STUDENTS READINESS IN LEARNING MAT037 USING ONLINE DISTANCE LEARNING (ODL)

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ABSTRACT

Pre-Commerce is one of a programme in Pre –HigherEducation Program (PPT), in UiTM. This program is offered to students who do not get any offer from IPTA but they have a high spirit to continue their studies to a higher levels. This research is purposely to dicuss how the lecturers conducting the MAT037 course during the online classe. In this study also we will elobrate the teaching medium used by the lecturer for teaching the mathematic course. An online survey has been conducted to study the student readiness for online classe so that the lecturer are able to conduct the classes as suitable with student requirement . The Pre-Commerce student exspecially from UiTM Cawangan Pulau Pinang are the sample of this study.

Keywords : online classes, mathematic teaching, distance learning,

Introductions

Pre -Higher Education Program (PPT) is one of the programs offered to the student who obtained Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) results that do not meet the requirements of UPU. This program is offered by University Teknologi Mara (UiTM) for all Bumiputra including Bumiputra from Sabah and Sarawak. Besides that, this PPT program is intended to provide education to poor Malays and Bumiputera children in rural and urban whose family income is less than the particular amount that have been fix. There are two programs offer under this PPT Program named Pre -Diploma in Commerce (Pre-Commerce) and Pre -Diploma in Science (Pre-Science). Most of the basic course are offered in these programs so the student will be able to enhance their knowledge.

Intensive Mathematics (MAT 037) is one of the course offered to Pre-Commerce student as their can learn again the importance topic in basic mathematics to improvise the student knowledge and understanding. This course is for 10 hours slot per week. There are five (5) hours for lecturing and another five (5) hours for tutorial slot.

Online (OL) and Online Distance Learning (ODL) are new trends in the world education system since the existing of pandemic Covid 19. Terms like distributed learning, e-learning, m-learning, online learning, virtual classroom are interrelated its support the process

of virtual learnng (Hodges, C., Moore, S., Lockee, & ect,2020). To conduct online classes, all the readiness from the student side have to be considered. Student and educators readiness are very importance to make sure the success of the online learning (Wan Anisha, Azlina, & Rafizah, 2020).

Management of UiTM Cawangan Pulau Pinang has assign a team of e-learning task force, to give training for all lecturers in these campus as their preparations for the OL and ODL classes during the pandemic covid-19 (Azlina, Rafizah & Wan Anisha, 2020).) In this high technology world, there are a variety of software and applications which can be used in the development of teaching materials. Center for Flexible Learning, UiTM Cawangan Pulau Pinang has identified several software that can be easily learn and used by the lecturers. Among the selected software that have been trained are Powtoon, Biteable, Screencast-O-Matic, OBS Studio, QuickTime and H5P. These software are used to create notes, record video and do exercise. Platform like Google Meets, MS Teams, Google Classrooms and Ufuture were also being exposed to the lecturer so that they can use it to share notes or materials and conduct live classes. Besides that, the lecturers are introduced to Google Meet and MS Teams platform to conduct Live streaming classes.

The constraints in online learning that have been identified by Tubaishat & Lansari,2010 are such as shortcomings internet access and use of insufficient equipment to conduct online classes. To overcome this problem, many institutions of higher education has developed online resources using electronic learning technology (Deng & Tavares, 2013; Moore, 2013). In addition, the university also provides many facilities such as Wi-Fi internet network and funds for the purchase of computers or laptops that facilitate the lecturers in the preparation and delivery of online classes.

Instructor or lecturers preparation are also importance in conducting ODL and OL classes. Video conferencing technology is an innovation in ODL process (Siti Hajar, Shukri & Mohd Razha, 2012). ODL and OL delivery process needs to keep pace with technological advances which support the Edu 5.0 (Siti Hajar, 2019). There are a lot of software and platforms that supports the aims to achieve Edu 5.0.

Data Collection

An online survey has been distributed among the Pre-Commerce student from UiTM Cawangan Pulau Pinang in week one of the semester. This survey is to identify the student readiness for the classes. There are around 79 of student who responded on the questionnaire. Below is the information about the questionnaire.

- Questionnaire
    1. Part A –Respondent Demography
    2. Part B- Respondent Readiness for ODL
    3. Part C- Respondent Preference for ODL

Analysis and Discussions

The analysis has been done for the survey responded by 79 students from Pre-Commerce Program, UiTM Cawangan Pulau Pinang.

