UNDERSTANDING PEDAGOGICAL APPROACHES OF UNIMAS MOOCS IN ENCOURAGING GLOBALISED LEARNING COMMUNITY

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ABSTRACT

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) have made learning opportunities in higher education possible for anyone. Universiti Malaysia Sarawak was amongst the first pioneers to conduct MOOC namely ICT Competencies. In September 2016, four MOOCs were launched which included Animal Physiology, English in Media, English for Self-Expression and Multimedia Technology and Design. 2017 marks the second year these four courses are offered. This study believes the importance of research and evaluation of courses that can provide information and details to further improve their delivery method. By focusing on ten pedagogical approaches taken by each MOOCs, the design patterns are illustrated. This study uses Assessing MOOC Pedagogy (AMP), an instrument developed to assess accredited MOOCs from the United States. Further analysis may assist in deeper understanding of design pattern towards MOOCs effectiveness and success rate.

Keywords: Massive Open Online Courses; MOOCs; Malaysia MOOCs; Online Pedagogy; MOOC Pedagogy; Assessing MOOC Pedagogy; AMP.

1. INTRODUCTION

The introduction of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) in 2008 have put higher education on the next level where learning in higher education is made possible regardless of geographical location and time through presence of internet and accessing devices. The term MOOCs was first coined in 2008 by Dave Cormier when describing an online course conducted by Stephen Downs and George Siemens with more than two thousand participants (Hegyesi & Kártyás, 2013; Mackness, Fai, John, & WIlliams, 2010). Four years later, Stanford Professor, Sebastian Thrun started a course Artificial Intelligence accepting 160 000 students (Kennedy, 2014; Pappano, 2012).

Malaysia has embarked on this journey by first launching four MOOCs in September 2014 and now offering more than 90 MOOCs via the OpenLearning platform. The MOOCs are designed and delivered by 20 public universities and a few private universities. UNIMAS was amongst the pioneers

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