Uki Monthly Report

Dated from April 17th to May 16th and May 17th to June 16th

Introduction

This monthly report provides the stakeholders with an overview of the first two months of full stack coding accelerator programme being conducted by Ūki to 15 students.

Programme Overview

The course started from very basic since there was a mixture of students with various levels of programming exposure.

Ubuntu machines were provided for the students and initially a touch typing software named Klavaro was introduced and blogger accounts were created for each student and it has been made compulsory to practice touch typing and write blog every morning for an hour at Uki.

In the blogs they were requested to write what they learnt on the previous day at Uki along with their experiences thus not only helping them improve their typing, language skills but also revising what they learn every day. The links to student blogs could be found under **Performance** section. Blogging was made compulsory and also encouraged by providing best blog of the month award for 3 outstanding blogs.

Introduction to programming was taught along with programming fundamentals, Pseudo code, flowchart with slides specially designed for better understanding of Uki students along with group exercises and presentations to help improve their soft skills from early on.

Linux was taught next and basic command line course was taught for effective usage of Ubuntu environment.

Atom was introduced as the web programming editor as it is open source, has lots of plugin and customizable to the core.

Next the students were introduced to Web Development. After the introduction on how web works they began coding with HTML5 and continued to learn the front end technologies such as CSS3, Bootstrap, JavaScript, jQuery. Lectures were based on W3School curriculum and special care was taken that they get a strong grip on the fundamentals.

Codecademy was introduced for further practice along with the in class exercises and completing codecademy courses were made compulsory. Their profile URLs were tracked to make sure they complete courses on time which are also could be found under **Performance** section**.**

They were also introduced to freeCodeCamp and was encouraged to complete the syllabus parallel to Uki as it also has the similar course structure to Uki focusing on Full Stack Web Development. Further freeCodeCamp certificates hold great value internationally thus guidance is being provided to achieve those.

Students were also introduced to Trello where we manage and track assignment, in class exercise, homework submission and other course related activities. They were also encouraged to use Trello for managing their personal projects.

Slack was introduced to maintain effective communication between students and instructors and also encourage students to help each other. Separate channels were created based on topics for clarity of discussions.

The concept of "Uki Fun Work" is introduced where students are encouraged to build fun and exciting things based on the technology they have learnt.

After initial introduction to programming and web development Git was introduced and everyone created Github account and all the class work and projects were regularly version managed on Github.

Students were taught on the importance of maintaining professional online presence and as part of that introduced to LinkedIn. Everyone was asked to create a professional LinkedIn profile and instructions were given on how to maintain professional online presence.
As part this above students were also taught to build their personal webpage on github and the links to their github.io pages are also mentioned in the Performance Section.
Under the above scheme all students were also made to create a stackoverflow account and instructed on how to use it effectively.

Once the front end technologies were tackled students were introduced to nosql database Mongodb and in class exercises were given to make them get familiar with the usage of Mongodb.

Then Node.js was introduced and after the fundamentals Mongo Client was also introduced enabling them to connect their node servers with their mongo database.

After JSON was taught and the communication between client server was made possible.

To break the monotony of the class Sass(Syntactically Awesome Style Sheets) was taught to include variety as students were getting tensed on server side technologies. This was found effective and will be considered for future.

To make sure that students understood what they are been taught and that they are in track we initially introduced the final web app that they are going to build at the end of the program which is a TV Show Tracker Web Application and when an aspect of that program is taught they were given assignment to build that component. So far two assignments were given and the performance for those assignments could be seen under **Performance** section.

Khan Academy Local Server known as KA Lite was installed in our local server and students were guided on using the resource to enhance their knowledge on Programming and Computer Science.

A full day business lecture was conducted by Balathasan Sayanthan on the 10th of May where students were introduced to basic business concepts and an ideation session followed for them to conceptualize an idea for their project. Based on this they submitted the first version of their
Project Proposal on 24th of May and after review submitted their version 2 of project proposal on the 1st of June.

