

Convenience or Nuisance? Social Media Engagement and Unizik Students' Interpersonal Communication Among Peers

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Abstract: With Increased Multiplicity Of Various Personalized Media, Attributed To Be Reinforcing Students' Persistent Online Presence, There Is Fear That Their Face To Face Communication Among Fellow Peers Within The Nigeria Setting Could Be In Jeopardy, Thereby Constituting Either Convenience Or Nuisance, Notwithstanding A Plethora Of Studies In Diasporas That Had Measured Related Trends. The Study Design Is Survey Whereby 400 Copies Of Questionnaire Instrument Were Administered To UNIZIK Students Who Formed The Study Population And 392 Copies Returned Representing A 98% Return Rate. Findings Show That Students Have Social Media Accounts Which They Use For Interpersonal Communication Among Fellow Peers. Majority Of Them Engage In The Networks Using Their Mobile Technologies (85%) Which Attribute To Their Continued Online Presence Where They Spend At Least One To Five Hours On Daily Basis. For Instance, 35% Of Them Have Their Mobile Technologies Always Available And Connected On The Internet, 45% Usually Get Connected Only In The Day Times And Then Switch Off Their Phones And Connections In The Evening. On The Contrary, 20% Of Them Prefer Being Online Only In The Evening, Probably Because That Is When They Find Much Time To Reply To Messages Sent To Them On The Networks. The Prevailing Social Media Sites Include The Whatsapp (55%), Facebook (15%), Twitter (13%), 2go (5%) Instagram (2%), And Then Various Dating Sites (10%), Notwithstanding That Some Have Multiple Accounts In Some Of The Sites. It Is Dominant That Social Media Sites Keep Multiplying, And Are Mostly Used By Students For Numerous Purposes. They Not Only Use These Sites For Mediated Interpersonal Communication With Fellow Peers But Also To Establish And Sustain Same With Unknown People, A Privilege Offered Mainly By Some Of The Dating Sites Which Further Account For Reasons Why Majority Consider The Social Media Convenient (80%) And Cheap Rather Than Voice Calls And Text Messages For Maintaining Interpersonal Communication. Only A Few (26%) Of Them Consider The Engagement As Nuisance When Students Get Engrossed And Addictive To Chatting That It Affects Their Face To Face Communication With Fellow Peers, Especially During Academic Discussion, Lectures, In Buses, In Churches And Even In Public Gatherings Notwithstanding Their Ability To Restrict These Excesses. The Social Exchange And The Uses And Gratifications Theories As Used Were Upheld To Argue That The Technological Exchanges Between Students Capture A Mutual Cost-Benefit Structure And That Students' Perception And Nature Of Social Media Use Is Related To The Needs And Gratifications They Derive Therein And As Well Consider It As Nuisance Based Also On The Needs The Social Media Refuse Them.

Keywords: Social Media, Engagement, Interpersonal Communication, Convenience, Nuisance

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I. INTRODUCTION

Studies Have Surfaced Regarding The Impact Of Social Media, Suggesting That Participation In Social Networking Sites Provides A Number Of Potential Benefits (See Hinduja & Patchin 2008) But The Level Of Engagement In The Networks By The Nigerian Adolescents And How Such Engagement Constitute Either Convenience Or Nuisance To Interpersonal Communication Appear To Have Been Ignored. It Has Also Been Argued That Online Interaction Provides A Means To Learn The Ability To Relate To Others, Tolerate Differing Viewpoints, Express Thoughts Etc (Hinduja & Patchin, 2008), But There Is Still Gap In The Literature Concerning The Extent Of These Tolerance And Expressions Based On Whether And How It Affects Or Hinders Interpersonal Relationships. Scholars Had Also Argued That Communicating With Others On The Internet Is An Opportunity To Explore Self-Identity And Enhance Self-Discovery, Increasing The Possibility To Contact Peers, Thus Enhancing Self-Esteem And Feelings Of Well-Being (Valkenberg & Peter, 2007), And

Also Provides A Virtual Place To Spend Time And Share Thoughts And Objects With Personal Meaning, Such As Pictures, Stories, And Remain Closely Connected With Friends Regardless Of Geographic Distance (Hinduja & Patchin, 2008; Boyd, 2006).

These Studies Confirm The Wide Integration And Adoption Of The Social Media Globally And Its Recognition As One Of The Ways Many Receive Their News And Have Their Opinion Shaped In The Society. With The Influx Of Modernized Mobile Phone Technology And Other Forms Of Personalized Communication Media With Multiplicity Of Functions Like Tablet, Ipad And So On, The Social Media Users Appear To Maintain 'Constancy' Online, And Perhaps Retain The Culture Of Mutual Relationship With Friends, Groups, Family Members And So On. According To Drussell (2012) Social Networking Has Become Common In Today's Society, Especially Among Adolescents And Young Adults, And Continues To Grow In Popularity.

The Questions That Clamour For Answer Is Whether The Students See The Social Media As More Convenient For Them To Engage In Interpersonal Communication Or Do They See It As Constituting A Nuisance? How Do They Negotiate, Reject Or Accept Either Of The Idea That Social Media Fosters Or Hinders Interpersonal Communication? This Is In View Of The Perceived Constant Presence In Social Media By Users Who Share, Reply, Comment, Like, Post And Follow Others Which In The Process, May Affect Their Face To Face Communication And Perhaps Shape Their Perception Of Face To Face Interactions. Though Social Media Can Help People Communicate And Interact With One Another Even When Not Within A Close Range, Sometimes Users, Most Especially The Youth And Younger Ones May Not See The Social Media As Sites For Mere Communication And Maintenance Of Relationship With Loved Ones But Also Where They Maintain Same With Strangers And Retain Familiarity With Them. However, Some Students May Find These Social Networking Sites More Convenient And So Use It To Communicate With Fellow Students Within The Same Environment. Even At That, The Need For Students' Face To Face Communication With Fellow Peers Should Not Be Ignored. Hence, The Essence Of This Study Is To Examine The Extent To Which The Students' Engagement In The Sites Constitute Either Convenience Or Nuisance To Their Face To Face Communication.

II. STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Impairment In The Ability To Effectively Communicate May Hinder Successful Relational Development In Young Adults (Burlison, 2003) Given That Technological Advancements Had Resulted In Audience Ability To Access A Wealth Of Information, Participate In Virtual Opportunities And In The World Of Social Networking, Unlike The Traditional Mass Media Of Communication Where These Opportunities Are Not Available. Though Youth Of Today Use Technology Such As The Internet To Communicate And Socialize (Mishna, Mcluckie, & Saini, 2009; Kaynay & Yelsma, 2000; Nie & Hillygus, 2002), Recent Studies Have Shown That Communication Technology Is Increasing Exponentially With Each Generation And Is Becoming A Mainstay Within Our Society (Mishna Et Al., 2009). Modern Conveniences Such As Using Cell Phones And The Creation Of Social Networking Sites (Facebook, Myspace, Youtube, Twitter) For Interaction Have Also Shown A Variety Of Influences In The Research Because Within The Social Networking Spectrum Exists The Activities Of Instant Messaging (IM), Texting, Blogging, Bulletin Boards, And Posting Comments, Status Updates, And Videos (Drussel, 2012).

The Central Problem Is That Extensive Use Of The Social Networks By Young People May Reduce Their Face To Face Interaction With Other Members Of The Community And Affect Their Formation Of Strong Relationships. It Has Also Become Very Common Within Nigerian Universities That Students Formulate Chat Groups On Various Social Networking Sites, Perhaps To Avoid Being Isolated In The Social Space. Hence, The Traditional Face To Face Communication Among Them May Be In Jeopardy. To This End, Scholars Point At The Possible Effect Of These Technologies On Interpersonal Communication, Family Communication, And So On (Villegas, 2013; Dunu & Ugbo, 2017). As The Use Of These New Media Of Communication Continue To Increase Among The Youths Especially Those Within The Nigerian Institutions, Considering Also That Steady Use Of These Devices And Networks May Somehow Affect Students' Face To Face Communication Among Themselves, In View Of Various Opportunities The Social Networking Sites And Mobile Media Make Possible, This Work Examines How UNIZIK Students' Engagement In Social Media Affects Their Face To Face Communication And Perhaps Whether They Consider Such Engagement To Be Constituting Either Convenience Or Nuisance To Face To Face Communication.

Objectives Of The Study

The Study Is Guided By The Following Specific Objectives:

1. To Discover The Extent To Which UNIZIK Students Are Exposed To Social Media.
2. To Ascertain The Prevailing Social Media Platform More Frequently Used By UNIZIK Students.
3. To Determine The Extent To Which The Students Utilize The Social Media For Interpersonal Communication Among Fellow Peers.

4. To Establish How Their Social Media Engagement Constitute Either A Convenience Or Nuisance To Their Face To Face Communication Among Fellow Peers.

Research Questions

The Following Research Questions Were Drafted Sequel To The Above Stated Objectives:

1. To What Extent Are UNIZIK Students Exposed To Social Media?
2. What Are The Prevailing Social Media Platforms More Frequently Used By UNIZIK Students?
3. To What Extent Do The Students Utilize The Social Media For Interpersonal Communication Among Fellow Peers?
4. How Does Their Social Media Engagement Constitute Either A Convenience Or Nuisance To Their Face To Face Communication Among Fellow Peers?
- 5.

Operational Definitions

- Social Media - The Computer And Internet Enabled Communication Platforms Utilized By The UNIZIK Undergraduates Which Enhances Collaborative, Democratic And User Generated Content In An Online Mode.
- Engagement - The Level At Which The Students Appear Online And Get Busy With Their Enabling Gadgets To Communicate With Other Social Media Users Online.
- Interpersonal Communication - The Face To Face Communication Among The Students And Also The Mediated Communication Whereby User Of The Social Media Maintain Communication With Others Online
- Convenience - When The Student's Use Of The Social Media Is Advantageous And Facilitates Faster And Cheaper Interpersonal Mediated Communication.
- Nuisance - When The Students' Use Of The Social Media Is Rather More Embarrassing And Excessive That It Hinders Their Face To Face Interaction With Other Students

III. REVIEW OF EMPIRICAL STUDIES

Kandari& Al Qasha'an (2001) Examined The Relationship Of The Internet With Social Isolation, Focused On Students Of The University Of Kuwait. This Study Focused On Social Impacts Of The Use Of The Internet Among A (597)-Student Survey From The University. It Aims At Laying Down The Impact Of The Use Of This Technology On The Social Isolation Because It Is Considered A Dimension Of The Social Alienation. The Study Found A Positive Correlation Between The Length Of Time For The Use Of The Internet And The Social Isolation, Showing That The Students Engage In The Internet And Gain Social Relationship To Avoid Being Isolated In The Social Environment.

In Terms Of The Devices That Enable This Social Media Engagement, Moio (2003) Did An Exploratory Study On The Negative Consequences Of Mobile Phones Based On How The Consumers Appreciate, Perceive And Use The Technology. He Captured 'Consumption' To Encompass 'The Bulk Of Irritations, Anxieties And Ambiguities That Consumers Have To Deal With During Their Daily Consumption'. The Objective Of The Paper Was To Address The Contextual Nature Of Mobile Phone Consumption Based On The Ways They Are Consumed Using Informants As Participant Observers To Study A Town In Finland. A Central Emergent Idea In The Finding Is The Omnipresent Nature Of Mobile Phone Whereby Consumers Usually Are Concerned With Making Their Devices Available. While This Availability Was Motivated By The Self (Being Able To Reach The Significant Others) As Well As By A Concern For Others (Being Within Reach For The Significant Others), And That Consumers Get Irritated At Seeing Other Consumers Disrespecting Events And Occasions By Keeping Their Phones Switched On, On Such Events. While The Tendency To Forget To Switch Off The Alarm Sound Of The Mobile Phone When Entering Events, Such As Meetings, Was A Minor Felony, A More Pejorative And Insulting Way Was To Answer The Mobile Phone Irrespective Of The Context, Even In Hospitals (Moio, 2003, P. 5). The Study Also Found That Consumers Occasionally Experience Anxiety And Nervousness Provoked By The Idea Of Being Potentially Left Out Of Contacts In Their Social Life, Of Being Potentially Abandoned By Their Friends. This Anxiety Led To What He Tagged A 'Dependence Relationship' And 'Addiction' This Is Because Mobile Phones Serve As An Instrument For Consistent Interaction Among People Which Can Be Seen As Irritating In Some Contexts, Especially When Used To Disrespect Occasions.

