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Smartphone Medical Applications: Technology Acceptance and Usage by Medical Students' in Irish Universities

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Abstract

With the increasing rise worldwide of smartphones and subsequent ownership, smartphone medical applications' are increasing in popularity. In this study the technology acceptance and usage of smartphone medical applications by students' in Irish medical universities is examined. The theoretical model of the extended unified theory of acceptance and use of technology (UTUAT2) of Venkatesh, Thong, and Xu (2012) was applied.

The research was conducted in three medical universities in Ireland using a probability sampling methodology. Data was collected from 310 respondents using an online survey from the 4th of May to the 9th of June, 2015. The results highlighted high levels of usage of smartphones medical applications. The constructs of performance expectancy, social influence, hedonic motivation, habit and facilitating conditions had a significant effect on behavioural intention in the model but the price value construct was found not significant.

The findings of this research indicate that universities' should focus on incorporating smartphone medical applications into their syllabi and support the information retrieval by sponsoring smartphone medical applications or simply creating them from scratch to provide a quality product that medical students' can utilize throughout their professional career. In conclusion the technology providers should consider the usage and acceptance patterns emerging from this empirical research.

Keywords: Smartphones, Smartphone Medical Applications, Unified Theory of Acceptance and Usage of Technology, (UTAUT2).