

ABSTRACT

In many healthcare settings Health Information Systems (HIS) are systems that contain information, processes and steps healthcare professionals carry out when attending to a patient. These systems ultimately guide in clinical decision making and administration in the hospitals. In many medical systems both in developed and developing countries, specialists have been developing several HIS and these systems have been an important factor in effecting better healthcare outcomes and significant improvement.

Ironically, the same HIS has sometimes been dumped on hospital institution management who have insufficient knowledge about the aims and possibilities of these system while at the same time hospital administrations often do not take into account the opinion of direct or end users to understand if the product with its features align with users' thought patterns, attitude, satisfaction and needs or just to achieve management goals.

This study aimed to explore and understand the perception of healthcare professionals as end users of HIS and also to clarify the views of end users after they have been using hospital HIS for 9 years with permanent development of HIS in process at West Tallinn Central Hospital, Tallinn Estonia among non selected 40 healthcare professionals working in the neurology and emergency departments via a semi structured questionnaire. An interview session was also done among specialists and experts who have been involved on HIS design, implementation, and deployment. The research specifically established the characteristics of end users of HIS based on hospital departments, analyzed the working life of healthcare professionals as well as the variation in their perception of HIS and finally determined the effects and/or the relationships of theoretical construct variables of HIS acceptance and usage by healthcare professionals.

The specialists concluded that identification, ranking by importance and definition of metrics of any HIS among all stakeholders reduces frictions and differences. More than 80% of the study population was females. The majority of over 75% were less than 50 years old and more

than 50% of the study population was nurses. Over 65% of this population has working experience ranging between 1-20 years. On the issue of adaptability to changes in HIS such as upgrades, 65% irrespective of the years of working experience can easily adapt to whatsoever changes. Majority of the study population considered it absolutely necessary for management to consult them on issues about HIS.

Using a one sample t-test, the result of the analysis showed that high perception ranged from 1.10 to 2.58 from the midpoint. The items of the Likert scale reflecting high level of perception included; visibility of the impact of HIS, adaptability to old and new version, positive effect on clinical decision, possible transfer of information among organizations and quick access to patient data. A two sample t-test to check whether there were variations in perception of HIS with respect to their working hospital departments, higher perception level was found among those working in emergency department.

In determining the effects and the relationships of theoretical construct variables of HIS acceptance and usage by healthcare professionals, the higher the degree of perception of ease of use the higher usefulness of HIS among professionals. Demonstrability of Result (DR) meant that if healthcare professionals can see the visible impact of HIS use and its effectiveness in clinical decision making, they consider such HIS useful and embrace it.

Psychosocial factor such as Social Norm (SN) exert a significant, direct and positive influence in that when there is a strong and growing approval ratings among healthcare professionals within and outside healthcare professionals organizations including their workplace about HIS, there is a high level of acceptance and usage.

In conclusion, Information about Change (IBC) also contributes to acceptance and use of HIS among healthcare professionals; this is because the more available information about change is, the higher the chance of healthcare professionals accepting to use an information system.

RESÜMEE

Paljudes tervishoiuasutustes on Tervishoiualased teabesüsteemid (Health Information Systems – HIS) süsteemid, mis sisaldavad informatsiooni, protsesse ja samme, mida tervishoiu spetsialistid teostavad oma patsientide eest hoolitsedes. Lõpptulemusena juhendavad need süsteemid kliiniliste otsuste tegemisel ja haigla administreerimisel. Paljudes meditsiinistüsteemides, nii arenenud kui arengumaades, on spetsialistid välja töötanud mitu HIS-i ja nendel süsteemidel on oluline tegur mõjutamaks parema arstiabi tulemusi ja märkimisväärset arengut.

Samal ajal võib olla probleemiks see, et haigla administratsioon ei võta arvesse otsese või lõppkasutaja arvamust, et aru saada, kas toode oma funktsionidega joondub kasutajate mõttemustrite, suhtumise, rahulolu ja vajadustega või on ainult juhatuse eesmärkide saavutamiseks.

Antud uuringu eesmärgiks oli uurida ja mõista tervishoiutöötajate kui HIS-i lõppkasutajate arusaamu ja samuti selgitada lõppkasutajate arvamusi kui nad on haigla HIS-i kasutanud 9 aastat koos selle püsiva arenguga. HIS-i kohta viidi läbi uuring Lääne-Tallinna Keskhraiglas juhuslikult valitud tervishoiutöötajate seas, kes töötavad neuroloogia ja erakorralise meditsiini osakonnas, pooleldi struktureeritud küsimustiku abil. Läbi viidi ka intervjuu seanss spetsialistidega, kes on olnud seotud HIS-i disaini, rakendamise ja kasutuselevõtuga. Uurimustöö kehtestas nimelt HIS-i lõppkasutajate omadused, tuginedes haigla osakondadele, analüüsides tervishoiutöötajate tööelu niisamuti kui nende HIS-i tajumise erinevusi ja lõpuks kindlaks määrates mõjud ja/ või suhted HIS-i teoreetilise konstruktsiooni muutujate vastuvõtmisel ja kasutamisel tervishoiutöötajate poolt.

Spetsialistid jõudsid järeldusele, et identifitseerimine, järjestamine tähtsuse järgi ja kauguse mõiste mistahes HIS-is sidusrühmade vahel kahandab pingeid ja erinevusi. Üle 80% uuringus osalenutest olid naised. Enamus, üle 75% olid alla 50 aasta vanad ja rohkem kui 50% uuringus osalenutest olid õed. Üle 65% osalenutest on töökogemus vahemikus 1-20 aastat. 65% suudab probleemideta kohaneda muutustega HIS-is, nt uuendamisega, olenemata töökogemuse pikkukest. Enamus uuringus osalejatest pidas hä davajalikuks juhatuse konsulterimist nendega seoses HIS-i puudutavate küsimustega.

HIS-i mõju nähtavus, kohanemisvõime vana ja uue versiooniga, positiivne mõju kliiniliste otsuste tegemisel, võimalik informatsioonivahetus organisatsioonide vahel ja kiire ligipääs patsiendi andmetele olid argumendid, mis soosisid HIS kastutamist. Antud uuring kinnitaski, et valmisolek HIS kasutada oli suurem erakorralise meditsiini osakonnas.

Tervishoiu töötajad formeerivad oma arvamuse HIS kasulikkuse üle sõltuvalt kasutamisihiisusest. Mida lihtsam on HIS kasutada, seda suurem on HIS-i kasulikkus professionaalide seas. Tulemuse tõendatavus (Demonstrability of Result - DR) tähendab seda, kui tervishoiutöötajad näevad reaalset mõju HIS-i kasutamisest ja selle efektiivsust kliiniliste otsuste tegemisel, nende hinnangul on HIS kasulik ja võtavad selle omaks.

Psühhosotsiaalne tegur nagu sotsiaalne norm (Social Norm - SN) avaldab olulist, otsest ja positiivset mõju selles kui on olemas tugev ja kasvav heaksiit tervishoiutöötajate seas tervishoiu organisatsioonide siseselt kui neist väljaspool, nende töökohtades valitseb HIS-i suhtes kõrge heaksiit ja kasutamistase.

Kokkuvõtteks, teave muutuste kohta (Information about Change - IBC) aitab kaasa HIS-i aktsepteerimisele ja kasutamisele tervishoiutöötajate seas ja mida rohkem informatsiooni on saadaval muutuste kohta, seda suurem on tõenäosus tervishoiutöötajate nõustumiseks infosüsteemi kasutada.