



INFOKAMPUS

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ISSN: 2232-1578



9 772232 157005

Pandemic COVID-19 has a huge impact on teaching and learning activities all around the world especially, in Sarawak. Traditional teaching and learning activities have now shifted to the online approach. Social media engagement in online teaching and learning is increasingly popular in the last few months. There have been concerns over the drastic change affecting the teaching and learning process as Online Distance Learning became the new norm in the Malaysian education setting.

In April 2020, Universiti Teknologi MARA changed their mode of teaching and learning to Online and Distance Learning (ODL) when the Prime Minister declared a partial lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Students were sent packing to their respective hometowns to continue their studies via the various online learning platforms. Being together with their family in this difficult time is a good thing but at the same time, there are challenges too. Some of them are struggling to adapt to the new challenges while others are faced with family expectations to help out with house chores, notwithstanding the demands placed on them by their lecturers.

From the lecturer's point of view, this new norm also comes with its glooms and dooms. An educator's priority is to deliver lectures at their very best in order that teaching and learning outcomes be optimized. However, working from home with little children and family members around is a great challenge as well. Since online distance learning and teaching will be the new norm for educators and students alike, a small survey was conducted to determine the students' experiences with various methods of online instructions. These include viewing videos online, using online discussion boards, doing quizzes and tests online, live group discussions on Google Meet or other types of teleconferencing software, online narrated Powerpoint lectures, pre-recorded lecture videos, listening to voice recordings, discussions on social media platforms such as Instagram and Facebook, as well as instant messaging platforms such as Whatsapp application and so on. The results of the survey could help all educators in general to improve their online teaching and learning activities in the future.

Of the 113 student respondents from Mukah campus, most preferred Google Classroom, Whatsapp and pre-recorded lecture videos as online instructional method for calculation-based subject. For theory-based subjects, most of the students prefer Google Classroom, Whatsapp, narrated Powerpoint lectures, Google Meet as well as pre-recorded lecture video.

They also preferred Google Classroom as a medium of getting notes and materials, as well as

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Pandemic COVID-19:

FROM OFFLINE TO ONLINE

(Students' experience on Online Learning)

submitting their assignment as they viewed it as a highly user-friendly platform. For calculation-based subjects, pre-recorded lectures gave several advantages to the students. One of the advantages that most of the students mentioned was that they could view and listen to the lectures repeatedly. This gives them room and time to understand the topic better. As we know calculation-based subjects pose greater challenges to the students when taught online as compared to offline, or Face-To-Face (FTF) instruction. Interestingly, there were students who felt that FTF is a far better method for effective teaching and learning.

Of all the instructional methods, the least preferred were voice recording and Edmodo. The reason why these methods were not preferred by the students is because listening to lectures without pictures or illustrations was never easy while unfamiliar applications used such as Edmodo could also pose a disadvantage to students. Even though Whatsapp was preferred for both calculation and theory-based subjects, there were students who mentioned that Whatsapp did not work well for calculation-based subjects. Whatsapp only works in giving short or simple instructions or sharing notes. Students need to be shown how to solve the problem or question using recorded video or via Google Meet. However, using Google Meet or Zoom is often a huge challenge to students who have poor internet connectivity.

From the survey, it can be deduced that most of the students favour a simple, easy access and systematic platform to do their online learning. Of all of the instructional methods available to lecturers for their daily online teaching, ones which suit the students learning needs most should be chosen as a preferable mode for teaching. At the end of the day, it is not about the sophistication of the platform or software available for online classroom teaching and learning, but how effective a particular method is in imparting knowledge to students. To top it off, student engagement is equally important in the online teaching and learning process.

Satu lawatan kerja Bendahari dan Timbalan Bendahari dari Shah Alam telah diadakan pada 17 Februari 2020 yang lalu. Tujuan lawatan kerja ini adalah untuk memberi peluang kepada semua staf UiTM Cawangan Sarawak Kampus Mukah bertemu secara bersemuka bersama Dr. Haji Mohd Anuar Mazuki, Bendahari UiTM dan Tuan Haji Poazi Rosdi, Timbalan Bendahari Kanan dari UiTM Cawangan Selangor Kampus Shah Alam. Dalam lawatan kerja ini, Bendahari dan Timbalan Bendahari Kanan turut dibawa melawat ke sekitar kawasan kampus UiTM Mukah, menjejaki tradisi dan budaya masyarakat Melanau di Lamin Dana dan

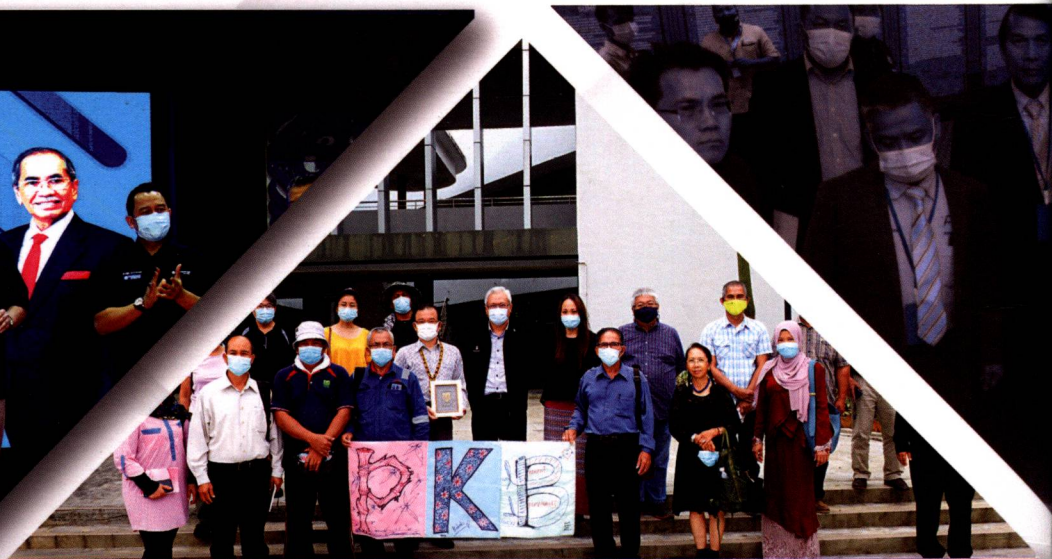
mengunjungi bandar sekitar seperti Oya dan Dalat. Semoga kerjasama antara UiTM Selangor dan Kampus Cawangan akan lebih disemarakkan lagi pada masa akan datang melalui lawatan kerja seperti ini. Tambahan lagi, dengan melihat sendiri isu-isu melibatkan Pejabat Bendahari penyelesaian secara berhemah dapat dilaksanakan dengan lebih berkesan.

LAWATAN KERJA

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