Utilization of Social Networks for Research by Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Students in the Higher Institutions in Nigeria

Adefuye Emmanuel Folarin & Ayeoribe Toyin
School of Technical Education
Metalwork Tech. Dept., Wood work Tech. Dept.
Federal College of Education (Technical),
Akoka, Nigeria
adefuyefolarin@yahoo.com, tayeoribe@yahoo.com

Imande Terdon Terlumun
imanditerlumun@yahoo.co.uk
School of Science Education
Mathematics Dept.
Federal College of Education (Technical),
Gombe, Nigeria
imanditerlumun@yahoo.co.uk

Abstract
This paper examined the utilization of social network for research by TVET students, social network Research and its Effects on students. It also discusses Technical and Vocational Education and Training and the challenges facing Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) students in the higher institution in Nigeria. The recommends the future improvement on social network in the higher institutions

Introduction

According to Shahjahan, (2014) for the past 5 years, the social network website has become ubiquitous, giving young people a new way to interact with each other and communicate with the all world. This new form of communication depends on the user created content, not mass produced messages coming from the large media companies. But like other media before it, social network rise to prominence has experienced some very serious growing pains, such as Companies like facebook, MySpace, and Twitter have struggled to balance an inviting interactive environment with the ultimate pursuit of profit. The purpose of this paper is focused on the utilization of social network sites, such as Facebook, Wikipedia, Twitter, YouTube, but other authors described social network as guidance, communication media choice, influences factors, and other opinion about social network choice. Despite YouTube vital potency for disseminating knowledge to learners in the academia, the accuracy of the videos in the is still in doubt (Terlumun et al, 2018). However, educational attainment recognized it as one of the fundamental assistant of developing a nation and improved the quality of universities educational system, of various countries that try to include the use of ICT information Communication Technologies system into their standard. Information Communication Technology (ICT) plays a significant role as part of an overall national strategy for developing social network in our various institutions. This technology handles the telecommunications, broadcast media, intelligent building management systems, transmission systems, network-based control and monitoring functions system. The ICTs has integration of various electronics tools exchange information which enhance the quality of life that is unconstrained by location, time, and distance. It was rooted to the services of a computer. Computers are device processing

used for storing and displaying of information; and it refers to any machine that performs tasks under the control of set of instructions called a program, such as laptops, desktop devices, mobile phones (smart phones) and calculations. However, Internet is simply used as a medium of expression to educate the learners and provide information needs at the doorstep to ensure free and across reference to the appropriate locations.

According to Osunrinde, (2002) the use of internet has given the users a great opportunity to have flexibility and interaction between the researchers and others consequently help the researcher needs to access information needed from any point of time. More so, internet is the connection of computers communicating simultaneously for the exchange of information. Internet operation has made it possible for people all over the world to communicate with one another effectively and inexpensively. It increases people's social ideas, capital, and contact with friends and relatives who live nearby and far away, Example of this is traditional broadcasting media, such as radio and television, does not have centralized distribution system. Instead, an individual who have internet access communicate directly with anybody, and post information for general consumption. So the internet provides opportunity for social networking. Social network has a platform that give individuals the opportunity to interact, using two way communications; meaning that anyone who has online accounts can share their opinions with other social network users; that the younger once between age of 12 to 19 years old of students used the social network for research paper on the platforms they use face book, YouTube, Google, etc. This are the younger generation that will lead the world in the future, they must be well educated to be able to impact it to the world and make Nigeria a better country on the road to success (Osunrinde, 2002).

Utilization of Social Networks for Research by TVET Students
According to Britannica, (2010) it states that social network are the computer based online community of individuals, friends that exchange messages or share information among themselves, and in some cases, cooperate on join activities together. We all know that social network link us together, with organizations and knowledge with others over physical experience. It also highlights that they are social institutions that isolated with livelihood as it is integrated into everyday lives. More so, social networks communicate a vita messages update and also exchange data with text to each other, video and picture form among the students. Social network has a software site that allow friends to comment on each other's profiles, and private messages sender within the networks, such as facebook, Twitter, Instagram, printerest, Blackberry, messenger, YouTube, Skype, Google, Yahoo, Whatsapp, and Friendster, etc. As a result of network student's contact each other most especially in the area of their interests, business goals or academic environment has replaced many things from people, especially the younger one in the higher institutions. Social network sites have attracted a millions of people, whom they have integrated these sites into their daily practices and research work among themselves. The social network services have software site that provide source of information that help the individuals to develop themselves in the research work while the latter provides objective data that are from a variety of sources on a related topics (Britannica, 2010).

On bases of that, Broadcasting are known as a way of find information online for a research project and gathering information while conducting studies that will bring collaboration between the social search. More so, collaborative search are the social hunt where several users share information among themselves and work together to fulfill their needs on research. The term social search refers broadly to the process of find information online with the assistance of communal resources, such as asking questions from your friends, reference librarians, or unknown persons online for assistance. The utilization of social network have assisted a lot of

users under 50 years of age who likely use social network site of any kind, and those of 18 – 29 years are the most likely of any demographic cohort to do so. Younger ones in post-secondary education often discuss schoolwork and share discussions about assignments.

