

# The Challenges Facing Home-Schooled University Student to Achieve the Social Skills Using Google Search as A Learning Tool.

B. SOBA

*Lecturer (Prob), Department of Education & Childcare, Eastern University, Sri Lanka.*

**Abstract-** *At present, technology is possibly the most powerful factor shaping the educational landscape. Many school districts are demonstrating their support for increased levels of technology in the classroom by providing hardware such as tablets and computers, improving internet connectivity, and implementing computer literacy programs for both teachers and students. Furthermore, technology is crucial to create the academic performance and social skills amounts the home-schooled university students. Homeschooling, also known as home education or Elective Home Education (EHE), is the education of school-aged children outside of a school setting such as at home or in a variety of places. There is various reason to choose the home-schooled university students such as child has a physical or mental health problem, child has other special needs problem, concern about the school environment. The purpose of the research is to identify the challenges encountered by home-schooled university student to achieve the social skills using Google search as a learning tool. That is, the research will identify factors hindering home-school university student to achieve the social skills using Google search as a learning tool. By identifying these challenges, and exploring the related research literature, the study will be suggesting recommendations to achieve the social skills among the home-school university student. The study concluded that M- learning in the university can develop better approach for inducing the overall study.*

**Indexed Terms-** *Home-schooled university student, social skills, Google search and learning tool.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Technology not only fosters the collaboration and communication level among the students but also

facilitates better opportunities to participate in healthy competition. Major amounts of information (Audio, Videos, Book, and Images) are available in technological learning (Purdue, 2019). Adapting the Mobile learning (M-Learning) in the university can be helpful in terms of delivering informal and contextual information related to their needs. M-learning refers new way to access learning content using mobiles and supports continuous access to the learning process. M-learning is very helpful participants can learn wherever and whenever they want. There is more motivation, real-time feedback, and long-distance learning is not a problem. This tool is application-oriented and very convenient to use, and access, followed by just-in-time learning makes it a perfect tool for providing communication and delivering information functions. According to Mallett (2019) stated that many homeschool families use less formal, more personalized, and individualized methods of learning that are not always found in schools, which are usually led by a parent, tutor, or an online teacher. in the context of home-schooled, Jameson Brewer (2021) reported that the actual practice of homeschooling can look very different. Furthermore, social skills are essential for students in building both personal and professional relationships. Demonstrating strong interpersonal skills can help the student accomplish career goals, contribute to company achievements, perform well during the hiring process, and expand students' professional network (Jameson Brewer, 2021). Understanding and improving students' social skills can benefit in every area of life. Consequently, it is crucial for home-schooled university student to identify the main challenge experienced while using Google search as a learning tool and create an effective recommendation.

## II. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Technology is perhaps the strongest factor shaping the educational landscape today. Many universities are showing support for increased levels of technology in the classroom by providing hardware such as tablets and computers, enhancing internet connectivity, and implementing programs designed to improve computer literacy for both teachers and students. Although teachers generally appreciate the benefits of educational technologies, they often find smooth and effective integration of new educational technologies challenging. From acquisition of new technology equipment to adaptation of curricula and teaching techniques to incorporate new educational tools, technology integration presents significant challenges to educators at each level of university systems. The other factors are related to the support constraint. Support barriers to technology integration include inadequate technical support and administrative/peer support to the home-schooled university students.

## III. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

First-order challenges to successful technology integration in the home are factors outside of home-schooled students implementing technology. Firstly, home-schooled student address issues surrounding insufficient equipment or connectivity, termed the access constraint. Many schools and universities across the country are making the transition to one-to-one (1:1) computing and many students do not have regular and reliable access to a computer (Warschauer, et al. 2014). Inconsistent computer access makes it extremely difficult for instructors to integrate technology into existing lesson plans. Pundits and educational experts have raised varied arguments about the pros and cons of homeschooling as far as child upbringing is concerned. A key argument that has been used to discredit homeschooling is that it does not enable a child to acquire social skills, which are necessary for life (Fineman & Shepherd, 2016). Since the essence of education is to impart knowledge and social skills in children to enable them to interact meaningfully with other people, it is incumbent upon the homeschooling parent to consider the social needs of the child (Gateman and Neuman, 2017). Thus, home-schooled university students are facing many challenges to obtain social skills.

