

Evolution of nursing teaching in the use of education technology: a scoping review

Evolução do ensino de enfermagem no uso da tecnologia educacional: uma scoping review

Evolución de la enseñanza de enfermería en el uso de la tecnología educacional: una revisión sistemática

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ABSTRACT

Objective: To identify and map the technological tools of information and communication to support the teaching learning process in Nursing teaching courses. **Methods:** This is a scoping review whose search was carried out in seven databases and in grey literature. After an initial analysis of the selection, 88 texts were read integrally, and 29 made up the final sample. **Results:** Virtual learning environment and object, simulation, hypermedia, and software or cellphone applications were the tools the nursing professors used the most. Studies highlight that the application of technology was important in the teaching-learning process, since it encouraged teaching based on safe care, motivating and developing abilities/competences, supported on significant, effective, flexible, and autonomous learning. **Conclusion:** The contribution of the technology for nursing formation stands out, but it should be highlighted that its employment must be critical, reflective, based on pedagogical theories and developed by trained professors.

Descriptors: Information Technology. Educational Technology. Education, Nursing. Nursing. Teaching.

RESUMO

Objetivo: Identificar e mapear as ferramentas tecnológicas da informação e comunicação para apoio ao processo de ensino-aprendizagem em cursos de graduação em Enfermagem. **Métodos:** Trata-se de uma *scoping review*, cuja busca foi realizada em sete bases de dados e na literatura cinzenta. Após a análise da seleção inicial, 88 textos foram lidos na íntegra e 29 compuseram a amostra final. **Resultados:** O ambiente e objeto virtual de aprendizagem, simulação, hiperídia e software ou aplicativos para celular foram as ferramentas utilizadas pelos docentes de Enfermagem. Os estudos destacam que a aplicação da tecnologia foi importante no processo de ensino-aprendizagem, pois estimulou o ensino baseado no cuidado seguro, motivou e desenvolveu habilidades/competências, apoiando-se na aprendizagem significativa, efetiva, flexível e autônoma. **Conclusão:** Destaca-se a contribuição da tecnologia para a formação de enfermagem, mas é salutar ressaltar que seu emprego seja crítico, reflexivo, embasado em teorias pedagógicas e desenvolvido por docentes capacitados.

Descritores: Tecnologia Educacional; Tecnologia da Informação; Educação em Enfermagem; Ensino; Enfermagem.

RESUMEN

Objetivo: Identificar y mapear herramientas tecnológicas de la información y comunicación para apoyo al proceso de enseñanza-aprendizaje en cursos de grado en Enfermería. **Métodos:** Tratase de una *scoping review*, cuya búsqueda realizada en siete bases de datos y en la literatura gris. Después del análisis de selección inicial, 88 textos fueron leídos integralmente y 29 compusieron la muestra final. **Resultados:** El ambiente y objeto virtual de aprendizaje, simulación, hipermedia y software o aplicativos para celular fueron las herramientas utilizadas por los docentes de Enfermería. Estudios destacan que aplicación de la tecnología fue importante en el proceso de enseñanza-aprendizaje, pues estimuló la enseñanza basada en el cuidado seguro, motivó y desarrolló habilidades/competencias, apoyándose en el aprendizaje significativo, efectivo, flexible y autónomo. **Conclusión:** Destacase contribución de la tecnología para la formación de enfermería, pero es bueno destacar que su empleo sea crítico, reflexivo, basado en teorías pedagógicas y desarrollado por docentes capacitados.

Descritores: Tecnología Educacional; Tecnología de la Información; Educación en Enfermería; Enseñanza; Enfermería.

INTRODUCTION

The advance of information and communications technology (ICT) — understood as an instrument capable of aggregating, connecting, operating, and disseminating information⁽¹⁾ — which took place in the last decades, starting with the popularization of the world wide web (web) has promoted a process according to which personal relations become virtual, related to their growing use in daily life⁽²⁾.

This technological evolution, in turn, managed to affect nursing education, which has been inserting ICT in its teaching-learning processes. It is seen as an effective support strategy, capable of optimizing teaching practices as it guarantees that the professor can perform the essential mission of facilitating the learning process⁽²⁾. When unique and modern activities are added to traditional classes, the use of ICTs favors a dynamic process of learning⁽³⁾.

