Evaluating E-Learning Systems Success: A Case of Sri Lanka

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Abstract

E-learning, the product of technology and education, has emerged as a powerful medium of learning particularly in the higher education sector. Significance of e-learning in educational services has led to a massive growth in the number of e-learning courses and systems offering different types of services followed by the COVID 19 pandemic. Thus, evaluation of e-learning systems is critical to ensure successful delivery, effective use, and positive impacts on learners. Survey data of Sri Lankan university student’s sample tested the research hypotheses. Quantitative assessment of determinants of PLS-SEM results confirms 81.7% explanatory power of the predictor variables in explaining the variance of E-Learning Success among which Instructor Quality, Learner Quality, Service Quality, Support System Quality and Technical System Quality found significant predictors. Implications invite revisiting the theoretical models to assess the e-learning effectiveness by incorporating multifarious factors while developing e-learning system of multifractality found critical for the success of any electronically driven learning experience.

Keywords: E-Learning, E-Learning System, E-Learning System Success, PLS-SEM

1. INTRODUCTION

The advancement of information technology has paved way to success in many sectors such as health, finance, transportation, and agriculture…etc. In line with that wave of e-transformation, education sector too has integrated technology to its various deliverables in order to meet the expectations of stakeholders effectively. As such, Electronic Learning (E-Learning) simply is the technological adoption of education that is been vastly practiced by many educational institutions.
nowadays. Choudhury and Pattnaik (2020) defined e-learning as transfer of knowledge and skills, in a well-designed course content that has established accreditations, through an electronic media like the Internet, Web 4.0, intranet and extranets. The main stakeholders of e-learning include learners, faculty, administrative & technical staff, and employers (Choudhury & Pattnaik, 2020). E-learning found to be having a greater effect on academic performance (Abbasi et al., 2020; Almaiah et al., 2020; Ebner et al., 2020; Maldonado et al., 2011, Radha et al., 2020). It encompasses a range of activities: from supported learning to blended learning and to pure e-learning (Cruz-Jesus et al. 2016; Aboagye, 2021; Radha, 2018). Online learning systems provide benefits for stakeholders located around the world. Advantages of e-learning for learners include an increased accessibility to information, better content delivery, personalized instruction, content standardization, accountability, on-demand availability, self-pacing, interactivity, confidence, and increased convenience. Minimization of costs, enabling a consistent delivery of content, and improved tracking are among the other benefits of e-learning to the faculty (Sander, 2020; Al-Marooof, 2021). E-learning reduces classroom and facilities cost, training cost, travel cost, printed materials cost, labor cost, and information overload (Sander, 2020; Choudhury & Pattnaik, 2020; Al-Marooof, 2021). E-learning initiatives call for considerable investments in technology such as hardware costs, software licenses, learning material development, equipment maintenance, and training (Abbasi et al., 2020; Al-Marooof, 2021). Al-Marooof (2021) concluded that e-learning has huge potential and can reduce costs in comparison to a traditional class room environment after initial course development. Despite these benefits, e-learning has a higher drop-out rate than traditional delivery modes (Abbasi et al., 2020; Almaiah et al., 2020; Ebner et al., 2020; Radha et al., 2020).

Nowadays, educational technologies have quickly evolved along with the prompt development of ICTs (Al-Emran and Shaalan 2015, 2017; Salloum et al., 2017; Ali et al., 2018). The last two decades have witnessed an increase in the prevalence of the internet due to the reason that universities and other educational institutions have made investments in information systems (For instance Moodle, Blackboard, Google Class…etc.) so as to help in face-to-face as well as distant course delivery (Tarhini et al., 2013; Teo et al., 2020). Using e-learning along with networked computers facilitates transmitting the digitized knowledge from the online sources to the end-user.
devices, such as a laptop, desktop and handheld devices (Misra et al. 2014; Behera 2013; Salloumet et al., 2019, Shahmoradi et al., 2018).

In par with the other parallel development, the global online learning industry is sporting massive annual growth of 19% or more per year, and it’s set to be a $243 billion industry within next two years following the COVID 19 pandemic (Sander, 2020). The United States is still at the forefront of the industry in terms of market size, but other regions such as Europe, Latin America, and Asia are also starting to become increasingly prevalent players in the industry (Sander, 2020). The demand for e-learning platforms also raised due to the COVID 19 pandemic situation in the world. The lockdowns restricted physical presences and encouraged to continue studies with e-learning platforms. Consequently, the education activities across the globe are moving with the aid of e-learning systems where the quality of e-learning systems matters today more than ever.

Among the top most concerns of the e-learning are the quality of e-learning deliverables. This has received a substantial level of attention by scholars resulting immense number of research outcomes those attempted to clarify different facets of e-learning quality (Ali & Ahmad, 2011; Fathema, Shannon & Ross, 2015; Mohammadi, 2015; Mtebe & Raphael, 2018; Sander, 2020). In a nutshell, majority of these studies have examined individual aspect of key determinants of e-learning systems success ignoring the synergistic effects of all determinants affecting the success of e-learning systems (Eom & Ashill, 2018; Janelli, 2018). Alternatively, some has looked in to the direct relationships between e-learning quality factors and usage or satisfaction which is again not addressing the system as a whole operating unit (Janelli, 2018; Mtebe & Raphael, 2018; Sander, 2020).