## IV. AIM OF THE RESEARCH

This research study aims to explore the challenges facing home-schooled university student to achieve the social skills using Google search as a learning tool. That is, the research will identify factors hindering home-school university student to achieve the social skills using Google search as a learning tool. By identifying these challenges, and exploring the related research literature, the study will be suggesting recommendations to achieve the social skills among the home-school university student.

## V. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The overarching research question of the current study is:

What are the challenges encountered by home-schooled university student to achieve the social skills using Google search as a learning tool?

To answer the main research question, sub-questions have also been developed. These are:

- i) How does the home-schooled university student currently approach their lesson to achieve the social skills?
- ii) How does the home-schooled university student describe the impact of homeschooling?

## VI. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This research is important in identifying the challenges encountered by home-schooled university students to achieve the social skills using Google search as a leaning tool and offering appropriate recommendations to facilitate the social skills development of home-schooled university student. The scope of this research is very significant in identifying enablers and to improve social skills of home-schooled university student studying at home. Further, few studies focus on the problems that home-schooled university student face in world wise, with very little attention given to home-school universities student' perspectives regarding the challenges and how these challenges affect the social skills of home-schooled university students. However, this study also

explores the challenges faced by home-schooled university students when trying to improve students' social skills. Moreover, the findings of this study will support the home-schooled university student as it will identify the challenges that will need to be considered in policy development and implementation.

## VII. LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature review section provides an overview of the literature on the home-schooled university students facing challenges and the contributions of the research study to the field. Thus, this literature review is divided into three main sections:

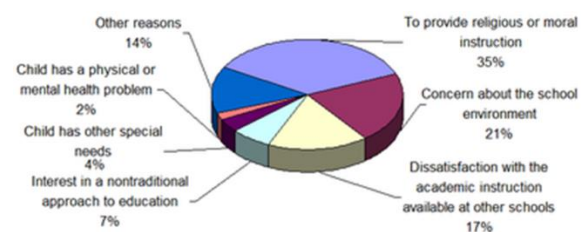
Firstly, it explains the collaboration skills of the home-schooled university students. The next section details the communication skills of home-schooled university students. Finally, the chapter focuses on current solutions for dealing with home-schooled university students.

### 1: Collaboration skills of the home-schooled university students

Students who take home - schooling are usually isolated from the university students as they learn their lessons isolated from other students. Usually, the number of students take lessons in home – schools are very limited, and they must way of communicating with the university students (Jameson Brewer, 2021). Because of their poor financial condition, they also cannot communicate with vast student community in the county as well as outside of the county. As a teacher it is important to observe that the home-schooled students are getting adequate knowledge and learning lessons as compared to university students (Jameson Brewer, 2021). Lack of resources and financial backup can create severe problem regarding getting advanced facilities by the students while learning.

According to the case scenario, the students who are currently going through schooling programs in Sri Lanka have huge financial problems. Currently, people all over the world including students have access internet facilities in their learning curriculum to gather better knowledge and information from various internet sources. Google is a great help for them while searching the internet about a specific topic or

gathering data or information about a firm or institution and others. Student who goes through home – schooling have a basic problem which is lack of competition. In the universities, there are a good number of student studies together and significant competition can be seen in every university. On the other hand, in home schools, a few students or a single student learns from a teacher who creates a huge scarcity of competition for that small group of students or that single student (Istikomah et al. 2019). Competition is a crucial part of learning as it pushes students to give their best to stay ahead of the crowds by making excellent results. Lack of competition can make study boring, and students can feel lethargic to bring more points or marks in the exams as there is no competitor. Lack of communication can create a gap in understanding about the relevant standards maintained in the universities. This limits the self-evaluation among the students about their position and knowledge as a student as compared to university students. Mallett (2019) contends that there are many reasons to become home -schooled university students.



