

Student-Centered Teaching Approach: Experiences from the Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kelaniya

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Abstract

This paper presents experiences on student-centred teaching approach in the department of Library and Information Science, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka. With the above objective case study method used for the study. Special students and diploma part 1 and 2 students purposively selected for the study. The study revealed that discussions, role plays, presentations, small group activities, library activities and blended learning tools are using student-centred teaching at the department.

Keywords: *Student-centred teaching, Lerner-centred teaching, Library and information science, Higher education*

Introduction

According to history, American educators used “-teacher-centred” and “student-centred” approaches to education in 1930 (Glossary of Education Reform, 2014). However, teacher-centred teaching style has been replaced by the learner-centred teaching style in higher education (McCombs, 1997 ; Weimer, 2002) during the last few decades.

Therefore, “teachers abandoned lecture notes and powerpoint presentations for a more active, engaging, collaborative style of teaching” in a student-centred classroom (Wohlfarth et.al, 2008, Cited by Ahmed,2013)”. In comparison to the world education system, the Sri Lankan higher education system slowly moving to student-centred teaching. As observed by the researcher, this situation is still happening in the higher education system in Sri Lanka.

Department of Library and Information Science

Department of Library and Information Science (DLIS) established as a professional body by the University of Kelaniya in 1973. Since then, the department is serving as a focal point of the Library and Information Science education in Sri Lanka. At present, the Department is conducting undergraduate (for internal and external students), postgraduate as well as external diplomas for the national and international students. Further, Bachelor of Arts (General and Special), Master of Arts, Master of Social Sciences, Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy degrees are offered by the Department. Moreover, the Diploma in Library and