Below is the student's demographic information:

Table 1. Student Demographic And Readiness Distribution

No	Category	Percentage %
	Part A	
1.	Gender	
	a) Male	39.24%
	b) Female	60.76%
	Part B	
2.	Places stay during ODL	
	a) House	29.11%
	b) UiTM College	79.89%
3.	Choose the Internet access facilities below (may choose more than 1 option)	
	a) Broadband	0%
	b) Mobile hotspot	32.91%
	c) Public Hotspot	63.29%
	d) Home Internet	3.80%
4.	Device used for ODL learning (may choose more than 1 option)	
.	a) Laptop	100%
	b) Desktop	0%
	c) Tablet	0%
	d) Smartphone	100%

From the analysis done, the lecturers had to identify the best platform and medium that is preferred by the students. The lecturers also had to plan the teaching approaches as comfortable by the student. From the table above, the result shows that 60.76 % of female and 39.24 % are male student. 100% of the students have their own laptop and smartphone that they can used for the OL and ODL classes. As seen from table above, 79.89 % students are staying in UiTM collage hostel, so they are using the public hotspot that is being provided in the collage. Only 29.11% are staying at their home so maybe they are using their own mobile hotspot or their home internet. Now, we can conclude that, all of the students are well-prepared with the devices and facilities of internet to join the OL and ODL classes.

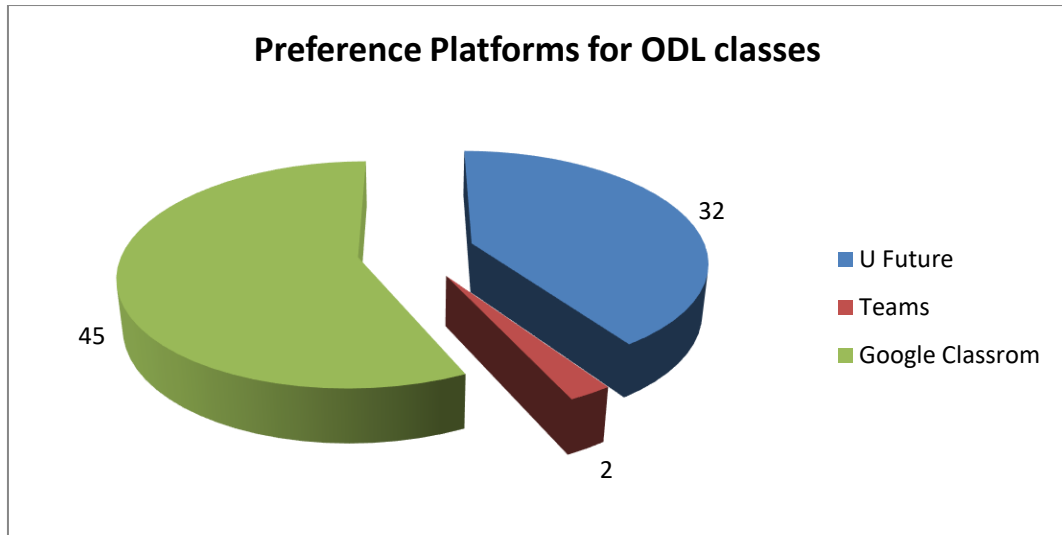**Preference Platforms for ODL classes**

Figure 1: Respondents preference for platforms for ODL classes

As shown in the result above, most of the students prefer using Google Meets as their ODL platforms. The students prefer more to Google Classroom maybe because it is free to used and are easy to access. 32 of respondents prefer to use Ufuture while only 2 of the respondents select to used Teams.

