



Assessing prospective Trainers' use of Networking sites by Technology Acceptance Model (TAM)

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Abstract: Nowadays technology has brought drastic effects on human life. In the field of -learning, the use of modern technology has become a common trend. In Instructor training institutions, technology has reshaped the training modes. It has equipped the prospective Instructors to become effective Instructors in terms of modern technology usage and new strategies for . In Pakistan, the major transition took place in the field of Instructor learning with the launch of Instructor Learning Project by United States Agency International Development (USAID) in collaboration with HEC, Pakistan. Under this transition, the traditional one-year Instructor learning programs were phased out and new technology integrated four years B.Ed. (Hons.) Instructor learning programs were launched. This study aims to explore the issues and challenges faced by prospective Instructors to use modern technology especially networking sites effectively in learning process. It is based on Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) model which was developed by Davis (1986). This research focuses on exploring the level of comfort in using network by prospective Instructors in their professional during their practicum component of B.Ed. (Hons.). A survey questionnaire was adopted by using framework of TAM. The sample of this study are the students studying in at University of Sindh, Hyderabad, Pakistan. In total 77 students were enrolled into four batches of B.Ed. (Hons.) degree program selected through census sampling method. The main findings of the study are that prospective Instructors are fully motivated to use networking sites in their practicum and they are eager to use network in their professional as well. The study concluded that use of network has become integral part of modern -learning process.

Keywords: TAM, Trainer.

1. INTRODUCTION

The present time is regarded to be the information age providing open access to all. The younger generation especially the students appear to be much inclined towards having information by using modern technologies. Use of networking sites like Facebook, Twitter, etc. seems useful at all levels of -learning process. Nowadays in trainer institutions, prospective trainers are commonly using network to share information and study experiences, research projects and other things related to their profession with each other during practicum (Zaidieh, 2012).

1.1 Rational

In recent years, Pakistan has initiated intensive use of technology in activities by using the networking sites. In this context, students have started using network in terms of and learning activities such as information sharing, web-based learning, creating discussion groups etc. Therefore, it has become essential for future trainers to be efficient in the application of modern technology especially networking sites in process. The current study investigates the prospective trainers intentions to use of network in activities during practicum. For this purpose, a survey was prepared within the framework

of Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) which was developed by Davis (1986) and extended by Venkatesh and Davis (2000).

1.2 Research Questions

RQ1. What are main issues and challenges faced by prospective trainers to use network for activities during practicum?

RQ2. At what extent, prospective trainers are using network during practice.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The prevalence of networking sites and their usage in all levels of system including Instructor training has revamped the all over the world. (Palen, *et al.*, 2007) asserted that "use of networking sites by trainee trainers during practice can provide new ways for trainers to interact more frequently and easily with their students in their professional at schools" (p.468). The trend of using network among prospective trainers seems to be increasing day by day and many them is relying on its usage for interactions and communication (Hamid *et al.*, 2009). Amongst others, the Face book appears to be the most favourite was suggested as a means of communication for interacting with students (Mack *et al.* 2007). (According to Niemz *et al.* 2005) the

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trainee trainers are using internet for majority of the purposes such as academic and other and academic activities in the shape of networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube etc.

According to (Ahmed and Qazi 2011) networking sites have become very popular among the trainers community around the world for and academic purpose. The study investigates the impact of networking sites on the professional performance of trainers in Lahore, Pakistan and the results show that usage of networking sites by trainers is leaving positive effect on the students' academic performance and due to motivation by their trainers' majority of the students nowadays can be seen using networking sites frequently and they even use these networking sites during lectures in the class rooms. According to Coyle and Vaughn, (2008) use the networking sites for different purposes like information gathering and other daily activities. The study revealed that in September 2005 almost 16 % of the total internet users were using the networking sites and it has increased to 86% till 2010. Networking sites are remarkable examples of recent development in the technology field networking sites include Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc. Moreover, networking sites are used for different purposes, but the most basic purpose is to interact with friends and to create relationships (Asemah *et al.*, 2012).