Initiatives

Uki Gavel Club

Uki Gavel Club was initiated on the 21st of April with the help of Jaffna Toastmasters Club. Two representatives from JTMC visited Uki to conduct model meeting on the 21st after which the Club has been regularly conducting its meeting on every Fridays from 4 to 5 pm.

Gavel clubs are a way of providing the Toastmasters experience to groups who may be ineligible for regular membership due to member age, inability to pay dues or other circumstances and Toastmasters is an international club formed for the purpose of helping members improve their communication, public speaking, and leadership skills.

The club also initiated **English Only** Project under which all students must communicate in English within Uki Premises and Uki social media and the offender is punished by asking to give speech in English for Uki.

Another project **Helping Hand** is to help those students who are poor in English by students who are quite good by providing them personal coaching during break time.

JTMC Toastmasters conducting model meeting at Uki Gavel Club

Uki Fitness Club

Uki Fitness Club was initiated on the 12th of June having the vision of making Uki members physically, mentally and spiritually fit. After regular practices of early morning Yoga, Meditation, Team Building Activities the club was formed in order to coordinate these activities effectively and for the student body to take leadership.

Project **Wake Up Healthy** focuses on early morning regular exercises through which Yoga, Meditation and Zumba Exercises were taught and practised from 9 to 9.20 am.

Project **Revive Your Spirit** focuses on organizing sports tournaments, team building activities and also reviving traditional outdoor games such as Kilithaddu, Taachi , KenthiKodu , etc

Project **Live Fit** focuses on creating awareness via presentations, short speeches, group activities and other on how to lead a healthy lifestyle as a software Engineer such as how to sit properly in front of a computer and often you should take break from your computer, etc.

Snaps from Team Building Games organized by Uki Fitness Club

Snaps from Team Building Games organized by Uki Fitness Club

Special Guest Workshops

Jay Cousins

Jay Cousins who is a renowned entrepreneur, inventor and currently working as a interior designer for the new space for Yarl It Hub was grateful enough to visit us on 2 occasions. On his first visit on 15th of May he did a workshop on idea generation after an introduction session and on his second visit he did a workshop on thinking out of the box pushing the students to think beyond tradition to come up with effective ideas. This involved a lot of interesting creative activities as well.

Jay Cousins Workshop 1

Jay Cousins Workshop 2

Kelsye Nelson

Kelsye Nelson who is an Author, Publishing Consultant and Entrepreneur from United States of America visited Uki on June 8th and shared her experience on building writer.ly and why she failed. Further she emphasized the fact that technology is an equalizer and brainstormed our student's ideas. She promised further support via online for those who needed her assistance.

Kelsye Nelson Workshop

Attendance

Following table shows the attendance of the students for the past two months as described. There were 10 classes on the month of April and 22 for the month of May.

Number	Student Name	April - 10	April Average	May - 22	May Average
UKISTU01	Jackshanan	8	80%	18	81.81%
UKISTU02	Thadchayini	10	100%	22	100%
UKISTU03	Danskeerthana	10	100%	20	90.90%
UKISTU04	Tharshan	10	100%	19	86.36%
UKISTU05	Dilani	10	100%	21	95.45%
UKISTU06	Thuvarakan	10	100%	22	100%
UKISTU07	Abiramy	9	90%	19	86.36%

UKISTU08	Shahama	9	90%	21	95.45%
UKISTU09	Ramanakarasarma	7	70%	20	90.90%
UKISTU10	Janarthanan	10	100%	22	100%
UKISTU11	Thaneesan	10	100%	22	100%
UKISTU12	Shangeeran	10	100%	21	95.45%
UKISTU13	Mayoori	9	90%	22	100%
UKISTU14	Minerva	10	100%	22	100%
UKISTU15	Janusha	10	100%	22	100%