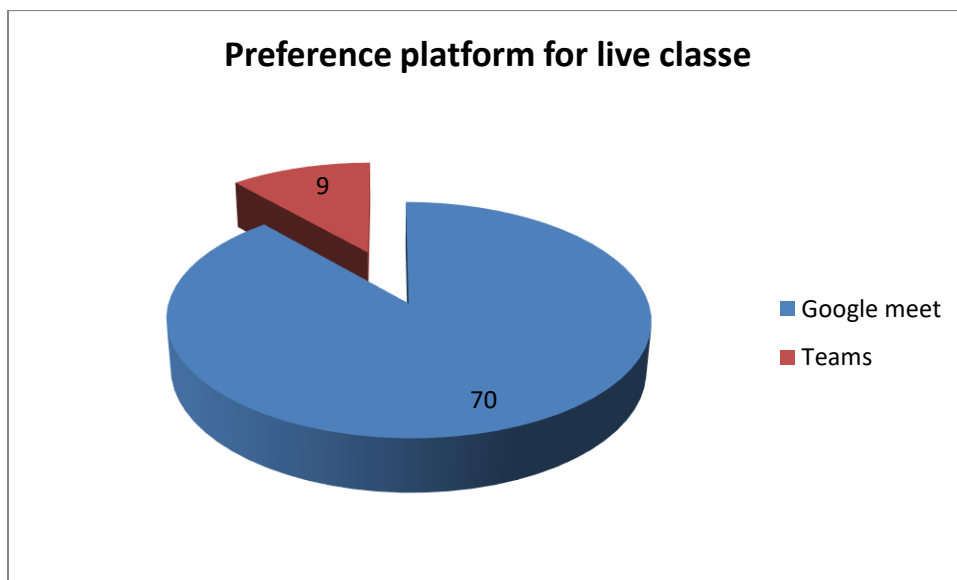**Preference platform for live classe**

Figure 2: Respondents preference on the platform used for Live streaming classes

Figure 2 above show the preference on the platform used for live streaming classes. The respondents are given 2 options only either using Google Meets or through MS Teams. 70 of the respondents prefer to have live streaming classes through Google Meets. It is maybe because the respondent can easily access through Google Meets.

What is the learning delivery method do you prefer? (can choose more than one)

i) Refer to the video notes and exercises provided
ii) Lecturer explains the topics live
iii) Make exercises and discussions in WhatsApp group or telegram

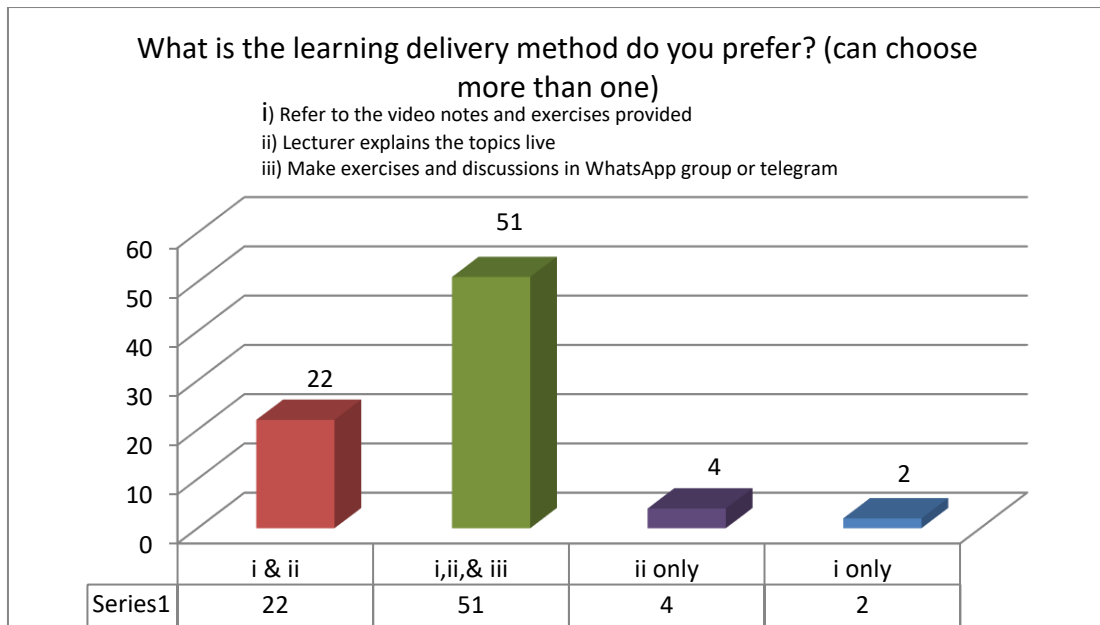|	i & ii	i,ii,& iii	ii only	i only
Series1	22	51	4	2

Figure 3: Respondents preference on delivering methods

Figure 3 shows the preference of the respondents on the delivering methods. Most of the students prefer the lectures to conduct live classes, provide recorded video for content and exercises and prefer to do discussion through WhatsApp or Telegram. This shows that the respondents prefer variety of method in learning MAT037. With all this variety method, the respondents will fill more attracted and enjoy their learning.

Conclusion

MAT037 is a basic mathematic course offered for Pre-Commerce student. Although those who join this MAT037 do not get good result in Mathematics' subject in SPM, but by joining this course, they are being guided and will be able to score better result. The lecturer had studied the student readiness and prepare the materials as well as planning the teaching approach that is suitable for the students. The lecturers had to plan a proper way and materials that can be followed and understand by these students. For these samples, students and lecturers have selected the Google Classroom as their platform to share the materials and contents for MAT037. The lectures also are required to do online live classes, exercises through Telegrams or WhatsApp and also provide recorded video for the students. All these approaches will encourage the student to do revision and proper learning and try to perform well in the assessment.

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