### 2: communication skills of home-schooled university students

Lack of communication abilities among the students is often dealing with several negative impacts among them during participating in any training or educational program. Lack of collaboration activities makes them vulnerable towards the learning experience and overall learning habits. On the other hand, lack of participation also facilitates constraint in their communication abilities as their bond is not that strong. They are becoming very skeptical for making any friends at the university and schools as most of them taking others as competitors. Therefore, it is getting very tough to make new friends and facilitating better communication abilities among them. However, seeking help from mobile learning develops better opportunity for students for collaborating with others

during accessing it (briz - ponce et al. 2017). Being informal and contextual the students are taking it very spontaneously and intended to make new friends by which the communication abilities get fostered to a great extent. This M- learning can provide communication and information functions related to any existed and new information through audio, videos and even images. This also facilitates conferencing with the teacher and other students by which they are feeling recognized and comfortable for sharing any learning experience and problem areas with other students. On the other hand, adapting content curation is also proven to be helpful in terms of gathering information through selecting, evaluating, organizing, and creating content related to a specific topic. This gesture facilitates better communication among the expected users by which they feel recognized and their participation and preferencing for health competition get development. Furthermore, adapting the Edmodo can be helpful as it promotes collaboration by centralizing all the educational and learning resource (Simonson, Zvacek & Smaldino, 2019).

### 3: Current solutions for dealing with home-schooled university student

Home education is growing at a rate of 2%–8% per year, the fastest growing form of education in the United States. The number of homeschooled students has grown from 10,000 in the 1970s to 2.3 million today (Elliott, 2019). However, Home - schooled students are usually isolated from the rest of the student communities as they take study lessons in their home (Elliott, 2019). This creates a very close circle for them where only his or her teachers is the second person. Every student needs a community where they can communicate normally or interact on the learning topics. According to the scenario, the students of Sri Lanka have no way of communicating with the internet facilities and they do not get chance to use Google of their learning purposes due to lack of financial backup (Elliott, 2019). Academic curriculum maintained in the universities is more precise and more challenging than home - school curriculum. University students use more advanced learning methods offered by 21<sup>st</sup> century technologies like internet facilities, new machines, and apparatus, use of projectors in learning and others which are totally unavailable for a home - schooled student. Because of

that reason, students who go through home - school learning programs get separated from the actual university - level academic curriculum. The teacher must be strict and must maintain his or her standards with the universities while teaching a home - schooled student. The question pattern, learning materials, questionnaires, exam pattern, standard of checking evaluation and others must be equal to university standards. The next thing that the students can introduce is arranging a computer and teachers the students to use it to utilize the internet for their learning purposes. Google search can be a great help for them for gathering knowledge on various learning topics (Mallett, 2019). The last thing that the teacher can do is organizing special joint classes with the universities students for creating communication with them. However, it will be a great challenge for the home- school student to get accustomed with the university students and in this case the teacher must take adequate measures so that the student cannot get separated or isolated from the rest of the university students. Advance learning methods makes the learning easier and more interesting which as a result help the students to implement those knowledges in their future activities and academic life. Arranging a collaborated class with the university students can help the home- school to understand the real academic curriculum and values. However, it will make difficult for home- school students to get habituated to the university students as they are much more advanced and smarter from them (Brian, 2018).

