

# Generational Perspectives in Post-pandemic Education: a Comparative Study of Behavioural Intentions across Age Groups Using Utaut2

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## Abstract

COVID 19 pandemic drastically altered the global educational landscape, forcing institutions to adopt online and hybrid modalities. While students adapted to virtual learning environments, transiting again to face to face (F2F) education has uncovered nuanced differences in attitudes and behaviours across age groups. This study explores the behavioural intentions (BI) of tertiary students aged 16-30 resuming face-to-face (F2F) mode of study post-COVID-19, focusing on generational comparisons. Using Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology 2 (UTAUT2) model, augmented with Trust, Commitment, and Comfortability as additional variables, this research investigates differences in perceptions among key age brackets (16-20- and 21–30-year-old students) in the Pacific region. A survey of 369 students from a regional university formed the dataset, analysed through Covariance-Based Structural Equation Modelling. Findings highlight significant disparities: younger students (16-20) show minimal support for the tested hypotheses, whereas older students (21-30) exhibit stronger associations between behavioural intention (BI) and factors like Social Influence, Hedonic Motivation, and Commitment. However, the moderating role of COVID-19 fear on BI and usage behaviour (USEB) is significant for the younger group only. This study contributes to literature on generational dynamics in post-pandemic educational environments, offering insights for policy development and education strategies in resource-constrained regions.

**Keywords:** Covid, Utaut2, Student Behavioral Intention