Then, Shim, Young & Soo (2007) Identified The Impact Of The Internet On Face To Face Communication Of Teenagers. It Was Specifically Aimed To Determine The Relationship Between High School Students' Use Of Internet And Face-To-Face Communication With Family Members And Their Friends At Carpnadel School In The State Of Illinois, USA. Questionnaire Were Distributed To A Sample Of Students And The Study Found That The Internet Influences The Behaviour Of Students Because It Reduced The Desire To Connect Personal, Face-To-Face Communication With Their Families And Friends. This Explains That The

Internet Has The Power To Hamper Family Relationships And Interpersonal Communications Among People, Especially In Western Countries. While This Study Was Conducted In Illinois, USA, A Similar Study In Developing Countries, Just As The Present Study Attempts, Remain Important To Identify The Point Of Similarities And Departure Between These Findings And What Is Obtainable In Nigeria.

Otaibi (2008) Did Another Interesting Study On The Impact Of Facebook On The Universities Students Of Saudi Arabia. He Discovered That The Prevalence Of Facebook Use Among The Universities Students Of Saudi Arabia Amounted To 77%. This Study Is Distinguished From Other Previous Ones As It Is One Of The First Studies Conducted On The Students Of Irbid University College, Jordan To Determine The Impact Of Social Networks On Their Behaviour In Terms Of Interpersonal Communication With Others. The Findings Still Resonates That Social Media Can Affect Students' Academic Performance And Their Interpersonal Communication. The Results Revealed That The Grades Obtained By Students Addicted To The Internet And Facebook Use Is Much Lower Than Those Gained By Their Counterparts Who Do Not Use This Site. The Results Also Showed That The More Time Spent By The University Students To Browse This Website Affects Negatively The Students' Grades In Exams As They Spend More Time On The Internet And Devote Less Time To Study; Pointing Out That Addiction On Facebook Has A Negative Impact On Academic Work.

Mecheel (2010) Further Looked At The Impact Of The Social Networking On The Social Relationships, Studying A Total Sample Of (1600) Young Users Of Social Networks In Britain. The Results Showed That More Than Half Of The Adults Who Use The Sites, Including (Facebook And Youtube) Admit That They Spend More Time On The Internet More Than With Real Friends Or With Family Members. The Study Also Found That They Do Not Talk Much On Phone, Do Not Watch TV A Lot; Do Not Play Many Computer Games But The Social Networks Of Internet Change The Lifestyles Of About 53% Of Them. This Justifies The Consistent Online Presence By Internet Users And The Fact That Social Media Can Be Addictive And Could Change The Lifestyles Of Many Especially Those Who Unconsciously Spend A Great Deal Of Their Time In The Network Compared To Face To Face Communication.

Similarly, Al-Khaddam, (2013) Studied The Impact Of The Social Networks On Interpersonal Communication Of The Students Of University College Irbid Girls Using The Descriptive And Analytical Methods To Study 296 Female Students. The Study Found That There Was A Statistically Significant Relationship Between The Use Of Facebook, The Number Of Hours Used And The Interpersonal Communication Of The Students. Although Monthly Income, Specialization, And The Academic Status Did Not Play Much Role On The Impact Of The Use Of Facebook On The Interpersonal Communication Of The Students, Their Place Of Residence Was The Major Factor That Played Much Role On The Effect. Al-Khaddam, (2013) Further Observed That The Present Age Is Featured As The Era Of Information And Communication Revolution As The Globe Becomes A Single Electronic Village Due To The World Wide Web. It Was Also Noticeable That The Community Group That Uses The Social Networking More Than Others Is The Youth, Attributive To Cultural, Scientific, Social, Political, And Entertaining Purposes Among Others (Al-Khaddam, 2013) Which Is Among The Reasons The Present Study Is Centered On The Youths Who Are The University Undergraduates In UNIZIK Nigeria, To See How The Social Media Had Been Such Addictive To Them That Their Face To Face Communication May Become Impaired.

Villegas, (2013) While Looking At The Influence Of Technology On Family Dynamics, Equally Observed That Technology Is A Powerful Tool That Contemporary Society Uses Not Only To Entertain But Also To Communicate And Educate, With An Ever-Present Availability To Media Access. He Looked At The Dynamics Of The American Family To See Whether Technological Advancements Foster Or Hinder Family Relationships. Ultimately, The Results Demonstrated That Media Does Affect The Way A Family Unit Socializes And, As A Result, Their Relationships. He Also Noted That The Unintended Effects Could Be Damaging To The Manner In Which Parents Communicate With Their Children, Hinder The Development Of Their Family Relationships And Have Detrimental Effects On The Development Of A Family System By Distracting Family Members From Engaging In Healthy Conversations That Ultimately Form Strong Relationships Especially When The Social Media Is Present During The Ritual Of Family Mealtime.