Social Network Research and its Effect with Students

Tarek A. El-Badawy & Yasmin Hashem, (2015) state that using online communication has negative and positive effects, because there are harmful ways in which the internet could be used among the students. It is obvious that schools are trying their best to control the use of digital media on school grounds. We notice that in some schools, students believe that social network has a positive impact on the development of the student's education. While in other schools, students have access of social network sites, because they fear the student's interaction on them, although, they know the positive impact social network has on the student's education. You know the younger generation of now our days use: YouTube, to share and stream videos, and facebook, to have a complete identity online, and a network of friends. The Researcher states that the profiles of the social network users as part of the process needed for the students to develop their identity. It is believed that there are negative impact caused by social network on students, including accessing inappropriate content and not "understanding online privacy" (Tarek. A. EL-Badawy & Yasmin Hashem, 2015)

As part of research the author interviewed some teacher to find out their opinion regarding the effect of entertainment media on the student's academic performance. From the research carried out 70% of teachers believe that it has negatively impacted on the student's attention span, and 58% of teachers believe that social network has negatively affected their writing skills due to their regular use of slang language and word abbreviations. Some other teachers believe that it impacted their face to face communication skills and critical thinking skills to the students during research project. They have couple of benefits to social network use too in the school environment. They believe that one of the benefits of social network is to enhance how an individual understands themselves by engaging with each other, and becoming creative through blogging. This leads to better outcomes in their individual school work. Another important benefit is to give students opportunity to improve their learning. And since they have better chance to share knowledge with each other and conduct group projects more efficiency to themselves.

Shahjahan and Kutub Uddin, (2014) also identify that many students usually spend sleepless nights on network without the knowledge of their parents. This disruption of sleep has adverse effects on the younger ones; and because of this it has led to cases of insomnia, mood swings, attention deficits at school and increased obesity. These are some of the serious negative effects of social network on younger's ones, and issues like this are arising with kids often addicted on Facebook. With such overwhelming evidence of the negative effects on social network on our children, why then, are many parents not taking more action on our children to protect them. They are three major reasons: -

i. Parents are unaware of the issues involved in the online connections. Some parents may not be aware of their children's "pages" and not fully understand privacy policies but realize what kids of public positing are taking place with their children.

ii. Parents don't want to interfere in their children social lives. Most parents want their children to be popular, accepted and enjoy happy social life. Parents sometimes concern with their children's "rights", their right to privacy and their right to interact with the children forums. The want their children to be well connected with other children outside and so they tell themselves that everything is okay to protect them.

iii.   Parents are afraid to take a stand, many of modern parents are becoming apathetic to the real dangers that too much social network can present to their children. They don't want to push their children away and so they allow their participant in social network to go unchecked rather than make a'' big deal'' out of it with them.

Most problems created by the society are not going away but continue to grow with them. Parents must get up and get involved with their students. Parents have their responsibility to protect their children and be aware of what is going on in the online world. Parents need to investigate what is going on with their children and adjust their privacy setting be aware of who can see what they post, and what is being posted about them. Once again, make sure your children have plenty offline time as well. Restrict the times and frequency of online interaction. Other areas which parents need to improve upon is to create family determined unplugged hours when their children can participate in their activities such as outdoor games, reading, talking, playing together, etc.   Social network has a tremendous effect on our children, but with the parental care and participation with their children it can lead to cooperation. Then the effect can be positive for everyone.

The Meaning of Technical and Vocational Educational and Training (TVET)
According Uzoagulu, (2011) Technical and Vocational Educational and Training (TVET) are programmes of schooling and training are usually undertaken with practical activities and complemented with theories of concepts, definitions, rules, procedures, methods, scientific knowledge and research in the school. Federal Republic of Nigeria (2004), National Policy on Education Technical and Vocational Education as a comprehensive term referring to that aspect of the educational process involving in addition to general education, the study of technologies and related sciences and the acquisition of practical skill, attitudes, understanding and knowledge relating to occupation in various sectors of economic and social life in our school environment.

TVET is a comprehensive term referring to those aspects of general educational processes that involve the study of technologies and related sciences, and the acquisition of practical skill, attitudes, understanding and knowledge relating to occupations in various sectors of economic and social life particularly as it pertains to the world of work (Uzoagulu, 2011). TVET provides to the individual the skill to learn and to be self- reliant. In this part of the world the apprenticeship system is a means to acquire vocational skills and most often the traditional vocational practice the following skills such as material making, weaving, carving, leather work, pottery, ICT, and metalwork, etc. Without TVET the man power used for rapid development may seriously be down played (Akatakpo, 2013). TVET is designed to prepare the individual with skills for an effective workforce; and it also develops the students for the industry training in the following courses, such as Electrical/Electronics, Mechanical/Metalwork Technology, woodwork, Building, and Auto- Mechanics, etc.

