

Awareness And Use of Social Network Among Undergraduate Students of Kaduna State College of Education Gidan Waya

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Abstract

Undergraduate students of Kaduna State Colleges of Education Gidan waya widely engaged using Social Network. Thus, this study was designed to find out the use of social network for academic activities among undergraduate students of Kaduna State College of Education, Gidan waya. A survey research design was adopted to collect the relevant data of study, questionnaires were administered among the undergraduates students, subsequently; simple percentage and mean was applied to analyze the relevant data of the study. Findings from the study revealed that most of the undergraduate students of the college have use Social Network for Academic purposes. Students know the use of social Network for academic purposes, they know the implication of the use of the Social Network for academic purposes, they know how to use the Social Network for academic purposes, they know how to operate the Social Network applications for academic purposes and know the relevance of social network applications for academic purposes. The challenges faced on the use of social network platform are high cost of data is a challenge to the use of social network among undergraduate students, lack of technical skills on use and operation of social media gadgets is a challenge of use of social network among undergraduate students lack of use of social network by lecturers for academic activities, activities of hackers, high cost of social network gadgets and cyber bullying. The researchers recommends that lecturers should encourage the use of social network services for academic purposes.

Keyword: *Awareness, Social Network, Undergraduate, Students, Social Media*

Introduction

Social Networks (SNs) improve digital interplay that results in collaboration and collective intelligence (Prady, Holumb and Smith, 2010). Learners on using social community at their establishments of learning noted interactively, wider on-line studies and its availability to college students (Dron and Terry, 2014; Makama and Kazeem, 2014) it will likely be useful to the scholars when taking the studies content material to them online may want to lessen nonacademic and splendid boom in use of social community (Ikeli, 2014). People alternate and make feedback amongst themselves in one-of-a-kind social networking web sites that is inline with their interest (Kietzmann, 2012).

Despite the effective effect of social networking web sites for educational purposes in Nigeria tertiary academic establishments, It is found that many college students are using it for non-academic functions consisting of chatting, clicking porn web sites, non-instructional activities, looking and downloading non instructional materials, music, videos, movies, becoming a member of non instructional agencies amongst others with their conversation gadgets which include iPad, Android phones, mp3, mp4 gadgets, etc., neglecting their educational engagements.

Students become overwhelmed to the abuse of social community platforms/sites like Facebook, twitter LinkedIn, 2go, among others to the extent that they exhaust a sleepless night surfing for non-educational resources which in turn affect their studies. This study is therefore aimed to examining the awareness and use of social network for academic activities among undergraduate students of Kaduna State College of Education Gidan Waya.

Social Media

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James (2017) defined social media as the “forms of electronic communications (such as Websites) via which humans create online groups to acquire information, ideas, private messages etc.” Again, social media may be visible because the cellular and internet primarily based totally generation that offer method of interplay amongst human beings trade and remark amongst themselves in unique social networking systems/web sites that match their interest (Kietzmann, 2012).

Zavzana, cited in Aramide, Oladipo and Adepoju, (2015) reported that social media is that means that make use of mobile and web based technology (web 2.0 for example which gives opportunity to create highly integrative platforms through which an individual and community shared) create discuss and modify, beneficiaries generated content sometimes called social networking. Anderson cited in Ebele (2014) has this to say, social media are networking gear that aids and motivates people to study collaboratively whilst making people manage over their time, space, presence, hobby identification and relationship. They are equipment or webs devices utilized in new electronics systems with the knowledge of machine such as net 20, wikis, and blogs amongst others. Wankel (2010) factors out that social media are net technology that unites human beings mainly college freshmen collectively with the world. Social media networks offer beneficial equipment, webs to reinforce the human, institutional and organizational potential in any respect levels.

