

Creative use of technology to enhance student-centred learning

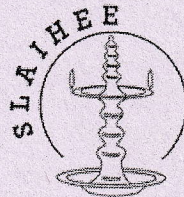
**Conference on Higher Education
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University of Colombo

Effectiveness of Different Teaching and Learning Activities to Overcome the Problems Encountered in Large Classes: Towards Student-Centred Learning

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This study was based on Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) derived from Bloom's Taxonomy was employed to overcome problems encountered in a large class teaching. Research objective was to assess effectiveness of selected teaching and learning activities in achieving ILOs. To achieve different ILOs, different teaching and learning activities employed such as short classroom tests, group work, case study presentations, open discussions and questions and group report writing project.

The study was conducted in two sessions in a large class of 100 third year undergraduates following Management Information Systems (MIS) of Faculty of Management and Finance, University of Colombo. The data collected from students' feedback, peer feedback and researcher's observations were analyzed. Further, a comparative feedback analysis was conducted to assess the improvement after the intervention.

The results revealed that 90% of students were engaged in active and student-centred learning. In the comparative feedback analysis, based on student feedback questionnaire, the improvement identified by comparing the increased average values for feedback questions from current batch of 78 MIS of students (when the researcher was following CTHE) with the student feedback received from researcher's previous batch of 78 students (before the CTHE). Students stated short tests during the class discussion were very useful and they were able to retain their attention in each class-room discussion. The researcher observed how these short tests helped enhance performance through increased marks. Students have stated that group work were very useful which helped them to apply what they learnt into new scenarios and by working together they were able to learn through feedback in making decisions, solving problems and formulating questions.

All the methods adapted in large class teaching had helped students to identify where they stand, see the big picture and solve problems.