

Research indicates that a number of people who stutter (PWS) experience negative emotions such as shame, guilt, inadequacy, embarrassment and anxiety as a result of their communication difficulties. These specific types of feelings not only have an adverse impact on the person's ability to effectively produce communication intents, but can also interfere with their progress in the speech therapy session. One way of helping PWS gain support for these negative emotions has been through support groups. Investigators have found that traditional face-to-face self-help conferences for PWS can improve the well-being and self-esteem of attendees. Furthermore, self-help groups that exist on the Internet that are unrelated to stuttering have also been found to be beneficial by decreasing participants' negative thoughts and emotions. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to determine if an online community for PWS is valuable in its ability to provide psychosocial support for the participants. A 35-item online survey will be distributed to adults who stutter who participate in online communities. Participants will be selected from the Wayne State University Speech and Language Center and the National Stuttering Association. The questions within the survey are expected to uncover both qualitative and quantitative data that focus on exploring the experiences associated with participating in an online community for PWS.