

Title: Using Design Thinking Approach for Online Competition during COVID-19

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Institutions are continuously looking for new ways of enhancing student learning to equip them with skills that would enable them to cope with twenty-first century demands. One promising approach that can be utilised to enhance students' skills is Design Thinking. This is an iterative approach for solving problems by giving priority to the target user or shareholder's needs above all else. This iterative approach consists of five phases, namely Empathy, Define, Ideate, Prototype and Testing. This article provides an insight on the implementation of virtual Design Thinking among Malaysian Polytechnics and Community Colleges' students competing in Camp 21 Synergising Literacies 2021 competition. The competition attracted 150 students from 30 institutions. Design Thinking master trainers and facilitators played a major role in the success of this event. Using the virtual Design Thinking, students were empowered to learn, collaborate and engage in critical as well as creative thinking skills, which are beneficial for them to stay competitive in the changing job market. This has also proven that virtual Design Thinking can be done effectively through virtual mode. Therefore, it is recommended that institutions adopt this approach to produce students with the valuable 21st century skills.

virtual Design Thinking, 21st -century skills education, innovative approach, iterative approach