Proposing Mobile App Design for the Online Teaching-Learning in Sri Lankan Schools

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Abstract. Distance learning is something familiar nowadays. In the past few years with the COVID-19 pandemic, every industry faced the risk of being unable to continue their usual processes. The education industry needed an alternative solution to keep moving without failure. Hence, distance learning was proposed to be the best solution but as it's relatively new in Sri Lankan schools the main issue with normal distance learning is the students' interactivity with lessons. To improve students' interactivity through technological advancements, Sri Lankan schools need to deploy innovative teaching-learning methods including games, video conferencing, chatting, sharing multimedia aids for teaching-learning with an activity-based platform. Fulfilling the main objective of this research the importance and issues with using existing applications or virtual platforms for Sri Lankan schools were analysed and proposes an alternative solution with an effective mobile app. This research focused on collecting data to analyse users' awareness of using existing virtual platforms, issues of the existing applications, requirements and suggestions of the students and teachers to design a new mobile app design for Sri Lankan schools through conduction of questionnaire surveys and conducting online interviews with both the teachers and students. This research paper further reveals several key negative aspects of the existing online teaching-learning process in Sri Lankan schools and also proposes a new mobile app design with some attractive, unique, changeable, and active techniques that can effectively be utilized in Sri Lankan schools. The main two Distance Learning methods: Online Video Conferencing and Sharing Learning Material was considered in this survey. The results reveal that the online teaching-learning techniques do not yield the same results as traditional teaching-learning methods, using more activities and online games to get the active participation of the students is the best suggestion to effectively enhance the online teaching-learning process. Highlighting that still the, online teaching-learning methods in Sri Lankan schools are not as effective as Traditional teaching and learning. So this research paper reveals that there should be an alternative solution so proposes an activity-based mobile app design with many more features that effectively benefit the education system in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: Distance Learning, Sri Lankan Schools, Activity-Based Platform, Mobile App Design

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