

# Nursing Students' Attitude towards Social Media Use

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**Abstract:** Social media has turned into a portion of our daily life. As each coin has two sides, social media also has favoured standpoint and hindrance. Social media can boon or a bane depends upon our exploitation of the way we use it. Today, social media use is nearly universal among Adolescents. They are the most enthusiastic users of social networking and social media.

**Research Methodology:** An explorative - descriptive study was conducted at Mohamed Sathak AJ College of Nursing, Chennai, with the sample size of 84. Samples were selected through convenience sampling technique. Data was collected by self administered method by using a demographic variables proforma of students and Rating scale on Attitude towards social media use.

**Results:** Majority of the Nursing students' 69(82%) belongs to 18-19 yrs. Only 23 (27%) were males, regarding year of study 39(46%) of them belong to I year and majority 46(55%) of them resides in rural area. Only 10(12%) of their mothers completed college and only 8(10%) of their fathers e completed the college. With regard to monthly income of the family, majority of them 42(50%) drawing less than Rs.10, 000 and majority of them 59 (70%) were day scholar. Regarding the employment status of parents, only 15(18%) of parents were employed both. Majority 40 (48%) of them use mobile phones, less than one year. Mean and SD of Nursing students Attitude towards social media use was  $53.86 \pm 11.53$ . 1 year Nursing students and students whose parents studied higher had positive attitude towards social media use. Regarding type of stay, students who are coming from their house to college and more years of mobile phone users had more negative attitude towards social media use.

**Conclusion:** The above findings reveal that the Nursing students had positive attitude towards social media use where the researcher pointed out that information on social media has lack of professional gatekeepers to monitor content. How to evaluate the information trustworthiness on social media platform has become an important issue for today information consumers.

**Keywords:** Nursing students' attitude, social media use

## I. INTRODUCTION

Social media can spring the life of the people with a click of the mouse. The definition of "social media" is broad and it refers to Internet-based tools that allow individuals to communicate, to share evidence, thoughts, personal messages, pictures, and other content; and, in some cases, to cooperate with each other users in genuine time. Social media comes in many forms, including blogs, forums, business networks, photo-sharing platforms, social gaming, micro blogs, chat apps, and last but not least social networks.

India currently has a total population of over 1.36 billion people. Of that population, 230 million or 70% are active social media users. Daily social media usage of global internet users amounted to 135 minutes per day, up from 126 daily minutes in the previous year. (Social Spending report 2018)

Today, social media use is nearly universal among students. They are the most enthusiastic users of social networking and social media. Social media has provided students with the ability to form and maintain virtual communities online. Digital Technology has become an integral aspect of their culture, their education, and more broadly, their lives.

Goel & Singh (2016) conducted a study to examine the relationship between student's beliefs and attitude towards social media use in Education on their Academic Performance among 237 management students' from 3 private colleges and 2 private universities of Delhi NCR region. Data was collected using a self-designed questionnaire. The study results provided considerable support for the hypothesized relationships between positive beliefs and attitudes

towards social media for exchanging academic activities and the academic performance of the students’ also indicated that management students’ used social media mainly for sharing their assignments, projects and learning experiences with their colleagues.

The power of social media is extremely influential to students. Many studies are conducted related to the impacts of social media on students. On the contrary, there are very few studies that have been conducted related to the attitudes of students toward social media. Therefore, it is significant to understand the positive and negative attitude of the students toward social media.

**Statement of the Problem**

- An explorative study to assess the Nursing student’s attitude towards social media use in selected Nursing College, Chennai.

**Objectives**

- To assess the Nursing student’s attitude towards social media use.
- To associate the Nursing student’s attitude towards social media use with their selected demographic variables.

**II. MATERIALS AND METHODS**

A descriptive study was conducted to explore the Nursing students’ Attitude towards social media use in Mohamed Sathak A.J College of Nursing, Chennai, with the sample size of 84. Samples were selected using Convenience sampling technique. Data was collected through self administered method by using pretested and predetermined tools such as demographic variables proforma of students and Rating scale on Attitude towards social media use.

**Demographic variables proforma of Students** consisted of the information regarding age, sex, year of study, residence, education of mother, education of father, family income, type of stay, Employment status of parents and years of using mobile phone. **Rating scale on Attitude of Nursing students’ towards social media use** is a 5 point rating scale and contains 20 items with the total obtainable score of 20 -100, marked 1-5 based on the responses of the participants namely 1- Totally disagree, 2- Almost Totally Disagree, 3- Sometimes Agree, 4- Almost Totally Agree, 5- Totally Agree. The total score was summed up, converted to percentage and interpreted as follows , the participants who scored from 20 to 49 was interpreted as Negative Attitude and scored more than 50 was interpreted as positive attitude towards social media use.

The researchers introduced them self and explained the research topic with the Nursing students and subjects were given assurance on confidentiality of data collection and also obtained oral consent. Data was collected using **Demographic variables proforma of Students and Rating scale on Attitude of nursing students towards social media use**. Participants were given 30 mts to rate their attitude. Data was collected from 84 subjects. Nursing students were given a discussion on impact of social media use on their academic performance.

