



Students' Awareness towards Educational Mobile Apps

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Abstract

The research paper aims to explore the students' level of awareness towards educational mobile apps. Data for the study have been collected from 142 students in Pollachi Taluk through issue of well-structured questionnaire by adopting random sampling method. Simple percentage, weighted average ranking and chi-square test have been used to analyze the data. The study reveals that majority of the students are highly aware with Swayam App and Google Classroom App. Also, it is found that most of the students are aware with Coursera App, Unacademy App, Duolingo App, Quizlet App and Udemy App whereas majority of the students are unaware of educational apps like Sololearn App, Testbook App and Photomath App. The apps that influence students to learn in mobile are online video learning apps (Swayam, NPTEL, Coursera) followed by learning management systems apps (Google classroom), e-book & digital library apps, Quiz & Assessment apps (Quizlet), Note-taking & productivity apps, Language learning apps and collaborative learning apps (Teams). This shows the positivity among students for learning through mobile apps. Chi-square test depicts that age, gender, streams and family income are significantly associated with the level of awareness towards educational mobile apps.

Keywords: Students –Education-Mobile Apps-Awareness-Technology

Introduction

Traditional teaching approaches have been completely transformed by the use of mobile technology in the classroom. Smartphones and tablets have enabled students to access educational resources anytime and anywhere. Learning activities such as reading, problem-solving, collaboration, and assessment are supported by educational mobile applications. Traxler (2018) found that mobile applications support self-directed learning and promote continuous education beyond classrooms. Al-Emran, Elsherif, and Shaalan (2016) find that students show a positive attitude towards mobile learning when apps are user-friendly and content is relevant. Student awareness towards educational mobile apps plays a crucial role in determining their adoption and effective use. Awareness includes knowledge of available apps, understanding their benefits, and the ability to use them efficiently for academic purposes. This



paper investigates the level of awareness among students and explores how educational mobile apps contribute to learning outcomes.

Review of Literature

Zhang L & Xu.W (2017) in their research entitled “Students view on Mobile learning applications: A survey study” depicts the view of students who learn using mobile learning applications. The data were collected through interview survey from 50 students. Random Sampling is used to collect data from 300 university students across various disciplines. The study found that perception was largely dependent on the apps ease of use and the perceived relevance of content. The student preferred apps that allowed for collaborative learning. **Smith et al (2020)** in their paper entitled “Personalisation and Adaptive learning” focuses on the relationship between personalised content and student perception. The data were collected through questionnaire method. The sampling method used is Stratified sampling and 250 students from multiple universities. The research found that Apps with adaptive learning features that adjust to students pace and learning styles are highly rated. **Lee and Yu (2017)** in their article entitled “Motivation and self regulated learning” examined how educational apps that foster self regulated learning and intrinsic motivation contribute to student perception. The data were collected through surveys. Quota sampling method is used to collect data from 200 students with various academic backgrounds. The study found that students expressed greater perception when apps helped set learning goals and track process.

Statement of the Problem

The rapid growth of technology has led to an increased availability of educational mobile applications designed to support teaching and learning. Despite the widespread use of smartphones among students, there is uncertainty regarding the level of students’ awareness, proper utilization, and academic effectiveness of these educational mobile apps. Many students use mobile phones primarily for entertainment and social networking rather than structured learning. Lack of awareness about suitable educational apps, inadequate guidance from educators, technical limitations, and distractions may reduce the potential benefits of mobile learning. Therefore, it is essential to study students’ awareness towards educational mobile applications and analyze how these apps are being used for educational purposes. Understanding these factors will help educational institutions, teachers, and developers improve the integration of mobile apps into the learning process.



Objectives of the Study

The following are the objectives of the study:

- To know the socio-economic profile of the sample College students.
- To find out the level of awareness and usage of educational mobile apps
- To examine the variables associated with the level of awareness towards educational apps

Research Methodology

The study is based on primary data. The data is collected through a well structured questionnaire. It contains questions relating to socio-economic of college students, awareness towards educational mobile apps, and usage of educational mobile apps. A sample of 142 students from higher institutions in Pollachi Taluk has been selected by adopting random sampling method. Simple Percentage, Weighted Average Ranking and Chi-Square test have been used to analyze the data.

Findings

The findings of the study are divided into four parts namely, socio-economic profile of sample college students, awareness towards educational mobile apps, usage of educational mobile apps and variables associated with the level of awareness towards educational mobile apps are depicted in the following paragraphs.

(i) Socio - Economic Profile of Sample College Students

Socio-economic profile of sample students like age, gender, area of residence, number of members in the family, type of college, streams and family income are disclosed in the table-1.

Table: 1

Socio-Economic Profile of Sample College Students

Variables	Number of Respondents (N=142)	Percentage (%)
Age(Years)		
Up to 20	64	45.07
21-22	49	34.51
Above 22	29	20.42
Gender		



Variables	Number of Respondents (N=142)	Percentage (%)
Male	68	47.89
Female	74	52.11
Area of Residence		
Urban	64	45.07
Rural	78	54.93
Number of Members in the Family		
Up to 2 members	8	5.60
3-4 members	116	81.70
Above 4 members	18	12.70
Type of College		
Government	24	16.90
Private	118	83.10
Streams		
Arts	74	52.11
Science	68	47.89
Family Income (per month)		
Up to Rs.50000	28	19.72
Rs.50001-Rs.100000	61	42.96
Above Rs.100000	53	37.32

- Most of the students, 64(45.07%) belong to the age group of up to 20 years.
- Majority 74(52.11%) of the students are female.
- Majority 78(54.93%) of the students are residing in rural area.
- Majority 118(83.10%) of the students are from private college.
- Majority of the students, 116(81.70%) have 3-4 members in the family.
- Majority 74(52.11%) of the students are from arts stream.
- Most 61(42.96%) of the student's family monthly income is Rs. 50,000-Rs.100000.

