The Effect of the Use of, and Attitude towards, the Internet to Create Perceived Confidence and Satisfaction among Student Teachers Enrolled as Distance Learners

By

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Abstract

A study was conducted to investigate the effect of the use of, and attitude towards, the Internet to create perceived confidence and satisfaction in learning. The respondents in the study were student teachers who were enrolled as distance education learners at the School of Distance Education, Universiti Sains Malaysia. A total of 301 teacher students were involved in this study and the effect was elucidated using a specially developed questionnaire which was administered to them during the 2010/2011 annual residential course. There were 24 items in the questionnaire related to the use of the Internet and they were divided into four sub-dimensions, namely, resource, information, social aspects and entertainment. Twenty-one items on the attitude were divided into four sub-dimensions, namely, perceived control, perceived usefulness, affection and behaviour. The results of the study showed that there was a significant correlation (at 1% confidence level) between all sub-dimensions of Internet use towards the perceived confidence and satisfaction. In terms of the attitude, the results showed that at a 1% confidence level, only the dimensions of perceived usefulness and behaviour of the attitude affected the perceived confidence and satisfaction. The implications of the results in terms of enhancing the student teachers’ confidence and satisfaction, particularly when referring to the use of the Internet in online learning activities, will be discussed in detail.