Success of e-learning systems found to be multifaceted (Sander, 2020). Hence, any assessment should primarily account both the individual effect and the combined effect of the predictors. Additionally, the level of influence reported to vary by the context itself too (Janelli, 2018; Ebner et al., 2020). On account of the fact that e-learning success factors vary in terms of their relative significance based on the context, different strategies have been adopted to deal with these factors. For example, in developing countries, obstacles are found in resources, accessibility & infrastructure, as well as in existence of communication features, and the important role of social factors (e.g. learner and instructor) receive more attention. In
contrast, in the context of developed countries, enhancing lifelong education, quality of information, usefulness of the systems, and ethical & legal considerations are more pronounced (Mohammadi, 2015; Thiyagarajan & Suguanthi, 2021). Moreover, e-learning is still in its infancy in developing countries where the successful implementation is challenged by context-specific factors unique to them. Despite the interest of many developing countries to implement e-learning (Grönlund & Islam, 2010), many encounter obstacles in infrastructure, resources, information access (Thiyagarajan & Suguanthi, 2021), personal characteristics, support from institution (Brinkerhoff, 2006), technology & connectivity, instructors’ design & technology confidence (Janelli, 2018), as well as culture and policy (Mtebe & Raphael, 2018). In addressing this issue, Alshare, Al-Dwaire & Akour (2003) once reported that technology integration within education in developing countries is lagging due to cultural, political and economic concerns where the objective of e-learning is to provide basic education to a large number of poor students. This is very different from the objective of e-learning in developed countries, which aims to develop an effective knowledge economy and enhance lifelong education (Gulati, 2008; Hubalovsky, 2019). Regardless of these challenges, opportunities still exist to improve the effectiveness and success of e-learning (Ebner et al., 2020; Thiyagarajan & Suguanthi, 2021). Besides, the critical evaluation of the success factors of e-learning systems will aid in satisfying the expectations of all its stakeholders. As an emerging nation, Sri Lanka has a great potential to move forward with technological advancements. Investments in such pre-assessed, well-planned and goal-oriented technological systems are of greater demand than unplanned and ad-hoc investments on system development or modification. Therefore, the various aspects which determine the success of e-learning systems will be a prime concern for its further developments and meeting learner needs. Motivated by these empirical lapses, the present study focused on evaluating the e-learning system success referring to the context of a developing country; the Sri Lanka.

Seamless evolution of technology has caused that there is no single consensual definition for e-learning (Al-Fraihat et al, 2020). Lee, Hsieh, and Hsu (2011) defined e-learning as “an information system that can integrate a wide variety of instructional material (via audio, video, and text mediums) conveyed through e-mail, live chat sessions, online discussions, forums, quizzes, and assignments”. Other researchers
use the concept of e-learning to refer to the technology intervention in the learning process (e.g., Sun, Tsai, Finger, Chen & Yeh, 2008).

Classification of studies in e-learning from 2001 to 2016, by Cidral, Oliveira, DiFelice & Aparicio (2018) shows us that the studies from 2001 have started with a focus on intention to use, adoption, usability, course contents and customization. Later, from 2007 onwards it has evolved to include user satisfaction. The focus of e-learning researches from 2013 were mainly centered on the overall success of e-learning systems and on how students' characteristics affect e-learning (Cidral et al., 2018). In general, earlier studies have been concerned more about the technology itself. However, as the technology becomes increasingly reliable and accessible, recent research has focused more on students' & instructors' attitudes and interactions, those play a vital role in e-learning success (Cheng, 2011; Liaw, Huang & Chen, 2007; Selim, 2007; Al-Samarraie et al., 2018). Yet, only very few if not no studies have analyzed how the collective effect of e-learning success factors can explain the success of e-learning systems. With the widespread use of e-learning platforms, a further investigation is timely important to evaluate the success of e-learning systems accounting observed multi dimensionality of the construct.

**Success of e-learning systems**

As stated by Alireza, Fatemeh and Shában (2012) the emergence of modern technologies has promised to provide equal educational opportunities everywhere for everyone and also, diverse courses continuously. In fact, without considering the main components of learning, application of the most advanced and latest technology is in vain, and will have merely advertising aspect rather than educational. On the other hand, since unsuccessful effort in implementing e-learning is reflected in terms of return on investment, the success of e-learning is one of the important issues (Govindasamy, 2002). In an e-learning system, not only the learner, but also all stakeholders are important. It is no doubt that internet and other digital technologies are able to support e-learning in an open, flexible and distributed environment. But how? Due to the differences between e-learning and traditional learning in some aspects, effective and successful conversion of traditional courses to e-learning may need a complex attempt and requires accurate planning, monitoring and control (Cantoni, Cellario, and Porta, 2004; Bhat et al., 2018; Fernando et al., 2019). In fact, continuity of global demand growth for e-learning and acceptance of virtual communities needs to measure
their effectiveness and usefulness in education (Valencia-Arias; 2019, Chopra et al., 2018).

**Models on success of e-learning systems**
The previous literature suggests different models relating to the success of e-learning: DeLone and McLean information systems success model; the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM); the User Satisfaction Models; and E-Learning Quality Models (Al-Fraihat et al., 2018) and Multidimensional Conceptual Model for Evaluating E-learning System Success (Al-Fraihat et al., 2020). The present study adopts Multidimensional Conceptual Model for Evaluating E-learning System Success (Al-Fraihat et al., 2020) as the model comprised with greater explanatory power, and focus on variety of technical, human and social factors to evaluate the success of such systems. Further, the researchers recommended to extend their investigation to the universities in developing countries by testing their model. According the present study followed Multidimensional Conceptual Model for Evaluating E-learning System Success (Al-Fraihat et al., 2020) as depicted in figure 1.