Most of the higher institutions in Nigeria offer some of all these vocational courses to develop the manpower skills and to be self reliant. The higher institutions that offer these vocational courses are very few and most students are either discouraged because majority of them did not understand the importance of these courses to the economy. According to Afeti, (1991) TVET is not only about knowing to do things; but also to understanding why things are done in a particular way. The conceptual definition of TVET cuts across educational levels, post primary, primary, secondary and tertiary. However, TVET importance is seen as a drive of an economic and social development; there is the need for more and new TVET programmes.

The Challenges Faced by (TVET) Students in Higher Institutions in Nigeria

Most of these challenges are not implemented by the TVET curriculum in Nigerian institutions so they are synonymous with the problems of TVET in Nigeria and also that of general education in Nigeria. Akatakpo, (2013) posted some of the major challenges facing Nigerian institutions system to include:

    i. Human resource related problems such as brain drain, human capital flight, unattractive conditions of service for teachers, and staff shortages across board.

    ii. Government related challenges such as inadequate funding of tertiary institutions.

    iii. Students related challenges such as cultism, examination malpractice, social, and academic vices.

    iv. Institution related factor such as unstable academic calendar, inadequate collaboration, between tertiary institutions and organized private sector, inadequate and obsolete infrastructure and equipment, for example poor equipped TVET workshop and libraries, dilapidated classroom blocks, and weak support structure for students industrial work experience scheme (SIWES)

Some of the researchers go further that inadequate financing is one of the problems not implemented by TVET curriculum in TVET institutions. They also noted that some of the problems of implementing TVET curriculum include:

1. **Lack of sponsorship**: managers of educational institutions find it difficult to sponsor the TVET lecturers to seminars, conferences, and short courses claiming that there is lack of fund. And this affected the rate at which the TVET lecturers are upgraded.

2. **Inadequate infrastructure**: TVET lecturer does not have the opportunity to act what they have learnt into practice due to lack of infrastructure.

3. **Inadequate Timing**: Time should be provided for TVET lecturers to go and upgrade themselves. Work load should not be so demanding that they preclude TVET lecturers form research and time to develop new skills, abilities and knowledge through research and innovation.

4. Lack of reward for excellence.

More so, National Policy on Education (2004) gave two reasons on the challenges facing the TVET such as,

1. To impact the necessary skills leading to the production of technicians, craftsmen, and other skilled personnel who will be ICT networking oriented and self reliant and

2. To enable the Nigeria young ones to have an intelligent understanding of the increasing complexity of technology.

TVET has been an integral part of national development strategies in many societies because of its impact on economic development. Unfortunately, government of Nigeria has not given the attention needed, and that's reasons for the nation's underdevelopment. TVET is a planned program of courses and learning experience that begins with exploration of career options that supports basic academic and life skills and enables achievement of the academic standard, leadership, preparation for industry that defined the work and advanced continuing education that prepares learners for career that are based in Manuel or practical activities.

Conclusion

As noticed in the discussion, whether the students spend less than one hour on social network or more than that on social network, or even the average hours of time which is between one to three and three to six hours a day, it is obvious that utilization of social networks has a negative and positive effect among the children of today. The time devoted by the students on

social network has been on the higher side and time wasting on social network without using it to develop themselves in academic performance among the other students. The research shows that the ratio of hours used on social network are more than time spent or used on social network for research project on their academic performance. For these reasons both the positive and the negative of not utilizing the social network for their research project on TVET will be objectively stated below:

A. Negative effect on social network

Social network can be abused by the students, if not properly used. These has a negative effect on the academic performance and these resulted on the fact that it does not impact to school students' academic performance in any away because they spend more hours on social network, but they still manage to find time to study, and achieve good performance.

B. Positive effect on social network

In viewed of this research, the under listed points are the major reasons:

i. Meeting other students that you may not have met outside the social network forums.
ii. Sharing ideals beyond the geographical boundaries like they are doing now.
iii. If you combine social networks and other network, you can reach more people for meaningful purposes like business, academic papers, education programmes, and health, etc

Recommendation

In view of this research, the underlisted are the major reasons:-

i. Individuals in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) should be given special preference because of their programme. They should be given opportunity to attend workshops and industrial training as wilds exposing them to ICTs programmes.
ii. All the artisans and craftsmen in the workshop need to be educated on how to go about the social network programme such as social media, facebook, Goggles, YouTube, Instagram, messenger, etc.
iii. The entire equipment in the tertiary institutions workshop needs to be upgraded to a standard computerized machine for betterment of the student's usage.
iv. The internet should be provided to laboratories, and libraries of all tertiary institutions for the improvement and exposure of all the staff on social media.
v. The use of internet should be introduced to pre- primary schools, primary schools, secondary schools and tertiary institutions.
vi. All the craftsman and technicians in the workshop need to attend seminars on how to be effective with the used of ICTs programme.

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