

Original Article

***IMPORTANCE OF COURSE MODULE IN ACADEMIC
PERFORMANCE OF STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITY
LEVEL:***

***(A Case of Year II Technology and science Faculty students-
Jimma University)
(M Ranga Reddy*)***

ABSTRACT

In recent times, the rate of increase of students strength in the Universalities of Ethiopia is posing big problem to student Community in many ways due to lack of facilities to stay and study in the campus. However, University is centre for Academic Excellence and Training to all types of students to promote sustainable development in the country. But shortage of reference materials is a kind of problem to achieve desired goals set by the University. Here study is designed to get the information regarding role and importance of modules in Academic success of students community. Two cases are studied and discussed separately. In the case-I, year II Computer science students of Jimma University are taken as purposive sample and data is collected through the written examination. In case II, four groups of students are selected randomly from all PPC II students of Jimma University. Data is collected through

* Expatriate staff member, Education faculty, Mathematics Department, Jimma University

the Interview Method. Chi – Square Test and other statistical Tests are used to analyze the collected data. Research findings show that course module is useful academically up to some level in improving the standards of students. I am recommending that steps should be taken to introduce course module at all levels of university studies.

INTRODUCTION

Generally education deals with the development of humankind in so many ways. In this process, education is being given to students with different methods namely Teaching, Demonstration, Laboratory Practice, Field Study and etc.. The struggle to study is the main aim of the students in the Teaching Learning process. The aim of all above is to make Teaching - Learning process

most effective. However, for this achievement, students need so many infrastructure facilities at university to acquire sufficient knowledge in their field. (1,2). In the same time, University is a place for good training and to provide facilities to students like effective teaching, suitable atmosphere, sufficient library and laboratory . Generally Students rely on the lecture notes, reference and text books study materials at large to maintain good performance in their studies.(2,3,4) With reference to all above we have

assumed that Text books and Reference books are supposed to be available plenty in number easily to all students. Now-a – days , students number in all Universities have been increased by Ministry of education but in the same time basic facilities are not being increased at the same rate. In this scenario, the rapid growth of students number in each University, it is observed, certainly affects the availability of basic facilities to all students staying in the campus. (4,5,6) In the same way, availability of text books and reference books to all students at Libraries is the problem at this juncture. The study is aimed to know about the role of course module with reference to present Context and relating to students' performance

in academic success.: *The statement of the problem is,* Under new education policy of Ethiopia, the number of students have been increased in the all Universities by Ministry of education. In the same time, goal of the university is to maintain good standards in the education given to the students. In this scenario, The availability of text books and reference books at libraries is questionable! To meet the above problem and to reach the goal of university, course modules are supposed to be introduced at all levels. *This study is designed* to find how course module helps to students for effective learning of complex concepts in the compact academic system. Here main investigation is set around student's orientation

benefits and to make teaching learning process most effective. To contrast the performance of students in their studies with course module and with out course module. To know the difficulties of students in getting text/reference books at all libraries and how course module is

METHODOLOGY :

. The subjects of students are year II students of Jimma University. Case I and Case II are designed to collect data through written examination and Interview with students. Data is analyzed using various statistical Methods. Results are drawn on the Research findings.

Case I: The study is for year II computer students of Jimma University to know the significance

helpful in their studies. Data is collected and analyzed through various Statistical Methods and Analysis, Discussion and Recommendations are made on the Research findings. This study is conducted from November 2004 and December 2004.

of course module in their academic success/performance. All students of computer science PPC-II students are taken as purposive sample. Two equally standard chapters namely Chapter I(Algebra and Logic) and Chapter II (combinatorics) of Math-281 are taken and taught to all purposive sample students uniformly under same conditions. Course Module is prepared for Chapter II and distributed to all students. Written examination in Chapter I and

Chapter II is conducted. The performance of all students is evaluated and recorded. According to students performance, all students are divided in to 4 categories namely Cat₁ (A grade students), Cat₂(B- grade students), Cat₃(C- grade students) and Cat₄(D-grade students) .

Case II Interview with Year II students form the Technology and the science Faculties of Jimma University is the design. One group from Computer Science PPC II consists of 10 students are selected randomly. Other 3 groups from the Technology and the Science faculties are selected randomly such that each group consists of 10 students. Averagely, 60% students

are present in the each group for interview and each group is questioned about the following two variables. Information through discussion with students in each group is recorded and analyzed using the various Statistical methods.

1. Availability of Text/Reference books at concerned libraries in Jimma University.
2. How course Module is useful for regular studies.

Analysis and Result: Case I: The Summarized data is analyzed by the Chi-square distribution with the hypothesis there is no significance difference between two chapters one is with course module and other one is with out course module in terms of students academic performance.

	Cat ₁	Cat ₂	Cat ₃	Cat ₄	Total
Chapter-I	11	14	15	19	59
Chapter -II	15	20	20	08	63
Total	26	34	35	27	122

chapter * catagory Crosstabulation

		catagory				Total	
		category 1	category 2	category 3	category 4		
chapter	chapter 1	Count	11	14	15	19	59
		Expected	12.6	16.4	16.9	13.1	59.0
	chapter 2	Count	15	20	20	8	63
		Expected	13.4	17.6	18.1	13.9	63.0
Total		Count	26	34	35	27	122
		Expected	26.0	34.0	35.0	27.0	122.0

Che-Square Analysis:

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	6.746(a)	3	.080
Likelihood Ratio	6.882	3	.076
Linear-by-Linear	3.871	1	.049

N of Valid Cases 122

a 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 12.57.

