RESEARCH ARTICLE

TEENAGE PATIENT'S UNDERSTANDING REGARDING PRIVACY AND SOCIAL MEDIA.

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Abstract

Teenager lies in age group of 13-19 years, are the active users of social media and they are also concerned with privacy. They share large information on social networking sites, but they also keep online privacy behaviour. The health related issues were not disclosed on social media sites by teenage patients. There have been very few studies on how teenagers were managing personal health information on social media. This review helps in understanding teenagers’ outlook towards the revealing of health related issues on social media. Database searched were DELNET, EBSCO and reference list of articles. The keywords used for searching the articles were teenage patient, privacy, social media, personal privacy and health issues. Most of the studies are based on qualitative methodology. By using electronic sources, eighteen articles were identified and four additional articles through other sources. Twenty two articles were identified and three articles were excluded because of duplicacy. The nineteen articles were screened and five articles were selected based on eligibility criteria. Results showed that the teenage patients are active users of social media, but most of them do not disclose their personal health information on social media. They communicate information like interest, daily activities on these sites. The majority of teenage patients don’t want to come in contact with who are of the same age having similar problems. The review expressed that social media is important part of teenage patient’s life, but teenage patients use online privacy as an only for expression of self-definition and self-protection. Intensive researches have to be carried to rule out further information.

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Introduction:

A teenage or teen is a young person whose age falls within the range from 13-19 years. Social media has become important for social networking and content sharing. Teenage patients are part society of society and active group of social media users. They frequently get connected through these social networking sites (Majaven der Velden, 2013). As per report of McAfee’s Tweens, Teen and technology report published by India facts on November 14, 2014, 70% of online youth in India spend 5 hours on internet in a normal week. Facebook is the most popular site
(93%), YouTube (87%) and WhatsApp (79%). The eye-opening information is that half (52%) of India’s youth access their social media accounts while they are at school.

Teenagers share large amounts of personal information through social media but they also keep in mind the ‘online privacy behaviour’. Teenager patient’s online privacy behaviour related to their health is one form of expressing the need of self-protection. Though they are active on social media and stay up to date about their social life. But still little studies are available on privacy related to disclosing of diagnosis and treatment on social media.

The teenagers want to maintain privacy issues and don’t want to disclose information as they consider this as autonomy. The reason behind this is they want to be normal or regular teen. If they are chronically ill they think it is not something they would disclose and discuss on social media or even outside the hospital. Teenage patient think that this may affect their relationships, job opportunities, people’s behaviour towards them.

The aim of this review is to understand the teenager’s outlook towards the revealing of health-related issues on social media. The patients share information on social media, the information is revealed related health also such as diagnosis, investigations and treatment regimens. This kind of information sharing has proved to be beneficial but on the other hand, it also has negative effects on revealing such information on social media relationships affect and on the bases of future concern it may also affect the job opportunities. To understand the positive and negative aspects based on the usage of social media and its privacy in revealing health issues this review can be beneficial.

**Methods And Material:**

The reviews which are taken are from the time period of 2005-2016. The database used for search is DELNET, EBSCO and reference list of searched articles. The total number of articles found is twenty two out of which five articles are included. The five articles which are included in study are full text and based on area to study, the remaining articles are excluded because they were not matching the study criteria. Keywords used in study are teenage patients, privacy, social Medias, personal privacy and health issues.

Most of the studies are based on qualitative methodology. By using electronic sources total eighteen articles identified and four additional articles by other sources. In total twenty two articles are there and three articles are duplicate and these three articles are removed. The nineteen articles are remaining after duplicate articles are removed. The nineteen articles are screened out of which four articles are excluded because these articles are not relevant with any review. Fifteen full text articles are assessed for eligibility. The eligibility criteria is selected are selected only studies will be included focusing on social media and its privacy and secondly the teenage patients and youth using social media for health issues. Ten articles are excluded because those are not matching the study criteria.

The total five articles are included which are focusing on teenage patients, social media and its privacy related to health issues. All the studies collected data through interview either semi-structured questionnaire are used or open ended questionnaire are used. The analysis of the study data is done by thematic analysis.

There has been research done in the healthcare sector based on the use of social media, only 71 studies were found which surveyed the patients and out of which only five was based on teenage patients (Maja, Khaled. 2013).
Figure 2:- Prisma flow chart

Title: Study characteristics- “Teenagepatient’s understanding regarding privacy and social media”.

