

Understanding the Use of Social Media in Medical Education: An Exploratory study of Medical Students of Punjab

Dear Respondent,

Warm Greetings!

I am conducting a research study for my PhD survey to explore how medical students use social media for their academic purposes, including learning, information access, and knowledge sharing.

As we all know, Social media comprises a range of digital platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, etc. which facilitate the creation, dissemination, and exchange of scholarly content, as well as interactive and academic communication among students community.

These platforms are increasingly being used in education and research for communication and collaboration.

This research survey will take approximately 5–7 minutes to complete it.

Your responses will remain confidential and will be used only for academic research. Thank you for your time and cooperation.

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1. E-mail Address

2. 1. Gender *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Male

☐ Female

☐ Other: _____

3. 2. Age Group *

Mark only one oval.

☐ 18-23

☐ 24-29

☐ 30-35

☐ 35+

4. 3. Qualification *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Under-graduate

☐ Post-graduate

☐ Research-scholar

☐ Other: _____

5. 4. Professional Year *

Mark only one oval.

☐ First Year

☐ Second Year

☐ Third Year

☐ Fourth Year

6. 5. How would you rate your digital literacy skills? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Beginner
- ☐ Intermediate
- ☐ Advanced

Social Media Usage Pattern

7. 6. Which social media platforms do you use for academic purposes? (Select all that apply) *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Facebook
- ☐ WhatsApp
- ☐ Instagram
- ☐ LinkedIn
- ☐ YouTube
- ☐ Blogs
- ☐ Online Forums
- ☐ Other: _____

8. 7. How frequently do you use social media for academic purposes? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ 1-2 Hours
- ☐ 2-3 Hours
- ☐ 3-4 Hours
- ☐ More than four

9. 8. What type of academic content do you access on social media? (Select all that apply) *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Lecture videos
- ☐ Medical case discussions
- ☐ Research articles
- ☐ Exam preparation materials
- ☐ Medical quizzes
- ☐ Online study groups
- ☐ Other: _____

Impact of Social Media on Academic Performance

10. 9. Do you think social media helps improve your academic performance? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not Sure

11. 10. How does social media benefit your medical education? (Select all that apply) *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Provides access to expert knowledge
- ☐ Enhances collaboration with peers
- ☐ Helps in exam preparation
- ☐ Keeps me updated with medical advancements
- ☐ Improves understanding of complex medical topics
- ☐ Other: _____

12. 11. Do you think social media is more effective than traditional learning methods (books, lectures)? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Motivations for Using Social Media for Medical Education

13. 12. Why do you prefer social media over traditional sources? (Select all that apply) *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ It is more engaging and interactive
- ☐ It provides quick and updated information
- ☐ It is convenient and accessible anytime
- ☐ It allows me to learn from global experts
- ☐ It helps me connect with others medical students
- ☐ Other: _____

14. 13. What motivates you to share academic content on social media? (Select all that apply) *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ To help fellow students
- ☐ To gain recognition and credibility
- ☐ To engage in academic and reinforcement
- ☐ I don't share academic content

Challenges and Risks of Social Media in Medical Education

15. 14. What challenges do you face while using social media for medical education? (Select all that apply) *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Misinformation and fake medical content
- ☐ Distraction from non-academic content
- ☐ Privacy and security concerns
- ☐ Over-reliance on social media instead of textbooks
- ☐ Lack of time to verify sources
- ☐ Other: _____

16. 15. Are you aware for misinformation and disinformation on social media?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes, and I actively verify information
- ☐ Yes, I don't always verify information
- ☐ No, I trust most content on social media

17. 16. How do you verify the credibility of academic content on social media? (select all that employ) *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Checking the source (e.g., medical institutions, verified experts)
- ☐ Comparison information from multiple sources
- ☐ Looking for peer-reviewed references
- ☐ I do not verify information

Recommendations for Effective Use of Social Media in Medical Education

18. 17. What strategies do you think can help students use social media effectively for academic purposes? (Select all that apply) *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Creative awareness about reliable sources
- ☐ Encountering peer-reviewed medical content
- ☐ Developing institutional guidelines for social media use
- ☐ Providing training on how to verify medical information
- ☐ Promoting academic communities on social media

19. 18. Would you be interested in a training program on using social media for academic and medical learning? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

20. 19. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions regarding the use of social media in medical education? *

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