

## **Internet usage of Sri Lankan SMEs and perceived barriers**

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Information Technology has become the main tool of enhancing organization efficiency and effectiveness all over the world. Despite the trend, Sri Lankan businesses show low level of information technology usage. This affects overall competitiveness of Sri Lankan products and ultimately the development of the country. The research studies a vital part of information technology, the Internet usage of Sri Lankan Small and Medium size Enterprises (SMEs). Research method basically consists of questionnaire survey in addition to secondary data collected from various sources. The research shows that 75% of Sri Lankan business organizations are using e-mail facilities. Out of that 35% e-mails accounts are just for the sake of having. They are not operating. And also it is uncovered that searching information is the main usage of the Internet (e-commerce application) in Sri Lankan businesses. "E-mailing" and "web surfing" are the widely used facilities of the Internet in SMEs. Perceived high initial cost of internet, perceived high cost of telephone facilities, existing financial problems, feeling of not essential and low IT education were revealed as five major perceived barriers not to use internet for business activities in Sri Lanka.

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