

ASKME!STA404 V2.0

Norashikin Nasaruddin, Nurazlina Abdul Rashid, Kartini Kasim, Shahida Farhan Zakaria, Hasniza Hassim, Mohd Firdaus Mohd Helmi and Mas Aida Abd Rahim

Universiti Teknologi MARA, UiTM Cawangan Kedah, MALAYSIA

E-mail: norashikin116@uitm.edu.my

ABSTRACT

COVID-19 pandemic culminated in the closure of educational institutions all over the world. About 1.2 billion children worldwide are out of the field. As a result, education has dramatically changed with the distinctive emergence of e-learning, where teaching is carried out remotely and on digital platforms. It has been known that statistical application plays a critical role in supporting the process of online teaching and learning. AskMe!STA404 V2.0 is a platform for lecturers and students to connect inside and outside of classrooms regarding topics in Statistics for Business and Social Sciences. This application can save time and paper and make it easy to communicate important announcements to the forum page, to post notes or video lectures, distribute assignments and at the same time stay organized. Moreover, this application provides the students with a view to the collection of questions that have been answered according to topics in this subject. AskMe!STA404 V2.0 has made the learning process easier and more convenient because it is accessible from all computers, mobile phones and tablets.

Keywords: statistical application, online learning, higher education

1. INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVE

The education sector is one of the sectors that is most impacted by the pandemic Covid-19. With the rising of this Covid-19 virus infection, lecturers and students have to adapt and adopt a new normal in teaching and learning through online learning or e-learning with the application of technology and devices as mediator of communication. In reference to the Prime Minister's Special Announcement on the extension of the Movement Control Order (MCO) throughout the country, Universiti Teknologi MARA Kedah (UiTM) has taken steps and initiative to implement online distance learning for students and academic staff called AskMe!STA404 V2.0. AskMe!STA404 V2.0 is the online teaching and learning platform that has been designed with the incorporated elements of student-centered learning which allows students to actively participate in the learning activity and also at the same time taking the availability of students' internet connectivity into consideration at their respective accommodations.

The goal of AskMe!STA404 V2.0 is to fill the gap of providing a better platform for students during the online learning session which does not occur in real-time such as a pre-recorded video to support online learning plans. For task-based online learning, students are given task that they can do on their own and/or discuss with their friends before submitting the outcome for the online task. This application also has a feature online assessment such as online quiz where students need to complete an online quiz after each topic covered.

On the other hand, lecturers are dealing with many questions related to the topics outside of the session at almost any point during the day. Most of the students like to use Whatsapp application to ask questions and expect the lecturers to reply immediately. AskMe!STA404 V2.0 was also developed for students to submit questions related and at the same time to help lecturers not to answer the same questions repeatedly as

students can make references in the FAQs section. The facilitation of a lecturer's discussion space can increase efficiency in responding to questions quickly, accurately and effectively. AskMe!STA404 V2.0 also has no time limit to use and is easily accessible via internet and smartphones. In addition, students can take advantage of their free time while they are outside of the classroom to complete their study and assignment.

2. METHODOLOGY

AskMe!STA404 V2.0 was developed using Wix software. This application is created according to STA404 course and the learning contents are based on the recent course of works. This STA404 course is taken by UiTM students semester 2 and 3. AskMe!STA404 V2.0 is a platform for lecturers and students to communicate among each other by connecting them inside and outside of classrooms regarding topics in Statistics for Business and Social Sciences. This application helps to save time and allow an easier communication through prompt announcement in a forum page and chat room. To make students to refresh their learning in this course, students can refer the uploaded post notes and lecture videos for reference. Moreover, this application provides the students with a view to the collection of questions that have been answered according to topics in this subject. The advantage of this application not only helpful for students learning but also it helps lecturers to distribute exercises or assignments effectively and at the same time can organize teaching materials well. To conclude, the several features provided in this application that are introduction, notes, video, online assessment, announcement, forum, chat room, FAQ, glossary and feedback form for improvement in the future. Currently this application has received 84 responses from students who use this application.

3. STUDENT'S FEEDBACK

Based on the feedback received, 76.2% of the respondents were female. Most of the respondents come from Accountancy students (82.1%) while the rest were from Public Administration students (17.9%). Most of the students had given positive feedback about this apps where 95.2% of them think AskMe!STA404 V2.0 was a good idea and they like to use it. They also believe that AskMe!STA404 V2.0 will increase their flexibility to learn inside and outside of the classroom and help them to have independent learning. Based on the students' experience and feedback, the cooperation from all parties and guidelines provided has helped them in performing the online learning more effectively. The advantages of the AskMe!STA404 V2.0 are: the students are able to participate in the learning sessions from any place while keeping their social distance, and able to adhere to the MCO by not having to attend classes at the campus.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Due to our country's current situation, the online learning is the most popular alternative solution to contain the spread of Covid-19. Therefore, AskMe!STA404 V2.0 can help lecturers and students as a mediator of communication to replace the face to face learning (traditional method). This application also can make learning to be more interesting for both students and lecturers. Even though, the students' learning experience through the online learning method is not comparable with face to face method but it definitely helps students to catch up with their academic activities especially attending classes during the MCO as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on the positive feedback received, we believe that students do enjoy using this new application in their learning process.

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Kelulusan daripada pihak YBhg. Profesor dalam perkara ini amat dihargai.

Sekian, terima kasih.

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