Its employment diminishes the distance between students and professors, facilitating access and making it more flexible to many people, encouraging autonomy and reflection about their learning, since it involves the student in an articulated process of strategies and resources related to the use of technology⁽⁴⁾. Still, it can be implemented in emergency situations, in which in-person teaching cannot take place, due to risks to the safety of students and professors, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

The insertion of ICTs in the Political-Pedagogical Projects (PPP) is a reality prescribed by Decree No. 2.117/2019, according to which higher teaching institutions can include in their PPP teaching-learning methods and practices that incorporate the use of ICTs as supplementary tools. Up to 40% of the total workload of in-person courses, including nursing, can be carried out as distance education (DE)⁽⁵⁾.

It is important to highlight that the Decree also clarifies that the PPP must present clearly and objectively how will the incorporation of the ICTs be done to reach pedagogical objectives. As a result, one must advocate the introduction of technology in the educational process to happen in a critical, reflexive way, articulated with teaching and adapted to the social, political, and economic context of the students⁽⁶⁾.

To do so, there must be an analysis of the aspects of the teaching/learning process related to the form in which students learn and assimilate, the social, historic, and cultural determinants, so educational formation is not impaired, and, therefore, qualified professionals are formed⁽⁷⁾.

For nursing, the insertion of ICTs allows for new forms of learning, based on interaction, student autonomy, and new experiences. It can be understood that this technology does not aim at replacing traditional teaching models, but to give support to this process as an educational resource or reorient and/or update the workers and their service⁽⁸⁾. The insertion of technologies in the teaching learning process is based on the cyberculture theory, which states that knowledge is something dynamic, and interacts with research centers, databases, media storage, and recording devices, through digital and mobile networks⁽⁷⁾.

Considering the above, this study considers the modernization and evolution of the forms of teaching in the field of nursing, including the use of ICTs, to increase the access to information by nursing students, since it would enable the improvement of

teaching-learning⁽⁹⁾. It aims to identify and map the technological tools of information and communication for the support the teaching-learning process in nursing teaching courses.

METHODS

This is a scoping review in accordance to the recommendations of the JBI Institute Reviewer's Manual⁽¹⁰⁾. The stages carried out were: identification of the research question; identification of relevant studies; study selection; data analysis and collection; abstract; and construction of the report. The research protocol was registered in the Open Science Framework (<https://osf.io/6xb2j/>) and followed the PRISMA checklist for this type of study⁽¹¹⁾. The population of the investigation was built by researches related to the technological tools of information and communication used by professors for the learning teaching process in nursing graduation courses.

The research question formulated followed the precepts established by the PCC strategy: population, concept, and context, elements which, in this study, corresponded, respectively, to nursing professors; information and communications technologies; and nursing graduation courses. Therefore, the guiding question was: What are the information and communications technology tools used by the professors for the teaching learning process in Nursing graduation courses?

Data search took place from March to April 2020. For data collection, the MESH descriptors related to the PCC were identified: P – Health Educator; C – Educational Technology; and C – Education, Nursing, Graduate. Based on that, an initial consultation was carried out in the PubMed portal and in the database CINAHL, for the identification of descriptors and keywords that are frequently used in the studies that addressed the theme of interest. The resulting research strategy is described in Chart 1.

Chart 1 — Scoping review search strategy, Brazil, 2020

HEALTH EDUCATOR OR nursing OR nurses AND EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY OR electronic health information OR mobile Technologies OR self-regulated learning OR Web-based simulation OR consumer health information OR distance education OR eHealth OR e-Learning OR learning, framework OR Mobile learning OR mobile technology OR Multi-level OR learners OR New Technologies OR nursing informatics OR online learning OR On-line learning OR self-directed learning OR simulation OR smartphone OR students-patient simulation OR teaching strategies OR technology OR technology-enabled learning OR virtual worlds OR Web Quest OR Webinars AND EDUCATION, NURSING, GRADUATE OR education OR Nursing education OR graduate education OR nursing education OR health care education.

For this stage, the following databases were used: U. S. National Library of Medicine (PubMed), Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL), Web of Science, Scopus, Literatura Latino-Americana e do Caribe em Ciências da Saúde (LILACS), Cochrane CENTRAL, PsychINFO, and the Education Resources Information Center (ERIC). From gray literature, the following were used: the Portal of Thesis and Dissertations from the Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior (the Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personal - Brazil), The National Library of Australia's Trobe (Australia and New Zealand), Academic Archive Online (Sweden and other Scandinavian countries), DART-Europe E-Theses Portal (Europe),

Electronic Theses Online Service (United Kingdom), Repositório Científico de Acesso Aberto de Portugal (Portugal's Open-Access Science Repository - Portugal), National Electronic Theses and Dissertations Portal (South Africa), and Theses Canada (Canada).