![Figure 1: Multidimensional Conceptual Model for Evaluating E-learning System Success (EES model). Source: Al-Fraihat, D., Joy, M., and Sinclair, J. (2020)](image)
The ESSS model is one which includes seven independent constructs: technical system quality, information quality, service quality, educational system quality, support system quality, learner quality, and instructor quality. In addition, there are four dependent constructs: perceived satisfaction, perceived usefulness, system use, and benefits. Accordingly, the research model for the study developed as presented in figure 2.

![Research Model](image)

**Research Hypotheses**

The hypotheses developed based on the connections in the model are presented in this section.

**System quality (SQ)**

In the original model of Delone and McLean (2003) the researchers assumed that system quality directly affects use and user satisfaction. Several researchers applied the DeLone and McLean model in the information systems context and found a positive association between system quality and use (Halawi, McCarthy, and Aronson, 2008; Po-An Hsieh and Wang, 2007; Iivari, 2005; Tularam, 2018). In the e-learning
systems context, system quality was also proved to be strongly related to use (Balaban, Mu, and Divjak, 2013; Garcia-Smith and Effken, 2013; Lin, 2007; Marjanovic et al., 2016). Based on these findings, researchers therefore, assume that the higher the technical quality of the e-learning system, the more satisfied the users are. Also, if users find the e-learning system compatible with their requirements, this would positively make users utilize it and consider it useful. Thus, the following hypothesis is proposed:

H1: Technical system quality positively influences success of e-learning system

**Information quality (IQ)**

The relationships between information quality and each of the three constructs – use, satisfaction, and usefulness – have been studied empirically by e-learning researchers. For example, Klobas and McGill (2010) and c) found a significant relationship between information quality and both use and satisfaction with the Learning Management System (LMS). The relationship between information quality and perceived usefulness was found significant in the study of Chen (2010) with e-learning systems in an organizational context, and a similar result found by Lwoga (2014) with web-based LMSs. Therefore, we may assume that improved quality of information in the e-learning system will positively lead to an increase in perceived usefulness, perceived satisfaction, and system usage. Thus, we hypothesize that:

H2: Information quality positively influences success of e-learning system

**Service quality (SQ)**

The construct has been utilized in the information systems field. For example, the relationship between SRQ and satisfaction was confirmed by Chen and Cheng (2009) in an online shopping system. The direct relationship between SRQ and use was found significant by Wang and Liao (2008) in an e-government system. Similarly, in the context of e-learning, the relationship between SRQ and satisfaction was found significant in the Roca et al. (2006) and Ozkan and Koseler (2009) models. The relationship between SRQ and perceived usefulness proposed in the conceptual model developed by Pham (2019), Hagos, Garfield, and Anteneh (2016) and Lwoga (2014) was shown empirically to be significant in the study conducted by Al-Sabawy (2013) and Ngai, Poon, and Chan (2007). Accordingly, the following hypothesis are proposed:

H3: Service quality positively influences success of e-learning system
Educational system quality (ESQ)

Hassanzadeh et al. (2012) found that educational system quality positively and directly influences user satisfaction and indirectly the use of the system, which indicates that educational features in the e-learning system, and facilities like discussion forums, chat-rooms, collaborative learning tools, can result in user satisfaction and maximizing their usage of the e-learning systems. Social interaction was employed as a key factor of success in computer supported collaborative learning (CSCL) and found to have a significant effect on student learning (Xing, Kim, and Goggins, 2015; Nikolić, 2018; Nikolić, 2019). The relationship between educational system quality and perceived usefulness was found significant for web-based e-learning systems in the study undertaken by Liu, Liao, and Peng (2005) and by Almaiah et al. (2016) for mobile learning systems. Kim, Trimi, Park, and Rhee (2012), Nikolić et al. and Mohammadi (2015) found a positive relationship between educational system quality and satisfaction. In addition, the relationships between diversity in assessment materials, and learner interaction in the e-learning system with perceived satisfaction, were found significant by Cidral et al. (2018). Further, the relationship between educational system features and usefulness was found significant by Liu et al. (2005) for a web-based e-learning system. The same results were obtained by Liaw and Huang (2013) where a significant relationship between the interactive learning environment construct with both perceived usefulness and perceived satisfaction was found. Therefore, the following hypothesis about educational system quality are proposed:

H4: Educational System Quality positively influences the success of e-learning system

Support system quality (SUP)

In the literature on e-learning system success, supportive issues in the e-learning system such as ethics and policies that outline rules, regulations, guidelines and prohibitions to communicate within the e-learning system, assignments' plagiarism rules, data protection, and other legal and copyright issues of the uploaded materials in the e-learning system, in addition to the popularity and policy followed by the organization, all these issues influence the learners significantly (Khan, 2005). For example, in the empirical study conducted by Ozkan and Koseler (2009), the use of the LMS at Brunel University has increased significantly due to the encouragement students and academics received from the university to use the LMS in their modules. The researchers stated “the use of U-Link has increased significantly during the last three years. This is mainly because of
the increasing popularity of e-learning portals.” The researchers studied the relationship between supportive system issues and satisfaction and found it significant. On the other hand, the organizational promotion of the e-learning system significantly and positively affected employees’ satisfaction in the study conducted by Navimipour and Zareie (2015). As stated by (Al-Fraihat et al, 2020), the popularity of the e-learning system, and the policy followed by the organization to promote their e-learning system, play an important role in increasing the usage of the system by academics and learners. Therefore, researchers propose the following hypothesis:

