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 study explores a very important topic on the impact of the world-wide COVID-19 on education. The author provided a clear background description and literature review. However, the study suffers from the following drawbacks:

Methodologies

The authors were suggested to present how the questionnaire was designed and what items were included. For example, the authors modify the survey items used in the research of Kuo et al. (2009) and Hao (2004) to measure student satisfaction. But how is it modified? How many items are from each author and how the decision is made? The sample size of 30 for a pilot test might not be reliable.

The sampling procedure is confusing. The authors stated "A total of 261 questionnaires were gathered, however 113 of them were eliminated since they couldn't be analyzed. A sample of 374 postgraduate students from the private universities in Selangor, Malaysia was used." I don't understand how many samples were eventually analyzed.

Regarding the discussions, the authors provided more literature review that are not directly related to their results, especially when many of those studies are quite old (1999-2010). It would be better to move those literature to the review section and focused more on how their findings contribute to the current knowledge of this filed.

The authors stated "it is concluded that perceived learning is partially mediated between instructor immediacy behavior and course satisfaction. A significant relationship was explained by the direct impacts between the factors. Hence, the result demonstrated partial mediation. " But in the following sections, "partially" was removed.

The conclusion is also too general. Again, the authors were suggested to conclude and give suggestion based on their findings. It would really be helpful if all the items of the questionnaire were provided.