

ODL- our FUTURE DIRECTION of EDUCATION??

Li-Sian Tey, Shareena Melati, Woei-Keong Kuan, and Hooi-Ming Yee

Online Distance Learning (ODL) has been widely implemented in Malaysia since the first lockdown on the 18th March 2019 due to the COVID'19. In ODL, students have more choices in learning what they want without the limitation of time and space. Here, we conducted a simple survey to evaluate the students' preference on different options they were exposed to in ODL and conventional face to face lectures in our faculty. The options are listed below:

- ODL with fixed schedule face2face online lessons;
- ODL without fixed schedule lessons (full lecture videos provided);
- Physically Face2face in campus; or,
- Hybrid: part of the lectures scheduled to be physically Face2Face while part of it online.

Table 1 and Figure 1 summarised the questions and the corresponding responses. The questionnaire was distributed randomly to few groups of students across four courses: CEG552 (Traffic and Highway Engineering), CEW541 (Engineering Hydrology, CEW441 (Fluid Mechanics) and CES420 (Statics and Dynamics) and 93 responses were collected in the survey.

Obviously, based on Questions 1 (25.8%) and 6 (21.5%), conventional face-to-face learning style is no longer a must in education. There are many creative ways, means and tools available online to provide more flexible and interesting learning experiences. Among the reasons of online learning preferences involve flexibility and self-learning at one's pace and personal schedule which also save lots of logistic issues and facility provisions such as classrooms. Thus, it may result in reducing environmental pollutions, travelling cost and time, and improve quality of life.

Table 1: Questions of the respondents' preference in teaching and learning methods

Questions	Preferences
Q1. Based on your experience, at current stage, which learning platform do you prefer?	a. ODL with fixed schedule face2face online lessons. b. ODL without fixed schedule lessons (full lecture videos provided). c. Face2face in campus. d. Hybrid: part of the lectures scheduled Face2Face while part of it online.
Q2. I prefer Online Distance Learning (ODL) with fixed schedule face2face online lessons because:	a. Flexible; I can study anywhere but with similar setting as Face2Face in campus. b. I can be more discipline with fixed schedule ODL. c. I don't prefer this option. d. I also can rewatch all the lecture recordings. This is very helpful.
Q3. I prefer ODL (with lecture videos provided) because:	a. Flexible; I can study anytime anywhere if there is no fixed schedule. b. I can study at my own pace (I can replay lecture videos many times). c. I contact lecturer (as facilitator) only when I need advice. d. I don't prefer this option.
Q4. I prefer face2face lectures in campus.	a. I have access to campus life. b. No internet connection disturbance. c. Easier to concentrate. d. I don't prefer this option
Q5. I prefer hybrid setting because	a. I can have campus life and my own flexible time. b. It would be easier for me to get advice from lecturer in this option. c. I don't prefer this option.
Q6. If you have choice (without COVID 19 threat), which of the following would you prefer?	a. Back to conventional Face2Face teaching and learning style. b. Full Online Distance Learning (without fixed schedule). c. Flexi: whenever you want to Face2face you come to join at physical class, else you go online. d. Hybrid: part of the lectures scheduled to be Face2Face while part of it online.

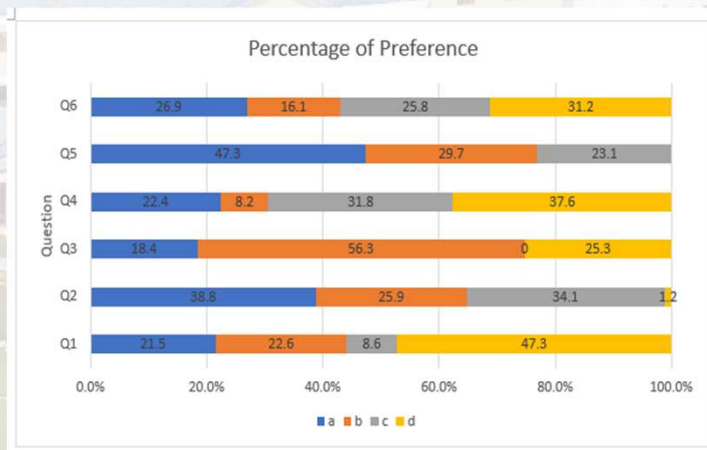


Figure 1: Respondents' preference in teaching and learning