The study included researches published in-full, whose subject was the use of information and communications technology tools employed for the teaching-learning nursing process. In order to capture the original use of technologies in the teaching of nursing, the following types of texts were excluded: editorials, experience reports, theoretical essays, reflection studies, revisions, and researches without an abstract or an on-line text published in-full. However, data collection was carried out in the platform Comunidade Acadêmica Federada (Federated Academic Community), in order to cut down losses. It is important to highlight that no time limit was selected.

For the initial selection and evaluation of the studies, all bibliographic references resulting from databases were allocated in a generator of bibliographic references: EndNote Web. The early selection found 28,923 texts and, after the process of study exclusion, the final sample was made up by 29 documents. It is pertinent to highlight that two trained reviewers were paired to carry out these stages independently, and a third reviewer was responsible for evaluating divergences.

The data extracted, allocated in a Microsoft Excel sheet, includes: title; country of origin and year of publication; design and number of participants; methodological design; results and conclusions of the research; and the tool used for the process of nursing teaching-learning.

RESULTS

The initial selection found 28,923 texts. After duplicates were excluded, the total was 28,915 works. Later, the titles and abstracts of all studies were identified, considering the inclusion and exclusion criteria established, leading to the exclusion of 28,827 publications. Later, the 88 documents left were read in-full, and those that did not answer to the guiding question were excluded, making up a final sample of 29 researches (Figure 1).

Chart 2 presents the characterization of publications according to title; country of origin and year of publications of studies included in the scoping review; design and number of participants; interventions and outcomes, considering each type of research included in the review. Regarding the country of origin of the studies, 19 are from Brazil, 3 from South Korea, and 2 from Iran. The other countries (Canada, United States, Australia, Portugal, and Spain) had one study each included. Regarding the year of publication, there were five studies in 2015; four in 2012; three in 2009, 2011, 2013, 2016, and 2016; two in 2017 and in 2019; and only one study in 2014.

With regard to ICT tools (Table 1) used in the studies included, it can be noted that a large part of the studies (45%) used the virtual learning environment (especially Moodle) to teach in nursing graduation courses. The technologies used the least were web platforms and videos, with two papers (6.9%) each.

The main results and conclusions (Table 2) showed that the application of ICTs was a tool to increase the motivation and satisfaction of students (20%) and an effective learning process (20%).

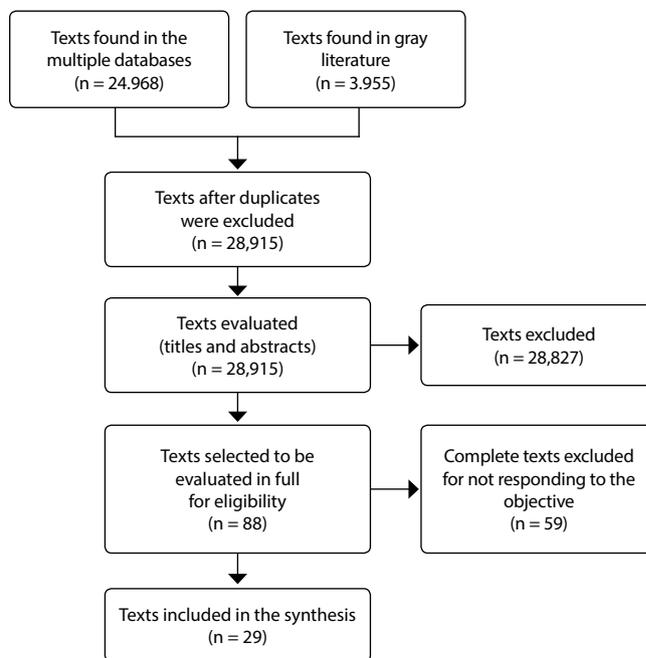


Figure 1 - Flowchart for the selection of the studies included in the scoping review, Brazil, 2020

Chart 2 - Characterization according to title, country of origin and year of publication, design and number of participants interventions and outcomes of the studies from the scoping review (n = 29), Brazil, 2020