Table 1:-

| S.No | Author                                      | Place of research and year | Objectives                                                                 | Variables                                                                                   | Tools                                | Time duration | Outcome                                                                                   | Remarks                                                                                     |
|------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.   | Maja van der Velden and Khaled E Emam       | Children hospital of Eastern Ontario, Canada, 2013 | To understand how teenage patients are managing their privacy and understanding in teenage patients | Research variable: Privacy and social media expression of self-protection and protection       | Semi-structured questions             | 30 minutes    | Teenage patients are active user of social media and selective about sharing their personal health information | Teenage patients are selective about sharing their personal health information                |
| S.No | Author | Place and year of research | Objectives | Variables | Tools | Time duration | Outcome | Remarks |
|------|--------|-----------------------------|------------|-----------|-------|---------------|---------|---------|
| 2.   | Maja van der Velden and Margaret Machniak | Children hospital Eastern Ontario, Canada, 2014 | To visualize privacy levels through use of colors designs | Research variable: Privacy and teenage patients | Semi-structured questions | 40 minutes | The colors are used to remember the privacy settings rather large buttons and key. These designs help the teenage patient to have more control over sharing information. | Teenage patients feel more secure and they find these designs easy to use and helpful in sharing personal information. |
| 3.   | Maja Van der Velden | Children hospital in Canada | To understand the privacy strategies and self-presentation of teenage patients | Research variable: Self-presentation and self-protection | Semi-structured questions | 30 minutes | The teenage patient have perceived benefits and risks of being active on social media, their online privacy strategies help them towards self-protection. | Teenage patients use various range of applied strategies like friends only, private communication and they are also concerned about sharing of their health information. |
| 4.   | Sadesh Torabhi and Konstatin | United states, | To understand | Research variable: Open-ended | -- | -- | The participants | Participants were quiet |
| S.No | Author                          | Place and year of research | Objectives                                                                 | Variables                                                                 | Tools                        | Time duration | Outcome                                                                 | Remarks                                                                 |
|------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5.   | Jen Rose and Alessandara Acquisti | Victoria, 2013            | To understand usage of social media by young people                       | Research variable: social media and young people                           | Semi-structured questions   | ---           | Young people use social media daily to connect with people having mutual interest with various forms. | Young people use social media for coming in contact with people having same interests and to strengthen their relationships. |

**Results:**
The study result is related to teenage patients and privacy in social media. The teenage patients are active users of social media. According to study teenage patient share much information on social media. But when it comes to personal health related information they don’t want to disclose it on social media. They are concerned about privacy settings. They are selective when comes about sharing of information (Maja.Khaled.2013).

Teenage patients manage their online privacy through use of designs. Majority of participants visualize privacy settings through use of colors. This kind of privacy setting is easier to remember and it gives more control over privacy settings(Maja.Margaret.2014).

The teenage patient perceives benefits and risks of being active on social media, their online privacy strategies help them to contribute to desired self-presentation and self-protection while coping with illness.

The participants who share health related information shows the perceived privacy risk mitigation behavior responses. People are having different risk in their mind and as per the perceived risk the behavior responses are seen (Sadegh.Konstatin.2013).

Young people use social media daily and in various forms to connect with people having mutual interest. They on their mutual interest and performances gets socialize on the social medias (Jen. Lisa.2013).

Analysis of the result can be mainly categorized in these themes:

**Self –Presentation:**
“I take my (diagnosis) on my own. I don’t want to talk to people who have the same things as I have. I spoke to people that they have the same things as I have. I understand what they are going through, but...I don’t like to talk
about it. As I said, try to live my life without being remembered that I have it. Speaking about it is a way of remembering. That is what I don’t want to do; that is why I don’t want to talk about it.”

Self-Protection:-
“Well I don’t really think it is anyone’s business on Facebook. When I post it, everyone can see it. I don’t think 350 people care if I am CHEO are not and I don’t want to deal with their questions. Not that they are bad, but why they need to know much about me.”

Self-Definition:-
“There is no point of saying on Facebook ‘oh I am going to cry’, I just make everybody else worried. My problems are my problems and not everyone else’s.”

Applied Privacy Awareness:-
“My sister told me to put it on the highest level and all my friends agreed that was the safest.”

Discussion:-
These studies suggest the social media plays the central role in teenage patient’s life. It also plays a vital role in communicating with people. It tells about the patient’s privacy awareness. By acting with privacy behaviour these patients feel secure while using social Medias. The teenage patients use these privacy settings and feel more relaxed while sharing information. They are having perceived benefits and drawbacks while sharing personal information on social networking sites. They show this as a need of self-protection when it comes about sharing of personal health information (Maja van der Velden). Teenage patients don’t find it something to be discussed on social Medias and about what others should come to know (Maja van der Velden,2013). Teenage patients don’t feel that personal health information is the ones which we should disclose on social Medias. Teenage patients want to behave regular children and they don’t want to get any kind of sympathy.

Studies show the privacy concern towards sharing of personal health information. Teenage patients don’t feel secure to one reason or another to share their health issues on social Medias. The study result of different studies shows that teenage patients are concerned about privacy settings and information revealing issues on social Medias. They don’t want anyone to interfere in their personal issues. Teenage patients want to lead their lives like other normal children and they do not want to get any kind of sympathy due to their health issues. They simply feel that they are normal like any other children’s and nothing is there which should be given importance.

Conclusion:-
The teenage patients are active users of social media. Social Media is the place where teenage patients get socialize. They share large amount of information on social Media but when it comes about sharing personal health information they are not so much interested and comfortable to share these kind of information on social Medias. They don’t find it as a topic to be disclosed on social Medias and they are selective in sharing information’s. Privacy settings are also used as a way of self-protection of oneself on social Medias.

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