3. METHODS

The survey was implemented to prospective trainers who are studying at the University of Sindh, Jamshoro, Pakistan. Reliability and validity for the scales in the survey were performed. For each item in the scales, frequency distribution, percentages, and chi-square were calculated. In this research, in collecting the data, the scale that was developed within the framework of Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) (Venkatesh and Davis, 2000) was used. The items in the scale were graded according to Likert 5 type as; "totally agree = 5", "agree = 4", "partially agree = 3", "do not agree = 2", "absolutely do not agree = 1", and listed from 1 to 5 in accordance with these choices. The population of the study comprised of B.Ed. (Hons) elementary 4-year students of all batches from University of Sindh, Pakistan. There were total seventy-seven 77 students studying in all four batches. The population size is small and reachable, so the census sampling was used to select sample (Donlan, 2014). The questionnaire was distributed among all 77 participants, the return rate remains 80%, which is highly return rate. The total questionnaires were 55. The reliability of the questionnaire was calculated through Cronbach Coefficient alpha which came out to be 0.93 and the validity of the instruments was determined through expert opinion.

4. RESULTS

shows that the calculated value of chi square about the planning to use network in activities by prospective trainers is found to be 36.55 which is greater than the tabulated value 0.948 at significant level 0.05. Hence, the data describes that most of the respondents 96% either totally agree, agree or partially agree that they plan to use networking sites in their practicum whereas very few 4% disagreed with the statement. It is clear from the findings that the use of networking sites is very important in day to day learning activities in the classrooms at all levels. One of the wonderful things about network is the accessibility.

Table 1: Opinion about planning to use network in activities by prospective

Category	5	4	3	2	1	Total	X ²
Response	21	21	11	2	0	55	36.55
Percentage	38.1	38.1	20	4	0	100	

According to () the calculated value of chi square about the use of network during professional is found to be 44.91 which is greater than the tabulated value 0.948 at significant level 0.05. Hence, the data describes that most of the respondents 95.6% either totally agree, agree or partially agree that they use networking sites in their practicum whereas very few 3.6% disagreed with the statement. It is clear from the findings that the use of networking sites helps prospective trainers in day to day learning activities for their practicum tasks. Another positive aspect of professional sharing and connecting in this way is the support which trainers can offer each other. It is no secret that is a difficult profession but having a large support network of like-minded individuals can help to reassure and encourage (Eberline and Richards, 2013). Therefore, trainers are recommended to use network in their professional.

Table 2: Opinion about use of network during professional

Category	5	4	3	2	1	Total	X ²
Response	13	28	12	1	1	55	44.91
Percentage	24	50.9	21.1	2	2	100	

Table 3 shows that the calculated value of chi square about the people whose opinions "I value expect me to use network effectively during my activities" is found to be 55.09 which is greater than the tabulated value 0.948 at significant level 0.05. Hence, the data describes that most of the respondents 89.3% either totally agree, agree or partially agree that prospective trainers value the opinion of those educators, classmates, parents and cooperative trainers) who expect them to use network effectively during their activities at practicum schools whereas very few 11%

disagreed with the statement. Professionals like trainers are required to undertake continual professional learning such as attending training courses or professional reading. This could be a valuable additional resource for trainers.

Table 3: Opinion about people whose opinions I value expect me to use network effectively during my activities

Category	5	4	3	2	1	Total	X^2
Response	7	22	20	1	5	55	55.09
Percentage	13	40	36	2	9	100	

Table 4 shows that the calculated value of chi square about “The people who support me to use network during my activities are important for me” is found to be 62.73 which is greater than the tabulated value 0.948 at significant level 0.05. Hence, the data describes that most of the respondents 96% either totally agree, agree or partially agree that those people who support prospective to use network during their learning activities are important for them whereas very few 4% disagreed with the statement. Finally, becoming involved in network can allow trainers to keep up to date with current issue, legislation and changes to the curriculum (Desimone, 2009). Now it has become essential for trainers of today to be efficient in the use of network.

Table 4: The people who support me to use network during my activities are important for me

Category	5	4	3	2	1	5	X^2
Response	11	33	9	2	0	55	62.73
Percentage	20	60	16	4	0	100	

According to

Table 5 the calculated value of chi square about the easiness in carrying out activities on network is found to be 21.82 which is greater than the tabulated value 0.948 at significant level 0.05. Hence, the data describes that most of the respondents 89% either totally agree, agree or partially agree that it is easy for prospective trainers to carry out activities on network whereas very few 11% disagreed with the statement. There are numerous different forms of network which a Instructor may wish to become involved in like Facebook is a site where users create a profile and can share statuses, photos, videos, links etc. with other users.