Performance

Overview of Assignment 1 Performance

Assignment_1 Marks

- 100-80
- 80-60
- 60-40
- 40-0

20.0%
33.3%
40.0%
6.7%
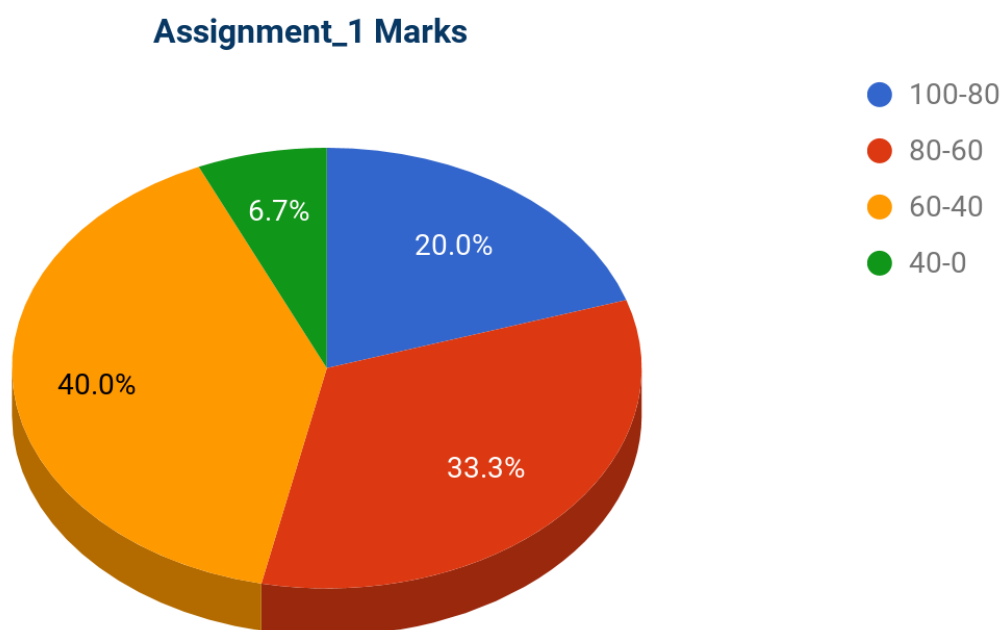
Overview of Assignment 2 Performance

