

NURSING SCIENCE STUDY PROGRAM STUDENTS' PERCEPTION TOWARD THE USE OF EDMODO AS SUPPLEMENTARY TOOL IN LEARNING ENGLISH II AT STIK BINA HUSADA PALEMBANG 2019/2020

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Abstract: Due to the rapid advancement of technology, teachers are expected to integrate technology into the classroom to engage students who are considered as digital-natives. Thus, Edmodo as online learning platform is widely used by English teachers in teaching and learning. The online learning platforms are also used as a supplementary tool to promote independent learning. Edmodo is primarily a tool for within-class communication which provides several ways for teachers to connect with other teachers. This research focused on students' perspective of the use of Edmodo as a supplementary tool in learning English. The researcher used triangulation approach in gathering data and survey questionnaire adapted from Enriquez (2014) used as the main research instrument. Forty four students joined the Edmodo class and filled the questionnaire completely. The results showed on the statement regarding the usefulness of reference materials posted by the teacher in Edmodo, a significant number 66.8% agree and 33.20% strongly agree or considered the reference materials as vital in understanding the course better. Participants also perceived that Edmodo is a good learning tool to supplement face to face discussion. One disadvantage in using Edmodo as perceived by 19.4% of the participants is the difficult procedure to understand and to follow for them. Overall, the findings affirmed that majority of the participants considered it as an effective supplementary tool in learning English.

Keywords: edmodo, supplementary tool, English perception

INTRODUCTION

The era of the 21st century has been marked by rapid changes in several areas such as global economy, technology, culture, society, as well as education. The terms "21st century education," "21st century learning," and "21st century skills" are widely known these days. Teachers and schools face

big challenges in teaching their students to live and survive in the current era. Therefore, teachers have to help students to master 21st century skills so that they can deal with the challenges of 21st century. In addition, some frameworks have been proposed by education experts related to 21st century

education and learning. Generally, the frameworks focus on certain core competencies including collaboration, critical thinking, technology and digital literacy, and problem solving. In short, teachers should teach students the skills dealing with the challenges of 21st century that covers collaboration, critical thinking, technology and digital literacy, and problem solving as the main competencies.

The concept of 21st century education suggests teachers to develop their instruction to ensure their students meet the requirement of 21st century skills. The relevant knowledge are expected to establish students' skills for competitive career and good life, skills for lifelong learning and creative innovation, and skills for literacy, information, media, and technology (Suherdi, 2012). In other words, teachers should master the knowledge which is suitable for the students in

order to have competitive career, skills for lifelong learning, innovation, skills for literacy, information, media, and technology.

The integration of information, communication, and technologies can help revitalize teachers and students. This can help to improve and develop the quality of education by providing curricular support in difficult subject areas. To achieve these objectives, teachers need to be involved in collaborative projects and development of intervention change strategies, which includes teaching partnerships with ICT as a tool. According to Zhao and Czikowski (2001), there are three conditions which are necessary for teachers to introduce ICT into their classrooms, namely teachers should believe in the effectiveness of technology, teachers should believe that the use of technology will not cause any disturbances, and finally teachers

should believe that they have control over technology. However, research studies show that most teachers do not make use of the potential of ICT to contribute to the quality of learning environments although they value this potential quite significantly (Smeets, 2005). ICT is a valuable tool to enhance teaching and learning. For teachers, ICT is a professional resource, a mode of classroom delivery, and a source of valid and valuable text types. For students, ICT provides opportunities to communicate more effectively and to develop literacy skills including skills in critical literacy. It is a valuable tool for researching, composing and responding, and viewing and representing in English. It can be stated that the use of ICT in the teaching and learning process is beneficial so as to develop literacy skills.

One of the most vital contributions of ICT in the field of

education is-Easy Access to Learning. With the help of ICT, students can now browse through e-books, sample examination papers, previous year papers and so on, and can also have an easy access to resource persons, mentors, experts, researchers, professionals, and peers-all over the world.

Moreover, on-line social networks are the excellent communication tool for knowledge construction based on social relations, conversation, collaboration, and shared work. Miller (2011) explains one of the benefits of virtual communities that these communities can compensate for the lack of community in the real world. Therefore, students who are shy and do not participate in class can communicate with their teachers and classmates in the Internet-based communities. Accordingly, effective teachers should become network

administrators to find out what social networking sites students like to use and introduce them to have free learning opportunities through helpful sites.

