UiTM CAWANGAN PULAU PINANG STUDENTS READINESS TOWARDS ONLINE TEACHING AND LEARNING

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ABSTRACT

The breakdown of COVID-19 has lead to MCO in Malaysia which started on 18 March 2020. MCO is also known as Movement Control Order. This partial lockdown is implemented to prevent COVID-19 pandemic from being overspread throughout Malaysia. MCO has affected many people around the world especially those in the education field. The closure of school and institute of higher education have given a great impact to the students. To make sure that educations are continuously being distributed to students at their own place during MCO, educators has applied online teaching and learning. Thus, this paper will identify UiTM Cawangan Pulau Pinang students' readiness towards online teaching and learning during MCO based on the survey made before it is being implemented to the students.

Keywords: MCO, students' readiness, online learning

Introduction

Nowadays, online teaching and learning are being implemented to many educational institutions to provide flexible and student-centered learning. Through online teaching and learning, students have the opportunity to obtain education anywhere at anytime. Since MCO or Movement Control Order is being implemented to prevent the COVID-19 pandemic, educators started to use online teaching and learning to deliver their lectures and assessment to their students.

Online teaching and learning or e-learning is the process of transforming and delivering knowledge through the Internet using electronic media. Since students are used to face-to-face or traditional classroom learning, there may be some limitations with the online teaching and

learning. An important issue that needs to be identified is the need for determining and maintaining quality education using the new norm.

Many tools can be used in order to make sure online teaching and learning can be delivered effectively to students. However, before considering any suitable tools to be used for online teaching and learning, it is very important to understand the students need and limitation. Hence, a survey is done to identify the students' readiness towards online teaching and learning. The scope covers mostly all UiTM Cawangan Pulau Pinang students before this way of teaching and learning was being implemented to them.

Literature Review

Online teaching and learning requires the teachers and learners to be connected using distance learning (Keegan, 1996). Watson, Winograd, and Kalmon (2004) defined online teaching and learning as education in which instruction and content are being delivered online using network connections. Through online teaching and learning, students are able to get the knowledge anywhere at anytime (Harrell, 2006). Online teaching and learning can also be defined as obtaining knowledge and skills through online and real time learning using various tools supported by the internet technologies (Morrison, 2003).

Limitations of online teaching and learning that has been identified are such as lack of internet access, educators and learners must have a minimum level of computer knowledge, network connection is not 100 percent reliable, inappropriate environment and preparations of online materials (Tubaishat & Lansari, 2010). To overcome these problems, many institutes of higher education has develop online resources using electronic learning technologies (Deng & Tavares, 2013; Moore, 2013). The technologies include Learning Management System (LMS) which provide online materials and assessments to students (Islam, 2012).

Warner, Christie and Choy (1998), in their study identified student readiness for online learning was broken down into three key factors which are students' preference in course modality, student competence and confidence in utilizing computer-mediated communication and students' ability to participate in self-directed learning. Many researchers have measure student readiness in

online learning through the creation of a number of online student readiness instruments where student readiness has been examined over the years through a variety of constructs.

Methodology

This paper will generally identify students readiness based on the internet access at their place, internet access facilities such as data plan limits, devices used for online learning and limitations during online learning. An online survey has been done using google form and has been distributed to all students from UiTM Cawangan Pulau Pinang who are at their homeplace during early of the MCO period. Around 2778 students responded to the survey.

Results and Discussions

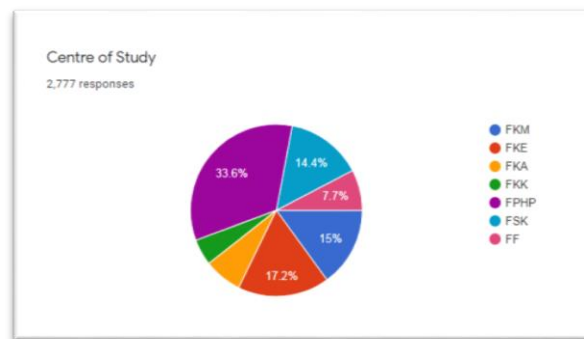Figure 1 shows the number of respondents based on their center of study.