Dunu & Ugbo (2017) Used Survey Methodology To Explore The Effects Of New Personalized Communication Devices (NPCD) On Family Communication Patterns. 400 Respondents Were Randomly Selected From Families In Urban Cities In South East Nigeria. They Found That These Families Have High Internet Connectivity Yet Face To Face/Domestic Conversation Still Appears The Dominant And The Preferred Mode Of Communication Within The Family Units. The Study Demonstrated A High Level Of Interactivity As Family Members Indicate Spending A Great Number Of Hours Interacting With Mostly Friends Using These Devices. Though The Study Significantly Revealed That There Is No Noticeable Alteration In Family Bond But Family Communication Pattern Seems To Be Altered From Collectivist Communication Orientation To A More Individualistic Pattern Owing To The Solitary Nature Of These Devices With Minimal Effects Concentrated In Urban Areas Especially Among Families That Are Educated And Affluent. They Concluded That With The

Invention Of More Sophisticated Personalized Communication Devices There Will Be A Rapid Incursion Into Other Sections Of The Nigerian Society And Family Communication May Develop On Unpredictable Pattern That Will Lead To A Complex Communication Pattern Where These Devices Enhance Communication And Connections With Family Members And At The Same Time, Create Individualistic Communication Pattern.

Based On These Existing Literatures, It Is Clear That The Argument On The Effect Of Social Media On Interpersonal Face To Face Communication Has Been Polarized Into Two Broad Schools Of Thought. The First Is Made Up Scholars Mainly From The Western World Who Argue Based On Their Studies That The Social Media Affect Interpersonal Relationship. The Second Group Is A Few In Nigerian That Challenge Such Western Based Studies And Argue That Even Though Families Have High Internet Connectivity And Shift From The Collectivist Communication Orientation To A More Individualistic Pattern Owing To The Solitary Nature Of The Enabling Devices, There Is No Noticeable Alteration In Family Bond.

It Is Also Evident From These Previous Studies That The Widespread Of Social Media Is Being Facilitated By The Mobile And Personalized Communication Media And That The Social Networks Are Being Used By Many For Various Purposes To An Extent That People's Face To Face Relationships Could Be In Jeopardy. The Focus Of This Current Study Therefore Is To Ascertain Whether A Significant Relationship Exists Between The Way Students Engage In Social Media And Their Face To Face Relationship Among Fellow Peers To Help Close Some Gaps On The Nature And Kinds Of Effects The Social Media Has On The Conventional Face To Face Communication, Using Students In A Developing Country Like Nigeria Where Such Devices Had Begun To Gain Prominence.

IV. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The Uses And Gratification Theory

The Study Subscribes To The Uses And Gratification Theory As Espoused By Katz Et Al (1974) Which Suggests That The Audience Is Active, Are Aware Of Their Needs And Also Selects The Media That Gratify Them. Hence, Media Users Are Goal Directed In Their Behaviour Because Consumers' Use Of Any Media Content Is Related To The Peculiar Needs And Gratifications They Derive From The Content Such As Pleasure, Convenience, Comfort, Relationship, Information, Entertainment, And So On. Chamberlain (1994) Had Also Explained That The Individual Media User Is Able, Through New Technologies, To Pick From A Large Selection Of Media, The Peculiar Ones That Satisfy Their Basic Needs And Desires. Unlike Traditional Mass Media, New Media Like The Internet Provide Selectivity Characteristics That Allow Individuals To Tailor Messages To Their Needs (Ruggiero, 2000, P.16). Uses And Gratification Also, Hold The Prospect For Understanding The Internet's Mutability, Or Its Broad Range Of Communication That Goes On In The Cyberspace (Newhagen & Rafaeli, 1996; Ruggiero, 2000). In The Light Of These As It Applies To This Current Study, The Perspectives Of The Uses And Gratification Theory Becomes Relevant As The Theoretical Framework For Quantitative Analysis Of The Students Use And Consideration Of The Social Media As Constituting Either Convenience Or Nuisance To Interpersonal Communication Among Fellow Peers Based On The Needs And Satisfaction It Gives To Them As Well As The Needs That It Denies Them From Achieving, Probably By Presenting People With More Media Choices.

The Social Exchange Theory

This Study Also Adopts The Social Exchange Theory, Which Posits That Relationships Are Evaluated Using A Cost-Benefit Analysis With An Expectation That Social Relations Will Be Established And Continued Based On Being Mutually Gainful (Zafirovski, 2003). Many Theorists Have Since Added Their Perspectives To Social Exchange Theory And Emphasized The Role That Social, Economic, Political, And Historical Contexts Play In Social Exchanges (Hutchinson, 2008). The Identified Costs In Social Exchange Theory Are Time And Energy (Ripa & Carrasco, 2007). A Major Premise Within Social Exchange Theory Is Regarding The Issue Of Power And That Persons With Greater Resources Often Hold More Power Over Others During Social Exchanges (Hutchinson, 2008). This Power Can Relate To Not Only Control Of Potential Rewards And Punishments, But Also The Ability To Influence The Thoughts And Behaviors Of Others Within Social Exchanges. The Basis For This Control Exists When One Person Is Dependent On Another For His Or Her Own Sense Of Rewards (Ripa & Carrasco, 2007).

When Applying Social Exchange Theory To This Present Study, It Can Be Said That The Technological Exchanges Between Individuals Capture A Mutual Cost-Benefit Structure Because The Amount Of Time And Energy One Designates To Texting Or Posting Comments And Status Updates On Facebook Relates Directly To Perceived Rewards, Such As Number Of "Likes" Or Responses. In Other Words, Given The Ability To Disperse Information Efficiently To A Mass Audience With Little Time And Effort, The Potential For Rewards In Social Networking Are Unrestricted. This Drastically Differs From Conventional Face-To-Face Interaction Where More Effort And Calculated Thought Is Needed For Mutually Beneficial Social Exchanges.

