

Use of Internet and Social Media in Learning

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Internet is one of the most useful and used modern devices. All over the world we see many people including children totally submerged in smart phones and laptops. Some are addicted; an addiction that could be as bad as drug addiction or even worse! I remember a cartoon showing a newborn whose umbilical cord was about to be cut; saying "Wait a minute first let me update my status"!

Devices are not good or bad, it's their use which makes the difference! We may use Facebook all day telling people what fashion we did, what we cooked or what we ate or where we went. These things add very little value for others and for us it may be sheer waste of time and energy making us very tired at the end of the day that may have considerable toll on our health. Positive use of internet and social media on the other hand could be very rewarding; but we must not let it conquer us.

Someone defined the intelligent student as "One who uses library intelligently"! Now the library is not merely the library of our school, college, university, hospital or a public library; it's much more than these it's entire internet; a library full of not only books but also numerous images and videos. One can sharply improve his knowledge and skills by wisely using these resources and making appropriate files for recording and keeping useful knowledge. Of course, internet has many other uses including conducting examinations, telemedicine and earning Continuing Medical Education (CME) hours to fulfill the requirement to maintain practicing license.

Many educational institutions have their own valuable websites. Free medical Journals, numerous articles and some books are available. Additionally, famous social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn are also useful; each having its advantages and disadvantages. For example, Twitter is very useful as its brief, and carries the beautiful images of pathology lesions as seen recently by pathologists and these are

shared for professional colleagues. Facebook has many fora and special pages, Linked-in connects you to many professionals in your field. Google and Google scholar and Research Gate are great sites for research and new discoveries. Google particularly has hundreds of thousands of gross, microscopic and radiological images. YouTube contains many useful videos; again, catch is that you must NOT be entangled in useless and potentially destructive videos. Professional groups are present on internet and difficult cases may be shared and discussed. With appropriate gadgets small group conferences may be held on What's up, Facebook, Face-time etc. These interactive conferences could save lot of time, money and energy on learning.

I recommend Medical students and young doctors to use internet and social media judiciously for improving themselves instead of wasting time. Most beautiful radiological, pathological images and discussions are available which you may not see in your hospital and settings. Again however, one has to be very choosy! There is a lot of garbage out there and also lot of commercial push! Proper record keeping and filing will help them in becoming excellent doctors and will certainly help them to pass examinations and tests with flying colors.

Audiovisual based learning is no less important and no less useful than simple book-worming! Judicious use of the internet and social media may bring you at par with the world. There many excellent pathology websites and blogs that can be found out just by one click in goggle and other web-search engines. Proper planning and using these may save lot of time and learning can become fun too! Proper and wise use of social media for learning can transform an "ordinary" student into an outstanding one!

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ could not read or write but was the most educated person of all time; his education was through divine inspirations and

observations. Undoubtedly, he was the most competent and the most rightly guided teacher who changed the world all together as acknowledged by Michael Hart in his book "100 most influential people" putting him as the most influential person of all times proving that mere reading the books is not the only way of learning. Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ teachings based on the final divine book Quran created big bang in the field of science and humanity which can be seen

in the form of birth of many giants in almost every field who founded the modern sciences, pulled Europe out of dark ages and bringing renaissance to the Europe and through it to the world!

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