H5: Support System Quality positively influences the success of e-learning system

Learner quality (LER)

This construct was successfully operated in several models developed by prior e-learning researchers. Several researchers examined a subset of the learner quality construct, for example, the learner's self-efficacy was studied by Ong, Lai, and Wang (2004) and a significant relationship with perceived usefulness was found. The same result was achieved by Park (2009). McGill and Klobas (2009) ;Rakic et al.(2020) studied the relationship between learner attitude toward LMS use and LMS utilization and found it significant. Additionally, the relationships between student involvement and both use and satisfaction were found significant in the study of Klobas and McGill (2010). Also, the relationships between self-efficacy and a learner's computer anxiety with perceived usefulness were studied by Chen and Tseng (2012). The relationship between learner and perceived satisfaction was found significant in the models of Sun et al. (2008) and Ozkan and Koseler (2009). Given the positive relations of the indicators associated with the variety of learner's characteristics, it is more likely that the quality of the learner will influence perceived usefulness and use of the system. Thus, propose the following hypothesis:

H6: Learner Quality positively influences the success of e-learning system

Instructor quality (INS)

According to (Al-Fraihat et al, 2020) the instructor's role in the success of e-learning has received attention from researchers in the e-learning arena. To clarify, the model developed by Sun et al. (2008) researched the relationship between the instructor dimension, using two indicators (instructor response timeliness, instructor attitude toward e-learning), and satisfaction, and found it positively significant. Similar results were obtained by Cidral et al. (2018) where a positive
relationship found between instructor attitude toward e-learning and user's satisfaction. Lwoga (2014) employed instructor quality as a separate construct and confirmed a positive significant relationship between instructor quality and both perceived usefulness and user satisfaction. Also, instructor quality has been found to have a significant effect on learners' satisfaction with an e-learning system in the study conducted by Mtebe and Raphael (2018). Thereby the following hypothesis is proposed:

H7: Instructor Quality positively influences the success of e-learning system

2. METHODS

Present study adopts EESS model (Al-Fraihat et al., 2020) based on its greater explanatory power and inclusion of wider range of predictive variables such as technical, human and social. An empirical study of quantitative approach tested the EESS model based on the LMS of a Sri Lankan state university; Wayamba University of Sri Lanka. Data collection led by instrumentalization of an online questionnaire among the level 03 undergraduates who are enrolled to Moodle based LMS of Wayamba University of Sri Lanka. Moodle was selected to test the model of the study because the University of Wayamba has adopted Moodle as the main e-learning system designed to support teaching and learning materials and activities, and to provide a number of interactive activities including forums, wikis, quizzes, surveys, chat and peer-to-peer activities, serving most of the departments and students. In addition, Moodle is widely used in the education sector generally and in higher education specifically. The online survey assessed the success of ELS which is a Moodle based LMS. Sample size determination followed the “10-times rule method” which is a commonly used classic rule for deciding the sample size of Partial Least Square - Structural Equation Modelling (PLS-SEM). (Hair et al., 2011; Peng and Lai, 2012). There, the sample size should be greater than 10 times the maximum number of inner or outer model links pointing at any latent variable in the model (Goodhue et al., 2012). This yielded 70 (7*10) sample units whistle the researchers succeed in drawing 263 valid responses via online survey of selected group. The sampling frame was a list of ELS IDs of all internal undergraduates of WUSL. Using lottery method, 5 times of minimum required sample size was drawn so as to avoid the potential problem of low responses. Resultantly, authors received 263 out of 350 (75%) e-mailed questionnaires. Undergraduates, the study’s unit of analysis offered an evaluation of the ELS properties based on
system design, system delivery, and system outcome. The refined instruments (Al-Fraihat et al., 2020) based on measurement model validity and reliability indexes composed of 52 items falling in seven exogenous variables (predictors) namely, Technical System Quality (TSQ), Information Quality (IQ), Service Quality (SQ), Educational System Quality (ESQ), Support System Quality (SSQ), Learner Quality (LQ), and Instructor Quality (IQ). The endogenous variable; E-Learning System Success (ELSS) contained of four reflective first-order constructs namely, Perceived Satisfaction (PS), Perceived Usefulness (PU), and Use (U) and Benefits (B) of ELSs. 5-point Likert scale was the measure of the responses in which the “1” stands for “Strongly Disagree” and 5 denotes “Strongly Agree”. The questionnaire was pre-tested for its clarity and easy understanding through a pilot study and the face validity was achieved by obtaining the experts views of the same. Partial Least Square - Structural Equation Model (PLS-SEM) deemed to be well explaining the relationship of nexus of latent variables. It generates less contradictory results compared to regression analysis and facilitates analyzing the relationships of multiple independent and dependent variables. Further, PLS-SEM is good at increasing the parsimonious of the analysis (Hair, et al., 2011; Hair, et al., 2014; Ringle, et al., 2012; Wong, 2013). Hierarchical Component Model (HCM) of the collected data was developed using Smart PLS version 3.

