

**TECHNOLOGY FACILITATION ON INCLUSIVE LEARNING; SPECIAL
REFERENCE TO HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN SRI LANKA**



By

DAVID SHIYAM KIRUPAINAYAGAM

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ABSTRACT

The involvement of technology in higher education is rooting in many ways to create a diverse inclusive learning environment for all. This study is connecting the multi-ethnicity students and academics in the HEIs as an inclusive learning environment in the Sri Lankan context along with technology facilitation to analyze the situation. Hence, aims of this study to explore the nature of inclusive learning practices in technology-aided learning in HEIs, the determining factors and how its influencing inclusive learning practices from the perspective of technology in HEIs, the possible benefits and challenges faced in inclusive learning practice when using technology in HEIs and possible recommendations and suggestions for the facilitation of the technology in inclusive learning practices in HEIs. To find out the impact of technology facilitation on inclusive learning in HEIs. The survey was carried out among the undergraduates and academics of selected 5 Sri Lankan state universities. It is an inductive study where the qualitative approach was undertaken, 30 undergraduates and 10 academics were interviewed using a semi-structured interview method from all management, science and agriculture faculties of selected five universities of Sri Lanka. Collected data were analyzed using NVivo 10 through Thematic analysis. According to the findings, technology facilitation has a major contribution to inclusive learning in HEIs. As it was elaborated a positive relationship is built among the academics and students with a minimum level of discrimination. Further, the factors such as the internet, Google, mobile apps and software, cost, upgraded knowledge, time efficiency, and technological devices were considered as critical factors which indeed influence the facilitation of technology on learning in HEIs. At the same time, the researcher found the benefits as well as the challenges faced by the student and academics during the use of technologies in HEIs. Finally, the researcher recommended some strategies and mechanisms for the policymakers to use technology as a tool to enhance the inclusive learning practices within HEIs.

Keywords: - Higher education Institutions, Inclusive learning, Technology facilitation, Ethnicity, Technology Adaptation and Discrimination

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