PharmTech

Effectiveness of Information Technology (IT) in the healthcare system: Faculty members' attitude at Hormozgan University of Medical Sciences,

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Abstract: <u>Introduction</u>: An effective use of IT in the realm of healthcare requires an analysis of opportunities and limitations, principled planning in accordance with social and economic factors along with the provision of technological, communicative and legal infrastructures. This research aims to determine the effectiveness of IT in the healthcare system as perceived by university faculty members.

<u>Methodology</u>: The present descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted in 2014 in the form of a census on 83 faculty members of Hormozgan University of Medical Sciences. The data gathering instrument was a questionnaire developed by the researcher. It was comprised of three sections: demographic information, effect of IT on medical, research-based and administrative processes, and finally one question inquiring the suggested strategies to increase the effectiveness of IT in this realm. The reliability of the questionnaire was checked using Cronbach's alphaand was found to be .829. Its validity was established through inquiring the comments of a number of healthcare IT specialists. Using SPSS-16, the data were analyzed. Descriptive statistics (mean, mode and median) were used to analyze the data.

<u>Results</u>: In the research population comprised of 45.8% women and 53% men, the highest academic degrees were expertise and specialty (38.6%). As the lowest degree, doctorate was held by 30.1% of cases. The majority of subjects (39.8%) believed that using IT could lower the rate of medical errors. 37.3% attested to the effect of IT on increasing productivity. Moreover, the target population evaluated the effect of IT on improving the status of healthcare and medical instructions respectively as 32.5 and 39.8 percent.

<u>Conclusion</u>: The majority of faculty members are adequately aware of the effect of IT on medical research and production of information sources. However, their awareness of the quality of healthcare services is moderate. Therefore, a design of appropriate technical and communicative infrastructures is suggested to take the utmost advantage of technology in all aspects of healthcare provision. Actions can be taken to further familiarize clinical professors with the effectiveness of IT in the quality of healthcare services.

Key terms: attitude, effectiveness, IT, healthcare system.

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