3. RESULTS
The endogenous variable, E-Learning System Success composed of four first order measures of which the measurement model was first analyzed for its reliability and validity (Hair, Sarstedt, Ringle, and Mena, 2012). Factor loadings of all the items leading to four constructs satisfy the threshold value 0.7 at the 95% confidence level (Table 1).

| Construct/Item | Loading | t-Statistics | CR | AVE | rho_A | Cronbach Alpha |
|----------------|---------|--------------|----|-----|------|----------------|
| E-Learning System Success---------PerceIVED Satisfaction |
| PS42 | 0.928 | 68.365 | 0.96 | 0.859 | 0.945 | 0.945 |
| PS43 | 0.926 | 64.917 | | | | |
| PS44 | 0.925 | 80.818 | | | | |
| PS45 | 0.928 | 71.516 | | | | |
The Cronbach Alpha values of four constructs range between 0.855 and 0.945. Henseler’s rho (rho_A) values of these constructs range between 0.858 and 0.945. Further, the Composite Reliability (CR) of these constructs falls in between 0.903 and 0.961. For all measures of internal consistency, all constructs scored well above the threshold value of 0.7 as recommended by Nunally (1978). This indicates the high reliability of all four first-order constructs. Factor Loading and Average Variance Extracted (AVE) are considered standard measures of the convergent validity (Hair, et al., 2017; Byrne, 2016; Bagozzi, and Yi, 1998; Fronell, and Larcker, 1981). The AVE values of these constructs fall in between 0.700 and 0.859. Convergent validity of the constructs considered adequate when the AVE exceed 0.5 (Bagozzi, and Yi, 1998; Fronell, and Larcker, 1981). Additionally, factor loadings of latent variables those greater than 0.708 theorized to be explaining minimum 50% or more of the indicator’s variance of it (Hair, et al., 2017). Here, the factor loadings of all the indicators of the first-order model are between 0.726 and 0.942. Accordingly, it is evidenced that the all constructs satisfy the convergent validity criterion. Next, the first-order constructs are examined for their discriminant validity. For an acceptable level of discriminant validity, Fronell, and Larcker, (1981) recommended that the

| E-Learning System Success---------Perceived Usefulness | PU46  | 0.899  | 47.581 | 0.959 | 0.853 | 0.943 | 0.942 |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                                      | PU47  | 0.942  | 93.512 |       |       |       |       |
|                                                      | PU48  | 0.931  | 70.046 |       |       |       |       |
|                                                      | PU49  | 0.922  | 62.565 |       |       |       |       |

| E-Learning System Success---------Use of E-Learning Systems |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| U50              | 0.864  | 46.397 |       | 0.903 | 0.700 | 0.858 | 0.855 |
| U51              | 0.878  | 38.568 |       |       |       |       |       |
| U52              | 0.870  | 36.736 |       |       |       |       |       |
| U53              | 0.726  | 20.589 |       |       |       |       |       |

| E-Learning System Success---------Benefits of E-Learning Systems |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| B54              | 0.892  | 40.552 |       | 0.957 | 0.818 | 0.957 | 0.944 |
| B55              | 0.917  | 52.596 |       |       |       |       |       |
| B56              | 0.896  | 39.476 |       |       |       |       |       |
| B57              | 0.896  | 52.528 |       |       |       |       |       |
| B58              | 0.920  | 70.032 |       |       |       |       |       |

n=263 Survey Results (2020)
AVE of a latent variable should be higher than the squared correlations between the latent variables and all other variables (Chin, 2010; Chin, 1998b; Fronell, and Larcker, 1981). Table 2 demonstrates the correlation matrix with the square roots of AVEs on the diagonal line (in Bold) which indicates an acceptable level of discriminant validity according to Fronell, and Larcker criterion (i.e. AVE criterion). Additionally, cross loadings are also used as a discriminant validity measure where it is expected for each indicator to load highest on the construct it is associated with (Henseler, et al., 2015; Voorhees, et al., 2016). Examination of loading of each indicator on its respective latent variable ensured that all are loaded highest on the latent variable for which they are assigned. Thus, all the constructs of first-order model confirmed to be holding acceptable level of discriminant validity.

Table 2: Correlation Matrix – Discriminant Validity of First-Order Measurement Model

|     | 1    | 2    | 3    | 4    |
|-----|------|------|------|------|
| 1   | Benefits | 0.904 |      |      |      |
| 2   | Perceive Satisfaction | 0.844 | 0.927 |      |      |
| 3   | Perceived Usefulness | 0.841 | 0.860 | 0.924 |      |
| 4   | Use | 0.393 | 0.385 | 0.388 | 0.837 |

n=263
Survey Results (2020)

