

## Social media for Teaching and Learning, Students perceptions in Riyadh Colleges

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### Original Research Article

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**Abstract:** The aim of this study was to evaluate the dental students' perceptions toward the use of social media (Twitter) in an orthodontic course and the impact of this technology for teaching and learning. An online questionnaire was developed to evaluate 4<sup>th</sup> year students' knowledge, use, and perceptions of Twitter for teaching and learning in an orthodontic course at Riyadh Colleges of Dentistry and Pharmacy. 85 of the students completed the questionnaire. Of the respondents, 75% reported having used Twitter on a daily bases. 58% of them they didn't think that they will like the use of twitter for teaching. After their experienced it, 82% they liked it. The students perceived the Twitter sessions as enjoyable and reported it improved their engagement in orthodontic class. The results of this study indicated that students agreed that the use of Twitter had enhanced the learning environment in the orthodontic course.

**Keywords:** Dental Education, Social media, Twitter, Orthodontics

### INTRODUCTION

Social media known as the interactions among people, in which they create, share, discover and exchange information and ideas through networks [1]. Over the years it has become increasingly important for those of us working in higher education to explore the exciting opportunities new technologies bring to institutions, educators and students. Social media considered one of the important tools in technology, the role of social media may offer a new construct to enhance the learning experience.

Greenhow and Gleason [2] explore the use of Twitter as a new educational tool. They suggest that when used in higher education, it may lead to increased engagement and better interaction between students and teachers. Social networking sites are attracting a lot of attention and interest from academic institutions. They enhance knowledge sharing within interconnected groups and improve knowledge creation among members of these groups. Social networking site use is increasingly common among emerging medical professionals, with medical schools even reporting disciplinary student expulsion. Online social networking applications (e.g. Facebook, Flickr, Twitter and Youtube) have become the fastest-growing mechanism to exchange personal and professional information. With 85%-95% of students on college campuses using these communication mediums [3, 4]. Oakley and Spallek [5] described the impact social media in health care setting highlighting some opportunities and challenges that exist. He concluded with suggestions for best practices of social media in dental education domain. The aim of this study is to evaluate the perceptions of the students in Riyadh colleges toward the use of social media in orthodontic course.

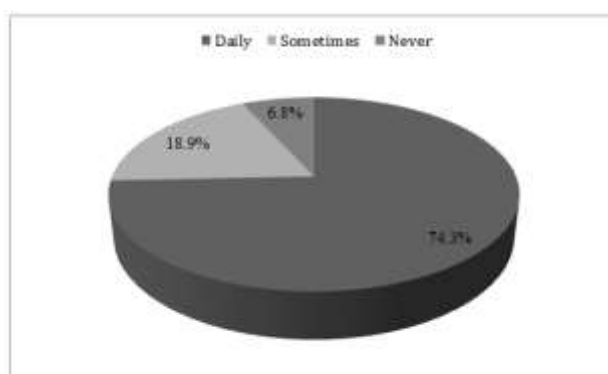
### MATERIAL AND METHOD

A total of 170 female students in Level 9, Riyadh colleges of Dentistry and Pharmacy ,who finished the orthodontic course 512ortho ,the course include the use of social media (twitter) in teaching, Hashtag about the course #512Ortho was developed by the course Director , a questions was posted in the Hashtag and the students were divided in multiple groups and each group has one representative student to participate in the hashtag and answering the question, the best and correct answer was chosen by the faculty and announced in the class.

After finishing the course an online survey was developed to take the feedback of the students toward this teaching method.

### RESULTS

Of the 74 students who responded, the majority (74.3%, n=55) reported that they use social media (e.g. twitter) daily, followed by 18.9% (n=14) sometimes and 6.8% (n=5) never used it (Figure 1).



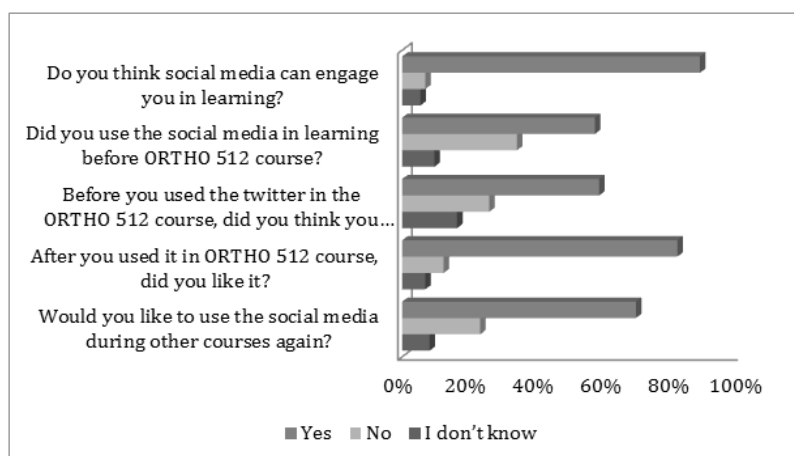
**Fig-1: Frequency of use of social media (e.g. twitter) by students**

