

The use of video learning resources for educational purposes: A mini survey study exploring the attitudes of Performing Arts undergraduates

Samarasinghe, I.A.K.C

University of the Visual & Performing Arts, Colombo, Sri Lanka

kamani@vpa.ac.lk

Abstract

In classical classroom settings face-to-face teaching and demonstration is a very common practice in many disciplines including that of Dance. Recently, the Centre for Open and Distance Learning (CODL) at the University of the Visual & Performing Arts started an external degree program that offers Bachelor of Performing Arts degrees in dance. Students are taught the fundamentals of this subject through the face-to-face mode of teaching while additional learning resources are made available to them through the use of a Learning management System (LMS). A collection of teaching materials consisting of practical lessons in their chosen genre of Dance forms are provided in both audio and video formats. However, as far as the researcher is aware, there has been no research conducted in order to evaluate the efficacy of the use of technology for learning purposes in this particular subject area and very little analysis of the students attitudes towards the teaching and learning of traditional Sri Lankan dances through e-learning in Sri Lanka. Hence, this research aims to fulfill this information gap. Objectives of this study were to evaluate the effect of the use of instructional video learning material regarding the practical aspects of these dance forms and gauge the students' willingness to practice dance items outside the class room (effective use of notional hours). It also aims to investigate students' perceptions regarding the use of video learning materials in distance learning education. Data for this study was obtained from a questionnaire and data was collected from second year undergraduates in 2015. Simple random sampling method was used as the sampling technique to select students and the sample size was 100. The Likert scale with scores ranging from 1 to 5 was used to measure each question. The data were analyzed by using the statistical package SPSS and a statistical analysis was conducted to tabulate the data. The research explored student's attitudes towards the use of video learning materials in an online platform and how it has contributed to their learning experiences. The findings revealed that 84.5% of the students think this method was an effective way of learning the practical aspects of the dance forms they studied. The high user rate suggests that students broadly accept and use video learning material as a form of instruction and as a supplementary material that can be adapted for study purposes outside the traditional classroom setup.

Keywords: Dance, Learning Material, LMS