

# Technology perspectives, access, connectivity, usage and the intention to use an online Learning Management System (LMS)

Dear Educator

I hope you are well and safe.

I am inviting you to participate in this research related to the behavioural intention of educators to use a Learning Management Systems (LMS) such as Moodle or Microsoft Teams or a similar LMS by completing this online quantitative questionnaire which will take between 20 and 25 minutes as calculated during an initial pilot study.

Your opinion is highly valued, and it is vital to obtain staff's perceptions related to Learning Management Systems.

I am a firm believer that data can assist us in our planning and thinking related to the future. You can assist in this regard. The link to the survey is <https://teacherssouthafrica.questionpro.com>

Let me briefly explain the research:

## (1) What is the focus of this study?

The focus of this study is on the behavioural intention to use an online Learning Management Systems (LMS) such as Moodle and(or) Microsoft Teams or a similar LMS. The findings could inform policy while at the same time pave the way for the learner and educator preparation and assistance regarding using an LMS. An LMS allows learners to access resources and can be set up in such a way that learners from the same school or different schools have access to the same resources including assessment activities. This then could pave the way for greater collaboration among teachers and even lead to less work for one teacher if several collaborate who teaches the same subject.

## A Learning Management System (LMS) provides, for example:

- Online administration and management of modules,
- Automation,
- Storing, sharing and delivery of learning material, videos, weblinks, etc. for each grade and subject
- Create lessons for a subject per grade
- Various functions or activities, for example, chat, choice, forums, lessons, interactive content, SCORM, surveys, workshops, wiki, etc.
- Assignment submission by learners, grading and automatic feedback to each learner
- Online assessment through quizzes, questionnaires, assignments, forums and (or) tests
- Exam completion for each learner
- Discussion among learners and teachers
- Implement set dates for activities to be completed while informing the learner
- Grading and grade recording of assessments, storing and distribution of learning material
- Tracking of progress and activity completion of each learner,
- Reporting, feedback and much more.

**As such, the focus IS NOT on WhatsApp, Facebook, Messenger, Skype, Zoom, etc. BUT on Learning Management Systems such as Moodle and (or) Microsoft Teams or a similar LMS. This does not imply that these and other tools are not important. However, as stated before, the rationale for focusing on Moodle and Microsoft Teams.**

## (2) Why is this study important?

The lockdown has put severe pressure on the school system. It is time to consider alternative methods of teaching and learning such as the adoption of an LMS. If it is argued that if the LMS pathway is a possibility, it is paramount to ascertain how ready educators (and departmental officials) are to adopt an LMS before

leapfrogging into this field. This is important, as one has to obtain the view of stakeholders regarding this. As such, the main focus of this study is to determine which factors such as performance expectancy, effort expectancy, attitude towards an LMS, social influence, facilitating conditions, self-efficacy, anxiety, context and challenging the status quo influence the behavioural intention to use a Learning Management System (LMS) such as Moodle or Microsoft Teams.

### **(3) Who runs this study?**

The study is being carried out by Assoc Prof André du Plessis from the Faculty of Education at Nelson Mandela University. The ethics approval number by the Nelson Mandela University's REC-H Ethics Committee for this study is H20-EDU-ERE-023. Permission has also been granted provincially by the Department of Basic Education in the Eastern Cape. The contact person is Mr Tshepo Masoeu, Chief Director: Corporate Strategy Management of the Education Department, and he can be reached through Mrs Babalwa Pamla at [babalwa.pamla@gmail.com](mailto:babalwa.pamla@gmail.com)

If you have questions at any time about the survey or the procedures, you may contact Andre' du Plessis at 0835655560 or by email at [andre.duplessis@mandela.ac.za](mailto:andre.duplessis@mandela.ac.za). You may also contact the REC-H Ethics Committee if you have any queries or concerns, Dr Sharlene Govender, at [Sharlene.Govender@mandela.ac.za](mailto:Sharlene.Govender@mandela.ac.za)

### **(4) What about risks, cost and anonymity?**

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary

- It will take about 20 to 25 minutes to complete and might incur data usage, but this should be minimal.
- There are no foreseeable risks associated with this project. However, if you feel uncomfortable answering any questions, you can withdraw from the survey at any point.

Your survey responses will be strictly confidential and data from this research will be reported by providing overall averages and means. Your responses will remain confidential and no personal information such as name, surname, staff number, email, etc. are NOT required. Just give your view, there are no right or wrong answers. Some may appear to be general and please just give your initial response to the question.

By giving consent to take part in this study you are indicating to the researcher that you:

- Understand what you have read.
- Agree to take part in the research study as outlined.
- Agree that the data can be used for research purposes. Please note that NO names or surnames, no email address, etc. are required.
- Understand that all data will be anonymous as a result of the above and that there is NO intention to try to identify anyone who participates in this study.
- Understand that all data will be treated with the utmost care.
- Have read the description of the study, you are over the age of 18.

### **(5) What if I want to opt-out?**

Should you want to opt-out of completing the online questionnaire, you are free to do so. Data from uncompleted questionnaires will not be used and discarded.

Thank you very much for your time and support. Please start with the survey now by clicking on the link below or the link in the email if you want to participate.

<https://teacherssouthafrica.questionpro.com>

Regards

Andre

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