet and Edmodo for the students to maximise the online learning experience.

2. MATERIAL AND METHOD

The Pre-Diploma in Agrotechnology students of UiTM Sabah Branch registered for Basic Agrotechnology (AGR042) were invited to the virtual classroom via a link created using Buncee that leads the student to a Learning Management System (LMS) on Edmodo. A fascinating introductory video clip was used to capture students' attention at the start of the course. Edmodo and Padlet can be accessed via mobile phone, tablet and desktop. Students created their free accounts for Edmodo and Padlet and updated their profiles. Then, they were briefed on how to use Edmodo and Padlet which was conducted via Google Meet to ensure that they fully benefited from these education technologies. Lectures, assessments and fieldwork for students to update their activities were conducted via Edmodo since the beginning of the October 2021 – February 2022 semester. Small groups were created in the AGR042 virtual classroom to assist the students during lectures and fieldwork. AGR042 Smart Class Kit was developed on Padlet and integrated with exclusive links to Edmodo virtual classrooms.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 AGR042 Smart ClassKit

AGR042 Smart ClassKit was developed on Padlet and integrated with exclusive links to the Edmodo virtual classroom (Figure 1). It is protected with a password to ensure the safety of the online learning environment. Only the students with a registered Edmodo account and who have enrolled on the AGR042 virtual classroom can access this platform (Figure 2). Students can easily click on any links provided in the AGR042 Smart ClassKit to view the learning materials and activities, even if it has been a few months' posts on Edmodo. Students were prompted to the previous conversation of any topics discussed in Edmodo with only one click on the links provided in AGR042 Smart ClassKit. They were also on track and never missed the due dates of assignments, staying alert on the dates of the tests or final exam. Apart from that, both lecturer and students received notifications for all posts on Edmodo or Padlet. Asynchronous modes of online learning suit students to access online material whenever they need [5]. Edmodo, as one of the global education networks, provides a robust LMS platform that benefits their users across the world

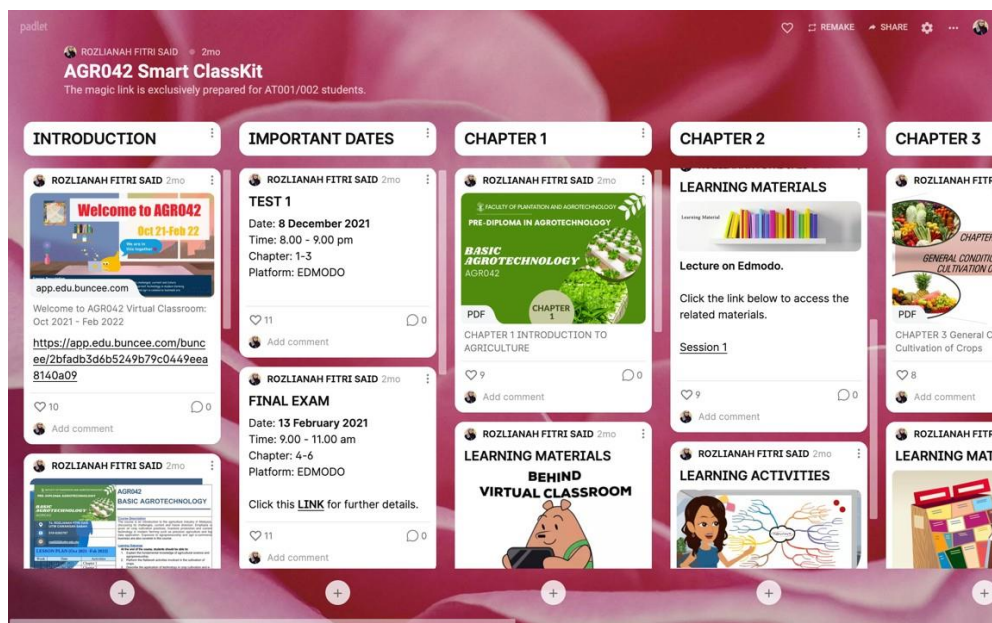


Figure 1: AGR042 Smart ClassKit.

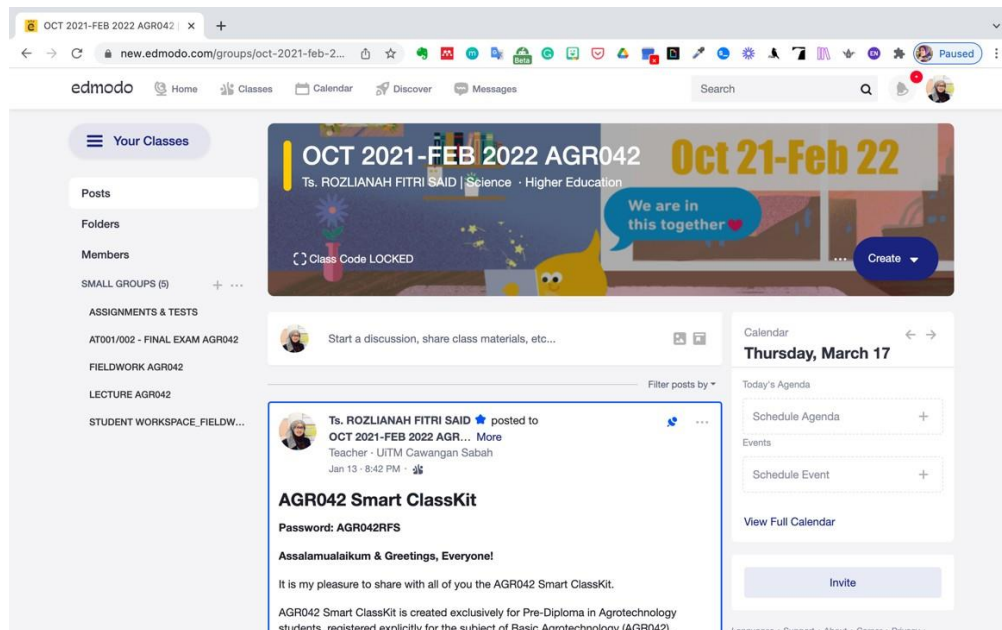


Figure 2: AGR042 Virtual Classroom on Edmodo.

3.2 Student Reflection

The student feedback was measured through conversation sessions elicited via Google Meet. The discussion session via Google Meet shows that students become more excited and confident in learning the AGR042 course.

“AGR042 Smart ClassKit has helped to ease our study, especially to recall the previous notes and discussion of a specific topic.”

“We stay alert on the due date of assignments, tests and exams.”

“We are so grateful to have the AGR042 Smart ClassKit magic link. It is available whenever and wherever we need it.”

Online education turns education into student-centered, where students participate in the learning process, and teachers work as supervisors and guides for students [6]. The change to online in higher education entails reshaping our view regarding higher education, including institutions and students' needs.

4. CONCLUSION

This innovation enhances the quality of education where it improves the online teaching and learning environment. The students can refer to the valuable resources that were shared via AGR042 Smart ClassKit at any time to recall things they have learned, thus improving knowledge retention and transfer. Moreover, the system applied in developing AGR042 Smart ClassKit can be used for any e-learning content of academic or training courses, whether free or paid courses. It gives benefits to the trainers/educators as well as participants/students with effective, interactive and collaborative online learning.



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