

ONLINE QUIZZES AND EXAMINATIONS AS EXPERIENCED BY THE STUDENTS OF THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

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Introduction

Online learning is now a trend in education as it has already been adopted during the last decades. Online learning is education that takes place over the Internet. It is often referred to as E-Learning, Blended Learning, Mobile Learning, Online Education or Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). However, online learning is just one type of “distance learning” - the umbrella term for any learning that takes place across distance and not in a traditional classroom.

As technology continues to grow, online learning has become an important tool of delivering instruction to higher education. Number of students taking online courses are growing because they believe that gender, socio economic status and racial discrimination are lessened. However, several important research studies have documented that these students have good learning outcomes in online quizzes and examinations.

At present, the world is experiencing the spread of Corona Virus or known as Covid-19. This pandemic affects the socio-economic and political condition of every country and one of these is the educational system.

In the Philippines, the government ordered for a total lockdown in the mid part of March when number of infected Covid-19 individuals increased rapidly. Luzon lockdown prohibits transportation and business establishments to operate. Classes in private and public schools in all levels were suspended and everyone were demanded to stay at home to prevent from being infected and to purposely end the spread of the virus.

To continue the unfinished lessons in the tertiary level, the Commission on Higher Education mandated the HEI's to conduct lessons and examinations via online, such as that of the social media.

The researchers, being college instructors want to find out the experiences of the Liberal Arts students in online quizzes and examinations for it is an important avenue of inquiry for better improvement in the future online course. Hence, this action research is conducted.

Statement of the Problem

This action research aims to identify the experiences of the Liberal Arts students in their online quizzes and examinations. Specifically, it seeks answers to the following questions:

1. What is the profile of the Liberal Arts students along:
 - a. Age
 - b. Gender
 - c. Course program
 - d. Year level
 - e. Address
2. What experiences do the Liberal Arts students have in their online quizzes and examinations?
3. What are the implications of the experiences gained by the Liberal Arts students in their online quizzes and examination to the learning process?

Research Methodology

This research utilized the Descriptive method of research aided by informal interview to find out the experiences of the Liberal Arts students in their online quizzes and examinations. The data gathering was also conducted through online such as that of the social media (FB

messenger, group chat). Percentage technique was used to treat some data collected from the respondents.

Findings

A. Profile of the Respondents

Age. As to the age profile of the respondents, majority of the Liberal Arts students belong to the ages of 18, 19 and 20 years old. This age bracket is usually those who are characterized to be technology savvy. According to Oxford Dictionary, a tech-savvy person is someone who is well informed about the modern technology, and also uses his/her skills in order to take advantage of the current technology. In other words, you're a tech-savvy if you know how to deal with a PC, a smart device, and maybe certain software and tools.

Although not all of them are experts in technology but majority are well-versed with how to use and manipulate different applications in their smartphones, tablets, laptops and other gadgets that they have.

Gender. As to the gender profile it was noted that greater number of students from the Liberal Arts department are female students. This is because of the courses offered by the department are more attractive to the ladies than the gentlemen.

Year Level. Based from the data gathered 60% of the respondents belong to first year level and 40% belong to the second year level.

Course Program. With regards to the programs where the respondents are enrolled, out of 30 respondents 12 or 40% are enrolled in BS Psychology, 9 or 30% AB Political Science, 8 or 25% AB Communication and 1 or 5% Library Science.

Year level. Majority of the respondents are in the First and Second Year levels.

Address. Some of the Liberal Arts Students are residing in the neighboring municipalities within Rinconada more specifically Nabua, Baao and Bato, while the rest are from Iriga City.

B. Experiences of the students in their Online Quizzes and Examinations

Because of the pandemic that arose in the Philippines, the tertiary level opted to conduct the remaining two weeks of the classes through distance learning. The following were the experiences of the students as they went through their online classes.

Ability to manage time. The students were able to compare their situation in studying or taking quizzes and exams in school and at home. In school, they are given pressure and time limits to finish a certain activity as there are several subjects that they need to finish in a day or two. While when they took the quizzes and exams through online or while they were at home, they were given enough time to work on it since due dates are only provided by the teachers and not specific time limit. Therefore, they are able to manage their time in completing the activities given to them by their teachers. Aside from that, they are also able to set priorities in working with the given activities. Those that are seem difficult for them are given top priority since they say they needed more time and efforts to work on that particular subject. While those that they seem easy are listed next in line since they knew they could finish them easily.

However, not all of them were the same. There were students who do the opposite – easy, average, to difficult – as they spend longer times to difficult ones than the easy ones.

Instructor's accessibility. With regards to the accessibility of their instructors, some of them experienced difficulty in reaching out for their teachers especially if they have queries about the given questions. There were even some who shared that it took them almost three days to be able to contact their teachers due to some technical problems like poor internet connection, especially if they are only relying on their mobile

data to be able to connect to the internet. Unlike those who have internet providers, anytime they are able to connect with internet, thus also give them more opportunities to reach for their instructors.

