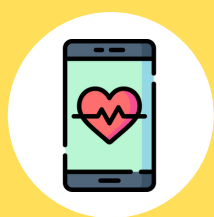


# EHEALTH LITERACY OF LATE ADOLESCENTS: CREDIBILITY AND QUALITY OF HEALTH INFORMATION THROUGH SMARTPHONES IN INDIA

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<https://doi.org/10.3916/C64-2020-08>

## INTRODUCTION



### eHealth literacy:

person's capability to effectively gather health information, engage in discussions with health care providers and to make necessary changes to behaviors and lifestyles.



### Online information:

The lack of content regulation on the internet is cause for concern as people do not depend on health professionals to interpret/validate the content.



### Credibility:

There is no universal standard for posting health information online. Such information can be altered, edited, misrepresented or created anonymously.

## METHODOLOGY

Survey 2019  
Sample: 3 zones  
(Chennai / India),  
5 colleges / zone,  
30 students = 450  
N= 427

Discern  
Handbook

eHealth literacy  
scale / eHEALS  
scale (Norman;  
Skinner, 2006)

## RESULTS

51,4% men / 48,6% women

100% had a smartphone / 78,3% had their own laptop

94,6% used the smartphone to access health information

82,8% used to search for information in order to lead a healthy lifestyle

79,3% cross-check information provided by the physician



## CONCLUSIONS



Smartphones play a significant role in health information gathering. Mobile applications (apps) were the least preferred mode of accessing health information despite the high usage of smartphones.



Late adolescents possess a strong health literacy, information literacy, scientific literacy, media literacy, and computer or smartphone literacy along with traditional skills.



There is no regularity mechanism to assure the credibility and the quality of online health information. Wrong health information can cause problems for the public.

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