One of this model, is Edmodo, it is an educational website that takes the ideas of a social network and refines them and makes it appropriate for a classroom. This site looks similar to Facebook, but is much more private and safe because it allows only teachers to create and manage accounts, and only their students, who receive a group code and register in the group, can access and join the group. Using Edmodo, students and teachers can reach out to one another and connect by sharing ideas, problems, and helpful tips. A teacher can assign and grade work on Edmodo; students can get help from the entire class on Edmodo. It is a safe environment. All in all Edmodo is a great companion to just about any class. In survey conducted by Hart (2013), it

was found that Edmodo was ranked as one of the top learning tools in the internet by five hundred plus professionals from 45 countries worldwide. See figure 1.

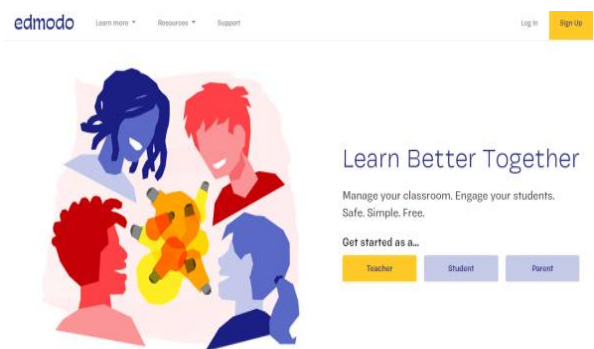


Figure 1. Edmodo Account

Edmodo is a unique social network designed especially for learning communities. Edmodo shares with Facebook a genius mission of humanizing and personalizing the vast resources of the internet, offering each of us our own accessible and organized unique portals for discovering information. It provides students a safe, protected educational experience, a place to safely practice the digital-age social networking and learning skills

they will need in their increasingly connected personal, academic, and later professional lives.

Technology has become a constructive tool that plays a substantial role in enhancing the educational practices of teachers and their students. It has crossed the traditional classroom walls to virtually involve the students in various tasks and interactions within digital communities. This part of the literature draws briefly on course management systems (CMS), social networks and mobile applications as they are among the most popular and commonly used technological tools in the field of education.

A course management system (CMS) is a framework with a set of tools which allows the creation of online courses (Meerts, 2003). Higher education institutions, usually adopt a course management systems to support the traditional teaching, especially at

STIK Bina Husada Palembang. Social networking is a service that enables users to interact with each other, share information and construct an active continuous virtual community through the creation of system profiles and online groups (Brooke, 2013) Further, Al-Ruheili and Al-Saidi (2015) state that learning and construction knowledge occur by engaging in social interactions and discussions.

Whether the teacher introduces Edmodo to one classroom or to an entire extended community of learners, it is helpful not only to know and understand the benefits of its use, but also to communicate those benefits to each user in your community, including students, administrators, parents, and fellow teachers. Here, the important advantages of using the Edmodo platform.

1. Privacy: A Safe Space for Digital Learning

No data within the groups created inside of Edmodo are searchable from the general internet. Also, no personal information is required from any student. Teachers have complete control over what happens in their digital learning environment.

2. Empowerment: My Own Personalized Internet

The magnitude of the internet can be overwhelming, particularly for young learners. Edmodo invites a focused and personalized experience by attempting to make itself a one-stop point of contact for students' and teachers' interactions with the internet.

3. Collaboration: Space to Share Ideas and Work Together

Edmodo offers numerous ways for students to develop collaborative skills. Foreexample, teachers can empower students to have their own student-led collaborative reading groups. Each student has clearly defined

alternating roles within the group, giving and responding to prompts that help them understand and interpret the assigned reading (ISTE, 2015).

Since Edmodo has been recently implemented as a supplementary tool in EFL classes in educational contexts, a number of studies have measured the effectiveness from students' perspective.

Al-Said (2015) indicates that Edmodo as a mobile phone application contributed in increasing effective communication and engagement between the students and their teachers at the right time. These findings were driven from a questionnaire completed by 27 university students who experienced using Edmodo application during the whole semester.

Enriques (2014) in his study affirmed that majority of participants considered Edmodo as an effective supplementary tool for their learning.

