ORIGINAL PAPER

Adoption of e-learning by pre-university students following the COVID-19 pandemic: An analysis based on the unified theory of acceptance and use of technology (UTAUT)

Noor Saadiah Mohd Ali[1] · **Muhammad Ashraf Fauzi**[2] · **Nurhafizah Saidin**[3] · **Nurur Raudzah Md Nor**[4] · **Nur Farrah Syazwanie Ismail**[5] · **Noor Asiah Aling**[6]

Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic has had immense consequences for education systems worldwide. Institutions had to quickly switch to remote teaching and learning (RTL) as an alternative delivery mode. The study presented here investigated the implementation of an e-learning system for Malaysian pre-university students. The study employed the *unified theory of acceptance and use of technology* (UTAUT) to evaluate 503 pre-university students' adoption of e-learning across various states in Malaysia. The analysis was performed through partial least square structural equation modelling (PLS-SEM). The findings show that all UTAUT variables were significant except for effort expectancy and facilitating condition. Platform availability was found to be highly significant to the intention to engage in e-learning. Despite the existence of a large body of research on the experiences of students in higher education during the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been few studies of pre-university students. The authors also discuss theoretical and managerial implications.

Keywords University students · UTAUT · Platform availability · e-learning · Malaysia · New normal

Résumé

L'adoption de l'apprentissage en ligne par les étudiants pré-universitaires après la pandémie de COVID-19 : une analyse basée sur la théorie unifiée de l'acceptation et de l'utilisation des technologies (UTAUT/unified theory of acceptance and use of technology) – La pandémie de COVID-19 a été lourde de conséquences pour les systèmes d'éducation du monde entier. Les établissements durent à l'époque passer rapidement à un mode d'enseignement à distance pour remplacer le présentiel. L'étude présentée ici s'est penchée sur la mise en place d'un système d'enseignement

---

◢ Springer