



NIGERIAN JOURNAL OF EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

**EDUCATION, SECURITY, ECONOMY AND
VIABILITY OF DIGITAL RESPONSE**

VOLUME 33 NO. 2, OCTOBER, 2022

ISSN: 0794-0114

e-ISSN: 2971-5652

Published by:

PHILOSOPHERS OF EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (PEAN)

www.peanpapers.com

TIMSMEK GLOBAL PUBLISHERS®, PORT HARCOURT



An imprint of Timsmek Global Ltd

www.timsmek.com | info@timsmek.com | +234-703-455-9895

Education and Social Media as Integral Part for Students Competitiveness in the 21st Century

Aliyu Yusuf Chunbaya

Clo/Philosophy of Education Unit
Nasarawa State University, Keffi
Nasarawa State Ministry of Education, Lafia
Gss Akwanga South-Akwanga Area Office
+2348035081431

Ba'shama Kaze Akwanga

Ministry of Education Lafia
Gss Kokona
akwangakaze@yahoo.com
+2348130717309

&

Mohammed Ayuba Zaki

Guidance and Counselling Unit
Nasarawa State University, Keffi

Abstract

The past decade has brought increased access to new media and with this new opportunities and challenges for education. The authors utilized descriptive approach. In this paper, the authors explore the digital transformation now taking place in a variety of educational contexts. The contributors examined such topics as social media usage in schools, online youth communities, and learning in Nigeria; the disruption of existing educational models of how knowledge is created and shared. The bottom line is that social media is a big part of our day to day life and there's no point of keeping it away from the education process. School, college and university staff should be encouraged to make use of technology for student and parent communication. It recommended that, that government and school authorities checkmate and regulate the use of social media among student and students.

Introduction

Social media is the platforms that enable the interactive web by engaging users to participate in, comment on and create content as means of communicating with their social graph, other users and the public which have content formats including text, video, photographs, audio, PDF and PowerPoint.(Cohen, 2011). It can be said that social media is the tools, services, and communication facilitating connection between peers with common interests. Using social media in a learning process begin to rise significantly and likely to imply for education practice and provision especially in term of connecting with their students or with their colleagues, to

access news and appear in their walls. (Patel, Social Media management, 2016). Learning that is based around principles of collective exploration, play and innovation rather than individualized instruction (Thomas, 2011). This fact can be used with in a classroom situation to create more value to learning.

In term of teaching and learning, most schools use social media to find resources of learning inwhich technology can play role to increase effective learning process. Although there remains disconnect between educator's ambition for interactive learning through technology and the realities of our practice, the educators mostly use it for their teaching. (Prensky, 2001). Using social media gives the implication to the students, educators and education itself in a learning process. Social media is linked to other sources on internet to help them in their education(Pitler, Hubbell, & Malennoski, 2007). This gives the learning process run well. The use of social networking in education, coupled with face-to-face engagement, can enable greater inclusiveness for learners, although the role of teachers needs to be well supported to develop successful digital pedagogies (White. Garry, 2012).

On the other side, sometimes some students misuse the internet because they want to connect to other sources such as games, comments from friends which it doesn't connect to the learning process. And some other side, the educators or lectures have difficulty in using internet especially the social media like Facebook. (Jump, 2011) presented that even though he classroom itself needs attention to both of them where the contact learning process is created.

National policy on education and the social media in Nigeria

Education, as it is likely said, is the bedrock of a nation. For a country to perform exceedingly well in terms of national development, it has to have a strong thriving educational system. The National Policy on Education in Nigeria is meant to ensure proper administration, management and implementation of the educational system in all areas of the society. It provides the direction for educational activities.

National Policy on Education in Nigeria is a statement of government goals, regulations, anticipations, expectations, requirements and standards to ensure quality delivery of education in Nigeria. Nigeria has evolved over the years as there seems to be changed to the reform of the educational system in terms of technology. Due to technological advancement and national policy reforms, there is now a visible electronic system of education in Nigeria.

The electronic system of education consists of e-Books, e-Classrooms, e-Libraries and e-Exams. A quality end product is all that matters and a sound educational system ensures that. The National Policy on Education in Nigeria is a way by which the government can actualize national goals in which education can be used as a tool to achieve. Making education a top priority is one of the vital part of the current national policy on education in Nigeria. The greater instrument of change is education and any fundamental change in the social and intellectual outlook of the society is made possible through education.