Opportunities to connect with peers, classmates and instructors. Online classes have advantages and disadvantages. One of the good side of being in this kind of set up is the opportunity to ask answers from the peers, classmates and friends. There were even times that they did not anymore do their own researches to answer the questions instead, they just asked their friends for the answers and then just modified them.

In this situation, reliability and integrity of students in answering online quizzes and exams are at risk since they are not in front of their teachers to monitor them. As a result, many of them usually got high scores.

Lack of Focus due to some disturbances. Because the students are answering the activities at home, they could not avoid to divert their focus from doing the task. According to some of them, there were times that they need to hang on for a while first because they are given household chores. While others can only work on their quizzes or exams at night time due to other responsibilities.

Another disturbance while working on online quizzes and exams is the social media. According to some of them, they were tempted to open their social media accounts like facebook, Instagram, twitter, or the like while they are answering online. Others, tend to open online games like Mobile Legend instead of focusing on the quiz or exam. Hence, they got destructed.

Easy access to website for answers. Online quizzes and exams also provide opportunity to students to browse websites to get answers. Some do not read all contents anymore and simply copy and paste the statements or paragraphs without giving recognition to the source of information. For the students, they find this set up easier than a classroom-based written exam or quiz because they could not open their notes.

C. Implications of the Students Experiences to the Learning Process

Promotes Active Learning. Students have the chance to study in their own pace. It is effective because students can finish their homework quickly, and there is more time left for hobbies and other non-school activities. They tend to be active because they can only rely on themselves and not from other people.

Decreases cost of expenses. Online learning reduces expenses among the students since it lessens school-based facilities cost by leveraging home and community spaces in addition to traditional school buildings. Students do not go out of their homes, thus will save money used for transportation, uniform, school supplies, and others. This is beneficial in the learning process since they can allocate the amount saved to others which will be needed in learning.

Increases student motivation. Another implication of online learning is that increases the rate of student learning as students tend to discover more knowledge on their own if there are materials which caught their interest. It also increases motivation to work on activities given to them and at the same time helps students grasp concepts and demonstrate competency more efficiently.

Individualizing and differentiating learning. Based on student performance on diagnostic assessments and preferred pace of learning, teachers can design ways on how to do individualized learning scheme. This is where differentiated learning strategies come in, thereby improving the efficiency with which students move through a learning progression.

Promotes discipline and sense of responsibility among the students. While answering worksheets without the presence of teachers may lead to cheating, it also encourages students to test how far they have learned honestly. Hence, it promotes integrity and discipline among the students. Since they are learning at home, they have to be

responsible enough to finish and complete all assigned tasks at a given time or period. In this way, they are not just learning the theories of the subject matter being discussed with them but there is already an integration of learning the proper values that they will be applying in the real world. The real lessons in life are not those that are written in the books but the experiences and realization that the students gain as they go on with the subject matters.

Less human interaction. As social distancing is strictly promoted in this time of pandemic students do not have the chance to do face-to-face learning instead use the computer and internet in learning, Unhealthy competition is also lessen, but inspiration and encouragement are more observed among the students especially if they found out that others are doing their home works faster.

Difficult, if it is meant for disciplines that involve practice. Basically, online learning is hard to courses that require practical application so it becomes difficult for the teachers and students to comply a certain activity that involves application. Although, they still find ways on how to complete the activities, thus, promotes creativity and resourcefulness among the students. They still do their best and discover ways on how to meet the learning objectives.

Conclusions

In the light of the findings of this action research, the following conclusions are derived:

1. That the profile of the respondents along the age, gender, year level, and course program are deemed significant in applying the online learning. The respondents of this study who are aging 18 to 20 years old, mostly female who are in the first and second year level taking the programs under the Liberal Arts Department, are those who cope easily with the changes in the modalities of learning as they belong to the generation of technological savvy.

2. The students have different experiences in answering online quizzes and exams but taking online quizzes and exams for them are not difficult, instead they find it more convenient in this time of pandemic.

3. Online learning should be seen as a complement and extension of classical forms of learning. Not even the best online course can fully replace the personal contact with a teacher, or the human relationships that develop in a group. So, traditional classes still shouldn't be replaced with online learning. This may only be a supplemental activity because of the situation that the world is facing at present due to the Covid-19 virus.

Recommendations

On the bases of the data and conclusions of this study, the following recommendations are offered:

1. Students should not take opportunity of being dishonest and cheat while taking online quizzes and exams, instead, take this modality as a challenge and a test whether they can learn by themselves or still with the physical aid of their teachers.

2. The experiences that the students gained must serve as a guide for the teachers to come up with better strategies for the improvement of the teaching and learning process.

3. This is the new normal that the field of education is facing right now, thus, everyone must be open minded in the changes that the situation is bringing the people in.

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