## VIII. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The methodology section focuses on the techniques used for the collection of data. Depending on the research topic, in this research, only the secondary data collection methods were used (Schindler and Cooper, 2019). The reason for ruling out primary collection methods is because of the difficulties that would come along with trying to get participants from the developed countries. Additionally, it would have been expensive for the researcher to travel to the developed countries to gather information on home-schooled universities students. Various factors led to the selection of the secondary data collection method for this research paper. Firstly, it was affordable for the researcher to access books, journals, or government documents and many other sources. It

helps researcher in consider different author perspective on a particular topic. Secondly, the internet has articles and statistical data on home-schooled universities student in the developed counties. According to respective researcher adopted secondary method for gather data or information about the home-schooled university student a major challenge in the system in the developed counties. It is so because through this method they able to collect data through existing documents or articles or books.

## IX. DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### • DISCUSSION

The low economic condition among the students deals with lack of communication and do not know how to deal with digital curation. Home-schooled university student does not have more an opportunity to use technological tools and using that for their educational purpose due to their economic condition, which adhering their lack of knowledge regarding the usage of digital tools (phones, tablets, and laptops).

Home – schooled university student is important to achieve growth and success in learning. However, home - schooled university student faces lack of financial backup and do not afford to go universities an so they opt for home – school facilities. These students are financially very weak and even they cannot use Google search because of that reason.

Home – schooling is a good alternative opportunity from available universities for these poor students for learning. However, because of this learning setting: they fail to communicate with vast community of students. During teaching researcher learned that these students have no clear knowledge about the university learning curriculum. They even have no idea about how teachers and professors teach their students in universities (Aisyah, Hikmat and Adityarini, 2018).

Researcher learned that there is a huge gap between home – schooled university students and public universality students. University students get far better facilities in learning. They get opportunities for using internet facilities for their learning purposes which helps them to grab vast knowledge bank of internet. They can use Google to search for any topic to get instant knowledge and help.

Home- schooled university students have no minimum experience of using the internet and Google because of their poor financial condition. Home-schooled university student has no companion to compare with regarding knowledge, mark or points. The home – schooled university students also lack confidence and interest among them regarding learning and self – study (Purwaningsilh and Fauziah, 2019). They also do not know to evaluate on their own. Lack of self-evaluation makes them stagnant in their learning. University students are far more advanced and smarter than these home- school students in every aspect.

Lack of communication and collaboration among them are a constraint as it possesses a huge hazard among their learning ability and experiences

### • RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE HOME-SCHOOLED UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

The home – school university students, lack of participation makes them more backward from university students. Thus, organizing desktop PCs can be a great help for them. This will help them to use the internet for their learning courses.

Parents must support these students in both mentally and financially in their learning so as to they can reach the university standards gradually. Help from their parents also necessary in this case so that they can help these students in their learning or at least support them to carry their learning. Instead of just pushing the students to take extra burden. Arranging a collaborated class with the university students can help the home-school to understand the real academic curriculum and values.

Financial problem is a great barrier for these home-schooled university students. They do not get proper learning materials while learning. These students belong from low- income families. Thus, they need resources and financial assistant to continue their study. Parents and students should communicate with various charitable organizations to raise funds to provide better opportunities for these students.

University student needs practical experiments and activities while learning. This makes learning more effective and intuitive. These facilities have in

university students, but in the home – schooled university student, lack of infrastructure makes it impossible to create opportunity on practical experiments on learning lessons (Kula, 2018). Thus, Parents or tutor should provide communication, collaboration, motivation and engagement to achieve their goal.

### CONCLUSION

From the above study, it has been concluded that issues can be resolved after taking measurable steps and making the student more confident and encouraging their learning experience by adapting a few digital curation tools. M- learning in the university can develop better approach for inducing the overall study. Major amounts of information are available in technological learning by which the communication and collaboration among students get fostered. Taking help from the M- learning can be useful in terms of developing opportunity for students for collaborating with others while accessing it. High level of accountability and responsibility are making them able to communicate with others. Adapting some other tools such as Edmodo and digital curation is also proving to be helpful in terms of developing their learning experience and reducing their negative aspects of studying and developing communication.

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