His research focuses on the effectiveness from students' perspective of the use of Edmodo as a supplementary tool for learning social science courses. Data were collected with a mixed methods research paradigm, 200 college students responded to a questionnaire intended to analyze their perceptions regarding the main research inquiries of the study

It is interesting to note how students perceived virtual learning environments when it comes to their comprehension, retention and learning motivation on their English learning. It is also vital to know the advantages and disadvantages of using Edmodo.

METHODOLOGY

The researcher used triangulation approach in gathering data of the research. The purpose of triangulation is not necessarily to cross-validate data but rather to capture different

dimensions of the same phenomenon. Survey questionnaire adapted from Enriquez (2014) was used as the main research instrument of the research. The participants were the students of STIK Bina Husada in academic year 2019/2020, majoring Nursing Science Study Program who were taking English 2 subject. All of these students have Edmodo accounts because one major requirement for this class is to answer online quizzes, assignments and discussions. There are 9 male students and 35 female students. The students are in the 3th semester.

The aims of this study are to know the participants' perceptions about the use of Edmodo as supplementary tool for learning English; to know their perceptions regarding the advantages and disadvantages in using the said learning environment; and to reveal participants' views on utilizing Edmodo as a classroom collaboration tool. The

research of this study were investigated the following research questions:

1. Based on the perceptions of the participants, is Edmodo an effective supplementary tool for learning English?
2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of using Edmodo as supplementary tool for learning?

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Students' perceptions about the effectiveness of Edmodo as a supplementary tool for learning English was shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1
Students' Perceptions about the Effectiveness of Edmodo as a Supplementary Tool for Learning English

Statements	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Assignment, quizzes and other online tasks given by the teacher in Edmodo help me to improve my learning and comprehension skills about the course.	0%	0%	0%	66.80%	33.20%
The quality of my work in online activities (e.g. online discussions, quizzes and other activities) in Edmodo significantly improved because of the feedbacks coming from my classmates and teacher.	0%	0%	23%	52%	25%
The reference materials (e.g. internet articles, online videos, power point files, etc) posted by my teacher are useful in understanding the contents/topics of the course better.	0%	0%	9.14%	43.40%	47.40%
The use of Edmodo is a good learning tool to supplement face to face discussions in class.	0%	3.57%	0	50%	46.40%

Based on Table 1, 66.80% agree and 33.20% strongly agree that the online activities in Edmodo help them in improving their learning and comprehension about English. There were no participants answered strongly disagree, disagree and neutral. It shows that majority of the participants perceived that assignment, quizzes and other online tasks in Edmodo as an essential educational tool in improving their learning and comprehension skills.

When it comes to the impact of feedback coming from the classmates and teacher, 23% of the participants answered neutral, 5% agree and 25% strongly agree about the impact of the feedback on the improvement of their works.

On the statement regarding the usefulness of reference materials posted by the teacher in Edmodo, a significant number 43.40% agree and 47.40% strongly agree or considered the reference materials as vital in understanding the course better. Participants also perceived

that Edmodo is a good learning tool to supplement face to face discussion. The positive responses among the participants on the last two statements clearly supported the notion that Edmodo is a good educational tool especially on easy access of reference materials posted by the teacher and other teacher around the world.

Students' perceptions about the advantages of the use of Edmodo as a supplementary tool for learning was shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2
Students' Perceptions about the Advantages of the Use of Edmodo as a Supplementary Tool for Learning

Statements	Strongly Disagree	Dis-agree	Neu-tral	Ag-ree	Strong-ly Agree
Edmodo allows me to easily interact/participate with my classmates and teacher about assignments, group tasks and other course activities.	0%	3.57%	0%	65.80%	30.60%
Edmodo is convenient to use especially in submitting assignments, taking online quizzes and doing other course activities.	0%	3.57%	6.11%	59%	31.30%
Edmodo allows me to easily access reference materials on the course provided by the teacher.	0%	0%	2%	76.60%	21.40%

Online activities and discussions in Edmodo motivate me to learn more about the course.	0	3.57 %	3.57 %	57.10 %	35.10%
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Based on table 2, in the first statement 65.8% of the participants agree and 30.60% strongly agree where Edmodo allows the participant to easily interact/participate with my classmates and teacher about assignments, group tasks and other course activities, only 3.57% of the participants in disagree answer.