**III. RESULTS**

**Table: 1 Frequency and percentage distribution of demographic variables of Nursing students.**

N=84

Variables	Frequency (n)	percentage(p)
<b>Age in years</b>		
18-19	69	82
≥20	15	18
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	23	27
Female	61	73
<b>Year of study</b>		
I year	39	46
II year	35	42

III year	10	12
<b>Residence</b>		
Urban	38	45
Rural	46	55
<b>Education of Mother</b>		
Illiterate	16	19
School	58	69
College	10	12
<b>Education of Father</b>		
Illiterate	16	19
School	58	69
College	10	12
<b>Family Income</b>		
Rs. <10,000	16	19
Rs. 10,001-20,000	60	71
Rs. 20,000	8	10
<b>Type of stay</b>		
Day scholar	59	70
Hostel	25	30
<b>Employment status of parents</b>		
Anyone	69	82
Both	15	18
<b>Years of using mobile phone</b>		
<1 year	40	48
1-3 years	29	35
>3years	15	18

Table: 1 revealed that majority of the Nursing students 69(82%) belongs to 18-19 yrs. Only 23 (27%) were males, regarding year of study 39(46%) of them belong to I year and majority 46(55%) of them resides in rural area. Only 10(12%) of their mothers completed college and only 8(10%) of their fathers e completed the college. With regard to monthly income of the family, majority of them 42(50%) drawing less than Rs.10, 000 and majority of them 59 (70%) were day scholar. Regarding the employment status of parents, only 15(18%) of parents were employed both. Majority 40 (48%) of them use mobile phones, less than one year.

**Table: 2 Frequency and percentage distribution of Type of Attitude, Mean and Standard Deviation of Nursing students' Attitude towards social media use.**

N=84

Content	No of items	Obtainable score	Type of Attitude		Mean (%)	SD
			Positive (n) & (p)	Negative (n) & (p)		
Attitude towards Social media use	20	20-100	51	33	53.86	11.53

Table: 2 shows that 51% of nursing students had positive Attitude and 33% had Negative Attitude towards social media use. Mean and SD of Nursing students' Attitude towards social media use were 53.86± 11. 53.

**Table: 3 Association between nursing students’ Attitude towards social media use with their selected demographic Variables.**

N =84

Demographic variables	Type of Attitude		Chi square value
	Positive	Negative	
<b>Year of study</b>			
I year	16	23	10.33(S)*
II year	30	5	
III year	8	2	
<b>Education of Mother</b>			
Illiterate	6	11	5.301(S)*
School	39	21	
College	10	12	
<b>Education of Father</b>			
Illiterate	4	11	42.951(S)*
School	42	4	
College	4	19	
<b>Type of stay</b>			
Day scholar	13	20	9.141(S)*
Hostel	37	14	
<b>Years of using mobile phone</b>			
<1 year	11	24	23.75(S)*
1-3 years	31	4	
>3years	8	6	

\* P<0.05

Table 3 reveals that, Nursing students’ Attitude towards social media use was significantly associated with year of study, Education of Mother, Education of Father, Type of stay and years of using mobile phone at P< 0.05 level. However there was no significant association between other variables and Attitude towards social media use (age, sex, residence, and family income and Employment status of parents).

#### IV. DISCUSSION

This study was conducted to explore the Nursing students’ Attitude towards social media use in Mohamed Sathak A.J College of Nursing, Chennai. Findings of the study show that majority of the Nursing student 69(82%) belongs to 18-19 yrs. Only 23 (27%) were males, regarding year of study 39(46%) of them belong to I year and majority 46(55%) of them resides in rural area. The 2010 Pew data research shows that “73% of wired teenagers are now using social networking websites” (Lenhart, Purcell, Smith, and Zickuhr 2010). Only 10(12%) of their mothers completed college and only 8(10%) of their fathers e completed the college. With regard to monthly income of the family, majority of them 42(50%) drawing less than Rs.10, 000 and majority of them 59 (70%) were day scholar. Roblyer et al. (2010) found that in higher education, students are more positive about the potential of using Facebook and other similar new technologies for supporting teaching and learning than faculty, who prefer traditional technologies.

Regarding the employment status of parents, only 15(18%) of them were both employed. Majority 40 (48%) of them use mobile phones, less than one year. Mao (2014) investigated high school students’ affordances for social media, their attitudes and beliefs about these new technologies, and related obstacles and issues in using social media which concluded that students show positive attitudes and beliefs about social media use in education. Specifically, students believed they could improve their learning when using social media and also enjoy using social media for an assignment or their own learning after school. However, some students thought that social media created distraction and was time consuming.

Nursing students' Attitude towards social media use was associated with years of study, Education of Mother, Education of Father, Type of stay and Years of using mobile phone. It indicates that students' belonged to II and III year had positive attitude comparing with I year, as the students progress to higher year of study, they have positive attitude towards social media use. Regarding education of parents, whose parents studied higher, their children had positive attitude towards social media use. Regarding type of stay, students who are coming from their house to college had more negative attitude towards social media use and when years of using media use is lesser, they have more negative attitude towards social media use. It may be due to that adolescents to stay in touch with family discover old friends that they have lost touch with over the years. On the other hand, a lot of adolescents waste a big portion of their time on social media. With social media, the information of a lot of adolescents has now become digital which may cause their confidentiality at risk. This helps the hackers shot and acquire data for their use on a daily basis now a day.

#### V. CONCLUSION

The researchers are suggesting that using social media is not immoral but the way it is being used is important. Students must be given direction on what should be the accurate approach. Also, students must be cultured on the overall age-related activities instead of getting attached to social media and spending precious time in unusable chatting. Students must take initiative to find out how best such sites can be used.

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