Figure 1: Number of respondents based on center of study

During the MCO period, most of the students are at their homeplace, thus it is very important to know the Internet access availability at their place. Figure 2 shows most of the students do have Internet access at their homeplace.
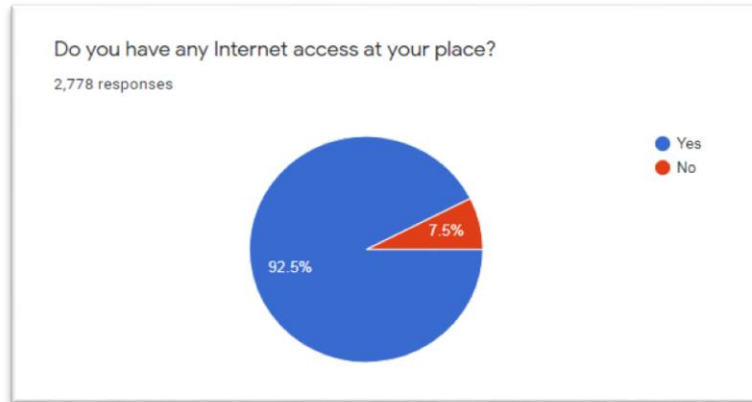
Figure 2: Number of respondents based on center of study

Internet can be accessed using many facilities such as broadband, prepaid phone card, public hotspot, home internet and mobile hotspot. Figure 3 shows the Internet Access Facilities used by the respondents at their homeplace. Since the respondents are students, most of them used prepaid phone card and mobile hotspot to access internet at their homeplace.

Figure 3: Internet Access Facilities used by respondents at their homeplace

Internet data plan limit is also very important to make sure that the respondents will get long time access with the internet connections. Figure 4 shows the data plan limits for each respondent internet access facilities. It shows that around 27.5% respondents have unlimited data plan which can really help them to access all the materials online without any problems.
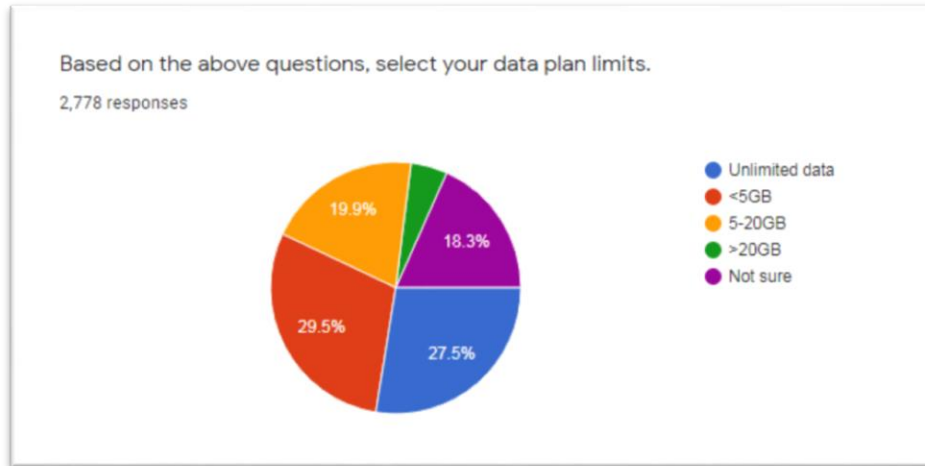
Figure 4: Data plan limits based on Internet Access Facilities

Even though most of the respondents may not have problems with the Internet access, they may not ready with the 100 percent online teaching and learning. Figure 5 shows the respondents readiness for online teaching and learning. Around 52.1% respondents are ready for online teaching and learning while 47.9% respondents may not be ready for it. This is because most of the students are used with the face-to-face learning instead of 100 percent online teaching and learning which may be something new to them.
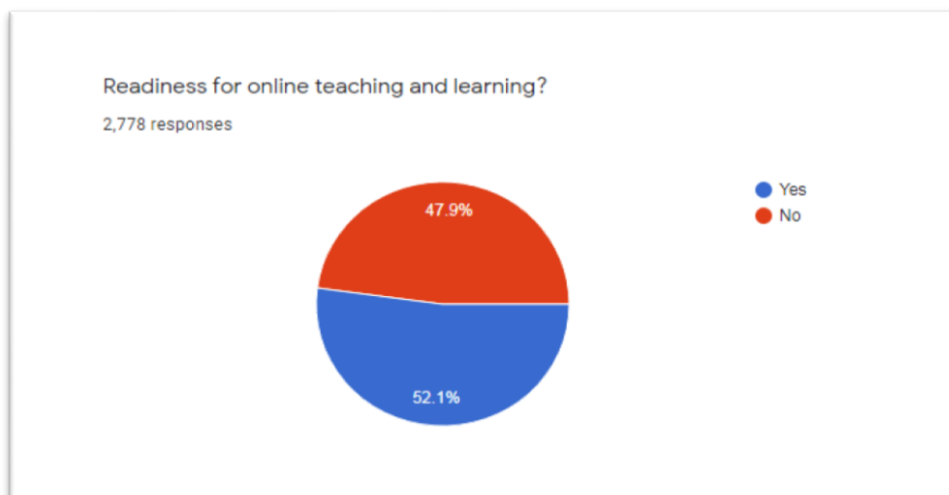

