

Mobile e-portfolio as a Personal Digital Assistant in Nursing Education

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ABSTRACT

Background: In view of the recent interest in the use of mobile technologies for assessing people's work and career, tools such as personal digital assistants (PDAs) and cell phones can not only make data collection possible at anytime and anywhere, but also improve this process by allowing for the collection of multimedia data. This study was conducted to design and develop a mobile portfolio and evaluate its efficacy in assessing the performance of nursing students in clinical wards. **Methods:** The graduate nursing students of Jahrom University of Medical Sciences were recommended to draft a clinical portfolio of their clinical experience in written, audio and video formats in various media. Mobile e-portfolios have been developed to synchronize wirelessly with the user's personal web page over Wi-Fi and cellular networks. Data on the students' duration and type of training, time, learning opportunities, work performance, resources and clinical experiences were recorded on the ward's website. The teachers were also able to access the students' portfolios for adding notes and comments. The teachers' assessments were both qualitative and quantitative. **Results:** Mobile e-portfolios are a user-friendly, accessible and attractive method for the objective assessment of students that enable the careful assessment of the students by encouraging their Improving information literacyand feedback. This tool satisfied 70% of the students. **Conclusion:** Smartphone-based e-portfolios can facilitate the continuity of work and create uniform frameworks for the students to display their performance and learning efficiency, invite others to interpret and evaluate their work and selectively publish online documents of their clinical achievements.

Keywords: Electronic portfolio, mobile-based learning, clinical performance, student assessment