V. METHODOLOGY

The Design For This Study Is Survey With The Questionnaire As The Research Instrument. The Population Involves All Undergraduate Regular Students Of Nnamdi Azikiwe University With An Estimate Of Over 35,000 Students According To The Personnel Records Of The School As At The Time Of The Study. The University Is Also Chosen As An Area Of The Study Because The Belief That Students Are Always Engaged In The Social Media. Meanwhile, A Sample Size Of 400 Was Also Drawn, Looking At Different Samples Prescribed By Meyer (1973) For Population That Range From 1000 To Infinity At 95% Confidence Level And Taro Yamane's Formula For Determining Sample Size As Follows:

Table 1 Population And Sample Sizes As Determined By Meyer

S/N	Population Size	Sample Size
1	Infinity	384
2	500,000	384
3	100,000	383
4	50,000	381
5	10,000	370
6	5,000	357
7	3,000	341
8	2,000	322
8	1,000	278

Drawing From The Calculations Of Meyer (1973) As Shown In Table Above, The Suggestion Is That A Sample Of 384 Could Do For A Population Size Of 35,000 And Above, While Using Taro Yamane Statistical Formulae, A Sample Size Of 394 Was Realized, With The Calculation Stated Below;

$$\begin{aligned}
 n &= \frac{N}{(1 + N [e]^2)} \\
 &= \frac{35,000}{(1 + 35,000 [0.05]^2)} \\
 &= \frac{35,000}{1 + 35,000 (0.0025)} \\
 &= \frac{35,000}{1 + (35,000 \times 0.0025)} \\
 &= \frac{35,000}{1 + 87.5} \\
 &= \frac{35,000}{88.5} \\
 &= 393.258 \approx 393
 \end{aligned}$$

When N = Sample Size;
 N = Population;
 E = Sampling Error; While
 I = Constant

Although A Sample Size Of 393 Respondents Is Justified, Following The Sampling Formula From The Above Specified Authors, The Number Was Rounded Off To 400 Respondents. The Technique Adopted For Sample Selection Here Is The Multi Stage Probability Sampling Technique Which Involves Series Of Sampling Processes At Various Levels Of The Population. Nnamdi Azikiwe Has Fourteen (14) Faculties, Out Of Which Five Faculties Were Randomly Selected. The Selected Faculties Are: Arts, Social Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Biological Sciences And Management Sciences. From These Faculties, Two Departments Were Chosen To Represent Each Of Them. It Was Also Decided That For Each Of The Departments, Nine (9) Respondents Will Be Chosen From Each Class Or Student Levels Of Year 1, 2 And 3, Then Thirteen (13) Respondents From Final Year Class Of Each Level Due To The Believe That Final Year Students Are More Likely To Be Exposed To Social Networks. This Decision Is Illustrated Below:

Table 2:Sample Frame

FACULTIES	DEPARTMENTS	STUDY LEVELS
Arts	Philosophy Music	1 st , 2 nd And 3 rd Years By 9 Students In Each Class=27, And 13 Students In 4 th Year=40 (40 X 2 Departments =80)
Social Sciences	Political Science Sociology	1 st , 2 nd And 3 rd Years By 9 Students In Each Class=27, And 13 Students In 4 th Year=40 (40 X 2 Departments =80)
Environmental Sciences	Estate Management Architecture	1 st , 2 nd And 3 rd Years By 9 Students In Each Class=27, And 13 Students In 4 th Year=40 (40 X 2 Departments =80)
Biological Sciences	Botany Microbiology	1 st , 2 nd And 3 rd Years By 9 Students In Each Class=27, And 13 Students In 4 th Year=40 (40 X 2 Departments =80)
Management Sciences	Business Administration Cooperative Economics	1 st , 2 nd And 3 rd Years By 9 Students In Each Class=27, And 13 Students In 4 th Year=40 (40 X 2 Departments =80)
Total	10 Departments	400 Undergraduate Students

Therefore, A Total Of 80 Copies Of The Questionnaire Were Distributed To Each Of The Faculties Under Study, Making Up The Grand Total Of 400 Copies, Corresponding With The Sample Size Of 400 Students. The Final Year Students Were More In The Distribution Owing To The Belief That They Could Be More Knowledgeable About The Use F Social Media And Perhaps Understand How It Could Constitute Either Convenience Or Nuisance.

VI. RESULTS

400 Copies Of The Questionnaire Were Distributed But Only 392 Was Returned And Found Useful, Therefore Representing A 98% Return Rate. The Data Was Interpreted Using The Statistical Packages For Social Sciences (SPSS) Alongside Some Statistics Such As Percentages And So On.

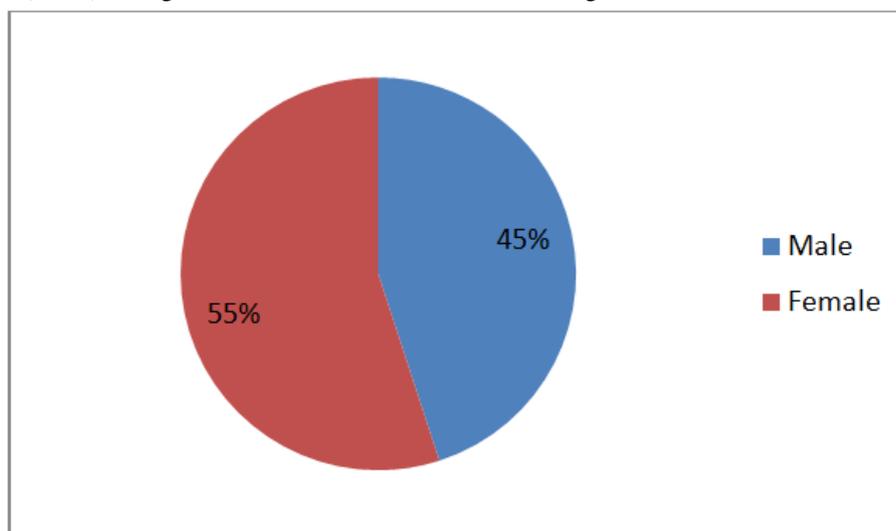


Figure 1 Students Sex Categories

This Figure Shows A Nearly Even Distribution Of The Questionnaire Among Male And Female Students Studied. It Implies Also That There Was Consciousness Of The Sex Category Of The Respondents Such That The Study Will Not Be Lopsided Towards One Particular Sex Group.

