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Taylor & Francis
Taylor & Francis GroupInt J Edu Sci, 18(1-3): 36-46 (2017)
DOI: 10.1080/09751122.2017.1335055

Educational Uses of Smartphones by Students at the Northern Border University in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

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KEYWORDS Educational Technology. E-learning. Higher Education. Internet. Mobile Learning. Distance Learning. Smartphones

ABSTRACT This research identifies the degree of smartphone uses for educational purpose by Foundation Year students at Northern Border University (NBU) in Saudi Arabia, and barriers limiting such uses. It discovered differences in uses to barriers limiting that to gender, subject and grade variables. Researcher used analytical descriptive approach of questionnaire tool for data collection with 259 students' sample. The researcher found significant use of smartphones by students for educational purpose including imaging information, test result queries and checking e-mails etc. It showed no differences in the degree of uses according to gender variable, but difference in uses attributable to subject and grade. It found significant sample agreement barriers limiting smartphone uses in education like ongoing battery charging, lack of harmony in few smartphone programs for computers to limited storage capacities. It found differences in barriers related to gender, but no difference in barriers, according to subject and grade variables.