



Assessing the Value of Social Media in Medical Education

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INTRODUCTION

- Social media is used for a variety of purposes to engage and educate students.
- We aimed to assess medical student preferences associated with the value of online learning methods such as social media.

METHODS

- A questionnaire has been developed and applied to medical undergraduate students on 2 sites:
 - Iuliu Hațieganu University of Medicine and Pharmacy Cluj-Napoca (Romania) - 27.02.2017 to 8.05.2017
 - University of Foggia (Italy) - 12.12.2016 to 09.01.2017
- Data were collected by a Google form.

RESULTS

	Italian (n=326)	Romanian (n=870)
<u>Social Media</u>		
Facebook	302 (92.64)	858 (98.62)
Youtube	235 (72.09)	776 (89.2)
Instagram	174 (53.37)	574 (65.98)
Wikipedia	187 (57.36)	557 (64.02)
Others	133 (74.23)	989 (60.34)
<u>Location</u>		
Home	314 (96.32)	856 (98.39)
Public Places	105 (32.21)	681 (78.28)
School/University	83 (25.46)	612 (70.34)
Other places	4 (1.23)	20 (2.3)
<u>Hours spent per day</u>		
≤1 Hour	63 (19.33)	98 (11.26)
1-3 hours	187 (57.36)	487 (55.98)
3-6 hours	59 (18.1)	210 (24.14)
<u>Device</u>		
Smartphone	310 (95.09)	819 (94.14)
Laptop	114 (34.97)	760 (87.36)
Tablet	49 (15.03)	198 (22.76)
Desktop	81 (24.85)	164 (18.85)
Mobile Phone	12 (3.68)	44 (5.06)
<u>Other Learning Sources</u>		
School bibliography	253 (77.61)	647 (74.37)
The Internet but not SM	242 (74.23)	569 (65.4)
Others (books, course notes, online sources, people; films; online repositories)	33 (97.55)	117 (99.31)
<u>Teachers – students communication platform:</u>		
Facebook (Messenger, Groups)	159 (48.77)	490 (56.32)
Email: Gmail, Hotmail, Yahoo, Groups	15 (4.6)	104 (11.95)
YouTube	25 (7.67)	35 (4.02)
WhatsApp (groups)	22 (6.75)	20 (2.3)
Others (Wikipedia, Cloud storage, Special, Blogs, Easyclass / Moodle, Twitter, Linkedin)	66 (79.75)	102(80.92)

CONCLUSION

The medical students use social media in learning process in similar way in Italy and Romania.

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- 1196 answers were collected, 326 (18.0% [16.3 - 19.9]) from the Italian university, and 870 (20.63% [19.41 - 21.88]) from the Romanian university. Over 90% of the responders (95.40% Italy, 93.10% Romania) use social media for learning purposes, but this is not exclusively, as they use other information sources in their learning process (such as school bibliography and the general Internet).
- Majority of the responders (77.91% Italy, 88.97% Romania) would like that teacher to communicate with them on Social Media.
- The most frequent searched information is a specific medical topic, management of daily student activity (e.g. planning of the exams, lectures, etc.), or topics related to courses taught at school (just Romanian students).
- Romanians also frequently share information with other colleagues (40.11% [36.78 - 43.45]).