



University of Venda

Mobile and social networking technologies for teaching and learning in South African Universities: A Case study of University of Venda and University of Limpopo.

by

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ABSTRACT

This research investigated on the perceived benefits and barriers to the application of mobile and social networking technologies in South African Higher Learning Institutions (HLIs). A quantitative orientation was used in carrying out the study through self-administered questionnaires and a descriptive quantitative method of analysis was applied. The research population consisted of students and lecturers at University of Venda (Univen) and University of Limpopo (UL). The study sought to add on the narrow body of literature concerning barriers faced by HLIs within the education sector by revealing how two South African can successfully adopt mobile and social networking technologies. The results showed that indeed HLIs in South Africa enjoy some benefits through the use of mobile and social networking technologies which makes students and lecturers enjoy virtual learning. The results also confirmed that HLIs in South Africa are faced with various barriers affecting mobile and social networking technology adaptations. Five noteworthy barriers were identified namely poor connectivity, security problems, small screens, lack of equipment and technology and lack of training among users. Benefits which were identified include, improved participation, improved communication between students and lecturers and enhancement of teaching and learning processes in HLIs. The research recommended HLIs to be aware of the major Learning Management Systems (LMS) which they should use together with social networking platforms to successfully gain full benefits of using mobile and social networking technologies in the education sector.

Key Words: Mobile and Social Networking Technologies, Higher Learning Institutions (HLI), Learning Management Systems (LMS)