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Impact of web applications on student-lecturer relationship

In the history of the development of higher education, the relationship between the lecturer and the students has changed because of many different factors. Before the internet and web revolution, the lecturer used to be the main information source for his/her students. The web, as a modern source of knowledge, is now used universally and this spreading might affect the relationship between the lecturer and his students. Understanding the impact of this change appears to be important as it would be employed in improving teaching techniques. In this area, many studies have focused on the impact of using the internet and web applications on education's three axes which are students, lecturer, and study environment (Rimm-Kaufman, 2010, Jones et al., 2011, Giles, 2009). These studies have widely investigated this impact on student's achievements, attitude and also have shown how the role and performance of the faculty have improved.

This research aims to investigate the impact of using web technology on the student-lecturer relationship in Saudi Arabia. Data for this project collected from many public and private universities/educational organisations in Saudi Arabia.

A questionnaire has been used in this study to gather the necessary data. The questionnaire contains 5 variables named Expert Power, Referent Power, Self-confidence, Reliance, and Connectedness. Based on the desire of the participants the researcher used two modes to administrate the questionnaire to satisfy the desire of participants, online-based and paper-based mode. In total, 1361 participations have been accepted as valid, 453 students completed the online version and 908 students completed the paper version. 969 were males and 377 were females and 15 did not mention.

The researcher believes that the results of this research will contribute to society in many ways. First, Most of the studies in this field in Saudi Arabia seem to be either broad or have multi-purposes. This research is one of a few studies that focus on specific aspects of the internet uses. This research focuses on student-lecture relationship while other researchers have shown the impact of the web on both lecturers and students. Although previous studies have contributed to creating infrastructure for this study, none of these studies have focused on the web technology impact on student-lecturer relationship. Second, the initial result of this research will show how the gap between student and lecturer changes either negatively or positively.