The second-order model of the constructs is then assessed for ensuring the dimensional properties of it. Latent variable scores of the first-order constructs are used in establishing the second-order model of eight endogenous variables namely, E-Learning System Success (ELSS), Technical System Quality (TSQ), Information Quality (IQ), Service Quality (SQ), Educational System Quality (ESQ), Support System Quality (SSQ), Learner Quality (LQ), and Instructor Quality (IQ). Table 3 shows the key measures of validity and reliability of the second-order constructs.
Table 3: Properties of Second-Order Measurement Model

| Construct/Item                  | Loading | t-Statistics | CR  | AVE | rho_A | Cronbach Alpha |
|--------------------------------|---------|--------------|-----|-----|-------|----------------|
| E-Learning System Success     |         |              |     |     |       |                |
| Perceived Satisfaction        | 0.941   | 84.318       | 0.913| 0.732| 0.930 | 0.866          |
| Perceived Usefulness          | 0.938   | 66.754       |     |     |       |                |
| Use                            | 0.537   | 7.321        |     |     |       |                |
| Benefits                       | 0.936   | 89.054       |     |     |       |                |
| Technical System Quality      |         |              | 0.926| 0.534| 0.918 | 0.913          |
| TSQ1                           | 0.690   | 13.590       |     |     |       |                |
| TSQ2                           | 0.695   | 14.011       |     |     |       |                |
| TSQ3                           | 0.750   | 18.395       |     |     |       |                |
| TSQ4                           | 0.775   | 25.011       |     |     |       |                |
| TSQ5                           | 0.780   | 21.940       |     |     |       |                |
| TSQ6                           | 0.759   | 13.964       |     |     |       |                |
| TSQ7                           | 0.794   | 19.920       |     |     |       |                |
| TSQ8                           | 0.764   | 15.150       |     |     |       |                |
| TSQ9                           | 0.669   | 9.517        |     |     |       |                |
| TSQ10                          | 0.635   | 12.339       |     |     |       |                |
| TSQ11                          | 0.708   | 16.223       |     |     |       |                |
| Support System Quality         |         |              |     |     |       |                |
| SSQ28                          | 0.870   | 45.035       | 0.931| 0.773| 0.902 | 0.902          |
| SSQ29                          | 0.890   | 50.280       |     |     |       |                |
| SSQ30                          | 0.880   | 34.025       |     |     |       |                |
| SSQ31                          | 0.876   | 38.114       |     |     |       |                |
| Service Quality                |         |              |     |     |       |                |
| SQ19                           | 0.872   | 52.173       | 0.954| 0.807| 0.944 | 0.940          |
| SQ20                           | 0.911   | 49.664       |     |     |       |                |
| SQ21                           | 0.899   | 64.376       |     |     |       |                |
| SQ22                           | 0.920   | 72.182       |     |     |       |                |
| SQ23                           | 0.891   | 47.286       |     |     |       |                |
| Learner Quality                |         |              |     |     |       |                |
| LQ32                           | 0.906   | 65.799       | 0.936| 0.748| 0.923 | 0.915          |
| LQ33                           | 0.919   | 86.315       |     |     |       |                |
| LQ34                           | 0.822   | 27.274       |     |     |       |                |
| LQ35                           | 0.776   | 20.632       |     |     |       |                |
| LQ36                           | 0.891   | 47.911       |     |     |       |                |
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| Instructor Quality |  |
|---------------------|----------------|
| IQ37                | 0.870 31.836  |
| IQ38                | 0.891 44.018  |
| IQ39                | 0.912 55.219  |
| IQ40                | 0.928 78.441  |
| IQ41                | 0.906 50.811  |

| Information Quality |  |
|---------------------|----------------|
| INQ12               | 0.764 17.239  |
| INQ13               | 0.755 19.341  |
| INQ14               | 0.820 26.509  |
| INQ15               | 0.766 19.246  |
| INQ16               | 0.779 16.548  |
| INQ17               | 0.726 11.721  |
| INQ18               | 0.700 12.334  |

| Education System Quality |  |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| ESQ24                     | 0.877 46.685  |
| ESQ25                     | 0.875 48.333  |
| ESQ26                     | 0.927 88.279  |
| ESQ27                     | 0.885 38.419  |

n=263
Survey Results (2020)

As the way first-order constructs were assessed for their validity and reliability, the constructs of second-order model were also evaluated for their dimensional properties. The Cronbach Alpha values of all latent variables range between 0.866 and 0.942. Henseler’s rho values of these constructs range between 0.884 and 0.944. Further, the Composite Reliability of these constructs falls in between 0.905 and 0.956. For all measures of internal consistency, all constructs scored well above the threshold value of 0.7 as recommended by Nunally (1978). This indicates the high reliability of all second-order constructs.