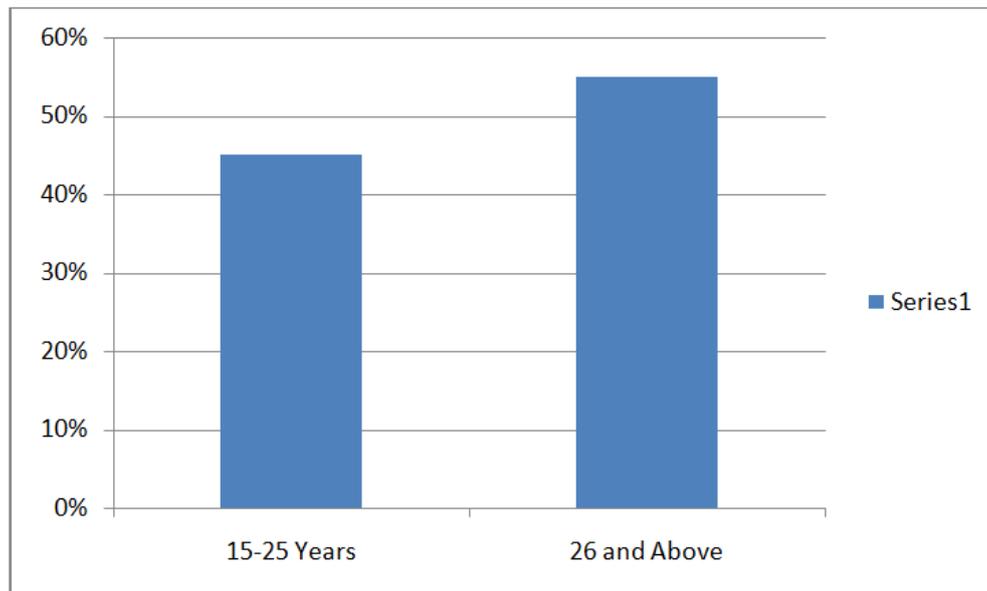


Figure 2 Students' Age Range

This Figure Also Presents That 45% Of The Students Fall Within The Age Ranges Of 15-25 Years Whereas 55% Of Them Fall Within The Range Of 26 Years And Above. Reason For This Could Be Because Of The More Concentration And Sample Drawn From The Final Year Students Who Are Considered To Be More Familiar With The Use Of The Social Networking Sites. The Subsequent Figure Shows The Various Study Levels Of These Students.

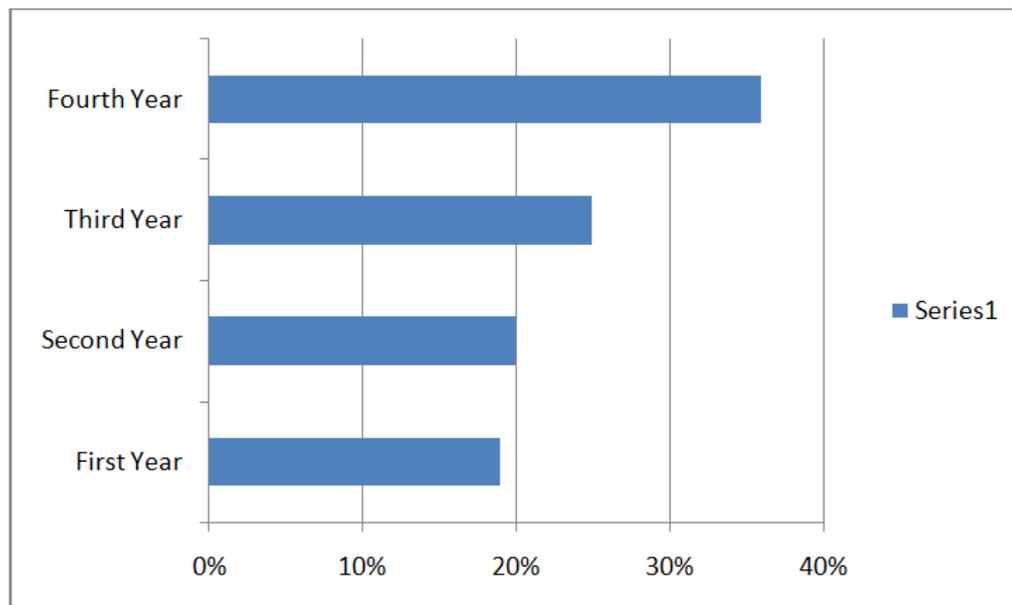


Figure 3 Students' Study Levels

This Figure Shows That 36% Of The Students Whose Questionnaire Were Dully Filled And Returned Were In The Final Year, First Years Students Had A Total Of 19%, The Second Year Student Had 20% With Those In Third Years Recorded 25%. On The Whole Majority Of The Students Are In Their Final Year And Also Fall Within The Age Range Of 26 Years And Above.

Students Exposure/ Engagement In Social Media

Table 3 Students' Engagement In Social Media And Using Same For Interpersonal Communication?

Students Engage In Social Media?	Percentages (%)
Yes	100% N=392
No	-
Total	N=392

This Table Reveals That All The Students Have Social Media Accounts Which They Also Use For Various Communication Purposes. This Reassures The Widespread Of Social Media Among The Youths And Their Use Of Same As An Avenue For More Interactive Interpersonal Communication. This Finding Confirms That Individuals May Also Feel Empowered When Using Social Networking To Establish Relationships That Provide Information, Mutual Assistance, And Support (Giffords, 2009).

Table 4 Devices Used By The Students For Social Media Engagement

Devices	Percentages (%)
Mobile Phones/ Technologies	85% (N=332)
Computer Systems	15% (N=60)
Total	100% (N=392)

This Table Presents That Majority Of The Students Engage In The Social Media Using Their Mobile Technologies (85%) While A Few Of Them Also Do Same With The Computer Systems. This Constitutes Part Of The Reasons The Mobile Technology Is Adjudged Addictive And Has The Potential To Influence Or Alter Communication Processes.

