

TITLE: FACEBOOK AS A TEACHING-LEARNING TOOL FOR UNDERGRADUATES

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ABSTRACT:

Among technological resources, internet is one which provides high quality in teaching. Through the internet, social networks stand out not only as leisure spaces, but also as professional tools, making the access to teaching resources easier and improving the interaction of teachers and students. Recently, Facebook social network has innovatively been applied as a teaching tool. The project entitled "Adopt a bacterium" was carried out by both Biomedical sciences and Nursing courses from the University Center of Southern Minas (UNIS-MG), in the second half of 2018. Undergraduate students from these courses used Facebook as a learning tool in the Basic Microbiology discipline. The students from 3rd and 4th semesters of each course were divided into groups, with 5 members at most. Each group was responsible for posting topics related to the discipline on the "Adopt" page, using articles, videos and news about pre-selected microorganisms. Every week, each group should post content related to theoretical and practical classes. The role of discussion mediators for content posted on the page was played by students from the 6th semester of Biomedical sciences course, as well as by professors from microbiology fields (both from this institution and from ICB-USP). The interaction among students was one of the benefits identified, especially due to their ability on reading and discussing each other's posts. Literature points out that young people, by experiencing social networks on a daily basis, are able to surf it on an easier fashion. As UNIS-MG is an institution from the inner side of the state, some students come from rural areas and therefore, some of them presented, at first, some difficulty in posting their activities. However, this was remedied as the project went on and it has given more knowledge to these group of participants. The experience was relevant, since it made the students' learning easier due to its more dynamic and illustrative form of constructing knowledge, what was possible to assess through the grades obtained on the evaluation processes. Thus, the teacher left the center of the teaching position and provided the students the ability to "learn how to learn".

Keywords: Microbiology education, social media, graduation

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