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PBT Covid-19 War Room

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Abstract

This study was conducted to find out the effectiveness and interest of lecturers and students of Besut Terengganu Polytechnic on the information access application developed. This application was developed to assist local lecturers and students when the movement control situation and education center were closed. To ensure that the service can continue to be implemented successfully, an application website has been created to provide faster and more effective access to information. Covid-19 War Room PBT was developed during the commencement of the first Movement Control Order starting on 18 March 2020 to disconnect the COVID-19 network. The Prime Minister instructed the Ministry of Education to implement home learning initiatives during the PKP to ensure that children's education will not be neglected during this period. In accordance with the instructions issued, all lecturers are instructed to work from home and the teaching and learning process is implemented remotely. This situation makes it difficult to channel information thoroughly and systematically to lecturers and students on what to do during the PKP period. The management has used various information delivery channels to ensure that all activities can be implemented even though the staff is not in the Besut Polytechnic office and teaching and learning are not face to face. This study will use the questionnaire methodology used to obtain the data. This data will be analyzed using a chart that illustrates the effectiveness and interest of local lecturers and students on the use of PBT Covid-19 War Room application.

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Key-word: - Covid-19, war room and remote learning

1. Introduction

The World Health Organization reported Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), a novel pneumonia disease originating in Wuhan, on January 12, 2020, before becoming an epidemic in all countries. After the first case outside of China was recorded in Thailand, a strict screening procedure was introduced at all airports in Malaysia (*Ain, Syafiqah, Rathedevi et.al., 2020*). Two waves of COVID-19 cases were confirmed by Malaysia until April 14, 2020, with the first wave ending successfully in less than 2 months (*Ahmad, 2020*). The second wave occurred at the beginning of March 2020, with troubling scenarios. Now there is a third wave of more troubling situations (*Abdullah, 2020*). A Movement Control Order was imposed by the Government of Malaysia beginning on March 18, 2020 to sever the COVID-19 chain. The stayathome and kitajagakita hashtag have been actively distributed by the media. (*M.Majid, 2020*). The Prime Minister ordered the Ministry of Education to introduce home-based learning programmes to ensure that the education of children is not overlooked for the duration of the MCO (*Rohizai, 2020*).

2. Background of the study

In accordance with the instructions issued by the Prime Minister to the Ministry of Education all lecturers are instructed to work from home and the teaching and learning process is implemented remotely. The Covid-19 War Room PBT was developed during the commencement of the first Movement Control Order (MCO) beginning on 18 March 2020 to sever the COVID-19 network. The PBT Covid-19 War Room application was built to solve problems that arose due to the implementation of the MCO. Difficulty in disseminating comprehensive and systematic information to lecturers and students on what needs to be done during the PKP period. Management has used various information delivery channels to ensure that all activities can be implemented even if the staff is not in the office and teaching and learning is implemented online.

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Often social media such as WhatsApp and telegram are used as the main medium of information delivery to lecturers and students because there is no specific platform for that purpose.

3. Objectives of the Study

As for the purpose of this study, there are three objectives to be achieved as stated below:

1. To create a platform to facilitate access to important information and documents during the PKP period.
2. To create a comprehensive channel to the latest information related to Covid 19 status, polytechnic management information, as well as information related to teaching and learning.
3. To become an additional aid for the implementation of work on behalf of the management, lecturers, and students of Politeknik Besut Terengganu in ensuring the continuity of work during the implementation period of PKP.

3. Methodology of the Study

This study will use questionnaire methodology through google forms to obtain the data needed. The data will be analyzed by using a chart that illustrates the effectiveness and interest of local lecturers and students on the use of PBT Covid 19 War Room application. The population of this study is comprised of Politeknik Besut Terengganu's lecturers from Department of General Studies, Department of Information and Communication Technology, Department of Design & Visual Communication, Department of Science and Computer Mathematics and all the management staff of Politeknik Besut Terengganu. For this study, the sample was collected from 37 lecturers, and 33 students.