Table 5 Number Of Hours Spent By Students Daily On Social Networks

Hours	Percentages (%)
1-5 Hours	60% (N=235)
6-10 Hours	25% (N=99)
11 Hours And Above	15% (N=58)
Total	100% (N=392)

This Table Confirms The Continued Presence Of The Students On The Social Media Sites. It Is Interesting To Find Majority Of The Students Spending At Least One To Five Hours Online. This Could Attribute To The Assumption That Their Online Presence Could Form A Sort Of Nuisance To Other Peers In The Same Environment. The Subsequent Table Presents The Specific Time The Students Engage In The Social Media.

Table 6 Time Of The Day That Students Engage In Social Media

Time	Percentages (%)
Always/No Specific Time	35% (N=137)
Day Time Only	45% (N=176)
Evening Time Only	20% (N=79)
Total	100% (N=392)

However, This Table Also Reiterates The Finding Presented On The Preceding Table That The Students Are Always Online Using The Social Media. For Instance, 35% Of Them Are Always Online And Are Connected To The Networks Almost 24 Hours Of The Day With No Specific Time They Prefer To Be

Connected. 45% Of Them Are Also Connected To The Networks Only During The Day Times And Probably Switch Off Their Phones And Connections In The Evening. Contrarily, 20% Prefer To Be Online In The Evening Times, Probably Because That Is The Time They Would Be More Relaxed To Read The Messages On The Networks And Reply Accordingly. Generally, The Social Media Can Be Said Be Have Become Regularly Visited By The Students On Daily Basis.

Prevailing Social Media Sites

Table 7 Social Sites Visited

Social Sites	Percentages (%)
Whatsapp	55% (N=215)
Facebook	15% (N=59)
Twitter	13% (N=48)
Instagram	2% (N=10)
Bado	5% (N=20)
Dating Sites	10% (N=40)
Total	100% (N=392)

This Tables Shows The Various Social Networking Sites Being Patronized By The Students, With The Whatsapp (55%) Being The Most Regularly Visited. Other Social Networks Currently They Also Patronize Include- Faceook (15%), Twitter (13%), Instagram (2%), Bado (5%) And Then Various Dating Sites (10%), Notwithstanding That A Student Could Open And Maintain More Than One Facebook Or Whatsapp Accounts Which Applies To Other Social Media Sites. The Dominant Finding Still Remains That The Social Media Keep Multiplying, Being Used By The Students And Are Also Springing Up As Students Get More Opportune To Engage In Various Communication Activities Therein.

Social Media And Students' Interpersonal Communication

Table 8 Social Media For Interpersonal Communication Among Fellow Peers And Using Same To Maintain Relationship With Unknown People?

Using Social Media For Interpersonal Communication Among Fellow Peers In School?	Percentages (%)	Using Social Media To Maintain Relationship With Unknown People	Percentages (%)
Yes	100% N=392	Yes	40% (N=157)
No	-	No	60% (N=235)
Total	N=392	Total	100% (N=392)

This Work Also Discovered That The Social Media Affords Students The Opportunity To Establish And Maintain Relationship With One Another. This Is In Line With The Assertion Made By Wolak, Mitchell, & Finkelhor, (2003) That Teens With Difficulties May Use Online Relationships As Temporary Bridges That Bring Them Into Safe And Comfortable Face-To-Face Relationships. This Shows That All The Students Who Use The Social Media Are Also Involved In Interpersonal Communication. Interestingly, They Extend This Relationship Even With Strangers Or People Unknown To The Them (40%), Also Perceiving Such As An Avenue To Meet A Lover Or A Date. However, There Are Certain Peculiar Disadvantages Associated With This Kind Of Online Relationship. One Example Of Such Is The Story Of Late Miss Cynthia Osukogu Who Was Raped And Murdered In A Hotel In Victoria Island Lagos Where She Had Gone To Meet Her Facebook Boyfriend Even Though It Still Resonates The Assertion By Valentine & Holloway (2001) That Communication And Transportation Technologies Have Opened A Window Of Opportunity Through Which

Young People Can Reach Out And Make New Connections With New People And Places - What Hägerstrand (1985) Calls A 'Space Of Possibilities'.

Convenience Or Nuisance?

Table 9 Considering The Social Media Engagement As A Nuisance Or Convenience?

Nuisance?	Percentages (%)	Convenience?	Percentages (%)
Yes	26% (N=100)	Yes	80% (N=312)
No	74% (N=74)	No	20% (N=80)
Total	100% (N=392)	Total	100% (N=392)

This Table Presents The Major Objective Of This Study. It Shows That 26% Of The Students Consider The Social Media Engagement As A Nuisance While 80% See The Engagement As A Convenience. They Also Perceive Their Use Of The Network As Nuisance When Fellow Peers Are Engrossed In The Chatting That It Hinders Their Interpersonal Communication And Also During Lecture Times, In Buses, Churches And Even In Public Outings. However, There Excesses Are Primarily Based On How Social Media Networks Are Used By Students, Adjudged To Posses The Power To Restrict Their Exposure To The Technology And Can Negotiate Their Face To Face Interpersonal Communication In The Process. Besides, This Finding To An Extent Uphold The Social Exchange And The Uses And Gratifications Theory To Argue That The Social Exchange Theory And The Uses An Gratifications Theory To Argue That The Technological Exchanges Between Students Capture A Mutual Cost-Benefit Structure And That The Students Perception And Use Of The Social Media Is Directly Related To The Needs And Gratifications They Derive Therein As Well As The Needs That The Social Media Deprive Them And Vise Versa. Hence, The Persistence Use Of The Social Network Is Related To The Gains, Gratifications Or Benefits That Students Would Derive From The Network.

Table 10 Your Peers Complaining That Your Engagement In Social Media Affects Their Interpersonal Communication With You? And Your Friends Excessively Using The Social Media And Affecting Your Interpersonal Communication?

