

The Challenges and Effects of ODL-Based Learning Before and After The Endemic of Covid-19 Among Textile and Fashion Students at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM)

Muhammad Zamir Anbiya^c, Mohd Husni^a, Nor Juliana Mohd Yusof^{a,b*}

Structured Abstract

Background: The Covid-19 pandemic has given an extraordinary impact on global learners especially, in tertiary education. Teaching & Learning (T&L) methods have changed abruptly from physical mode to virtual, resulting from Movement Control Order (MCO) during the pandemic Covid-19 globally. In Malaysia, the government implemented MCO on 18th March 2020, and adjustments were made in phases according to the country's pandemic situation from time to time. These situations gave a huge impact on the education sector. Instead of premises being ordered to close for a long period of time, the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) approach was utilized in almost all educational institutions.

Methods: This study is aimed to investigate the challenges and effects of Online Distance Learning (ODL) among textile and fashion students and to determine the level of student satisfaction with Open and Distance Learning (ODL). This study utilized a mixed-method approach of methodology, which consists of two phases of data collection. The first phase involved an individual interview with six (6) students majoring in textile and fashion to obtain an in-depth explanation of the issues related to the implementation of ODL that was obtained from the literature. Subsequent to the completion of the first phase of data analysis, an online survey was carried out for the second phase of data collection on the challenges and effects of ODL implementation. The questions were developed according to the feedback obtained from the interview. The survey aimed to determine the level of satisfaction among students on the issues highlighted earlier during the interview sessions.

Results: It was found that textile and fashion students experienced challenges during ODL implementation such as difficulties staying focused during the online class, internet problems, unfavourable environment for learning, and a lack of interaction between lecturer and student. As a result, the students agreed that all the above-mentioned challenges led to overwhelming stress, boring class activities, and downgrading of their communication skills, and also, they became not interested to learn.

Conclusion: In conclusion, the study has provided insight into the effectiveness of ODL for students majoring in textile and fashion in UiTM. The outcome of this research would potentially benefit the lecturers involved, faculty, and the university as important inputs for curriculum review as a result of the utilization of ODL as the mode of delivery and assessment methods for Higher Education Institutional (HEI) students.

Keywords: ODL-Based Learning, Covid-19, Textiles, Fashion, Higher Education Institution

*Correspondence: julianayusof@uitm.edu.my

^aSchool of Industrial Technology, Faculty of Applied Sciences, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Shah Alam, Malaysia

^bTextile Research Group, Faculty of Applied Sciences, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Shah Alam, Malaysia