Aims of National Policy on Education in Nigeria

The following below are the aims and objectives of the national policy on education in Nigeria:

1. The national policy on education in Nigeria is aimed at building a free and democratic society.
2. It is also aimed at building a united, strong and self reliant nation.
3. It also helps to build a great and dynamic economy for the country.
4. The national policy on education aims at building a land full of bright opportunities for all citizens.
5. It is aimed at building a just and egalitarian society.

Objectives of National Policy on Education in Nigeria (2014)

The following below are the objectives of the national policy on education in Nigeria:

1. Modern education techniques shall be increasingly used to improve all the levels of the educational system.
2. Universal basic education shall be provided in a variety of forms for all citizens in the country.
3. Education shall continue to be highly rated in national development plan of the country.
4. The basis of the nation's educational policy shall be life long education.
5. Education and training facilities shall continue to be expanded in response to social needs and made progressively accessible to all individuals to be afforded a more diversified and flexible choice.
6. Educational activities would be centered on the student for maximum self-development and self-fulfillment.
7. Physical and health education shall be emphasized at all levels of the education system.
8. Educational evaluation shall be liberalized by being based in part on continuous assessment of the progress of the student/individual.
9. Education would be made accessible and affordable to all citizens in the country.
10. The national educational system shall be structured to develop the practice of self-learning. Government shall in this regard continue to encourage the establishment of Young Readers Clubs in schools.
11. Opportunity shall continue to be made for religious instruction; no child will be forced to accept any religious instruction which is contrary to the wishes of his or her parents.
12. At any stage of the education process after junior secondary education, an individual shall be able to choose between continuing full-time studies, combining work with study, or

embarking on full-time employment work with study, or embarking on full-time employment without excluding prospect of resuming studies later on.

13. Efforts shall be made to relate education to overall community needs.

The above mission statement is well captured, but lot more needs to be done, the ministry of education, training colleges, universities, agencies needs to explore and effectively use social media. How are our Educational Institutions (Govt., NGO, Biz, Individuals) using the Social Media Networks? In contributors' opinion, Educational Institutions in Nigeria are yet to really embrace the social media even though national policy on education has spoken it. The NGOs, biz and Individuals might be doing their best in harnessing the power of the new media in information dissemination but the government owned institutions which form the greater percentage of the institutions in the Nigerian education sector have done little in this regard. What prospects does Social Media present for Nigerian Educators & Learners? With the steady exponential increase in the number of social media users, the prospects presented by this new trend for Nigerian Educators are undoubtedly much. Individuals and Educational institutions can actually build a very strong brand that commands authority by properly engaging the millions of users that have made the social media part of their daily life. The sky is simply the limit of what can be achieved by an educational brand built with the help of the social media. Learners on the other hand can learn faster and effortlessly when engaged by educators through any of the social media platforms they already find fun using. There are also limitless possibilities for learners that use the social media to network with people of mutual academic interests from around the world. This will surely boost the learners' future career opportunities.

The Social Media

Kent (2010) asserts the term “Social Media” is a broad concept encompassing diverse “interactive media channels that allow two-way interaction and feedback. However, in a more explicit term, social media are computer mediated technologies that facilitate the creation and sharing of information, idea, career interest and other forms of expression via virtual communities and networks. Obar, Jonathan, Wildman & Steve (2015) also asserted that social media are web2.0 enabled interactive applications. According to Daluba and Maxwell (2013), it could be said also that social media is a means of interactions among people of different ages in which they create, share and exchange information and ideas in virtual communities and network.

Jager, K. De. (2015) believed that there are examples of social media platforms and interactive applications that have dominated the internet space; the popular ones are Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, Pinterest. Snapchat, Vive, WeChat, WhatsApp, Google+ and YouTube. They have similar features such as interactivity, virtuality, instantaneous delivery, multimedia file exchange, inter-connectivity and immediate feedback. According to Neese (2016), social media, a highly interactive platform, is a form of new media that relies heavily on the participation of users to provide value. It is however important to note that the presence of the social media started with the advent of mobile phones and data enabling gadgets in year 2004,

2005 and 2006 respectively, which made social media and other interactive applications an enabling platform to run.

It is therefore explicable that mobile phones and social media are married to deliver a wide range of services, which has been delivering quicker, smarter, better services and enable file sharing and interactivity. Surprisingly however, the social media is taking away valuable time meant to be vested in education and studies from youth, especially in Nigeria where there are lots of youth seeking to gain admission into Universities. If only their social media presence can be diverted off the internet and invest it in more studies and personal development, maybe there will be improvement in the quality of admission seekers and less of hate speeches and online frustration that is unnecessarily gaining attention online and offline.

