LIGHTHOUSE

University students' perception of online learning: A case study of Virtual Class learning management system in the University of Lampung

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ABSTRACT

The use of online media to facilitate distant learning during the pandemic has become one of the solutions that can be implemented to support the government's policy of reducing crowds in public spaces. In this case, students at the University of Lampung's Faculty of Teacher Training and Education benefit from an online management system called Virtual Class Unila. This platform is intended for students to use to access resources, download learning modules, and participate in classroom discussions. The Virtual Class was created to assist students with distance learning. However, since the initial implementation of Virtual Class at the start of the pandemic in early 2020, both positive and negative perceptions about its use have emerged. As a result, we were encouraged to ascertain diverse perceptions regarding the use of this sophisticated learning management system among students at the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, University of Lampung. This study employed a quantitative approach, collecting data via a scaled survey questionnaire. The target participants were 272 students from various departments who were asked to complete a survey regarding their perceptions of the implementation of Virtual Class. The findings of this study are expected to be beneficial for the future maintenance and development of Virtual Class, as well as for determining the optimal method of conducting online learning.

Introduction

Since the past two years, varied online learning management systems have been widely used due to the policy of distant learning during pandemic situation. The conventional face to face classrooms has turned into video conference sessions, and asynchronous discussions in group messengers. More than that, the submission of assignments, projects, and tasks has been heavily digitalized. All of the processes in transforming the traditional teaching and learning way into such sophisticated online learning situation have forced the teachers, lecturers, and all educators to optimize the use of the Internet, especially the online learning management system to support their primary duty in implementing teaching and learning process. (Adzharuddin & Ling, 2013) found that university students during the early development of Learning Management System (LMS) viewed LMS as something that was very essential in supporting the process of learning especially to provide more chances to conduct distant learning.

Regarding the current situation due to pandemic, implementing distant learning through several platforms, especially LMS, in the internet has become common practice around the world. Therefore, during this pandemic situation within the last two years, the University of Lampung has optimized the use of their online learning management system known as Virtual Class Unila. The learning management system (LMS) was created and firstly implemented in 2016. During its active implementation, especially during the pandemic situation since 2020, several upgrades and maintenances have been carried out to improve the efficacy of the system and features within the platform. The improvement of Virtual Class Unila has reached a new level which allows the students and lecturers to use Google Meet and HTML5 as integrated platforms within the LMS. Thus, such a significant upgrade