Students performance is observed with the chi-square analysis. The above test shows there is significance difference in the performance of students in

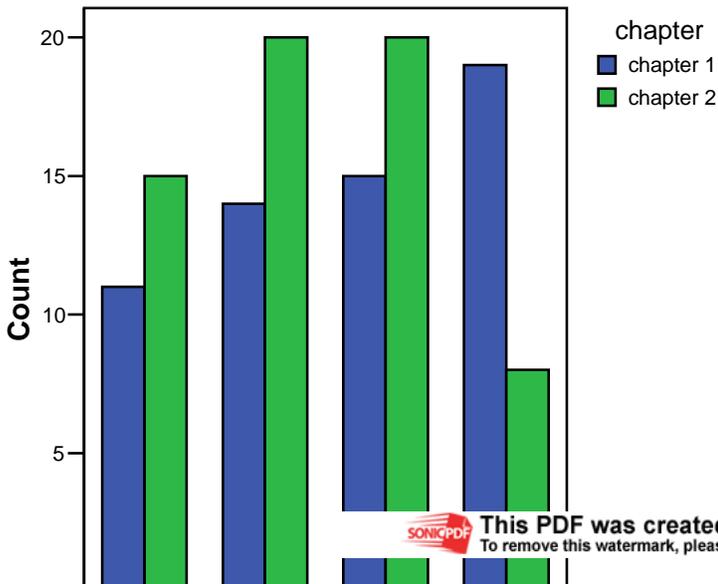
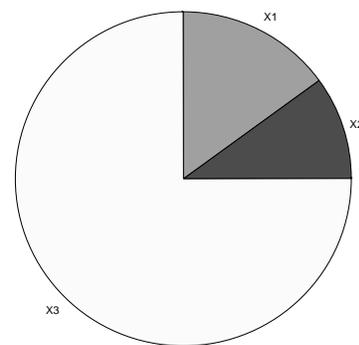
between two chapters, course module is given for the chapter ii. The Chi-Square analysis says, the calculated value 6.746 is greater than the table value 6.251. at

90% level of confidence with 3 degrees of freedom. The hypothesis is rejected. There is a significance difference between the two

chapters. in terms of students performance one is supported with course module and other one is not supported without course module.

It is also observed from the Figure I, the students performance in the Chapter II (combinatrics supported with course

opinion of students with Var1



I (algebra and logic not supported with course module). The bar graph justifies clearly the count range on the y-axis in the first three categories A, B and C are better in the Chapter II supported by course module while in the category D is less comparing with chapter I.

module) rather good than in the Chapter

Case II: All collected qualitative information relating to above said two variables through the Group Interviews with year II students from the Technology and the science faculties of Jimma University is analyzed by the various statistical methods. Opinion of students is observed and tabulated as follows.

Figure II Opinion of students variable I

Var₁ =Availability of reference/text books

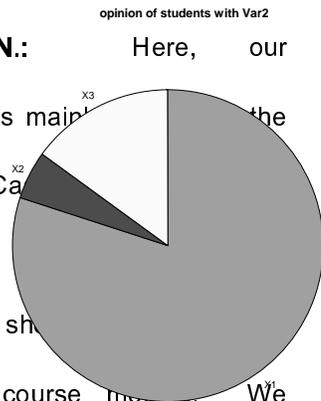
Var₂ = Role of course module in their studies X_1 = Positive opinion in percentage X_2 = Normal opinion in percentage X_3 = Negative opinion in percentage

	X ₁	X ₂	X ₃
Var ₁	15	10	75
Var ₂	80	05	15

Figure III Opinion of students

DISCUSSION.: Here, our

discussion is mainly about the results of the course module. We noticed that the performance of students is improving after providing course modules. We observed that course module plays a very important role in the busy academic schedule because it saves time and covers all concepts. It is very important to all students to



improve their academic performance in so much. So, a sufficient number of books are not available at concerned libraries. From above analysis Results, we can say that course module helps to all types of students in the universities up to some level in their studies. Regarding with our reference (2), course module helps

to reach the goal of University and improve the quality of education.

In the group interviews with students, 75% students from all groups expressed unhappy over availability of text/reference books at their concerned libraries. It is observed that from our reference (4), under the new education policy number of students were increased at large but facilities are not being at the same rate in the universities Campus.

It is noticed that 80% students from group Interview say that course module saves time and helps for easy understanding of

all complex and covers all concepts.

Based on the students' opinion, we say that course modules are the alternative solution to provide

effective education to all students

and at all levels in the present scenario under new education policy.

Regarding with reference to our references (1,2,4), to meet all above students have been forced to complete so many academic requirements with in the

small time frame schedule. But preparation of course module is not simple task. It requires concerted efforts of qualified professionals and

concerned authorities. It is suggested that concerned authorities has to encourage professionals by incentives or academic promotion. It

is observed that all teachers in the university are very busy with their

regular academic work , therefore,

University Teachers have to take interest and have

to spend their own time on the preparation of course module. In the same time concerned authorities have to provide basic facilities for smooth preparation. I am concluding that course modules are useful at all levels of university studies and improves students' academic performance.

taken for preparation and distribution of course modules to all University students.

✚ It is recommended that concerned Professionals have to be encouraged for preparation of course module and necessary facilities have to be provided.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

✚ Researcher felt that course module helps students by and large in many ways at present conditions in the all Universities because of over crowded and insufficient facilities. So it is recommended that immediate steps should be

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Ethiopian universities,
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