Number of active social media users in Nigeria 2017-2021

Simona Varrella (2021) a Research Expert covering society and economy stated on March 23, 2021 that as of January 2021, Nigeria had approximately 33 million active social media users. WhatsApp is the most popular platform used in the country, with over 90 million users. Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram followed as the most used social media platforms in Nigeria.

In this contemporary age, the internet, mobile gadget and social media have become an embodiment of distraction to the youth, especially in Nigeria where youth rants all forms of violent and hate speeches to reflect their frustration amidst the political and economic sabotage, which has distracted them from paying attention to education and personal development, and jeopardizing their academic efficacy. According to Valkenburg and Piotrowski (2017, p.219), the portability, power, and connectivity of the smartphone have resulted in a generation of youth (and adults) that are truly “phono sapiens”; meaning that they are phone addicted. However, among the contents and applications on mobile phones that glue the attention of youth to mobile phone is the social media.

George Jones, (2016) opined that there have been researches, investigating the effect of social media on adolescents, teenagers and youth. Most researchers have based their articles solely on the positive effect of social media on youth. It is true that the social media has immeasurable power of its interactivity, connectivity, instantaneous messaging, quick feedback, file sharing, content distribution etc., helping young and old to connect with old friends, keep in touch with distance relationships and families. Meanwhile, an exploration on the positive effect of social media on the students, particularly on their academics and personal development needs to be done below.

The Impact of Social Media in Education: Student Engagement Tactics

1. Use Social Media as an Online "Classroom"

Social media doesn't have to take students' attention away from their school work. It can actually provide the forum you need to reach your students in a more meaningful way. By creating a private Facebook group, you can post assignments, lecture via Facebook Live, and answer student questions via comments and private messages. While face-to-

face teaching has definite advantages, this is a great way to connect with students who would otherwise be unable to attend a traditional classroom (for health reasons or because they live in a remote area, for instance). Such a class could also be used to augment the standard curriculum for students who fall above or below the norm.

2. Keep students involved during snow days and school breaks

Osharive (2015) avers that one of the key challenges for educators is to keep the momentum going when students are on spring or winter break, or when they have to stay away from school due to harsh winter weather. Posting assignments, projects, and discussions on social media can help students keep up the momentum in their school work and help you, as an educator, avoid having to go back and review quite so much material at the end of the break. This would be a good occasion to use a learning management system (LMS) that keeps track of student assignments and records delivery of student work.

3. Encourage Collaboration and Teamwork

Lewis Kent (2016) is of the opinion that it encouraging teamwork and collaboration can be difficult in classrooms with limited time, especially if your institution covers a broad geographic area that makes it hard for students to get together after class. Social media can provide the forum a student group needs to share work, critique projects, and to collaborate on an assignment.

4. Interact with Parents and Advisors

While parents and advisors are a vital link between educators and students, it can sometimes be tricky to forge a relationship and start a dialogue with them. It's not always realistic to send messages home with students and busy schedules often mean that the parents and advisors who would benefit most from a one-on-one conference are unable to attend such a session.

5. Continue the Discussion

With most classes, you only have an hour or two, at the most, to get students excited about the topic and encourage them to share their thoughts and opinions. If the discussion is slow getting started, you might have to shut it down just when it was getting beneficial. With social media, you can transfer the classroom discussion to a Facebook group or similar forum and keep the discussion going long after class has adjourned.

6. Hone students' Internet writing and online Research skills

Writing has evolved in the Internet age from writing in a vacuum to participating in the worldwide conversation. Writing on the web is much different from writing for an academic journal. Such writing requires shorter sentences, shorter blocks of texts, links to sources, and graphics to break up the "sometimes considered boring" text. Obi, Bulus, Adamu & Sala'at (2012) stated that these are skills most students will need as they begin their careers. Having students create and write a blog has many advantages. It not only introduces them to the quirks and special format of web writing, but it gets them researching a particular subject or topic by reading articles online and in the habit of writing regularly. A good blog also requires students to respond to comments and

questions, be able to source copyright-free images (and upload their own images), and cite sources. It also provides a good start to a digital footprint for potential employers to see when it comes time for them to start their job search.

7. Learn from your Colleagues around the World

It's now easier than ever to share ideas and successes with other educators from around the United States and beyond. By "friending" and following educators you admire, you can see what is working for them in a similar setting to yours and adopt their techniques to help your students succeed. In this global age, no educator has to recreate the wheel. They just have to put together a strong professional learning network.

8. Stronger Community Through Social Media

Olubiyi (2012) say the benefits of social media in the education process doesn't have to stop at the teacher-student relationship. There are a lot of other benefits that can be extracted from the use of social networking at higher levels as well. For example, principals or administrators can find a new way to integrate social media. Like sharing school news via social networks, holding online meeting with the parents or even starting fundraising for different projects.

