

The effectiveness of resource-based learning among Bachelor of Education students at the University of Colombo

R. P. P. Ranaweera, U. P. Alahakoon

National Institute of Library and Information Sciences (NILIS), University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Resource-Based Learning (RBL) is highlighted as an effective strategy for developing higher-order skills, moving beyond textbooks to include varied sources in their learning. Rooted in a shift from traditional teacher-centered methods to student-centered approaches, RBL utilizes diverse resources - printed, digital, audio-visual, and community-based - to promote active learning and independent knowledge construction. Resource persons from the National Institute of Library and Information Sciences taught the Library and Information Management module offered in the 4th year of the Bachelor of Education programme of the Faculty of Education, University of Colombo, during 2024/2025 applying RBL methods using the NILIS library, and other audio-visual resources. At the end of the programme, an assignment was given. Students were asked to write a reflective journal of their experience in learning the module. Using a qualitative design, this study analyzes all the journals (total of 95) submitted by Sinhala and English medium students of the programme. The content analysis revealed that 92% of students believed RBL would significantly benefit their future careers as teachers, while 85% demonstrated a practical understanding of the teacher's role as a facilitator. Additionally, 74% suggested introducing the module in the first year to enhance learning outcomes, and 80% reported a greater appreciation for the school library's role in teaching and learning. Students described the experience as enjoyable and transformative, largely due to its departure from traditional lecture-based formats. The findings highlight RBL's potential to foster self-directed learning, critical thinking, and the effective use of diverse educational resources. It is recommended that RBL be embedded in the first-year curriculum to strengthen the use of library resources and community-based learning opportunities in teacher education.

Keywords: *Resource-based learning, Student-centered learning, Teacher education, Higher education*