

## Impact of Social Distancing on the Correlation Between Adults' Participation in Learning and Acceptance of Technology

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**Abstract :** The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 has globally affected all aspects of life, with social distancing and quarantine orders causing turmoil and learning in community colleges being temporarily paused. In fact, this is the first time that adult education has faced such a severe challenge. It forces researchers to reflect on the impact of pandemics on adult education and ways to respond. Distance learning appears to be one of the pedagogical tools capable of dealing with interpersonal isolation and social distancing caused by the pandemic. This research aims to examine whether the impact of social distancing during COVID-19 will lead to increased acceptance of technology and, subsequently, an increase in adults' willingness to participate in distance learning. The hypothesis that social distancing and the desire to participate in distance learning affects learners' tendency to accept technology is investigated. Teachers' participation in distance education and acceptance of technology are used as adjustment variables with the relationship to "social distancing," "participation in distance learning," and "acceptance of technology" of learners. A questionnaire survey was conducted over a period of twelve months for teachers and learners at all community colleges in Taiwan who enrolled in a basic unit course. Community colleges were separated using multi-stage cluster sampling, with their locations being metropolitan, non-urban, south, and east as criteria. Using the G\*power software, 660 samples were selected and analyzed. The results show that through appropriate pedagogical strategies or teachers' own acceptance of technology, adult learners' willingness to participate in distance learning could be influenced. A diverse model of participation can be developed, improving adult education institutions' ability to plan curricula to be flexible to avoid the risk associated with epidemic diseases.

**Keywords :** social distancing, adult learning, community colleges, technology acceptance model

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