ICT LITERACY AMONG UNDERGRADUATES IN UNIVERSITY OF VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS: CASE OF FACULTY OF MUSIC

Samarasinghe, I.A.K.C

Senior Lecturer,

Information Technology Unit,

University of the Visual & Performing Arts, Sri Lanka

kamani@vpa.ac.lk

Abstract:

Most of the people believe that new generations of students in Sri Lanka are internet and technology-savvy since these students grew up in an ICT enabled world. Computer Science is a key subject in the school curriculum. Some schools in Sri Lanka starting to teach ICT from primary grades. The methodology involved in this case is a quantitative analysis and the data has been collected through online questionnaire from 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17 academic years from Faculty of Music students. The study data comprised 180 students from 2014/15 academic year, 98 students from 2015/16 academic year and 167 students from 2016/17 academic year. The information collected had been processed consistent with the requirements to gain insight on the computer awareness and literacy level of the students. The study indicates that majority of the freshmen are computer literate when they enter to the university. But, there are few students with lower ICT skills too. Therefore, to make sure all the students gain a basic knowledge of ICT and get them to a similar level of computer knowledge, it is recommended to keep Introduction to Computer course as a compulsory one. Though majority of the students are familiar with computer, most of them have utilized computer for internet surfing and email communication. The knowledge on word processing and spread sheets are lower within the students. The study relives that the computer literacy among students are gradually increasing. Which is a positive change among students. Technology has the ability to enhance relationships between teachers and students. It helps make teaching and learning more meaningful and fun. Since most of the students are computer literate in new batches, in future teachers can effectively integrate technology into subject areas which will have a great positive impact on students learning.

Keywords: Computer, ICT literacy, university freshmen, UVPA