

Evaluate the acceptance of web 2.0 tools for learning in alternative higher education sector in Sri Lanka

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Improvement of ICT has affected all the fields related to human life. All most all the fields get more benefits than previously. The education field is one of the most impacted sectors. Web 2.0 is such a technology that provides very effective web-based collaborative systems. There are number of research studies that have conducted empirical and exploratory research to assess and evaluate the actual impact of using Web 2.0 tools in learning process. Because, Web 2.0 tools have shifted language learners from passive recipients into active contributors. Based on this rationale, the present study aimed to explore the acceptance toward the use of Web 2.0 tools for learning. In this study, the core objective is to evaluate the acceptance towards using Web 2.0 tools to Learning in higher Education sector Sri Lanka. In order to do so, 280 students from Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Education was selected randomly as a sample. Framework of this study is based on Technology Acceptance Model (TAM). A conceptual model has 9 variables and associated hypotheses were designed based on the literature review and the initial primary study. The nine variables perceived usefulness, performance expectancy, social factor, behavioral intentions, prior knowledge or the use for social purpose, facilitating conditions, motivation to use, ease of use and the actual use. A questionnaire was developed from the model operationalization. The findings of the study have shown and validated what was previously found in the literature in which the majority of students is positive about the use of an interactive web environment, and found its use beneficial for their learning. Some of the validated variables perceived usefulness and prior knowledge. The conclusion of this study is the utilization of Web 2.0 facilities to stimulate participation in learning. This study will contribute to the body of knowledge on the acceptance of Web 2.0 social networking tools in learning.

Keywords: Acceptance, Education, *TAM*, Tools, Web 2.0