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## The effectiveness of training on using social networking sites in online collaborative projects

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## **Abstrak**

This study examined university students? attitudes towards and skill levels of using social networking sites to promote public health information online. Data were collected from the student participants who were health professionals from six different countries. The participants were given surveys before and after their training. The surveys assessed: (1) their comfort levels in using social networking sites, (2) their attitudes towards online health information dissemination, and (3) their ability to create effective online health information sites. A Health Sciences faculty member worked with an instructional designer and technologist to create a training video and guidelines for designing effective online websites. Training materials were posted to the online course area. Working in collaborative teams, the student participants developed online health social networking sites that targeted global health education issues. Competence and skill level of students were assessed using project-based learning criteria. Results of the study reveal: (1) participants have a high comfort level in using social networking sites, (2) participants, in general, have positive attitudes toward online health information, and (3) participants are highly competent in creating online health information sites.