

Exit Card (Teacher)

Smartphones are now ubiquitous – there are approximately 2.5 billion cell phone users in the world, with that number expected to rise to 6.1 billion by 2020 (<http://www.digitaltrends.com/mobile/smartphone-users-number-6-1-billion-by-2020/>).

This means that even a small percentage of MyShake users can provide more widespread real-time data than dedicated seismograph sensors, which may also be costly to install and maintain.

An app can be used in areas of relative poverty. This data is also quantitative rather than qualitative. While there is research suggesting that qualitative data relayed by people involved in seismic events is reliable, the quantitative data can be compared and used to improve algorithms. There may be some disadvantages, for example, if enough people don't install the app in a certain area, then there is poor coverage.

The app is not very sensitive to smaller earthquakes or at distances greater than 10 km.

Also, it is not known how, or how often, the accelerometer of a smart phone would be calibrated.