Factor Loading and Average Variance Extracted (AVE) are considered standard measures of the convergent validity (Hair, et al., 2017; Byrne, 2016; Bagozzi, and Yi, 1998; Fronell, and Larcker, 1981). The AVE values of these constructs fall in between 0.534 and 0.813. Convergent validity of the constructs considered adequate when the AVE exceed 0.5 (Bagozzi, and Yi, 1998; Fronell, and Larcker, 1981). Additionally, factor loadings of latent variables those greater than 0.708 theorized to be explaining minimum 50% or more of the indicator’s variance of it (Hair, et al., 2017). Here, the factor loadings of all
the indicators except U, TSQ1, TSQ10, TSQ2, and TSQ9 of the second-order model were between 0.700 and 0.941. Yet, U, TSQ1, TSQ10, TSQ2, and TSQ9 respectively loaded 0.537, 0.690, 0.635, 0.695, and 0.669 on their corresponding latent constructs. Based on Byrne’s (2016) recommendation for factor loadings equal to or greater than 0.5, indicator U is accepted since the AVE value of the construct is greater than 0.5 (0.732). Further, the factor loadings equal to or greater than 0.6 can also be accepted, provided that the corresponding AVE value is greater than 0.5 (Byrne, 2016). The contributing AVE value of TSQ latent construct is 0.534. Accordingly, it is evidenced that the all constructs satisfy the convergent validity criterion. Next, the second-order constructs are examined for their discriminant validity. For an acceptable level of discriminant validity, Fronell, and Larcker, (1981) recommended that the AVE of a latent variable should be higher than the squared correlations between the latent variables and all other variables (Chin, 2010; Chin, 1998b; Fronell, and Larcker, 1981). Table 4 demonstrates the correlation matrix with the square roots of AVEs on the diagonal line (in Bold) which indicates an acceptable level of discriminant validity according to Fronker, and Larcker criterion. Additionally, cross loadings are also used as a discriminant validity measure where it is expected for each indicator to load highest on the construct it is associated with (Henseler, et al., 2015; Voorhees, et al., 2016). Examination of loading of each indicator on its respective latent variable ensured that all are loaded highest on the latent variable for which they are assigned. Thus, all the constructs of second-order model confirmed to be holding acceptable level of discriminant validity.

Table 4 : Correlation Matrix – Discriminant Validity of Second-Order Measurement Model

|     | 1     | 2     | 3     | 4     | 5     | 6     | 7     | 8     |
|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1   |       | 0.856 |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| 2   |       |       | 0.749 | 0.891 |       |       |       |       |
| 3   |       |       |       | 0.318 | 0.223 | 0.759 |       |       |
| 4   |       |       |       |       | 0.844 | 0.727 | 0.252 | 0.902 |
| 5   |       |       |       |       |       | 0.837 | 0.765 | 0.282 | 0.825 | 0.865 |
Once the properties of the measurement model are assessed for the reliability and validity, structural model is estimated to assess the effect size of the exogeneous variable on the endogenous variable. Assessment of structural model usually involves assessing the path coefficients, assessing the collinearity, estimating the coefficient of determination, decide on effect size and test for predictive relevance of the model (Hair, Hult, Ringle, and Sarstedt, 2014). Significance of path coefficient can be assessed using $P$ value and $t$-value of the path. As such, path coefficients of those the $P$ value is less than 0.05 (for 95% confidence level) and $t$-value greater than 1.96 (for 2-tailed test) are considered significant (Hair, et al., 2017). Bootstrapping of second-order model results that some paths are statistically significant while some doesn’t (Table 5).

### Table 5 : Path Coefficients of Structural Model

| Original Sample (O) | Sample Mean (M) | Standard Deviation (STDEV) | T Statistics ($|O/STDEV|$) | $P$ Values |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| Education System Quality -> E-Learning System Success | 0.075 | 0.083 | 0.065 | 1.154 | 0.249 |
| Information Quality -> E-Learning System Success | -0.01 | -0.008 | 0.042 | 0.233 | 0.816 |
| Instructor Quality -> E-Learning System Success | 0.314 | 0.305 | 0.097 | **3.248** | **0.001** |
| Learner Quality -> E-Learning System Success | 0.258 | 0.266 | 0.095 | **2.704** | **0.007** |
Except Education System Quality -> E-Learning System Success path \( (P = 0.249, t \text{ value} = 1.154) \) and Information Quality -> E-Learning System Success path \( (P = 0.816, t \text{ value} = 0.233) \) all other paths possess significant path coefficients, where \( P < 0.05 \) and \( t \text{ value} > 1.96 \) (Hair, et al., 2017). The significant paths should be next assessed for their multicollinearity model (Hair, Hult, Ringle, and Sarstedt, 2014). Variance Inflation Factor of PLS algorithm is used in deciding on the possible multicollinearity issues. As to Hair, et al., (2017) no multicollinearity will be presented if the VIF values are less than 5.0 (Hair, et al., 2017). VIF values of all the inner model constructs are well below the threshold value (< 5.0). Hence, it is confirmed that the structural model constructs are free of multicollinearity problems (Table 6).

| VIF Values of Structural Model | Construct               | VIF  |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|------|
| Education System Quality      | 2.959                   |
| Information Quality           | 2.208                   |
| Instructor Quality            | 4.144                   |
| Learner Quality               | 4.139                   |
| Service Quality               | 2.609                   |
| Support System Quality        | 3.612                   |
| Technical System Quality      | 2.171                   |

n=263, Survey Results (2020)
Now the path significance is assessed and the absence of multicollinearity is ensured. Next coefficient of determination ($R^2$) is examined to weight the explained variance. PLS algorithm of second-order model resulted in 0.817 of $R^2$ value. Based on independent variables’ ability to account 81.7% variance of the dependent variable, it is concluded that there is a substantial level of influence by the E-Learning system qualities on the Success of E-Learning System (Hair, et al., 2017; Chin, 1998; Cohen, 1988). The above $R^2$ value is depicted in the structural model of figure 3.