ID	Title	Year/ Country	Design/ number of participants	Methodological design
T1	<i>An educational proposal to teach a pressure ulcer management course online to students and nursing professionals</i> ⁽¹²⁾	2009 Brazil	Applied research/ Does not apply	Does not apply
T2	<i>Web-based simulation: a tool for teaching critical care nursing. Rev. latinoam. enferm</i> ⁽¹³⁾	2009 Brazil	Applied research/ Does not apply	Does not apply
T3	<i>Evaluation of a Complementary Cyber Education Program for a Pathophysiology Class</i> ⁽¹⁴⁾	2009 South Korea	Intervention study n = 121	Use of technology in teaching versus traditional teaching
T4	<i>Virtual objects to support the teaching-learning process of physical examination in nursing</i> ⁽¹⁵⁾	2011 Brazil	Methodological study / Does not apply	Does not apply
T5	<i>Learning Outcomes in Two Different Teaching Approach in Nursing Education in Iran: E-Learning versus Lecture</i> ⁽¹⁶⁾	2011 Iran	Cross-over intervention study n = 32	Use of e-learning versus traditional teaching

To be continued

Chart 1

ID	Title	Year/ Country	Design/ number of participants	Methodological design
T6	<i>Virtual education effect on cognitive learning and attitude of nursing students towards it⁽¹⁷⁾</i>	2011 Iran	Quasi-experimental pre-test and post-test n = 33	Virtual education versus conventional education
T7	<i>Teaching the nursing process to undergraduates with the support of computer technology⁽¹⁸⁾</i>	2012 Brazil	Cross-sectional study / Does not apply	Does not apply
T8	<i>Construction and validation of an educational hypermedia about peripheral catheterization⁽¹⁹⁾</i>	2012 Brazil	Methodological research and pre-test and post-test evaluation n = 21	Use of technology
T9	<i>Mental Health care: a system for teaching in Nursing⁽²⁰⁾</i>	2012 Brazil	Applied research / Does not apply	Does not apply
T10	<i>Multimedia application in mobile platform for teaching the measurement of central venous pressure⁽²¹⁾</i>	2012 Brazil	Applied research / Does not apply	Does not apply
T11	<i>Using Moodle in the Discipline of Nursing Informatics⁽²²⁾</i>	2013 Brazil	Cross-sectional study n = 82	Does not apply
T12	<i>The Impact of Blended Teaching on Knowledge, Satisfaction, and Self-Directed Learning in Nursing Undergraduates: A Randomized, Controlled Trial⁽²³⁾</i>	2013 Canada	Intervention study n = 112	Use of mixed teaching versus traditional teaching
T13	<i>Millennial Generation Student Nurses' Perceptions of the Impact of Multiple Technologies on Learning⁽²⁴⁾</i>	2013 USA	Cross-sectional study n = 60	Does not apply
T14	<i>Development and assessment of learning objects about intramuscular medication administration⁽²⁵⁾</i>	2014 Brazil	Applied research / Does not apply	Does not apply
T15	<i>Digital learning object for diagnostic reasoning in nursing applied to the integumentary system⁽²⁶⁾</i>	2015 Brazil	Methodological study / Does not apply	Does not apply

To be continued

Chart 1

ID	Title	Year/ Country	Design/ number of participants	Methodological design
T16	<i>Instructional design to develop an online course on urinary catheterization⁽²⁷⁾</i>	2015 Brazil	Methodological study / Does not apply	Does not apply
T17	<i>Teaching and Learning in a Virtual Environment: Nursing Students' Attitude⁽²⁸⁾</i>	2015 Brazil	Before-and-after quasi-experimental study n = 28	Use of technology
T18	<i>Effects of web-based electrocardiography simulation on strategies and learning styles⁽²⁹⁾</i>	2015 Brazil	Descriptive-correlational study with pre-test and post-test evaluations n = 246	Electrocardiographic Internet simulation
T19	<i>Lights, camera and action in the implementation of central venous catheter dressing⁽³⁰⁾</i>	2015 Brazil	Methodological study / Does not apply	Does not apply
T20	<i>Development of a course in the Virtual Learning Environment on the ICNP⁽³¹⁾</i>	2016 Brazil	Descriptive and cross-sectional study / Does not apply	Does not apply
T21	<i>Use and development of teaching technologies presented in nursing research⁽³²⁾</i>	2016 Brazil	Document research / Does not apply	Does not apply
T22	<i>Mobile-Based Video Learning Outcomes in Clinical Nursing Skill Education⁽³³⁾</i>	2016 South Korea	Controlled randomized trial with pre- and post-tests n = 74	Use of educational technologies
T23	<i>Teaching-learning evaluation on the ICNP® using virtual learning environment⁽³⁴⁾</i>	2017 Brazil	Mixed research n = 51	Does not apply
T24	<i>The effects of an online basic life support course on undergraduate nursing students' learning⁽³⁵⁾</i>	2017 Brazil	Quasi-experimental study n = 94	Use of educational technologies
T25	<i>The use of gamification to teach in the nursing field⁽⁴⁾</i>	2018 Brazil	Exploratory research, applied n = 15	Does not apply
T26	<i>The Effects of an Interactive Nursing Skills Mobile Application on Nursing Students' Knowledge, Self-efficacy, and Skills Performance: A Randomized Controlled Trial⁽³⁶⁾</i>	2018 South Korea	Experimental research n = 66	Use of technology versus traditional teaching

