**Impact of COVID -19 on Humanities and Social Sciences Undergraduate Dissertations of Sri Lanka**

Due to the vicious impact of the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic, the education system drastically changes from traditional in-person classes to online format despite primary, secondary and higher education of most of the countries. Worldwide education specialists, teachers, lecturers, students and educators have widely discussed the challenges, difficulties and implications of education during the COVID-19 pandemic related to the traditional teaching-learning process. However, there are few studies have been conducted on Sri Lankan university education during the COVID-19 pandemic situation concerning challenges, the importance of technological literacy and the effectiveness of the online teaching-learning process. Apart from studying bachelor’s degree courses of the university curricular, arts (humanities and social sciences) undergraduates are required to undertake a dissertation at the completion of the degree to demonstrate the skills and knowledge that they have acquired in their studies. Concerning the challenges and difficulties in conducting researches related to the fields of humanities and social sciences at the completion of the undergraduate studies, this study intended to find out the impact of the COVID-19 situation in Sri Lanka on the undergraduate dissertation while questioning the validity of the final output of arts undergraduates. This study was designed based on the qualitative approach to get in-depth information from the selected sample belong to three universities in Sri Lanka. As the findings of this study attested, the arts undergraduates had to face mainly methodological and technical challenges when designing their research due to the COVID-19 situation in the county. As a research-designing challenge, especially for undergraduates who designed their study in the field of social sciences had to change or limit the sample/scope of the study. The same had occurred to the undergrad researchers in the field of humanities, with the limitation of access to the primary and secondary library sources. The language of the recommended reading materials had a significant effect on accessing sources. Most of the Sinhala and Tamil medium primary and secondary sources were not accessible because almost all libraries including public libraries were closed due to the COVID-19 situation. In this case, the only available option for students was to get reading material from the internet. Another challenge is that, most students didn't get proper supervision and guidance from their supervisors due to communication and technical difficulties. Therefore, it is proved that there is an impact of COVID-19 to accessibility and dissemination of knowledge of humanities and social sciences undergraduates in Sri Lanka, and as a consequence, it has impacted the quality output of the dissertation. It can be implied that there is a dissimilarity of quality research output between undergraduates who completed their researches during the pandemic era and the non-pandemic era.

 **Keywords:** Undergraduate Dissertation, COVID-19, Sri Lankan Universities, Humanities, Social Sciences