Table 5: It is easy for me to carry out activities on network

Category	5	4	3	2	1	Total	X^2
Response	16	20	13	4	2	55	21.82
Percentage	29	36	24	7	4	100	

Table 6 shows that the calculated value of chi square about the “I can solve the things I want, in terms of activities on network” is found to be 15.64 which is greater than the tabulated value 0.948 at significant level 0.05. Hence, the data describes that most of the respondents 81.8% either totally agree, agree or partially agree that as prospective Instructor they can solve things on network in terms of learning activities whereas very few 18.2% disagreed with the statement. Pinterest is a great tool for trainers as they can gather resources and ideas for lessons. It’s also very visual, which appeals to people who like to browse images. Yammer is accessible to anyone with a glow login.

Table 6: I can solve the things I want, in terms of activities on network

Category	5	4	3	2	1	Total	X^2
Response	10	20	15	6	4	55	15.64
Percentage	18.2	36.4	27.2	11	7.2	100	

According to

Table 7 the calculated value of chi square about the “Using network will improve my performance in as a profession” is found to be 23.82 which is greater than the tabulated value 0.948 at significant level 0.05. Hence, the data describes that most of the respondents 91.1% either totally agree, agree or partially agree that as prospective Instructor their performance is improved in as a profession whereas very few 9% disagreed with the statement. This means that it can be used by trainers, professionals and pupils alike. It is a space where trainers can share posts and links; enabling collaboration as well as discussion (Polsgrove and Frimming, 2013).

Table 7: Using network will improve my performance in as a profession

Category	5	4	3	2	1	Total	X^2
Response	19	18	13	3	2	55	23.82
Percentage	34.5	33	23.6	5.4	3.6	100	

According to

Table 8 shows that the calculated value of chi square about the “Use network in activities make Instructor educators more prestigious and more popular than those who do not”, is found to be 13.45 which is greater than the tabulated value 0.948 at significant level 0.05. Hence, the data describes that most of the respondents 69% either totally agree, agree or partially agree on the opinion about the use network in activities make prospective trainers more prestigious and more popular than those who do not whereas with 31% disagreed with the statement. It is clear from the findings that the most of 3 to 1 ratio prospective trainers were favoured the opinion that use of network make them more prestigious and more popular than those who do not in learning activities for the classrooms at assigned practicum tasks.

Table 8: Opinion about the use network in activities make prospective Instructor more prestigious and more popular than those who do not

Category	5	4	3	2	1	Total	X^2
Response	10	18	10	2	15	55	13.45
Percentage	18	33	18	4	27	100	

Table 9 describes that the calculated value of chi square regarding “Use of network is important for prospective trainers in their profession”, is found to be 3.09 and it is significant, and it is less than 0.05. Hence, the data describes that a bit more than fifty percent of the respondents 55% either totally agree, agree or partially agree on the opinion about the use network is important for prospective trainers in their profession whereas with 45% disagreed with the statement. It is clear from the findings that half of the prospective trainers were favoured the opinion about the use network is important for prospective trainers in their profession in their learning process.

Table 9: Opinion about use of network is important for prospective trainers in their profession

Category	5	4	3	2	1	Total	X^2
Response	7	11	12	10	15	55	3.09
Percentage	13	20	22	18	27	100	

Table 10 shows that the calculated value of chi square about the “Use of network is related to my profession and serves the purpose of my profession” is found to be 10.18 which is greater than the tabulated value 0.948 at significant level 0.05. Hence, the data describes that most of the respondents 80% either totally agree, agree or partially agree on the opinion about the use network is related to prospective trainers’ profession and serves its purpose whereas with 20% disagreed with the statement. It is clear from the findings that most of the prospective trainers were favoured the opinion about the use network is related and purposeful for their profession.