(ii) Awareness towards Educational Mobile Apps

The table below shows the classification of students based on their level of awareness on educational mobile apps.

Table: 2

Awareness towards Educational Mobile Apps

Educational Apps	Highly Aware	Aware	Unaware
Swayam App	72 (50.70%)	58 (40.84%)	12 (8.45%)
Coursera/edX App	53 (37.32%)	61 (42.95%)	28 (19.91%)
UnacademyApp	37 (26.05%)	55 (38.73%)	50 (35.21%)
Quizlet App	37 (26.05%)	65 (45.77%)	40 (28.16%)
Google Classroom App	87 (61.28%)	47 (33.09%)	8 (5.63%)
Udemy App	35 (24.64%)	57 (40.14%)	50 (35.21%)
Duolingo App	55 (38.73%)	50 (35.21%)	37 (26.05%)
Photomath App	14 (9.85%)	61 (42.9%)	67 (47.18%)
Testbook App	33 (23.24%)	57 (40.14%)	52 (36.62%)
Sololearn App	30 (21.13%)	59 (41.55%)	53 (37.32%)

From the above table, it is inferred that majority of the students are highly aware with Swayam App and Google Classroom App. Also, it is found that most of the students are aware with Coursera App, Unacademy App, Duolingo App, Quizlet App and Udemy App whereas majority of the students are unaware of educational apps like Sololearn App, Testbook App and Photomath App.

(iii) Usage of Educational Mobile Apps

Students' are influenced by various Apps while using for education and it is necessary to study the usage of apps to reorganize the strategy for education to satisfy the students. In order to examine the level of usage of students while learning in mobile, scores on a 5-point Likert scale ranging 5- Very Frequently Used, 4-Frequently Used, 3- Occasionally Used, 2-Rarely Used, 1-Never Used is employed. The score has been analyzed using the weighted average rank. Based on weighted average mean the rank for each app has been distributed.



Table: 3
Usage of Educational Mobile Apps –Weighted Average Ranking

Educational Mobile Apps	5	4	3	2	1	Mean Score	Mean Rank	Rank
Online Video Learning Apps (Swayam, NPTEL, Coursera)	76	44	15	7	0	615	4.34	1
E-Book & Digital Library Apps	72	40	16	10	4	592	4.18	3
Learning Management Systems Apps (Google Classroom)	68	45	22	7	0	600	4.22	2
Note-taking & Productivity Apps	58	38	28	12	6	556	3.91	5
Quiz & Assessment Apps(Quizlet, Kahoot)	64	41	28	6	3	583	4.09	4
Language Learning Apps	56	30	42	8	6	548	3.86	6
Collaborative Learning Apps(Teams)	48	34	29	21	10	515	3.63	7

From the above table, it is observed that online video learning apps is ranked first indicating students frequently use video-based platforms for learning, followed by learning management systems apps for academic purpose like assignment and materials, e-book & digital library apps for paperless materials, Quiz & Assessment apps for exam preparation and self-evaluation, Note-taking & productivity apps is used for taking notes for future reference. Language learning apps and collaborative learning apps are less used comparatively to others apps this shows the students prefer curriculum related apps than peer interaction apps.

(iv) Variables Associated with the Level of Awareness towards Educational Mobile Apps

To identify the association between the select variables and students' awareness towards educational mobile apps, the Chi-square test has been employed.



Table: 4

Variables Associated with the Level of Awareness towards Educational Mobile Apps

Variables	d.f	Calculated (χ^2) Chi-Square Value	Table Value 5% Level
Age	4	9.887	9.488
Gender	2	6.933	5.991
Area of Residence	2	3.660	5.991
Number of members in the family	4	7.552	9.488
Streams	2	10.922	5.991
Family Income	4	9.964	9.488

Six Variables have been taken to analyze the level of awareness towards educational mobile apps. Out of six variables the following four variables have significant association with the level of awareness towards educational mobile apps (viz.) age, gender, streams, and family income while area of residence and number of members in the family does not have significant association with the level of awareness towards educational mobile apps.

Suggestions

Based on the findings of the study and the following suggestions are put forth.

- Awareness programs may be conducted by institutions on educational apps
- Faculties may guide students on effective usage of mobile apps for learning
- App developers may focus on reducing distractions
- Mobile learning aligned with curriculum may be ensured by institutions for sustainable learning.

Conclusion

Educational mobile applications have become a vital component of modern education. Students show considerable awareness and positive attitudes toward these apps. The study depicts that age, gender, streams and family income are significantly associated with the level of awareness towards educational mobile apps. However, to increase their benefits requires proper guidance, institutional support, and responsible usage. With continuous development in technology and pedagogy, educational mobile apps can significantly enhance learning experiences and academic success.



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