![Second-Order Structural Model](image)

**Figure 3 : Second-Order Structural Model**

n=263, Survey Results (2020)

The effect size ($f$ square) of PLS algorithm is the next measure of the structural model. The effect size is defined as “the increase in $R^2$ relative to the proportion of variance of the endogenous latent variable that remains unexplained” (Cohen, 1988,
Henseler et al., 2009). As to Hair et al., (2017) and Cohen (1988), 0.35 – $f^2$ value is regarded larger effect size, 0.15 - $f^2$ value: medium effect size and 0.02 $f^2$ value equals to smaller effect size. Table 7 contains the effect size of corresponding latent constructs.

| Table 7: Effect Sizes ($f^2$) of Structural Model |
|-------------------------------------------------|
| E-Learning System Success | Effect Size |
| Education System Quality | 0.010 | No |
| Information Quality | 0.000 | No |
| Instructor Quality | 0.130 | Small |
| Learner Quality | 0.088 | Small |
| Service Quality | 0.021 | Small |
| Support System Quality | 0.067 | Small |
| Technical System Quality | 0.039 | Small |

n=263, Survey Results (2020)

Based on the decision criterion, Education system Quality and Information Quality appear not having any effect while other independent variables possess small effect size on the variance of $R^2$ (Cohen, 1988, Henseler et al., 2009). Finally, the structural model is assessed for its predictive relevance via the blindfolding (q Square). Stone-Geisser Predictive relevance suggests that the $Q^2$ value larger than 0 (0 <$Q^2$) indicates that exogenous constructs have predictive relevance over endogenous construct (Stone, 1974; Geisser, 1975; Hair, et al., 2017). The blindfolding of Construct Cross validated Redundancy results 0.579 $Q^2$ value which is well above the threshold value of 0. It implies that the E-learning system qualities have predictive relevance over E-Learning System Success.
4. DISCUSSION

PLS-SEM results confirms 81.7% explanatory power of the predictor variables in explaining the variance of E-Learning Success. Further, Instructor Quality (0.314), Learner Quality (0.258), Support System Quality (0.211), Technical System Quality (0.125), and Service Quality (0.099), found significant in predicting the variance of E-Learning System Success. Yet, the tested data does not prove that the Educational Systems Quality and Information Quality can predict the E-Learning Success. Findings are partly consistent with the findings of Al-Fraihat et al. (2020), Mosakhani & Jamporazmey (2010), and Al-Fraihat et al. (2018) despite some anomalies are noted with respect to insignificant predictors namely; Educational Systems Quality (Kim, Trimi, Park, and Rhee, 2012; Mohammadi, 2015; Xing, Kim, and Goggins, 2015) and Information Quality (Klobas & McGill, 2010; Eom et al., 2012; Chen, 2010; Lwoga, 2014). E-learning system here has viewed as a triangular conception in which teacher (i.e. facilitator) and the learner interact with each other via a technical platform: the system. All the significant predictors to e-learning success found closely attached to either of these three pillars of an e-learning system. Hence, their power in affecting the success of e-learning system can be ramified. For instance, two leading predictors, Instructor Quality and Learner Quality directly associated with two of three pillars. They represent the live components of E-learning systems who are the contributors and as well the beneficiaries of E-learning systems. Thus, it is inveterate that the instructors and learners to a greater extent should be responsible for success of the e-learning systems to which they are connected. Additionally, the rest of the significant predictors; Support System Quality, Technical System Quality, and Service Quality are elements of the other pillar; the technical platform. Hence, the results proved that the success of e-learning system in a way is a communal contribution of all three parties to the system. On contrary, the insignificant factors appear loosely connected with either of the three main components of the e-learning system. Thus, the findings are believed to be revealing the factuality of the presumed relationships. The implications flag that the organizations need to emphasize on creating learning opportunities, knowledge sharing, and tapping knowledge at both individual & corporate levels developing an e-learning culture in the process. Additionally, the study spotlighted the fact that even though global delivery of e-learning is highly talked about, the real potential of e-learning depends on the local environment
to a large extent (Ali, 2008). E-learning undoubtedly is a source of competitive advantage (Choudhury & Pattnaik, 2020). However, as pointed out in the paper, partners to the learning experience need to observe the changing dynamics of the learning environment and should follow an agile approach that enable adoption and diffusion of e-learning tools on a continuous basis.

5. CONCLUSION

Students today are exposing to different learning environments to gain the maximum value in learning experiences. Natural and man-made disasters such as COVID 19 pandemic, often threaten the continuation of physical learning experiences. This, together with many other socio economical drivers, have thrived the demand for e-learning. Every institution is unique and has its own strengths in conducting online courses. The essence of quality education, in any form, is to ensure that learning objectives are achieved efficiently and effectively, without sacrificing the standards of the educator and institution. Although recent attention has increased e-learning evaluation, the current research base for evaluating e-learning is inadequate. Given the significance of the investments in implementing e-learning programs, the assessment of their success / effectiveness can’t be misjudged (American Society for Training and Development, 2001). In that light, the present study contributes to the existing body of knowledge of e-learning systems by proposing a new model of assessing the e-learning systems success. Findings confirms that the proposed model holds superficial capacity to predict the variances in e-learning system’s success. The previous studies (Al-Fraihat, et. al., 2020) offer confirmation of the theoretical implications of the EESS model in the context of developing countries. Study supports the practical implication of ensuring not only the technical systems quality but also the instructor, learner, service, support system, and technical system in any attempt to enhance the success of e-learning systems (Abbasi et.al. 2020: Aboagye et.al, 2021: Ali et.al., 2018: Mtebe and Raphael, 2018). Future studies are invited in different research sites (e.g. state and private universities) with different methodological imperatives.
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