4. Research Instruments

This study uses a questionnaire in google form as a research instrument. This form is distributed to each respondent who has been selected as stated in the population section and study sample. Mohd Majid Konting (2000) stated that the use of questionnaires is more practical and effective to do research¹. In addition, the absence of the researcher will not affect the respondents' answers. The content of this questionnaire is based on the objectives of the study. Each data was analyzed based on the information obtained from the questionnaire. The scales used in the questionnaire are as follows:

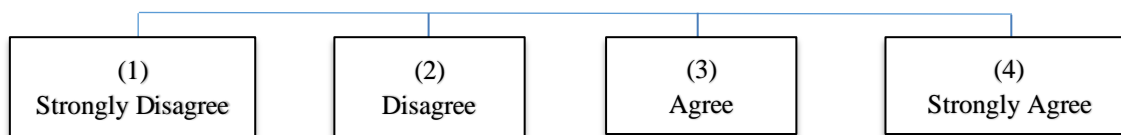


Figure 1 Figure Likert scale

The questionnaire of this study contains 20 items of questions that ask questions based on the following two parts:

- i) Part 1 - Section A Perception and Interest of using the PBT Covid 19 War Room Application.
- ii) Part 2 - Section B Effectiveness of Using Covid PBT 19 War Room Application

5. Findings

For Section A of this study, the emphasis of the study is concentrated on the interest and perception of using the PBT Covid 19 War Room application. The surveys conducted through google form link was answered by 70 respondents consisting of all PBT staff and students. The results of the questionnaire are summarized as in Figure 2 below:

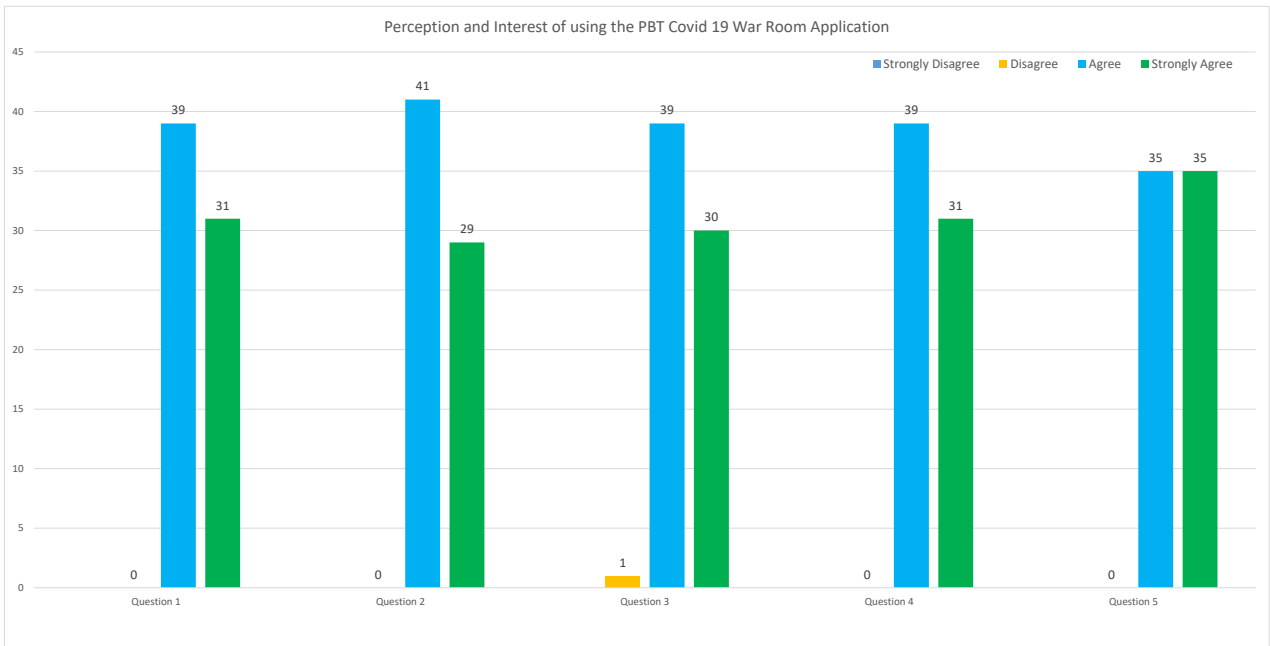


Figure 2

For Section B, a survey was conducted on the effectiveness of this application, the questionnaire was answered via google form from 70 respondents consisting of 37 staff and 33 PBT students. The results of the questionnaire are formulated in the form of bar charts (refer Figure 3)

