

**EXPLORING THE UTILIZATION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)
BY POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL TRAINEES IN SRI LANKA**

by

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ABSTRACT

The Postgraduate Institute of Medicine (PGIM) is the only institute that provides teaching and training for medical postgraduate trainees to become specialists of high professional standard. There are more than 1000 trainees continuing their PG training in various disciplines.

Medicine is an ever evolving and information based discipline in the world. Therefore Information Technology (IT) is very important for medical PG trainees to share their world wide knowledge and experience.

The objective of this study is finding out the present situation of IT utilization by medical PG trainees and how to improve the situation. This study assesses the impact of computer availability, accessibility, skills, attitudes and organization climate on IT utilization.

In this study, both qualitative and quantitative methodologies were applied. Self-administered questionnaire, in-depth interviews, informal interviews and observations were used as research instruments to collect data.

A sample of 500 trainees from various PG disciplines consisting males and females in equal proportion were administered the questionnaire and 146 trainees responded. In-depth interviews were carried out among five selected trainees and informal interviews with seven trainees for memo presentations.

More than 80% of the trainees possess computers and 50% had Internet access. The habit of using computers was not up to a satisfactory level. Only 35 respondents possessed good skills and computer literacy. 53% of trainees had a high interest in IT utilization. 94.5% indicated that absence of commitment from the PGIM and 88.4% showed the lack of commitment from the Ministry of Health (MOH).

The findings of this study revealed that IT utilization depends on computer availability, accessibility, skills and knowledge, attitudes and organization climate.