

Malaysian undergraduate science physics students' and pre-service science teachers' perceptions of online learning

Abstract

This paper reports the results of a study concerning of Malaysian undergraduate science physics students' and pre-service science teachers' perceptions of learning through online learning. Specifically, it required to ascertain whether students had positive perceptions of the new teaching and learning medium. 102 students were involved in this study which consists of 61 students from the School of Science and Technology (SST, science student) and 41 students from the School of Education and Social Development (SESD, pre-service science teachers). Both programmes were from University Malaysia Sabah. The students then followed all learning activities for sixteen weeks through online. The online learning environment (i.e., learning management system, LMS) was used as the main medium to carry the full learning process throughout the second semester of 2008/2009 academic year. Data were gathered from an established open-ended questionnaire that administered after they completed with the learning activities at the end of the semester. Students' perceptions after experiencing the online learning were analysed into three main themes: students' readiness for online learning; motivation affects of online learning; and understanding of learning contents. Generally, though the results yields that students perception were vary but it has shown clearly that students welcome the online learning very well.