

A Study on the Challenges Faced in Online Chinese Language Learning in Sri Lanka during the COVID-19 Pandemic

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The education sector worldwide is currently affected by the global COVID-19 pandemic which is considered the most recent disaster. As a result of that, the regular on-site teaching and learning process was transformed into an online process. This transition was embraced by Chinese language learners to enhance their knowledge and skills. Nevertheless, it is undeniable that both benefits and pitfalls can be observed in online education. Hence, this study tends to identify the challenges faced by learners of Chinese language who pursue lessons online. As per the analysis of interviews, recordings, and the questionnaire survey, it was discovered that online education is a novel experience for students in the sample and the majority of them make use of minimal facilities, lower technology literacy, and fewer financial resources. Sri Lanka is not digitally smart enough to suddenly and entirely transform education into an online enterprise. Therefore, it is inevitable that learners are not sufficiently equipped with network facilities to face the online learning crisis. Despite the pitfalls

of online learning, this tech-savvy generation has become innovative, and creative thinkers have the potential to minimise drawbacks of online Chinese language learning using diverse self-study methods. Similarly, it is recommended that Sri Lankan education administrators should have a rationale to enhance the quality of teaching models and the efficiency of online learning by facilitating learners with required resources.

Keywords: *alternative learning methods, challenges, Chinese language learning, language learner, online learning*