A Study of Library science Students Experiences on Online Lectures in the Covid-19 Epidemic

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Abstract

COVID-19 has disrupted most of the industries in the world. Education is the only industry that is completely transferred to online mode in most countries worldwide. Therefore, all higher education institutions and entire educational institutions have shifted to the traditional class online platforms to avoid the academic year. The primary purpose of this study is to investigate the positive and negative experiences of studying Library and Information Science undergraduates about online lectures during COVID-19. A random sample of 50 undergraduates belonging to the department of library and information science students at the University of Kelaniya had been selected through the application of Morgan's table. The link to the questionnaire was shared with the students via WhatsApp, Messenger, Twitter, and Gmail to arrive at a vast number of participants. A total of 50 students responded to the survey. Data were analyzed utilizing Excel. The results showed that students have poor internet connections, lack of adequate equipment, high cost of data packaging, semester methodology, and financial problems. Also, students face various issues due to having to do practical subjects online, and Power outages are negative experiences. Positive experiences include avoiding the Covid virus, having enough time to be with family, having time for extra work, time-saving, having experience with online education, and being able to work with the latest technology. From the discoveries, it is clear that the students struggle greatly to adapt to online classes. Stakeholders and policymakers should come forward to address the barriers faced by students, expand internet connectivity, and further streamline learning methodology. Otherwise, the ultimate purpose of online classes will be in vain.

Keywords: *Online Lectures, Covid 19 Pandemic, Library and Information Science*