

**FACTORS INFLUENCING THE ADOPTION OF E-
LEARNING PRACTICES IN SRI LANKAN
UNIVERSITIES**

By

J.K.A.M.Priyantha Perera

M.Sc.

2014

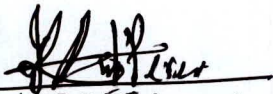
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A thesis submitted to the University of Sri Jayewardenepura
in partial fulfillment of the of the requirements for the degree
of Master of Science in Management

The work described in this thesis was carried out by me under the supervision of Dr. K .M. S .D. Kulathunga and a report on this has not been submitted in whole or in part to any university or any other institution for another Degree/ Diploma



J. K. A. M. Priyantha Perera

I certify that the above statement made by the candidate is true and that this thesis is suitable for submission to the University for the purpose of evaluation

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a circular initial followed by a series of wavy lines and a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Dr. K. M. S. D. Kulathunga

Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Project Supervisor

First of all I want to convey my sincere thanks for my Supervisor Dr. K. M. S. D. Kulathunga who provided the invaluable guidance in order to make my thesis a success. Furthermore, your patience on accepting my delays on the project schedule will be admirable.

University Staff

Secondly, I convey my gratitude & sincere thanks to Dr. P. D. Nimal, the coordinator MBA program, Prof Kennedy D. Gunawardana, one of the excellent lecturers and a counselor, who taught me the subject, Research Methodology and encouraged me on selecting the thesis on e-learning. I greatly appreciate all other lecturers and the non-academic staff of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura who took lot of pain to make my M.Sc. a success.

Further, I must convey my sincere thanks and gratitude to Dr. Gamunu Gurusinghe, Faculty of Engineering, University of Peradeniya, who lend his hands to me directly for data collection. I really appreciate the great contribution and support of students and staff of University of Peradeniya.

My Family

My sincere thanks & gratitude to my beloved wife & two sons for their invaluable contribution on make this program a success. They tolerate a lot when I miss my home responsibilities due to the heavy work load of this M.Sc. program.

Batch mates

This event wouldn't have possible without my batch mates. I will really appreciate your great contribution during the entire M.Sc. program.

GSL Staff

I would convey my sincere thanks to Mr. Suresan Arunachalam, Director Operations, Global Sports Lanka (Pvt) Ltd and his brilliant staff for the invaluable support extended to me.

IDM Staff

My heart full thank to Mr. Oswald R Lional, Director Gampaha region and all my colleagues for giving me the fullest corporation & support to make my M.Sc. a success.

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ABSTRACT

This is a part of M.Sc. (Management) research. The research project aims to explore and understand the factors influencing the use of e-learning practices in Sri Lankan Universities. E-Learning has become an increasingly popular methodology in higher education due to advances in the internet and multimedia technologies. The purpose of the study is to identify the individual factors influencing the use of eLearning in Sri Lankan Universities. Such factors are the Computer self-efficacy, Perceived ease of use, Perceived usefulness and the English language competency. Selected sample is the faculty of engineering, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. The results of the study indicate that the Computer Self Efficacy has no influence on the use of e-learning. The perceived ease of use has a significant influence on the use of e-learning. The perceived usefulness also has a significant influence on the use of e-learning. Further, the effect of English language competency on the use of e-learning is also significant.

The research model of factors has been developed based on the TAM and is modified to include English Language Competency in order to check whether there is a language barrier for e-learning in Sri Lanka.

CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the study

E-learning is an exceptional method of education today which uses electronic instructional content delivered over the internet and is a term which is synonymous with web-based or online learning (Trombely et.al., 2002, cited in Alenezi et.al., 2010). In this era, gaining the globalization knowledge has become significant in order to gain competitive advantage, and as such learning has become a vital element of knowledge acquisition, application and creation (Davis, et al, 1996 cited in Lee, 2006). The extensive use of Internet technologies and its applications provides unlimited opportunities for the delivery of education and training, and with rapidly increasing internet usage e-learning has now become a portable and flexible new method for learners to gain essential knowledge (Lee, 2006).

Students being given access to an e-learning system have now paved the way to interact with instructional materials in various formats (text, pictures, sound, video on demand, and so on) at any time and from any part of the world, as long as they can log on to the internet. Furthermore, given the functionality of message boards, instant message exchanges and video conferencing, they can even interact with teachers and class mates both individually and on group basis (Trombely et.al. 2002, cited in Lee, 2006,).