And social media can quickly become the only channel of communication since we're living fast-paced lives, parents are usually busy with work and cannot attend school meetings. But this doesn't mean they shouldn't be in touch with events or be able to check on their kids every once in awhile. Just like in every other field, communication is vital and if it can be done easily with the help of social media, why not go for it?

It may not be criteria just yet, but soon enough questions like 'Does this school have a Facebook page?' could become just as important as the things that parents are asking right now. Like, how well equipped the library is or what are the optional classes their child can be part of.

Conclusion

Education is very important and cannot be ignored as it is the foundation in which a nation can attain development. The national policy on education is meant to ensure that the educational system is properly managed but due to the numerous problems there is a huge setback and for a better educational system in Nigeria the challenges need to be seriously tackled. The bottom line is that social media is a big part of our day to day life and there's no point of keeping it away from the education process. School, college and university staff should be encouraged to make use of technology for student and parent communication. This could easily turn into an argumentative essay topic for students. But the benefits are obvious, starting with healthier parent-teacher relationships and all the way to permanently changing the way our children will learn.

Recommendations

As a way to encourage education and social media as integral part for students competitiveness in the 21st century, it is important that government and school authorities checkmate and regulate the use of social media among student and students. Countries like china have strict

restrictions for social media use, especially among their teens and youth, which has helped the country's productivity and national development

There should be increased accessibility and such easy access should involve some risk taken to provide café in school.

References

- Cohen, H. (2011, May 9). Social Media Definition. Retrieved from Heidi Cohen: <http://heidicohen.com/social-media-definition/>
- Cynthia Victor. **National** Policy on Education in Nigeria; Aims, Objectives, Challenges. November 29, 2019 Last Updated: November 29, 2019
- Daluba, N. E., & Maxwell, C. E. O. (2013). Effect of Social Media on The Use Of Academic Library By Undergraduate Students In Tertiary Institutions: A Case Study Of Kogi State University, Academic Research International, 4(5), 536-542.
- Daramola, I. (2012). Introduction to Mass Communication. (3rd ed.). Lagos: Rothan Press Ltd.
- Dunn, J. (2011, July 11). The 10 Best and Worst Ways Social Media Impacts Education. Retrieved from Edudemic Connecting Education and Technology: <http://www.edudemic.com/social-media-education>.
- Fabinulbidapo, (2014). Examining the Impact of Social Media on Nigeria Youth. [Blog] People's Daily. Retrieved from <http://www.peoplesdailyng.com/examining-the-impact-of-social-media-on-nigeria-youth>.
- George Jones, (2016). How Does Social Media Slangs Affect Learning? Retrieved on 08/02/2018 from <http://www.edudemic.com/social-media-slang>.
- Gerlich, N., Browning, L., & Westermann, L. (2010). The Social Media Affinity Scale: Implication for education. Contemporary Issues in Education Research, 38.
- Hocoy, D. (2013, December 6). Facebook as Learning Management System: The Good, the Bad, and the Unexpected. Retrieved from Educause review: <http://er.educause.edu/articles/2013/12/facebook-as-learning-management-system-the-good-the-bad-and-the-unexpected> <https://www.schoology.com/blog/impact-social-media-education-student-engagement-tactics>
- Jacobsen, W., & Forste, R. (May 2011). The Wired Generation: Academic and Social Outcomes of Electronic Media Use Among University Students. Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking - 14(5), 275-280.
- Jump, L. (2011). The experiences of University Lecturers when enhancing their teaching through the use of digital technology: a systematic review. Higher Education Academy School of Health and Social Care, 8.
- Kienata, M. (2016, August 15). Spending Time on Internet and Social Media. (H. Mardiana, Interviewer)
- Kumar, S. (2009). Undergraduate perceptions of the usefulness of Web 2.0 in higher education: Survey Development. CiteSeer, 308-314.

- Lewis Kent (2016). How Social Media Network Facilitate Identity Theft and Fraud. Retrieved from <https://eonetwork.org/octane-magazine/special-features/social-media-networks-facilitate-identity-theft-fraud>.
- Lori Wade. How Social Media is Reshaping Today's Education System. <http://csic.georgetown.edu/magazine/social-media-reshaping-todays-education-system>. retrieved on 20/10//2021
- Obi N. C., Bulus L. D. Adamu G. M. & Sala'at A. B. (2012). The Need for Safety Consciousness among Youths on Social Networking Sites. Journal of Applied Science and Management (JASM) 14(1).