The majority of the students reported that they agree social media can engage them in learning (87.8%, n=65). Forty two students (56.8%) reported that they used the social media in learning before ORTHO 512 course. Around 58% thought they would like using twitter before using it in the ORTHO 512 course and

around 81% (n=60) reported that they liked using twitter after using it in the ORTHO 512 course. The majority (68.9%, n=51) reported that they would like to use social media again during other courses (Table 1 and Figure 2).

**Table-Variables on the use of social media (e.g. twitter)**

	Frequency (Percent) n (%)		
	Yes	No	Idon't know
Do you think social media can engage you in learning?	65 (87.8)	5 (6.8)	4 (5.4)
Did you use the social media in learning before ORTHO 512 course?	42 (56.8)	25 (33.8)	7 (9.5)
Before you used the twitter in the ORTHO 512 course, did you think you will like it?	43 (58.1)	19 (25.7)	12 (16.2)
After you used it in ORTHO 512 course, did you like it?	60 (81.1)	9 (12.2)	5 (6.8)
Would you like to use the social media during other courses again?	51 (68.9)	17 (23.0)	6 (8.1)



**Fig-2: Variables on the use of social media (e.g. twitter)**

To meet the condition of the statistical test, 'sometimes' and 'never' in the frequency of use of social media; and 'no' and 'I don't know' in all the other variable were combined. Two-way cross-tabulation showed that students who use social media daily were more likely to think that social media can

engage them in learning. Moreover, Fisher's exact test showed this association a between 'How often do you use the social media (e.g. twitter)?' and 'Do you think social media can engage you in learning?' was statistically significant (p<0.05). The association between 'How often do you use the social media (e.g.

twitter)?' and all the other variables on the use of social media was not found to be statistically significant ( $p>0.05$ ) (Table 2). Around 29% increase in the number

of students who liked using twitter was observed after ORTHO 512 course.

**Table-2: Association between frequency and other variables on the use of social media**

		How often do you use the social media (e.g. twitter)?		p value
		Daily	Sometimes	
Do you think social media can engage you in learning?	Yes	52 (94.5)	13 (68.4)	0.007*
	No	3 (5.5)	6 (31.6)	
Did you use the social media in learning before ORTHO 512 course?	Yes	32 (58.2)	10 (52.6)	0.790
	No	23 (41.8)	9 (47.4)	
Before you used the twitter in the ORTHO 512 course, did you think you will like it?	Yes	29 (52.7)	14 (73.7)	0.177
	No	26 (47.3)	5 (26.3)	
After you used it in ORTHO 512 course, did you like it?	Yes	45 (81.8)	15 (78.9)	0.746
	No	10 (18.2)	4 (21.1)	
Would you like to use the social media during other courses again?	Yes	41 (74.5)	10 (52.6)	0.091
	No	14 (25.5)	9 (47.4)	

\* indicates statistical significance

## DISCUSSION

The students feel confident enough to present the social media by collaborative between peers, teachers and engagement within the class [6]. It was reported that The use of social media approaches enhanced the learning experiences of undergraduate students. Their use caused both the instructor and students to realize their roles in the course and behavior in the classroom had to change significantly [7].

Jahan, I., & Ahmed, S. [8] reported a positive attitude towards academic use of social media by the students. We found in our study that social media are able to motivate the students and engage them, in agreement with other studies who reported that Social media also facilitates discussion and knowledge transfer between students, creating a deeper sense of understanding of the course material [9-17]. Students who use social media are able to move beyond the memorization of material and create products that represent their own voices [18, 19]. Social media can aid in the achievement of both general and content specific student learning outcomes [20-22].

## CONCLUSION

Social media can be very effective method for teaching and learning. Using Twitter in educationally relevant ways can increase student engagement and and thus, that social media can be used as an educational tool to help students reach desired college outcomes

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