Students' perceptions on lecturer's characteristics in engineering faculty

Zaiton Abdul Mutalip[1], Hazli Rafis Abdul Rahim[1] and Kamarul Amir Mohamed.[2]

[1] Centre for Telecommunication Research & Innovation (CeTRI), Fakulti Kejuruteraan Elektronik & Kejuruteraan Komputer (FKEKK), Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka, Hang Tuah Jaya, 76100 Durian Tunggal, Melaka, Malaysia
[2] Faculty of Engineering Technology Mechanical & Manufacturing, Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka, Hang Tuah Jaya, 76100 Durian Tunggal, Melaka, Malaysia

*Corresponding e-mail: zaiton@utem.edu.my

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ABSTRACT – The academic performance of a students in higher institution is effected by several factors, includes effectiveness in teaching, subject matter, surroundings and facilities provided. The purpose of this paper is to examine students' perception on a criteria's that lecturers should have especially in an engineering faculty. A comprehensive survey with 380 respondents agreed that the lecturer should be the subject matter expert, knowledgeable, possess professional attitudes and considerable. Successful learning however requires effective performance by both students and lecturers.

1. INTRODUCTION

In the modest world of education these days, most institutions of higher learning (IHL) demand for effective teaching and learning to happen. Students expect for effective lecturers to raise their motivation in an academic and non-academic achievements. Thus, students' satisfaction has become an important criterion in IHL. As the country focused on education 4.0 and TVET, this has made the lecturers teaching skills and competency is essential in academia. In order to own a decent quality of teaching activity, research has showed that there is nothing important apart from the effective lecturers. Therefore, providing effective lecturers to students ought to be ultimate consideration in a IHL [1].

Students' evaluation of teaching performance is always being used as an important tool to measure the quality of teaching, in order to reflect on qualities associated with good teaching such as lecturers' knowledge, clarity, classroom management and course organization. Furthermore, feedback on teaching performance and student perceptions on lecturer's ability can help the lecturer to grow and develop professionally through self-reflecting on their practices. This is also significant to identify areas for improving the lecturer's performance and plan for relevant continuous professional development programmes [2]-[5]. [6] outlines five key features that 21st century academia should have according to the International society of Technology in Education. Previous studies have shown that as moving towards education 4.0, the usage of technology has helped students to improve their learning [7]-[9].

2. METHODOLOGY

A comprehensive online survey was done by 380 undergraduate's students of Faculty of Electronics Engineering and Computer Engineering, Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka. The respondents is as tabulated in Figure 1. Majority of the respondents (43.42 %) was a final year students from Bachelor of Electronics Engineering programme.
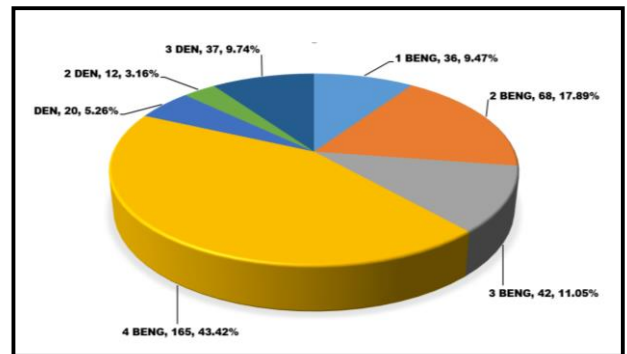

Figure 1 The respondents.

The 5-pont Likert scale survey covers two parts, which the criteria are described below.

2.1 Part 1: consists a set of questions which requires the student to rate the criteria/performance of a good lecturer should have, as the following:
a) Knowledgeable in his/her subject
b) Makes lesson interesting, explain difficult things clearly
c) Friendly, approachable and willing to listen
d) Respects me
e) Positive, enthusiastic and has a sense of humour
f) Understand and sporting
g) Encourages and help me to succeed
h) Celebrate my progress and achievements

2.2 Part 2: requires the student rank the most important criteria that a competent lecturer should have, based on the following criteria:
a) Professionalism
b) Dedication to teaching
c) Always prepared for class
d) Strong ethical values

e) Caring/understanding
f) Positive attitude
g) Engage students in class
h) Ability to relate well to students
i) Fairness in assessments
j) Fun/interesting
k) Enthusiasm
l) Well-dressed
m) Ability to use technology
n) Friendly
o) Charisma

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Students satisfaction is influenced by various factors. This study concentrated on the students' perceptions towards the important criterion that a lecturer should have and this indirectly will influence the performance of the students. Figure 2 and Figure 3 illustrates the findings of part 1. Majority of the respondents completely agree that a lecturer satisfy all the criteria's asked in the survey. The key criteria are the lecturer should be the subject matter expert, approachable and able to make lesson interesting. The students don't bother much on appreciate their achievement but do concern on lecturer respecting them.
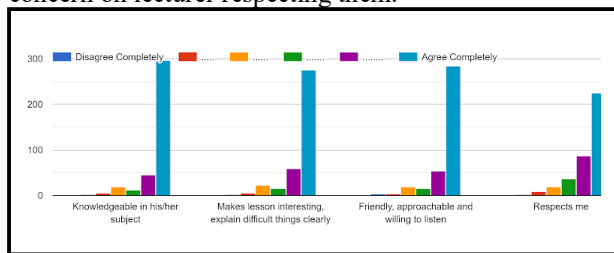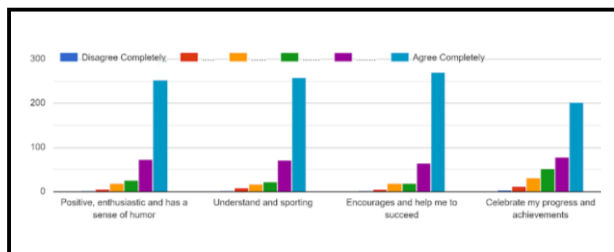

Figure 2 Part 1 findings (a).

Figure 3 Part 1 findings (b).

Findings of the second part of the survey, Figure 4, proves that dedication to teaching outmost the other criteria's, then comes professionalism, caring/understanding, positive attitudes and friendly. Lecturers personal appearance does not affect much on the performance and motivation of the student.
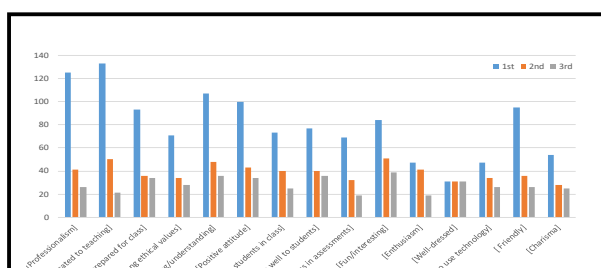

Figure 4 Part 2

4. CONCLUSIONS

In the era of education 4.0, TVET and online learning educators should able to adapt and change the way of teaching, as well as equipped themselves with advances in technology in order to develop their skills and competency. Other than a subject matter expert, students expect a professional commitment and positive attitude lecturers. In line with the above findings and conclusions, this study realizes that the relationship between teaching quality and student perception and expectation is hardly defined. However, the constructive alignment to serve quality of education should focus on teaching, competency, attitude, content as well as academic resources. The author however, note that this results are limited, and further studies at a wider range of faculty in technical university to defined the relationship between students' perception with lecturers' quality and student performances.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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