



NANYANG
TECHNOLOGICAL
UNIVERSITY

Assessing the Influence of Health Literacy Skills on Health Information Seeking Behaviors and Outcomes: A Multi-domain Skills Based Approach

Ratan Suri, PhDs

Postdoctoral Fellow

Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information

2nd of November 2015

7th Annual Health Literacy Research Conference, Bethesda, Maryland.

Information Literacy and Health Literacy Research Team at NTU

Team Members

- **Ratan Suri, PhD**
- **Shaheen Majid, PhD**
- **Yun-Ke Chang, PhD**
- **Shubert Foo, PhD**

Project Officer

Hannah Dumaual Trinity Xavier

Introduction

- Most current measures of health literacy focus on functional health literacy skills.
- Ex: TOHFLA, STOHFLA, NVS, REALM.
- We used a newly developed domain-specific skill based health literacy measure to assess health literacy and its influence on health information seeking and 3 categories of outcomes.

Study Outline

Five domain specific skills measured include:

Ability to:

1. Find Health Information (FHI)
2. Appraise Health Information (AHI)
3. Understand Health Information to Act (UHI)
4. Actively Manage One`s Health (AMH)

And

5. E-health Literacy (e-Heals)

Study Outline

The relationship these five domain specific skills were tested on:

1. Health care information seeking from traditional sources and the Internet
2. Health Lifestyle Information seeking from traditional sources and the Internet
3. 3 Outcome Categories: Cognitive outcomes, Instrumental outcomes and doctor-patient communication outcomes

Study Outline

1. A cross sectional survey was implemented ($N=1052$)
2. Subjects age ranged between 21 and 45 years
3. 44% male and 56% women took part in the study
4. T-tests and OLC regression were used to analyze the data (two-tailed).
5. Study was approved by NTU IRB

Results

Healthcare Information

- *Ability to Appraise Health Information (AHI)* and *Ability to Manage one`s Health (AMH)* were statistically significantly related to the use of traditional sources for healthcare information ($p < 0.05$)
- *Ability to Appraise Health Information (AHI)* and *e-health literacy* were statistically significantly related to the use of Internet for healthcare information ($p < 0.05$).

Results

Health Lifestyle Information

- *Ability to Manage one`s Health (AMH)* were statistically significantly related to the use of traditional sources for health lifestyle information ($p<0.05$)
- *Ability to Manage one`s Health (AMH)* and *e-health literacy* were statistically significantly related to the use of Internet for healthcare information ($p<0.05$)

Results

Outcomes

- Cognitive outcomes: FHI, AHI, AMH, and e-health literacy are all statistically significantly related ($p < 0.05$)
- **Doctor-patient Communication Outcomes:** AHI, AMH, and e-health literacy are all statistically significantly related ($p < 0.05$)
- Instrumental Outcomes: AFH, AHI, AMH, and e-health literacy are all statistically significantly related ($p < 0.05$)

Limitations of the Study

- 1. Study conducted on relatively healthy young adults as opposed to clinical populations who may have greater need for seeking health information**
- 2. Variance explained by the models is low: ranging from 15 % to 25%**
- 3. Study conducted only among English speaking population in Singapore**
- 4. Measures are relatively new and need to be validated in more diverse populations to establish their reliability and usefulness.**

Health Literacy Research at NTU

Questions and suggestions?

Corresponding Author

Ratandeep Suri

Ratnadeep.suri@gmail.com