

## Usage of electronic resources for academic purposes among the medical students of University of Jaffna

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**Background and objective:** Medical education is coupled with the use of electronic resources. We aimed to assess the use of electronic resources for academic purposes and the factors associated their use among medical students of University of Jaffna.

**Methods:** This descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted among 427 medical students selected using stratified sampling from the 36<sup>th</sup>, 37<sup>th</sup>, 38<sup>th</sup>, 39<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, and 41<sup>st</sup> batches at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna, using self-administered questionnaire. Data were analyzed by using SPSS (version 21). A composite score was developed to measure electronic resource use.

**Results:** Among the 427 participants, 365 students from 36<sup>th</sup>, 37<sup>th</sup>, 38<sup>th</sup>, 39<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> batches responded to our questionnaire with a response rate of 57%, 67%, 97%, 98%, 85% and 100%, respectively. Electronic devices used by medical students included mobile phone (98.1%, n=358), laptop PC (61.6%, n=225), tablet PC (45.8%, n=167), desk top PC (14.2%, n=52) and Kindle (4.7%, n=17). Purpose of electronic device use included downloading pdf materials (n=340, 79.6%), clearing doubts through internet (n=272, 63.7%), online dictionary (n=248, 58%), atlas on pdf or app (n=238, 55.7%), lecture video (n=227, 53.2%), use of e-book (n=214, 50.1%), taking pictures of specimens (n=195, 45.7%) and for 3D specimens (n=124, 29%). Electronic resource usage was associated with batch (p<0.001) and there was no evidence of association with sex and ethnicity.

**Conclusion:** Almost all medical students at the University of Jaffna use electronic devices, at least smartphones. Predominant uses included downloading pdfs, clearing doubts through the internet, and online dictionaries. Extent of electronic resource use varies by academic year.

**Keywords:** Electronic Resources, Jaffna, Medical Students