#Social Media & Midwifery

Twitter as a collaborative learning tool: a research proposal by Charlene Cole

BACKGROUND
- Twitter: the #SoMe go-to for academic learning
- Analyses of twitter communications showed that students and faculty can both be highly engaged in the learning process, more so than traditional classroom activities (Junco et al. 2010)
- Twitter can be an innovative learning tool in higher education (Blessing et al. 2012)
- Despite this evidence, there has been little uptake of Twitter to support learning among students (Evans 2013)
- Twitter has been shown to provide an excellent basis for collaboration, information sharing and community building, facilitated by using common hashtags (#) (Lackovic et al. 2017)

"Any fool can know. The point is to understand” – Albert Einstein

RESEARCH PROPOSAL
More midwifery students should benefit from the power of Twitter, what factors affect students using Twitter in Midwifery education?

More research is needed (Lackovic et al. 2017):

Q1. No. of final year midwifery students that use Twitter as a learning tool?
Q2. How is this affected by which year they are in?
Q3. What training is given on the use of #SoMe in HEI’s?

METHODOLOGY
- Ethical approval will be requested from University Ethics committee gaining consent to contact midwifery staff and students
- The population and sample has been identified as midwifery students at host university, it is hoped to extend this to all HEIs across the UK. The aim is to receive responses from at least 15 students per academic year
- Following successful ethical approval - a questionnaire will be sent out via email to all current student midwives

MY TWITTER STORY SO FAR....
My twitter journey has led to many splendid things:
- #GetYourTweetOn campaign with the Royal College of Midwives, resources for trusts and HEIs to download and display
- @WeMidwives post, arranging and hosting a variety of Tweet Chats with midwives, students and nurses
- #MidDogs calendar to raise money for the RCM Benevolent Fund
- #MyWellbeingMonth collaboration between WeNurses, WeMHNurses and WeMidwives, my idea to use the month of January to promote well-being across the healthcare sphere

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RATIONAL FOR QUESTIONNAIRE
- Some twitter polls showed interesting results
- Although not rigorous research methodology, they showed need for further exploration
- Questionnaires can elicit information from samples at particular points in time (Aveyard 2015)

WHY SOCIAL MEDIA?
- Involving the RCM and NMC in important debates on a platform like Twitter means wider participation and involvement at student level
- The diagram below left shows how widely Twitter is used each minute
- Gaining understanding into why students do/not use #SoMe for learning will inform on how better to engage with the educational sector

CONCLUSION
- More research is needed into what affects students’ professional / educational use of twitter
- A straightforward questionnaire approach will elicit new light on this and inform strategy to improve engagement

REFERENCES

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#GetYourTweetOn

STUDENT MIDWIVES FORUM

“I'm not just about consuming content, but sharing it, passing it on and adding to it...” @ariannahuff

#MyWellbeingMonth
#MidDogs
#GetYourTweetOn

Download the Twitter app, engage with your peers, read & post articles and share the latest news.

Follow @WeMidwives for tweets about #mywellbeingmonth

Ending the stigma of mental health issues.

@ariannahuff