Assignment_2 Marks

- 100-80
- 80-60
- 60-40
- 40-0

6.7%
26.7%
13.3%
53.3%
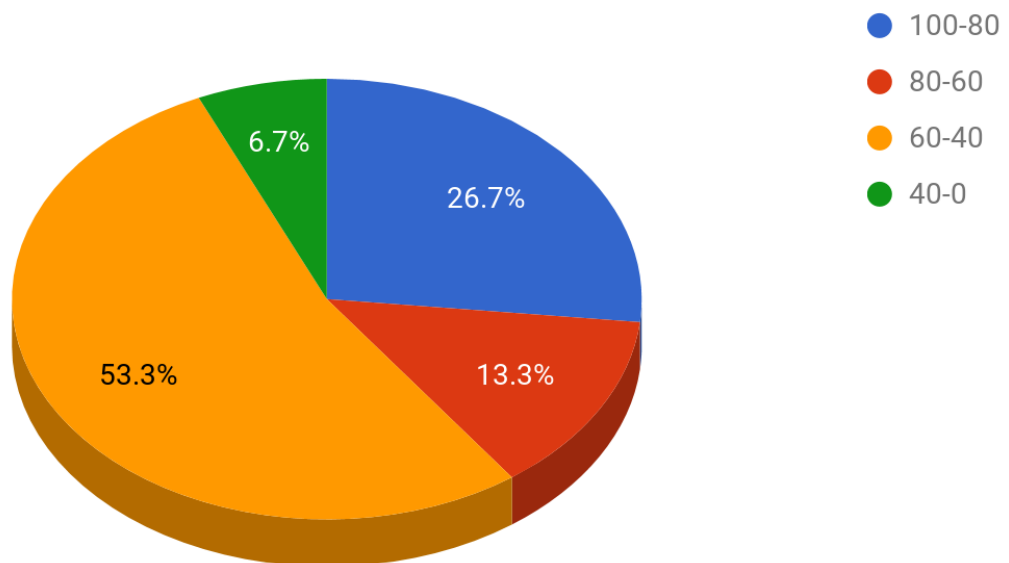
Blog

Links for the Student Blogs

Number	Student Name	Blog URL
UKISTU01	Jackshanan	jackshanan.blogspot.com
UKISTU02	Thadchayini	thadchayini.blogspot.com
UKISTU03	Danskeerthana	danskeerththana.blogspot.com
UKISTU04	Tharshan	darsan14.blogspot.com
UKISTU05	Dilani	http://karthigesudilani21.blogspot.com
UKISTU06	Thuvarakan	https://ukiandme.blogspot.com/
UKISTU07	Abiramy	abiinthirakumaran.blogspot.com
UKISTU08	Shahama	http://shamashajeeth.blogspot.com/
UKISTU09	Ramanakarasarma	ramana555.blogspot.com
UKISTU10	Janarthanan	http://jana971211.blogspot.com/
UKISTU11	Thaneesan	thaneesan.blogspot.com
UKISTU12	Shangeeran	shangeeran.blogspot.com
UKISTU13	Mayoori	http://mayoorirajee.blogspot.com/

| UKISTU14 | Minerva | minervajeyarajah.blogspot.com |
| UKISTU15 | Janusha | janusha997.blogspot.com |

Github Page

Links for the Github Personal Page

Number	Student Name	Github Page
UKISTU01	Jackshanan	jackshanan.github.io
UKISTU02	Thadchayini	thadchayini.github.io
UKISTU03	Danskeerthana	danskeerththana.github.io
UKISTU04	Tharshan	darsansiva.github.io
UKISTU05	Dilani	karthigesudilani.github.io
UKISTU06	Thuvarakan	thuvarakanperinpanayagam.github.io
UKISTU07	Abiramy	Abiinthirakumaran.github.io
UKISTU08	Shahama	shahamashajeeth.github.io
UKISTU09	Ramanakarasarma	ramanasha.github.io
UKISTU10	Janarthanan	janaravi.github.io
UKISTU11	Thaneesan	thaneesan.github.io
UKISTU12	Shangeeran	Shangee.github.io
UKISTU13	Mayoori	mayoorika.github.io
UKISTU14	Minerva	minojeyam.github.io
UKISTU15	Janusha	janushasiva.github.io

Codecademy

Links for the Codecademy Profile URLs

Number	Student Name	Codecademy
UKISTU01	Jackshanan	https://www.codecademy.com/jackshanan
UKISTU02	Thadchayini	https://www.codecademy.com/thadchayini
UKISTU03	Danskeerthana	https://www.codecademy.com/danskeerthana
UKISTU04	Tharshan	https://www.codecademy.com/darsansiva
UKISTU05	Dilani	https://www.codecademy.com/karthigesudilani

UKISTU06	Thuvarakan	https://www.codecademy.com/thuvarakanjs
UKISTU07	Abiramy	https://www.codecademy.com/abiabiya
UKISTU08	Shahama	https://www.codecademy.com/Shahama_Shajeeth
UKISTU09	Ramanakarasara	https://www.codecademy.com/ramanasha
UKISTU10	Janarthanan	https://www.codecademy.com/ravijana
UKISTU11	Thaneesan	https://www.codecademy.com/thaneesan
UKISTU12	Shangeeran	https://www.codecademy.com/shangeeran
UKISTU13	Mayoori	https://www.codecademy.com/MayooriRajee
UKISTU14	Minerva	https://www.codecademy.com/MinervaJeyarajah
UKISTU15	Janusha	https://www.codecademy.com/janushasiva

