

**CIRCULAR NO. 9**  
**A SURVEY OF THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON STUDENT MEMBERS**

Dear IEM Members,

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic and the enforcement of MCO by the government, The Institution of Engineers Malaysia (IEM) initiated a Survey for the Student Members to seek their feedback on the impact of COVID-19. The objective of the survey was to gather information on the conditions of IEM Student Members who were affected by the Movement Control Order (MCO). Below is the summary report of the Survey.

**REPORT**

Based on the Survey conducted from 30<sup>th</sup> April to 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020, a total of 379 IEM Student Members responded:

- a) It consisted of 197 male students representing 52% of the total respondents and 182 female students representing 48% of the total respondents.
- b) 72% were 21-24 years of age and 16% were aged below 21.
- c) 93% of the Student Members were pursuing undergraduate courses while 3% were pursuing post graduate courses and only 2% were pursuing Diploma courses.

**GENERAL FEEDBACK**

On the impact of COVID-19 pandemic and the MCO:

- a) Majority of Student Members (94%) were satisfied with the initiatives taken by the Government during the MCO period to control the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic at the educational institutions.
- b) 95% of them agreed that there was adequate online learning support during the period.
- c) 74% of them were satisfied by the financial aid and assistance offered to them by the government and educational institutions during the MCO period such as the flexibility of payment of fees.
- d) During the MCO period, 85% of the student members were unable to leave their accommodation premises.

**FEEDBACK ON LIVING CONDITIONS OF STUDENT MEMBERS**

The MCO period enforced by the government due to the COVID-19 pandemic has restricted the movement of students. Majority of them were prohibited from leaving the educational institution premises.

- a) 76% of them stayed off-campus and received assistance from their respective institution.
- b) 24% stayed on-campus.
- c) 86% of the student members agreed that their living conditions on campus and off campus were satisfactory.

- d) None of the student members in the survey were found to be placed at the medical quarantine centres during the period.

### **FEEDBACK ON COMMUNICATION TOOLS**

The MCO has affected the day to day activities and lives of the student members. Various forms of communication were used during the period:

- a) 62% of them replied that they subscribed internet data using their personal mobile data plan during their study sessions.
- b) 38% of them subscribed to internet broadband offered by local internet providers.
- c) Most of the student members (95 %) were offered online lectures and tutorial session by their educational institutions.
- d) Majority of them (69 %) felt comfortable having online lessons during the MCO.

### **FEEDBACK ON CAREER PROSPECTS**

The COVID-19 pandemic caused adverse effects on career opportunities for student members.

- a) Approximately 44% of them were of the view that there were ample job opportunities prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- b) Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 32% of them felt that there were lesser employment opportunities.
- c) 72% found it difficult to secure industry placements and attachments.
- d) 70% found it difficult to secure job opportunities upon graduation.

### **CONCLUSION**

Overall, the student members provided positive feedback on the measures enforced by the government and the initiatives taken by their respective education institutions to control the spread of COVID-19 pandemic during the MCO.

None of them were placed in quarantine centres across Malaysia.

IEM will continue to keep members updated on latest announcements from the ministries or government agencies related or affecting the engineering industry. Do keep a look out for our email blast or visit the IEM website at [www.myiem.org.my](http://www.myiem.org.my) under the tab 'RELATED TO ENGINEERING' or join our Telegram Channel to receive faster updates.



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Thank you  
#myIEMstaysafe  
#myIEMstayhealthy

Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19  
The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia  
15<sup>th</sup> July 2020

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