Social Networking

Web sites are cellular web – primarily based generation offerings that allows human beings to innovate and create a public or semipublic profile inside a bounded system, to articulate a listing of different users with whom they proportion a connection ideas, experience, perspectives and

traverse their stay of connections and people mode within the system (Boyd and Ellison, 2007). According to Enang (2014) in Umoru (2015) social networking web sites are programs that make users to attach through developing private statistics profiles, inviting buddies and co-workers to have right of entry to their profiles, and sending email and on the spontaneous messages among one individual to another.

Users who will be part of Social networking web sites are required to make a profile of themselves through filling up a form. After filling up the forms, users are meant to offer out facts approximately their personal attributes and private appearances. Some social networking web sites require pics however maximum of them will supply information about one's age, preference, likes and dislikes. Some social networking web sites like Facebook permit users to customise their profiles via way of means of including multimedia content (Geroimenko & Chen, 2007).

Twitter

Twitter become based in 2006 and won a variety of recognition in the course of the 2007. Status updates have grow to be the brand new norm in social networking. There also are smaller social networks like 2go, YouTube, and blackberry chat for human beings to have access to.

WhatsApp

WhatsApp is an immediate messaging app for smartphones that operates beneath a subscription enterprise model. The proprietary, cross-platform app makes use of the Internet to ship textual content messages, images, video, person's place and audio media messages. In January 2015, WhatsApp turned into the maximum globally famous messaging app with greater than seven hundred million energetic users, with India alone

having greater than 70 million users. WhatsApp Inc., based in Mountain View, California, was acquired by Facebook on February 19, 2014, for approx. US\$19 billion.

Theoretical Framework of the study

Given the argument recommend through Georgescu and Popescul (2015) on the usage of social media that “digital proximity can turn out to be an alternative to bodily remoteness or distance in case of everyday communications or meetings”, this have a look at, to gain its purpose and objectives, changed into rooted in communication idea as a brand new paradigm of collaboration and verbal exchange. The basis of communication idea is related to the improvement of records principle (the concept that research the quantification, garage and verbal exchange of records) proposed through Claude Shannon in 1948. According to Dainton and Zelley (2019), Shannon targeted on how great to code the data that a sender desires to transmit and to breed it both precisely or about for a receiver who can be there physically, or at a distance in case of bodily remoteness, to byskip the message or facts across. This facilitates to sell virtual records and virtual literacy (which includes, as noted previously, community literacy, media literacy, computer literacy and visible literacy, amongst others).

According to the verbal exchange concept, understanding is fashioned through socialization and verbal exchange and obstacles to bodily proximity may be faded via digital proximity (Schwarz, 2012). This way that interpersonal and intrapersonal conversation may be promoted via the message medium (inclusive of social media) and the data hole in instructional studying may be eradicated. According to Craig and Muller (2007), the communication idea captures the “procedure of expression, interplay, and influence, wherein the conduct of people or

different complicated organisms expresses mental mechanisms, states, and trends and, via interplay with the same expressions of different individuals, produces quite a number cognitive, emotional, and behavioural effects.”

Empirical Studies

According to Junco (2014), social community are a set of net web sites, offerings, and practices that assist collaboration, network building, participation, and sharing”. The developing size of using social media the various youth of nowadays can't be over emphasized. Over the years, social networking amongst 2nd cycle college students has come to be increasingly more famous. It is a manner to make connection now no longer based on campus, however with pals out of college. Social networking is a manner that facilitates many humans feels as though they belong to a network.

According to Lenhart (2010), approximately 57% of social community users are 18-29 years old and feature a non-public profile on a couple of social media web sites. In a look at through Pempek, Yermolayeva, and Calvert (2009), the quantity of time spent every day on social community web sites varied greatly. However, an evaluation of the statistics indicated maximum individuals spent about thirty mins an afternoon socializing, on the whole in the course of the nighttime hours among 9p.m to 12a.m college students spent a minimum of 47 mins a day on Facebook. More than 50% of university college students move on a social networking web sites numerous times a day (Sheldon, 2008). Quan-Haase and Young (2010), located that 82% of college students stated that they logged into Facebook numerous times a day. Younger college students tend to use Facebook extra often than older college students to hold in contact with pals from other faculty or from their hometown (Pempek, 2009).

