



A Comparison of Smartphone Usage Competency of Elderly People at Lomkao district, Phetchabun Province, Thailand

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Abstract

1) *Introduction* with rationale: The world is changing into an aging society. The smartphone has a play role for everyone in this era that make life easier especially maintaining contact with youngsters and seeking assistance if necessary for elderly people but there are obstacles for someone. However, there is limited information regarding the ability of elderly individuals to use smartphones. 2) *Objectives*: 2.1) To investigate average score of smartphone usage competency and 2.2) Compare smartphone usage competency score of elderly people who attend and did not attend elderly school. 3) *Methodology*: This study was cross-sectional study with 265 elderly people. Collected data by face-to-face interviews during Dec 2022 – Jan 2023. ANCOVA was used to investigate differentiation by adjust smartphone usage experience to be covariate. 4) *Result and Discussion*: The average of age of participants was 68.02 ± 5.18 years with 35.5% of male and 64.5% of female. 71.7 % of participants had smartphone usage experience less than 1 year. The overall average score of smartphone usage competency was 5.88 ± 7.32 by elderly people who had attend elderly school (7.25 ± 1.12) and had not attend elderly school (5.34 ± 0.44). Fundamental knowledge of smartphone system and calling topics were higher among elderly people who had attend elderly school (3.52 ± 0.55 , 1.73 ± 0.22). Comparing overall scores of smartphone usage competency was significantly different (Mean Difference = 2.33, 95% CI :0.73 - 3.94) ($P = 0.005$) 5) *Conclusions*: To increase the smartphone usage competency among elderly people, Officer and network partner should build a smartphone training program on mHealth for the elderly people to literate media and technology.

Keywords: Smartphone usage competency, Smartphone usage experience, Elderly people