

FACTORS AFFECTING LEARNERS' ADOPTION IN ASYNCHRONOUS ONLINE FORUM

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ABSTRACT

The Sultan Idris Education University (SIEU) in Malaysia has been using MyGuru3 as their learning management system (LMS) for nearly seven years, and the number of courses that use the online discussion tool in MyGuru2 has increased every year. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to identify the core factors that influence student adoption of MyGuru2 asynchronous online discussions after seven years of use. A mixed methods approach with an explanatory design, specifically the follow-up explanations model, was used for this study. The data collection process was divided into two phases; the first phase was a quantitative study using the survey method, and the second phase was a qualitative study using semi-structured interviews. The results of the study indicated that, among the five attributes of innovation (i.e., from relative advantages, compatibility, complexity, trial ability, and observability) that influence student adoption, compatibility and complexity had the greatest influence on the students' adoption of the MyGuru2 online discussion tool with four underlying dominant themes: freedom of learning, students' needs, usability, and support.

KEYWORDS: Computer Mediated Communication, Internet, Teacher Education, Discussion Groups