

Development of a Framework to Relate the Learner Awareness of Assessment Criteria and Learning Outcomes

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Abstract

Outcome based education has been implemented in various institutions across the globe for engineering study programs as an effective way of improving the skills and competencies of the graduates. Outcome-based education allows to make decisions about the curriculum that are driven by sets of learning outcomes that the students should display at the end of the course as well as the study program. The demand for such a paradigm shift in engineering study programmes is mainly due to the rapidly changing global engineering and technology workforce needs. As evidenced by the feedback received from the Departmental Industry Advisory Board meetings at the Faculty of Engineering Technology in The Open University of Sri Lanka, an outcome-based curriculum revision was undertaken. The implementation of the revised curriculum takes place in 2019. This research investigates the effectiveness of the proposed outcome-based education following a set guideline based on the Sri Lanka Qualification Framework. As part of this ongoing research, we will be investigating the awareness of the learners considering the undergraduate project course as it was much sought after by the field specific industries and considered as a primary aspect in the selection interviews for employment. With the preliminary study the current evaluation processes were analysed to gain insights to the criteria in practice by different specializations. The responses of the learners were gathered on their awareness on the learning outcomes as well as the evaluation criteria. Then, a framework was developed based on theory of planned behaviour to assess the levels of awareness and their implications. Scenario based evaluations were conducted to compare the applicability of the proposed framework. Qualitative assessment was made for each scenario. Results reveal a set of recommendations for the applicability for the scenarios under consideration.

Key words: *Outcome based education: Skills & competencies: Qualitative assessment: learner awareness*