freeCodeCamp

Links for the freeCodeCamp profile URLs

Number	Student Name	freeCodeCamp
UKISTU01	Jackshanan	https://www.freecodecamp.com/jackshanan
UKISTU02	Thadchayini	https://www.freecodecamp.com/thadchayini
UKISTU03	Danskeerthana	https://www.freecodecamp.com/danskeerththana
UKISTU04	Tharshan	https://www.freecodecamp.com/darsansiva
UKISTU05	Dilani	https://www.freecodecamp.com/karthigesudilani
UKISTU06	Thuvarakan	https://www.freecodecamp.com/thuvarakanperinpanayagam
UKISTU07	Abiramy	https://www.freecodecamp.com/abiinthirakumaran
UKISTU08	Shahama	https://www.freecodecamp.com/shahamashajeeth
UKISTU09	Ramanakarasarma	https://www.freecodecamp.com/ramanasha
UKISTU10	Janarthanan	https://www.freecodecamp.com/janaravi
UKISTU11	Thaneesan	https://www.freecodecamp.com/thaneesan
UKISTU12	Shangeeran	https://www.freecodecamp.com/shangee
UKISTU13	Mayoori	https://www.freecodecamp.com/mayoorika
UKISTU14	Minerva	https://www.freecodecamp.com/minojeyam
UKISTU15	Janusha	https://www.freecodecamp.com/janushasiva

Comments

Vithushan Vijayaratnam
Director

It has been an intensive 2 months of hard work for both us and the students. Honestly students performed really well and more than what I had expected. We deployed the technique of pushing them to the edge of their capability. Though they were complaining initially that the speed at which we are moving is a bit too much later they were able to catch up and achieve a status of mastery which we could only dream of in the beginning.

I believe that the effort to recreate the university life of initiating 2 clubs to provide them leadership roles and to balance their study play time has paid off immensely creating a bond with Uki thus propelling them towards a work hard play harder culture.

Flat structure was emphasized from early on from not letting them call the lecturers as Sir or Madam to freely engage in fruitful discussions and idea sharing towards the betterment of Uki. Resources were shared equally among all of us and the importance of taking responsibility was also practised.

Overall I am proud of what we have achieved over the past two months here at Uki and with the support of all our stakeholders we could continue to achieve great heights.

Dharsika Paramsothy
Programming Lecturer

Feeling happy about student's activities and their learning thirst. There are some students really perform well in all activities. Some of them are struggling in programming. I hope, that they can be made to improve themselves by providing them enough motivation. I believe that the problem is they don't have enough knowledge in programming background and english language before they enter Uki. Now they can understand what they are going to do. And they are improving their english knowledge and programming knowledge with the help of uki activities and british council this situation could be greatly improved over time.

Mathangie Sambavi
Personal Coaching Lecturer

Throughout the last month with UKi on Personal Coaching, I found the session, students, and staffs interesting. The feedback that I have gathered from students ensure that they are satisfied with both my personal coaching and Uki. My initial session started by enabling each to perform SWOT in order to self-assess their plus and minus. According to that and as to the personal conversation I had with them on their passion; I assisted them with goal setting. I also introduced simple effective mental techniques such as creative visualization to enhance support on their goal and objective achievements. The common problem that I found among students is their fear with English language and their self-doubt on spoken English. However, I had assisted them with some simple exercises in enhancing Spoken English in their own and ways of increasing their vocabulary in their subjects, through small home exercises, which i repeatedly test with them whether they are doing it continuously at home. In addition, I found that UKi also has made some initiatives on improving this matter.

Overall, the following skills were aimed to be enhanced among students through personal coaching, class sessions, and practical games;

1. Dealing with cultural diversity in working-place
2. Doing presentations with confidence
3.. Leadership aspects (explained that everyone of them are leaders)
4. Team building (how to work in teams and how to handle conflicts)
5. Dealing with strangers
6. Several discussions on the importance of being the self-directed, self-motivated, and self-empowered individuals to face the working environment.
7. Innovative problem solving methods

All students said that their presentation skills have improved and confidence level has simultaneously gotten better, which I find very imperative milestone in the session.

I have rated their performance through a session where they were asked to do presentation in a topic that they are passionate about. I have provided them with another assignment where they will have to visit a firm of their choice and learn their working culture and have to do a presentation. After this session, I will meet them again after three weeks to catch-up with their goals and improvement.

