

provide wide range of instant information. The aim of our study was to examine the use of these applications in the educational process among medical students at the University of Belgrade.

**Methods:**

Cross-sectional study was conducted during the January of 2018 among the fifth year medical students. The instrument used was a questionnaire, which contained 39 questions on socio-demographic characteristics, use of smart phones, medical and fitness application and attitudes towards use of these applications.

**Results:**

Total of 321 students filled in the questionnaire, 218 (67.9%) were females. The majority of students, 308 (96.3%) had a smart phone, 158 (49.2%) had medical application, while 146 (45.8%) had fitness application on their smart phones. The most commonly used application was Mediatly-medication data base. There was statistically significant difference between male and female students in attitudes towards these apps. Significantly higher percent of males completely agreed that Medical apps are less useful than conventional textbooks (49.5% males vs. 28.6% females,  $p < 0.001$ ), that free apps are of lower quality (60.3% of males vs. 33% females,  $p = 0.002$ ) and that they enable easier decision making (27.5% males vs. 21.3% females,  $p = 0.02$ ). Significantly higher percent of females have installed fitness apps (50.5% of females vs. 35.6% of males,  $p = 0.013$ ) and used those apps more than once a week (56.8% females vs. 36.0% males,  $p = 0.013$ ). Multivariate analysis showed that males had significantly higher likelihood of considering free apps as of lower quality (OR: 4.1, 95% CI: 1.02-16.52) and that they enable easier decision making (OR: 4.87, 95% CI: 1.24-19.11).

**Conclusions:**

Male students had significantly more positive attitude towards medical applications, while females more commonly used fitness applications.

**Key messages:**

- High percentage of students uses smart phone apps.
- Male students have more positive attitudes towards use of applications for educational purposes.

## Use of smart phone apps for educational purposes among Medical students

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**Background:**

There are more than 13000 smart phone applications related to health and fitness available at the Apps stores. These apps can