

The Significance of Discussing Ethics and Health Informatics in Population Health Management Education

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Abstract

Student engagement using virtual discussion forums is a teaching and learning technique, that facilitates an individual's ability to critically challenge concepts using objective perspectives and develop an interactive approach to peer learning. Students obtaining an online graduate degree in Population Health Management require diverse teaching and learning strategies to maximize the understanding of management concepts relating to healthcare, digital health and ethical principles. The aim of this project was to explore student engagement when using a virtual discussion forum to discuss the principles of ethics and health informatics in contemporary healthcare delivery. A retrospective process evaluation on student engagement was conducted to evaluate student interactive discussions on ethics and health informatics. Data analysis was carried out through rigorous, systematic reading of the interactive discussion forum, evaluating the frequency and depth of student interaction and manual coding of dialogue performance. The evaluation highlighted that critical reflective dialogue on ethics and health informatics promoted an immersive peer learning experience, a student-led learning approach and a deeper understanding of ethics and health informatics in population health management. As a result, the critical reflective technique enabled students to receive real-time feedback from their peers and the instructor throughout the virtual learning experience and delve deeper into challenging concepts that relate to digital health and remote healthcare management.

Keywords: Education, Ethics, Health, Informatics, Population