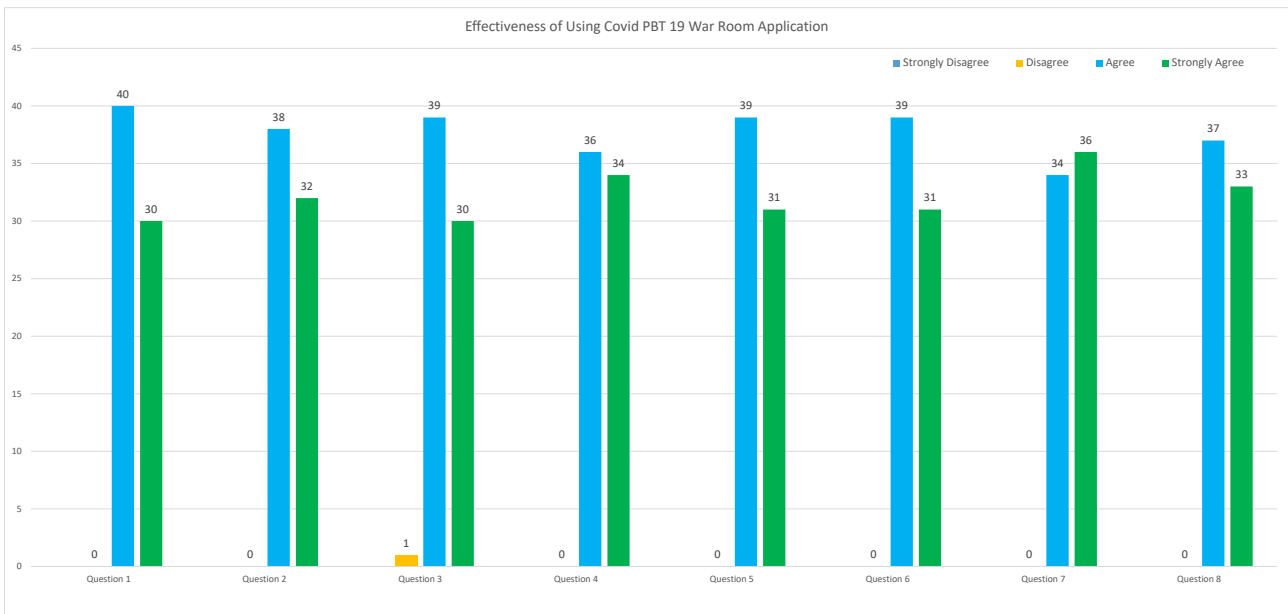


Figure 3

6. Conclusion

Among the main functions of applications and websites on the internet is to facilitate users to convey and share information and communicate with other users interactively and actively. Tobergte et al. (2010) also in their study stated that internet-based applications have greatly reduced the cost of collecting, distributing and accessing information, saving resources, and creating new mechanisms in integrating organizations with users together. The results of this study show that the high perception and interest in the use of Covid 19 War Room PBT Application by PBT community consisting of staff and students.

The results of this research can also have an impact in several aspects, namely in terms of a more comprehensive level of implementation. This application has been implemented at the Politeknik Besut Terengganu (PBT) as a start for other application innovations. It is also very suitable for use by other institutions. Through the use of this application, it is hoped that all users can make the information search process faster and systematic as well as user-friendly and attractive. From the aspect of the effectiveness of the use of this application can be proven through the results of data analysis for the effectiveness of Covid-19 War Room PBT (refer to Figure 3). Over the course of its use, it has provided advantages in terms of time savings. This application can be downloaded to mobile phones by anyone who is interested in using it. Students can continue to access this application without having to look at other websites. With the application it can increase the search time of staff and students as well as save time. In addition, it is easy to use (user friendly) System developed user friendly and simple because students and lecturers can download and access it easily. The result of the production of this application provides an increase in the level of user satisfaction. Among the uniqueness in this application is the use of video elements, in addition to text, graphics and interactivity in conveying information. This application can provide a new style of information search not only to students but also to lecturers as well.

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