Feedback from Students

Student Feedback Form could be found on the following URL
https://goo.gl/forms/tPLCiePVFsneXPaS2
And the response sheet on the following
https://docs.google.com/a/yarlithub.org/spreadsheets/d/1g7Ft3biVzqZcZG8gcl3ChN_F5Q8PLKhTUZsPp72WppI/edit?usp=sharing

- For the question of their favorite language 53.9 % of Students answered HTML and for the question of difficult language 77 % of them replied JavaScript. For the suggestion on how can they improve on the difficult part majority of them replied that now they have been introduced to freeCodeCamp and Codecademy by practising more using them that they could improve.

- Every one of them feels great about Uki environment commenting "Excellent, Awesome, Cool and Flexible, I enjoy the environment, very nice" and one particular student commented "It is a calm and confident environment. Whenever I enter Uki I feel more comfortable."

- For "What changes you expect in Uki for better performance?"
  The following answers were obtained.

  - 2 requested that the class time be changed to 8 to 4
  - Another requested to decrease the class time
  - Invite more visiting lecturers to Uki
  - Have programming lecturers in the morning and others in the evening.
  - To slow down the phase at times when it is difficult to grasp.

- For "What are the things you like in Uki learning environment?"
  The answers were Laptop, Classroom arrangement, Group Study, Carom, Lecture Method, All kind of Learning Material, Method of Teaching and the way that Uki lecturers treat us, It's peaceful environment,Friendship style, Sport activities and Group activities, Bond like family.

- For "What are the things you dislike in Uki learning environment?"
  Many complained that the furniture is uncomfortable and requested that the chairs to be changed. Further there were complains on the teaching being fast and grouping system doesn't let them sit next to their friends.

- For "What kind of help you need to be better at programming?"
  Requests were made to slow down the phase of teaching.
  3 of them replied that they wanted English Lectures in Tamil instructions as well.
  One requested that tea to be served for the tea break.

- For what skills that they believe that they need to improve most of them replied English Speaking, Presentation and Programming Skills.

- Following chart represents the level of effort students put into the course.

Level of effort

- Following Chart represents the contribution of the course towards learning.
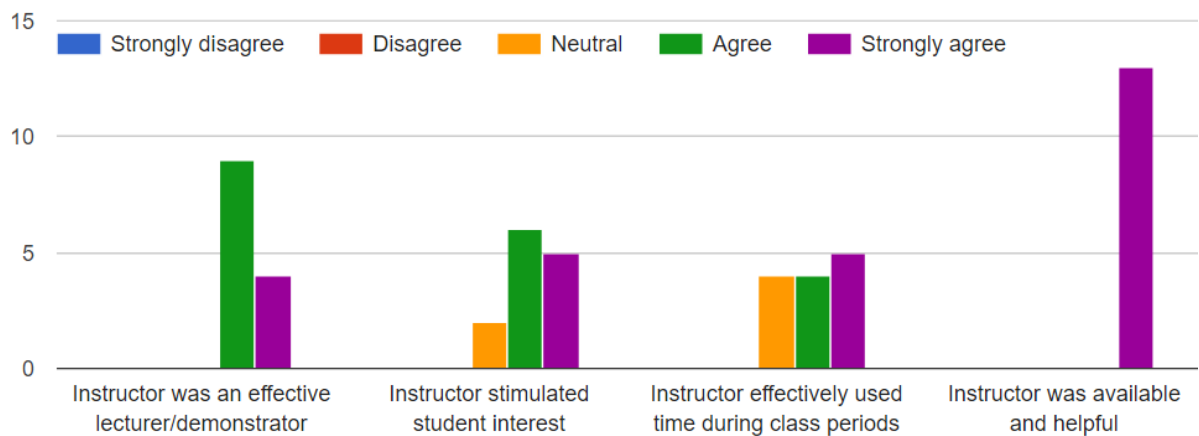
Contribution to learning