Table 10: Opinion about the use of network is related to my profession and serves the purpose of my profession

Category	5	4	3	2	1	Total	X^2
Response	16	12	16	5	6	55	10.18
Percentage	29	22	29	9	11	100	

Table 11 shows that the calculated value of chi square about the having any difficulty in explaining advantages / disadvantages of using network, is found to be 15.09 which is greater than the tabulated value 0.948 at significant level 0.05. Hence, the data describes that most of the respondents 76.5% either totally agree, agree or partially agree on the opinion about the difficulty in explaining advantages / disadvantages of using network whereas with 23.5% disagreed with the statement. It is clear from the findings that most of the

prospective trainers were favoured the opinion about having any difficulty in explaining advantages / disadvantages of using network.

Table 11: Opinion about having any difficulty in explaining advantages / disadvantages of using network

Category	5	4	3	2	1	Total	X^2
Response	8	21	13	9	4	55	15.09
Percentage	14.5	38	24	16.3	7.2	100	

According to

Table 12 the calculated value of chi square about the “To remain get in touch with my colleagues about the results of using network” is found to be 30.55 which is greater than the tabulated value 0.948 at significant level 0.05. Hence, the data describes that most of the respondents 89% either totally agree, agree or partially agree on the opinion about the remain get in touch with my colleagues about the results of using network whereas with 11% disagreed with the statement. It is clear from the findings that most of the prospective trainers were favoured the opinion about to remain get in touch with my colleagues about the results of using network.

Table 12: Opinion about to remain get in touch with my colleagues about the results of using network

Category	5	4	3	2	1	Total	X^2
Response	21	20	8	6	0	55	30.55
Percentage	38.2	36.3	14.5	11	0	100	

Table 13 shows that the calculated value of chi square about the that “I will be able to see the results of using network clearly” is found to be 33.27 which is greater than the tabulated value 0.948 at significant level 0.05. Hence, the data describes that most of the respondents 94.6% either totally agree, agree or partially agree on the opinion about that they will be able to see the results of using network clearly whereas with 5.4% disagreed with the statement. It is clear from the findings that most of the prospective trainers were favoured the opinion about that they will be able to see the results of using network clearly.

Table 13: I think that I will be able to see the results of using network clearly

Category	5	4	3	2	1	Total	X^2
Response	20	21	11	3	0	55	33.27
Percentage	36.4	38.2	20	5.4	0	100	

5.

DISCUSSION

One of the wonderful things about network is the accessibility. Whereas in the past, a Instructor may have had to wait until the next day to ask the advice of a colleague, they can now post a question onto Twitter/ Yammer/ Facebook etc. and often receive an answer very quickly. Another positive aspect of professional

sharing and connecting in this way is the support which trainers can offer each other. It is no secret that is a difficult profession but having a large support network of like-minded individuals can help to reassure and encourage (Eberline and Richards, 2013). Therefore, trainers are recommended to use network in their professional .

Professionals like trainers are required to undertake *Assessing prospective Trainers* continual professional learning such as attending training courses or professional reading. This could be a valuable additional resource for trainers. Finally, becoming involved in network can allow trainers to keep up to date with current issues, legislation and changes to the curriculum (Desimone, 2009). Now it has become essential for trainers of today to be efficient in the use of network.

There are numerous different forms of network which a may wish to become involved in like Facebook is a site where users create a profile and can share statuses, photos, videos, links etc. with other users. Facebook is hugely popular and widely used (Bissessar, 2014). Trainers should choose to share ideas for activities as well as advice.

Pinterest is a great tool for trainers as they can gather resources and ideas for lessons. It's also very visual, which appeals to people who like to browse images. Yammer is accessible to anyone with a glow login. This means that it can be used by trainers, professionals and pupils alike. It is a space where trainers can share posts and links; enabling collaboration as well as discussion (Polsgrove and Frimming, 2013).

Twitter is a popular website for professionals to connect and share. It allows practicing trainers to easily connect with practitioners all around the globe (Donlan, 2014).

6. **CONCLUSION**

-learning systems around the world are undergoing a revolution in and learning, with the advent and maturity of new technology driving new forms of engagement between students, trainers and the wider world, powered by the web. The use of network offers a forum for student trainers that aligns with contemporary thinking around informal professional learning and develop. As trainers, it is our responsibility to prepare pupils for life and the wider world of work. In today's society, this increasingly involves the use of digital technologies as well as network. It is believed that, trainers should be able to engage and support students, it is essential trainers to have an understanding of the modern tools themselves for effective and learning in the classrooms.

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