



විශ්වවිද්‍යාල ප්‍රතිපාදන කොමිෂන් සභාව
பல்கலைக்கழக மானியங்கள் ஆணைக்குழு
UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

20, වෝඩ් පෙදෙස, කොළඹ 07, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව
20, வாட்டு இடம், கொழும்பு 7, இலங்கை.
20, Ward Place, Colombo 07, Sri Lanka

Senior Professor Sampath Amaratunge
Chairman

මගේ අංකය }
My Ref. }

UGC/CH/16/1/9

ඔබේ අංකය }
Your Ref. }

දිනය } 17th June 2020
Date }

Vice Chancellors of All Universities
Rectors of All Campuses
Directors of All Institutes

**Ref: Request for Cooperation –
Rapid Assessment on Online Learning in Tertiary Education**

In view of the significant potential impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on education, the Office of the President through the Presidential Taskforce on Sri-Lanka's Education Affairs has requested all higher education institutions to conduct a rapid assessment of online learning nationwide. This would be the basis for providing more context for specific support to continue tertiary education during this crisis. During the university closure, online learning is seen as one of the ways to continue tertiary education, but there are challenges on the ground.

I would like to seek your support in conducting a rapid assessment on remote learning in tertiary education. The survey is conducted through an online platform called *SurveyShare* with the support from Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The specific objectives of the rapid assessment are: (i) to assess the current utilization of online learning, and digital learning of faculty members and students of universities, particularly under COVID-19; (ii) understand the challenges faced by university administrations, their faculty members, and students in online learning; and, (iii) help define programme opportunities for scaling-up online learning.

RESPONDENTS

Three separate online surveys will be administered to three groups of respondents: students, faculty and university/HEI administration. The information is encrypted and will be kept strictly confidential, not be shared with any third party, and the analysis will be conducted in aggregate form and will not be used to identify specific individuals.

DEADLINE

We would like to collect as many completed surveys as possible through this online survey. The deadline for submission is 21 June 2020 (Sunday).

SURVEY DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE

There are two ways of inviting the respondents to participate in the survey: 1) through an email message from the Office of the Vice-Chancellor; and 2) for those with no email addresses, a survey access link provided below can be sent through a text message to the respondent using any social media app such as Messenger/Facebook, WhatsApp, or Viber or other social media.

In order to facilitate communications with each of the 3 groups of respondents, I am attaching drafts of email message for your consideration, addressed to three (3) separate groups: the students, the faculty, and the administration staff.

Student Survey: >>>> <http://www.surveyshare.com/s/AYAMK5D>

Respondents: All students

Faculty Member Survey: >>>> <http://www.surveyshare.com/s/AYAM24D>

Respondents: All Professors, Associate Professors, Lecturers, Assistant Lecturers and other Academic Staff

University/HEI Administration Survey: <http://www.surveyshare.com/s/AYAMK4D>

Respondents: Vice Chancellor, Rector, Directors, all Deans of Faculties, all Heads of Departments, Registrar

Your cooperation and understanding is highly appreciated.

PLEASE NOMINATE A FOCAL POINT FROM YOUR UNIVERSITY FOR THIS RAPID ASSESSMENT SURVEY.

Yours sincerely,



Senior Professor Sampath Amaratunge
Chairman
University Grants Commission

CC. Members, Presidential Taskforce on Sri-Lanka's Education Affairs
Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education, Technology and Innovations
Country Director, ADB Sri Lanka Resident Mission

Annex 1: STUDENT ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

Respondents: ALL Students: Through email attaching the Survey Access Link below

DRAFT EMAIL

To: Individual Student Email Addresses (For those with email addresses)

From: Vice-Chancellor/ Rector/ Director

Title: Online Survey: Rapid Assessment on Online Learning in Tertiary Education in Sri Lanka

In view of the large potential impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on university education, the Office of the President through the Presidential Taskforce on Sri-Lanka's Education Affairs has requested higher education institutions to conduct a rapid assessment of online learning nationwide.

The specific objectives of the rapid assessment are: (i) to assess the current utilization of online learning, and digital learning of faculty members and students of universities, particularly under COVID-19; (ii) to understand the challenges faced by university administrations, their faculty members, and students in online learning; and, (iii) to help define programme opportunities for scaling-up online learning.

I would like to seek your support and complete the ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE below that you can submit also online. The survey will take only 15 minutes. The survey information is encrypted, and will not be shared with any third party. The analysis will be conducted in aggregate form and will not be used to identify specific individuals.

Link to the STUDENT SURVEY

>>>> <http://www.surveymshare.com/s/AYAMK5D>

To begin the survey, just click on the above link, and this will direct you to the survey.

After completing the last question, you will be asked to click on "**Finish**" which will automatically submit the questionnaire

Annex 2: FACULTY MEMBER ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

RESPONDENTS: Send by email.

FACULTY MEMBERS: ALL Professors, Associate Professors, Senior Lecturer, Lecturer, Adjunct Faculty, Other Academic Staff

DRAFT EMAIL

To: Individual Faculty Member Email List

From: Vice-Chancellor/ Rector/ Director

Title: Online Survey: Rapid Assessment on Online Learning in Tertiary Education in Sri Lanka

In view of the large potential impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on university education, the Office of the President through the Presidential Taskforce on Sri-Lanka's Education Affairs has requested higher education institutions to conduct a rapid assessment of online learning nationwide.

The specific objectives of the rapid assessment are: (i) to assess the current utilization of online learning, and digital learning of faculty members and students of universities, particularly under COVID-19; (ii) to understand the challenges faced by university administrations, their faculty members, and students in online learning; and, (iii) to help define programme opportunities for scaling-up online learning.

I would like to seek your support and complete the ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE below that you can submit also online. The survey will take only 15 minutes. The survey information is encrypted, and will not be shared with any third party. The analysis will be conducted in aggregate form and will not be used to identify specific individuals.

Link to the FACULTY MEMBER SURVEY

>>>> <http://www.surveymshare.com/s/AYAM24D>

To begin the survey, just click on the above link, and this will direct you to the survey.

After completing the last question, you will be asked to click on "**Finish**" which will automatically submit the questionnaire

Annex 3: UNIVERSITY/ HEI ADMINISTRATION QUESTIONNAIRE

RESPONDENTS: By email

UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION: Vice-Chancellor, Rector, Directors, Deans of All Faculties, Heads of All Departments, and the Registrar

DRAFT EMAIL

To: Rector, Directors, Deans of All Faculties, Heads of All Departments, and the Registrar

From: The Vice-Chancellor

Title: Online Survey: Rapid Assessment on Online Learning in Tertiary Education in Sri-Lanka

In view of the large potential impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on university education, the Office of the President through the Presidential Taskforce on Sri-Lanka's Education Affairs has requested higher education institutions to conduct a rapid assessment of online learning nationwide.

The specific objectives of the rapid assessment are: (i) to assess the current utilization of online learning, and digital learning of faculty members and students of universities, particularly under COVID-19; (ii) to understand the challenges faced by university administrations, their faculty members, and students in online learning; and, (iii) to help define programme opportunities for scaling-up online learning.

I would like to seek your support and complete the ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE below that you can submit also online. The survey will take only 15 minutes. The survey information is encrypted, and will not be shared with any third party. The analysis will be conducted in aggregate form and will not be used to identify specific individuals.

Link to the ADMINISTRATION LEVEL SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

>>>> <http://www.surveymshare.com/s/AYAMK4D>

To begin the survey, just click on the above link, and this will direct you to the survey.

After completing the last question, you will be asked to click on "**Finish**" which will automatically submit the questionnaire