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According to Kubey et al., (2010), impairment of instructional overall performance and net dependency are correlated with the aid of using synchronous verbal exchange programme which includes net web sites and forums. Jocabson and Forste (2011), discovered a terrible dating among the usage of diverse media, together with cellular telephones, and self-reported GPA amongst first year college students within the United States. In Taiwan, Yen at el. (2009), diagnosed an affiliation among cellular smartphones use and respondents and file that respondents have allowed smartphone use to intrude with their educational activities. Similarly, Hong et al. (2012), mentioned that every day use of Mobile telephones are correlated with self-pronounced degree of instructional problem amongst a pattern of Taiwanese college students. In a survey of Spanish excessive college students Sanchez-Martinez and Otero (2009), observed a correlation among “intensive” smartphone use and college failure.

Academic Activities that Social Media are used for

Students regardless of their mode of education (whether part-time or full-time) need to engage in academic activities before completing the requirements for the award of either a diploma or degree. The academic activities engaged in by postgraduate library studies students and information studies students are not entirely different from students in other disciplines. Numerous activities that students engage in have been highlighted in the literature. These include class work that is theory-based or practically oriented, reading, seminars, examination preparation and assignments completion among others (Chawinga, 2017).

In line with what was reflected in the literature the academic activities that social media were being used for and which were considered as

most applicable to the postgraduate students in this study (and used in the research instrument) were: “Learning”, Personal research/development”, “Assignments”, “Exam preparation”, “Group discussions”, “Continuous assessment preparation” and “Personal growth”. An “Other” category was also provided.

Gachago and Ivala (2012) was on the view that, social media sites such as Zoom and Skype which were used for academic lectures and meetings by students and provided a means of discussing course materials. According to the authors, Zoom and Skype provided students with access to resources, ease of access to information when needed, creativity in learning and made learning more engaging. The sites also gave students the opportunity to use them for examination preparation and group discussions.

Sobaih, Moustafa, Ghandforoush and Khan (2016) investigated whether social media such as Zoom, Facebook, Blogs, Instagram, WhatsApp and YouTube should be used for academic purposes in higher education in developing countries. The study outlined academic activities that are important for students such as examination preparation and the improvement of lecture notes. Findings revealed a need for students to use social media as they would be able to develop their personality and build their competence in various ways during their academic studies and doing so would assist them to prepare for the future. Junco (2014) revealed that students strategically plan academic activities such as assignments, professional examinations, learning, research and assessments through social media.

Social Media used for Academic Purposes and the Frequency of their Usage

As already indicated above, social media had been very beneficial within the instructional

environment, in particular for educational functions as diverse research have proven that scholars have taken the possibility supplied via this platform to facilitate their mastering and research. In South Africa, Murire and Cilliers (2017) stated on the usage of social media in better schooling and found out that their reputation amongst college students has necessitated their adoption via way of means of college lecturers. Facebook turned into observed to have sizable capacity for concerning college students because it endured to have a dominating presence a number of the great majority (90%) of better training classes (Blattner and Lomicka, 2012).

The study conducted by Wiid, Cant and Nell (2014) on “South African college students’ perceptions and makes use of of social media networking systems” found out that social media became primarily being utilized by college students for social in preference to instructional functions and that Facebook turned into the maximum famous social media networking device being used. Mitchell and Watstein (2007), however, in an in advance take a look at on college students’ usage of Facebook on the University of Cape Town, located that lecturers’ engagement with college students via social media networking sites (specifically Facebook) turned into proven to have a advantageous impact on college students mastering and coaching methods. This turned into because, via social media, college students are capable of sharing useful statistics together with others across the world. Academics and researchers see the advantages of the use of social media for academic functions in accumulating information and developing their network. For instance, researchers' usage of social media like LinkedIn, Research Gate and Facebook, amongst others, to expand their expert networks.