- The following responses were obtained for the skill and responsiveness of the instructor.
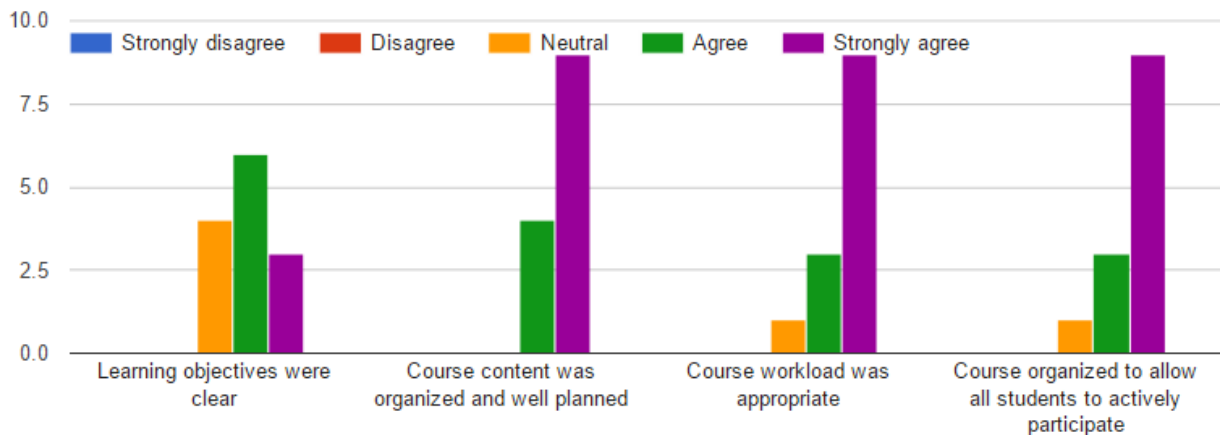
Skill and responsiveness of the instructors

Bar chart with legend: Strongly disagree, Disagree, Neutral, Agree, Strongly agree. Y-axis from 0 to 15.
- Instructor was an effective lecturer/demonstrator: Agree 9, Strongly agree 4
- Instructor stimulated student interest: Neutral 2, Agree 6, Strongly agree 5
- Instructor effectively used time during class periods: Neutral 4, Agree 4, Strongly agree 5
- Instructor was available and helpful: Strongly agree 13

- And for course content following responses were obtained.

Course content

Bar chart with legend: Strongly disagree, Disagree, Neutral, Agree, Strongly agree. Y-axis from 0.0 to 10.0.
- Learning objectives were clear: Neutral 4, Agree 6, Strongly agree 3
- Course content was organized and well planned: Agree 4, Strongly agree 9
- Course workload was appropriate: Neutral 1, Agree 3, Strongly agree 9
- Course organized to allow all students to actively participate: Neutral 1, Agree 3, Strongly agree 9

- For feedback on Personal coaching students mentioned that it is very useful and it helped them improve many soft skills of theirs and boost their confidence.

- And for feedback on project business lecturers they commented that they learnt a lot on startup and how to design a project proposal to start a business. It was useful and they are excited to build their project.

- For the question of "What aspects of this course were most useful or valuable?" most of them replied all aspects of the course highlighting Coding Program and Gavel Club.

- For "how would you improve this course?" They wanted some crazy ways to be tried on teaching. More group activities, more exercises and more practice were some other answers.

- For further suggestions for Uki they wanted Uki T Shirts to be printed to introduce a dress code, Organize get togethers and trips, Overnight hackathons.

Conclusion

In Conclusion the past two months of Uki has been a rewarding and successful one. Since it is the first of its kind in Srilanka we had to deploy a continuously evolving model learning from our previous experiences and pivoting accordingly to achieve better results.

It has been found that out of the several models we tried that the self-learning model of initially preparing them to be capable of self-learning then promoting healthy competition among each other while guiding them along to learn by themselves has been the most effective.

It was made sure that the class environment was very dynamic which included Group activities, presentations, Quizzes, Code challenges, etc.

Resources so far for the learning environment has been excellent and the only issue has been that the internet data quota would regularly run out and though various methods were tried to effectively use the data it couldn't be resolved.

An article also has been published about Uki on readme.lk an online magazine pioneers in technews of Sri Lanka which could be accessed in the following link.
http://www.readme.lk/uki/

Website -   http://uki.life/
Facebook -   https://www.facebook.com/uki.life/
Twitter -   https://twitter.com/ukilife
Github -   https://github.com/ukilife