

STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS USABILITY

AN EMPIRICAL STUDY OF THE STATE UNIVERSITIES IN SRI LANKA

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Abstract

Learning Management Systems (LMS) have become one of the revolutionary factor of all State Universities in Sri Lanka. Use is of the essence in LMSs and capturing what perceptions of students will make the system more usable will make system healthier and more acceptable. Understanding the underlying factors of LMS usability from students' perspective will make all other stakeholders to plan, develop and utilize the system to triumph the student needs within the academic environment. Students who get a Learning Management System with what they want, will make them accept, use and retain with the Learning Management System.

Keywords

Learning Management Systems, Students' Perceptions, Usability, State Universities of Sri Lanka.

This research study is conducted to identify the Students' perceptions which lead to LMS usability. Being a conclusive explanatory research, the study took an empirical form and focused on the State Universities in Sri Lanka. By theoretical analysis it was proven that there are three key areas affect the student usability over LMS. Building a conceptual framework on it, the Author has developed hypotheses to prove the relationship of the captioned variables on usability. They are namely Learnability, Satisfaction and Efficiency.

By using a student sample of 665 students from all state universities in cohort based analysis, Author managed to get survey on experimental data collection. To prove the relationship of the hypothesis more vibrantly, Author has selected another set of 30 students with Interview based exploratory information collection. Further 10 randomly selected university LMSs were evaluated with Heuristic rate based analysis by author and discussed

with focus group comprise with respective domain experts to provide a report on average readiness of LMSs in parallel with student usability Factors.

Author with his research findings and analysis, managed to prove all the hypotheses, found the answers for all the research questions and also managed to meet all the specific research objectives Finally Author highlights the most promising factors of the usability of LMSs from Students' perceptions which are the Learnability, satisfaction and efficiency. Some recommendations to stakeholder of the LMS were given in general, based on the generic findings of research study.