Negussie and Ketema (2014) studied the “academic impacts of social networking sites” from the perspective of 1000 students in six Universities in Pakistan. Findings revealed that the vast majority of respondents (91.3%) indicated that they made use of Facebook, while only 3.4% used Twitter, and 2.2% made use of Orkut (“a social media designed to help users meet new and old friends and maintain existing relationships”). Most of the respondents (75.3%) stated that they made use of the social media sites between one and three hours daily, while 19.5% used social media between what could be considered a high four and six hours a day.

The study by Owusu-Acheaw and Larson (2015) of Ghanaian students had findings similar to those reported above. Findings showed that 66.4% of the respondents identified Facebook as the most used social media for academic purposes, followed by WhatsApp (19.9%), Twitter (6.2%), Skype (3.3%), YouTube (2.6%) and ResearchGate (1.3%). The amount of time spent on social media was, however, lower and varied. In this regard, a majority of the respondents (66.3%) stated that they made use of the social media sites between 30 minutes to one hour per day, 33.2% between two and three hours and a very small minority (1.5%) between four and five hours.

Objectives of the Study

Specifically the study sought to:

- i. Examine undergraduate student’s awareness of the use of social network services for academic activities.
- ii. Identify the challenges faced on the use of social network platforms for academic programme activities among students

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised to guide the study:

- i. What is the level of awareness of the use of social network services for academic activities?
- ii. What are the challenges faced on the use of social network services platform use for academic programme activities among students?

Methodology

In this study, the researcher made use of the survey design. Survey design used when one is interested in the opinion and attitude of people as well as the relationship of these attitudes to respondents over behavior. It makes use of the questionnaire as its main instrument. The study population consists of students from five (5) selected departments in the undergraduate studies programme of Kaduna State College of Education, Gidan Waya in affiliation with Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria with population of one thousand five hundred (1500) students. The researchers used simple random sampling technique and randomly sample hundred and fifty (150) students and teachers were selected for the purpose of the study. The researchers split the population into strata for fair representation of the groups and used simple random sampling techniques after the names were written on a piece of paper. The instrument for data collection will be questionnaires. The questionnaire is split into two sections, section A contains the demography of the respondents while section B contains questions in line with the research topic for the respondent, to tick the one that is appropriate to them. Each questionnaire item in section B will comprise of the following response option: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD) and corresponding value 1, 2, 3, and 4 respectively. Simple percentage and mean will be used in

analyzing data relating to this study. The simple percentage will be employed in the analysis of the demographic of the respondents; while a mean statistics will be used to analyze data in relating to research question 2 and 3.

The simple percentage will be used as follows:

$$\text{Percentage (\%)} = \frac{F}{N} \times 100/1$$

Where; F = Frequency of response

N = Number of responses

% = Percentage

The mean value each of the item addressing each research questions 1 and 2 will be calculated using the response values assigned on each of the options. The mean value will be compared with the cut-off point. The cut-off point was calculated by summarizing the response value and divided by the total number of options as follows

$$\frac{1+2+4+4}{4} = \frac{11}{4} = 2.75$$

Research Question 1

Table 1: What is the level of awareness of the use of social network for academic activities among undergraduate students in Kaduna State College of Education Gidan Waya?

S/no	Item/Statement	S.A (4)	A(3)	\bar{X}	Decision	D(2)	SD (1)	\bar{X}	Decision
1	I know the use of social network for academic purposes	67	45	2.68	Agreed	11	27	0.32	Disagreed
2	I know the implications of the use of social network for academic purposes	76	45	2.92	Agreed	19	10	0.32	Disagreed
3	I know the needs of the use of social network for academic purposes	50	61	2.55	Agreed	9	30	0.32	Disagreed
4	I know how to use social network for academic purposes	67	80	3.38	Agreed	2	1	0.002	Disagreed
5	I know how to operate the social network applications for academic purposes	45	74	2.68	Agreed	11	20	0.28	Disagreed
6	I know the relevance of social network applications for academic purposes	84	32	2.88	Agreed	9	25	0.28	Disagreed

Source: Field survey, 2023

Interpretation: From table 1 above item 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 shows that the items reached the acceptance mean of 2.5 therefore all then items are accepted, which indicates that students have the following awareness level on the use of Social Network for Academic purposes; they know the use of social Network for academic purposes, the

know the implication of the use of the Social Network for academic purposes, they know how to use the Social Network for academic purposes, they know how to operate the of Social Network applications for academic purposes and know the relevance of social network applications for academic purposes.