Figure 5: Respondents readiness for online teaching and learning

Technology devices are very important in order to implement online teaching and learning. Figure 6 shows whether the respondents have any technology devices such as computer or other devices which they can used in online learning. It shows that 87% of the students do have technology devices to be used in online learning.
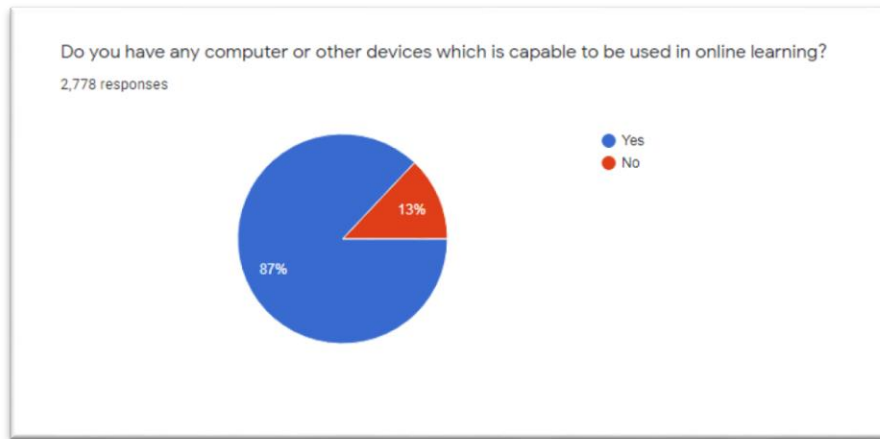

Figure 6: Computer or other devices used in online learning

Many types of technology devices can be used for online teaching and learning. Figure 7 shows the technology devices that can be used by the students for online teaching and learning such as laptop, desktop, tablet and smartphone. Most of the respondents used more than one devices for online teaching and learning and the most popular devices are laptop and smartphone. Smartphone may be the easiest and convenient way for online teaching and learning since it is mobile and we can bring it anywhere we go.
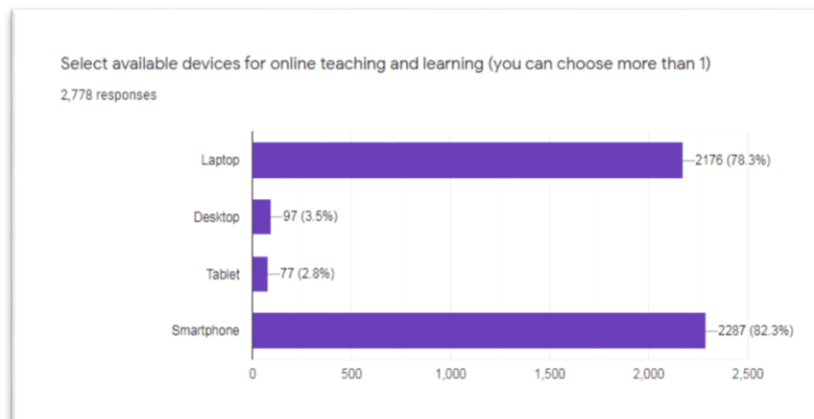

Figure 7: Computer or other devices used in online learning

With all the technology devices and internet facilities, these do not mean that the students will not have problem with online teaching and learning. Thus, figure 8 shows the limitations of the respondents when accessing online information. It shows that even though the students do not have problem with internet facilities and technology devices, most of them still have problem when accessing the internet. The main problem here may be because the speed limit.
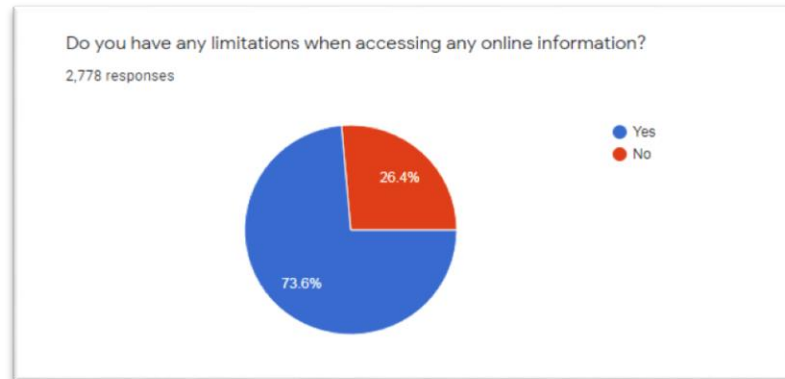

Figure 8: Limitations when accessing online information

Conclusion

Online teaching and learning can be a widely used technology nowadays especially during the COVID-19 pendemic. Instead of going to class and learning face-to-face, online teaching and learning can be an effective way of delivering knowledge to the students. With all the technologies available, most of the students may not have problems with online teaching and learning. However, it is very important to understand not just on the students' readiness but also from the educators part before online teaching and learning can be fully implemented in any schools or higher institution. This is because online teaching and learning do not only depends on the internet access facilities and technology devices but also on the internet speed, online materials preparation and how to deliver assessment to the students in the most efficient way.

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