To be continued

technology and student, which makes students responsible for their learning⁽³⁹⁾.

Still, factors such as the freedom of the student to choose and define their study hours and rhythm, as long as they do it critically, facilitate learning, favoring the process of reflection and the use of previous experiences — according to the new National Curricular Guidelines⁽⁴⁵⁾ — and bring forth a feeling of empowerment⁽⁹⁾.

This encouragement to develop abilities and competences was highlighted in studies T11, T4, T22, T24, T25, T26, T27, and T29 (many of which produced in Brazil), consonant with the National Curricular Guidelines for graduation courses in the field of health. This legislation highlights that the process of formation of the professionals must undergo changes aimed at encouraging abilities and competences for professional practice, encouraging critical thought and the assimilation of new content in distinct ways⁽⁴⁶⁾.

Therefore, its use could represent an adequate way to guarantee the access to information that can qualify the practices of future health professionals with regard to the needs of the collective⁽⁹⁾, exploring the potential of interactivity and collaboration⁽⁴⁷⁾ and favoring an in-depth look at the content, in articulation with professional practice⁽⁴⁸⁾.

The studies T9, T11, T14, and T15 highlighted, in their final considerations, the importance of applying ICTs for safe care during formation, since, based on the usability of technologies, students can, *a priori*, simulate real situations and train abilities, for later application of their knowledge in real patients. This allows them to develop their activities with more safety, that is, offers them the opportunity to learn and/or train, repeatedly, and allows nursing students to feel self-confident when facing concrete situations⁽⁴⁹⁾.

According to texts T1, T2, T3, T4, T6, T10, T11, T17, and T18, the use of ICTs for teaching nursing students made the generation of effective knowledge viable. Literature shows that studies about ICT application demonstrate that it does lead to the acquisition of knowledge. This reality is associated to the way in which learning is developed based on ICTs, in which experience is individual, significant, and reflective, and whose process is particularly encouraging to students, and the result is the changing of previous conceptions⁽⁴⁹⁾.

Study limitations

The limitation of this study is the exclusion of some types of study designs.

Contributions to the Field of Nursing

Considering the encouragement of the use of ICTs in nursing teaching, this study informs general aspects of the tools used, and shows the main results and conclusions relative to the application of technologies, as articulated with current literature and legislation. With this regard, it encourages discussions about the theme, contributing to qualify the use of information and communications technologies to teach nursing graduation courses.

CONCLUSIONS

The evolution in nursing education is a reality that goes hand in hand with the modernization of teaching, in which the use of ICTs is growing, as the results of this revision show. Its use is likely to be even greater in the country, due to the legislation that allows the institution of distance education disciplines.

Among the results of this study, the use of ICTs as tools for the professor to complement in-person teaching can be noted, as does its use related to effective, flexible and autonomous teaching, capable of promoting safe care, abilities, competences, and the motivation of students. Among its most used tools, the virtual learning environments stand out, as do the simulations, the virtual learning objects, hypermedia, web platforms, videos, and cellphone applications.

Finally, it stands out that the implementation of ICTs targeted at learning must be in line with pedagogical theories, in order to guarantee a critical and reflective application by professors and students. Still, it should be said that it is paramount to train the professors, to develop their abilities and competences in the use of these technologies.

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