Research Question 2

Table 2: What are the challenges faced on the use of social network platform use for academic programme activities among undergraduate students in Kaduna State College of Education Gidan Waya?

S/No	Item/Statement	SA (4)	A (3)	\bar{X}	Decision	D(2)	SD (1)	\bar{X}	Decision
1	High cost of data is a challenge to the use of social network among undergraduate students	45	89	2.98	Agreed	4	12	0.13	Disagreed
2	Lack of technical skills on use and operation of social media gadgets is a challenge of use of social network among undergraduate students	98	31	3.23	Agreed	12	9	0.22	Disagreed
3	Lack of use of social network by lecturers for academic activities	50	61	2.55	Agreed	9	30	0.32	Disagreed
4	Activities of hackers	67	80	3.38	Agreed	2	1	0.03	Disagreed
5	High cost of social network gadgets	45	89	2.98	Agreed	4	12	0.13	Disagreed
6	Cyber bullying	90	38	3.16		14	8	0.24	Accepted

Source: Field survey, 2023

Interpretation: From table 2 above item 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 all shows that the items reached the acceptance mean of 2.5 therefore all then items are accepted, which indicates that the respondents responded that the challenges faced on the use of social network platform use for academic programme activities among undergraduate students in Kaduna State College of Education Gidan Waya are high cost of data is a challenge to the use of social network among undergraduate

students, lack of technical skills on use and operation of social media gadgets is a challenge of use of social network among undergraduate students lack of use of social network by lecturers for academic activities, activities of hackers, high cost of social network gadgets and cyber bullying.

Discussion of Findings

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Findings discovered that scholars have the subsequent consciousness stage on using Social Network for Academic functions; they recognize using social Network for educational functions, they recognise the implication of using the Social Network for educational functions, they recognize the way to use the Social Network for educational functions, they realize the way to perform the Social Network programs for educational functions and realize the relevance of social network packages for educational functions.

Additionally, it found out that the demanding situations confronted on using social media platform for educational programme activities amongst undergraduate college students in Kaduna State College of Education Gidan Waya are; excessive value of information, loss of technical capabilities at the use and operation of social media, loss of use of social network via way of means of teachers for educational activities, activities of hackers, excessive value of social network devices and cyber bullying.

Conclusion

Social media seemed to be a totally beneficial device for college students for their classes as they use them to enhance their studying system i.e. to speak efficaciously with each other, get hold of university-associated issues and get different vital information. In different words, social media appeared to be new way of getting information among undergraduates students in Kaduna State College of Education, Gidan Waya. However, in spite of the superb effect of Social Network and its relevance to gaining knowledge, there are demanding situations college students of undergraduate studies of Kaduna State College of Education come across with the use of the social network for educational functions inclusive of excessive fee of data subscription, price of ICT

devices, hackers and cyber bullying amongst others.

Recommendations

- I. Students with telephones having net facility have to be advised to both use it to complement their studies without necessary going to the library instead of preference to chat or talking to buddies all the time.
- II. Students need to be recommended to restrict the time they spend on social media web sites per day and inspire them to instead replacement those hours to study novels and applicable educational books to enhance their knowledge.
- III. Lecturers ought to inspire college students to post their works via the social network
- IV. It is endorsed that scholars be cautioned at orientation of the risks of addiction to social networking web sites. They must be introduced to web sites which add values to their educational engagement and studies.
- V. Academic social network groups and boards ought to be regulated to keep away from unsolicited provocative post.

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