The highest percentage points given by the participants (59%) is the fact that Edmodo is convenient to use in submitting assignments, taking online quizzes, etc. the next highest percentage 76.60% is regarding easiness in accessing the reference materials on the course provided by the teacher.

On the question whether online activities in Edmodo motivated the participants to learn English, 57.10% affirmed that the activities allowed them to be motivated in studying English.

Based on these results, majority of the participants answered strongly agree and agree that Edmodo as great platform as supplementary tool for learning English because its features and benefits such as active participation in online class activities, encourage a peer learning and peer support environment both in the classroom and online and provide simple ways to share files and communicate online.

The features of Edmodo such as online discussions and chatting that can create a friendly stress-free learning atmosphere, because most of the students do not feel afraid of making mistakes, in group tasks, all the students are unity in sharing knowledge. It can be said that Edmodo is an appropriate educational tool for shy students to express and share their interest. Further, this tool can build and strengthen the relationships between the group members including the teacher.

Students' perceptions about the disadvantages of the use of Edmodo as a

supplementary tool for learning English was shown in the Table 3 below.

Table 3
Students Perceptions about the Disadvantages of the Use of Edmodo as a Supplementary Tool for Learning English

Statements	Strongly Disagree	Dis-agr ee	Neu- tral	Ag- ree	Strongly Agree
Online activities such as quizzes, assignments and discussions in Edmodo are time consuming on the part of the students.	6.14%	6.10 %	35.70%	34.14 %	17.92%
Students with no access on the internet could be left behind especially on the course activities and discussions in Edmodo	0%	0 %	34.60%	41.43 %	24%
Students can easily be able to share and access other students' files and answers. This could lead to ethical issues in cheating and copying of others' work	12.30%	18.20 %	15.90 %	25 %	28.60%
The procedure of Edmodo is difficult to understand and to follow for students	12.76%	35.70 %	25%	7.14 %	19.40%

Table 3 shows that 6.14% of the participants strongly disagree that activities conducted in the Edmodo consuming their time, and 35.70% or majority of the participants are in neutral perception. 34.14 % of the participants agree that the students who have no access on the internet could be left behind, it shows that not all the students have access

to the internet. This can be due to the fact that there is no available Wi-Fi for students; instead they have to use their own network data on their mobile phones.

Another downside of using Edmodo is students can easily be able to share and access other students' files and answers because it can easily be access in the said educational platform site. One disadvantage in using Edmodo as perceived by 19.40% of the participants is the difficult procedure to understand and to follow for them. This barrier is facing a difficulty in understanding and following the procedure of Edmodo, especially on how to send message to the teacher

CONCLUSION

The development of ICT has important role in many sectors especially in education sector. ICT in teaching and learning is rapidly becoming one of the most important discussed issue in contemporary educational policy. Today's

technologies are the essential tools for teaching and learning .

When teachers deliver the material to the students they can use ICT as powerful and exciting material in teaching and learning process such as computers and internet. There are many educational activities that can be done in virtual learning environments such as online assignments, discussions and other tasks, Edmodo is one of them, it is a unique social network designed especially for learning communities. It shares with Facebook a genius mission of humanizing and personalizing the vast resources of the internet, offering each of us our own accessible and organized unique portals.

This research paper has explored the effectiveness of using Edmodo as a supplementary tool in learning English based on the students' perceptions at STIK Bina Husada Palembang. Generally the findings of the study are highly positive and they stress out that Edmodo has effectively enhanced and enriched their

learning experiences. It has assisted them to be more independent

Edmodo is a good supplementary tool for learning because it allows the students to improve their learning through an active participation in online discussions and tasks.

65.8% of the participants agreed that Edmodo allows them to easily interact/participate with their classmates and teacher about assignments, group tasks and other course activities. Further 34.14 % of them stated that online activities and discussions in Edmodo motivate them to learn more about the course.

As any technological tools, faces some challenges in implementing Edmodo as a complement to traditional EFL classes. Low internet speed and internet connection problems are challenges as highlighted by Al-Khatiri (2015) and Enriquez (2014). Therefore, it is recommended that free wi-fi service at college campus should be provided to the students.

However, there are also some disadvantages in using Edmodo, such as plagiarism matter, time consuming and difficulty in following the procedures in Edmodo. This will lead to establish valuable literature on this area so that collaborative improvement actions can take place when utilizing Edmodo by its stakeholders to purposefully achieve its educational target.

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