

Review of: "Instructional Immediacy and Online Course Satisfaction during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Malaysian Higher Education: Mediation Analysis of Perceived Learning"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This is a potentially relevant and interesting article, but is sadly a long way from being a finished piece of work. There are a range of things that need to be considered before the article could be considered to add value to this interesting and emerging field. I will try to expand further below.

1. As the pandemic has entered a different, almost accepted, stage, education has returned somewhat to how it was pre-2020, with much more face to face teaching. This however is not reflected within the article. The way tenses are used suggests we are still in the grip of the pandemic. I think an update, to include lessons learnt and how they are now being applied with regard to instructional immediacy would add very much to the paper.
2. The paper needs a few working definitions of the terms and framework used. Although there is an extensive literature review that goes into some details, the reader is left a little lost as to what working definition is being used and why in some cases. Without it, the first three sections (introduction, theoretical framework, literature review) have a feeling of being surface level.
3. The balance of the article does not feel right. I think that the first three sections could be put together into two, with a shortened introduction, a more in-depth (but shorter) literature review covering the theoretical framework, more concise methodology and results, leaving much more space for discussion. As it stands, the discussion is lightweight which is a shame.
4. The research is based on a private university in Malaysia with some PG students. This is very specialised and may skew the results that came out. Recognising this, I would include a limitations of the current study and highlight where additional work could be done. The obvious place is with UG students, or with different disciplines, or length of study period, to see if the results are level or discipline specific. This recognition would certainly add to this study.
5. As highlighted, much more is expected of the discussion. This is 1 page but is the most important part of the paper. I would like to see this developed much more and the literature related more to these findings. As it stands, it scratches the surface.

As highlighted, there is potentially a good paper hiding inside this article, but more is needed to bring it to the surface.