

Facebook and Other Social-Electronic Media Usage Including among Medical Undergraduates in Puducherry

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Background

Undergraduates enrolled in various institutes are highly exposed to usage of internet and most of them are having Facebook accounts. With the advent of availability of internet as data packages in smartphone, which are predominantly preferred by undergraduates worldwide, Most of them are engaged in some form of media use, particularly texting, music, the Internet and social networking like Facebook. So far most of the Indian studies have limited themselves to certain media such as cellphone and internet.

Aims & Objectives

To find the quantum and quality of time spent on various media such as internet in specific Facebook, reading habits, listening to music, watching television and also the quantum of time spent on cellphone related features including calls, SMS, playing games, internet surfing.

Materials and Methods

The study included undergraduate medical students (>350 students) from SLIMS Puducherry. Both male and female undergraduate medical students in the age group of 18-20 years were enrolled in the study. A five point Likert type Bregen Facebook Addiction Scale was used

to assess the addiction of medical undergraduates to Facebook. Also the validated and most reliable Young's Internet addiction scale to assess the problematic dependence or any addiction among the medical undergraduates to internet in general were administered through a self-administered questionnaire.

Results

Data analysis in progress. Frequencies, Factor analysis and reliability analysis of Likert scale questionnaire are being done. The total time spent on various media by the medical undergraduates and their dependence or addiction to Facebook or internet in general were being analysed.

Complications

The study will document the central role of social media in the lives of medical undergraduates. The study indicate these forms of media are being used more on campus, including during theory classes and clinical postings, reducing the quality time being used for academic purposes. Given the popularity of social networking and internet, it is hard to reduce students' use of these media forms. Instead, institutions should devise methods to integrate internet and social media into their classrooms