

# THE IMPACT OF MOBILE TECHNOLOGY ON LEARNER'S ENGAGEMENT IN COURSE ACTIVITIES IN AN ACADEMIC HEALTH CARE SETTING: STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

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## ABSTRACT

Modern Technology devices usage is widespread among students today. There is no doubt that advances in technology continue to have a great impact on the way faculty, and other campus community stakeholders interact with learners. Opportunities and challenges are emerging for all of these groups and institutions from the increasing availability of low-cost mobile devices and associated infrastructures. The aim of this research was to measure how students perceive mobile usage in the classroom, the types of mobile devices they own or use, and other educational activities. Also this study investigated whether students' perceptions are related to factors such as age, gender, race, and school affiliation. During the fall of 2018-2019 academic year, a survey was administered online to students from an Academic Health Sciences Center (AHS) using Qualtrics as a data collection tool. A total of 2400 questionnaires were sent to students. Of these, 1185 responses were received for an approximately 49 percent response rate. Of a total of 1185 responses, 924 (79%) students said they used mobile devices to access course content and other learning activities. This paper reports the findings of this study and concludes with the pros and cons of using mobile technologies to support learning. It also offers recommendations on the best practices of incorporating mobile devices in learning environments.

**Key words:** Mobile Technology, Learner's Engagement, Course Activities, Medical Education, Academic Health Care Setting

## INTRODUCTION

More than half the world's population has access to the internet, with two thirds using a mobile phone; more than half of which are smartphones. Most American young people today own a smartphone because of their versatile uses as ubiquitous computers. Anderson, M. (2015) stated that 98% of adults between the ages of 18-29 in the United States own a cellphone and 86% have smartphones. Boruff et al.(2014), Robinson et al.(2013), and Frederick et al.(2012), and others contend that as mobile technology continues to gain popularity, health care practitioners, students, and residents are gravitating toward the utilization of mobile devices to assist in their clinical duties and education. Guze PA (2015) identified the educational goals of using technology in medical education include facilitating basic knowledge acquisition, improving decision making, enhancement of perceptual variation, improving skill coordination, practicing for rare or critical events, learning team training, and improving psychomotor skills. Different technologies can address these goals. The task of medical educators is to use these new technologies effectively to transform learning into a more collaborative, personalized, and empowering experience. Identifying the opportunities and challenges of using mobile devices in the academic health care