Your Peers Complaining That Your Engagement In Social Media Affect Their Interpersonal Communication With You?	Percentages (%)	Your Friends Excessively Using The Social Media And Affecting Your Interpersonal Communication With Them?	Percentages (%)
Yes	40% (N=157)	Yes	80% (N=312)
No	60% (N=235)	No	20% (N=80)
Total	100% (N=392)	Total	100% (N=392)

This Reveals Whether The Students Had Witnessed Their Fellow Peers Excessively Using The Social Media Such That It Constitutes A Nuisance To Their Interpersonal Communication And Whether Their Own Interpersonal Communication On Social Networks Affect Their Face To Face Contacts With Fellow Peers. 40% Of The Students Admitted That Their Social Media Engagement Affect Their Interpersonal Communication With Fellow Peers While 80% Of Them Complained That Their Fellow Peers Excessively Use The Social Media Such That It Affects Their Interpersonal Communication With Them. Trends In The Findings Suggest That There Is Constant Use Of The Internet By The Students Such That It Affects Their Interpersonal Communication Even Though Not Wholly Seen As Constituting A Nuisance.

VII. DISCUSSION

There Was Also An Even Distribution Of The Questionnaire Among Male And Female Students To Avoid Lopsidedness In The Study. As Earlier Stated, 400 Copies Were Distributed But Only 392 Was Returned And Found Useful, Therefore Representing A 98% Return Rate. Majority Of Them Fall Within The Range Of 26 Years And Above Because Of The Concentration On Final Year Students Adjudged To Be Conversant With Use Of The Social Networking Sites. Findings Show That Students Have Social Media Accounts Which They Also Use For Interpersonal Communication Among Fellow Peers In The School. Majority Of Them Engage In

The Social Media With Their Mobile Technologies (85%) While A Few Of Them Also Do Same With The Computer Systems Which Can Be Said To Constitute Part Of The Reasons The Mobile Technology Is Adjudged Addictive And Has The Potential To Influence Or Alter Communication Processes. There Was Also A Continued Presence Of The Students On The Social Media Sites Where They Spend At Least One To Five Hours Daily Online. This Attributes Part Of The Reasons Their Presence Online Could Form A Sort Of Nuisance To Other Peers Within Same Environment. In Terms Of The Time Of The Days They Engage In The Social Media, The Study Found That 35% Of Them Are Always Online And Are Connected To The Networks With No Specific For Being Connected. 45% Of Them Are Also Connected To The Networks Only During The Day Times And Then Switch Off Their Phones And Connections In The Evening. Contrarily, 20% Prefer To Be Online In The Evening Times, Probably Because That Is When They Would Be More Relaxed To Read The Messages On The Networks And Reply Accordingly. Generally, The Social Media Can Be Said Be Have Become Regularly Visited By The Students On Daily Basis. The Prevailing Social Media Sites Include The Whatsapp (55%) Being The Most Regularly Visited Site By The Students, Followed By Faceook (15%), Twitter (13%), Bado (5%) Instagram (2%), And Then Various Dating Sites (10%), Notwithstanding That A Student Could Open And Maintain More Than One Facebook Or Whatsapp Accounts Which Applies To Other Social Media Sites. The Dominant Finding Still Remains That The Social Media Keep Multiplying, Being Dominantly Used By The Students And Are Also Springing Up As Students Are Opportune To Engage In Various Activities Therein.

Interestingly These Students Use The Social Networking Sites Not Only To Communicate But To Also Socialize And Maintain Interpersonal Relationship Both With Fellow Peers In School But Also With Unknown People, Especially On Facebook And Some Dating Sites Which To An Extent Resonates The Assertion By Valentine & Holloway (2002) That Communication And Transportation Technologies Have Opened A Window Of Opportunity Through Which Young People Can Reach Out And Make New Connections With New People And Places - What Hägerstrand (1985) Calls A 'Space Of Possibilities'.

This Work Then Found That 26% Of The Students Consider The Social Media Engagement As A Nuisance While 80% See The Engagement As A Convenience. They Perceive Their Use Of The Network As Nuisance When Fellow Peers Are Engrossed In The Chatting Such That It Sometimes Affect Their Face To Face Communication With Others, Especially During Discussion Groups, Lecture Times, In Buses, In Churches And In Public Gatherings. More Worrisome Is The Fact That The Students Posses The Power To Restrict Their Exposure To The Technology Or Rather Negotiate Their Face To Face Interpersonal Communication In The Process. This Finding To An Extent Upholds The Social Exchange And The Uses An Gratifications Theory To Argue That The Technological Exchanges Between Students Capture A Mutual Cost-Benefit Structure And That The Students Perception And Use Of The Social Media Is Directly Related To The Needs And Gratifications They Derive Therein As Well As The Needs That The Social Media Deprive Them. Hence, Persistence Use Of The Social Network Is Related To The Gains And Gratifications The Users Would Derive From The Network.

To Further Explore This 'Nuisance Perspective' The Students Admitted To Have Witnessed Their Fellow Peers Excessively Using The Social Media Such That It Hinders Their Interpersonal Communication And Whether Their Own Interpersonal Communication On Social Networks Affect Their Face To Face Contacts With Fellow Peers. 40% Of The Students Admitted That Their Engagement In Social Media Affect Their Interpersonal Communication With Them While 80% Of Them Complained That Their Fellow Peers Even Excessively Use The Social Media Such That It Affects Their Interpersonal Communication With Them. It Is Manifest That There Is Steady Use Of The Internet By The Students Such That It Affects Their Interpersonal Communication But Not Wholly Seen As A Nuisance Because Some Of The Students Consider It More Convenient And Cheap Rather Than Voice Calls And Text Massages To Still Communicate And Socialize With People But Not Without Control And Restrictions.

VIII. CONCLUSION

This Work To An Extent Concludes That The Social Media Engagement By The Students Is Both Constitute Both Convenience And Nuisance To Interpersonal Communication Because Whereas Some Students Find The Social Network As A More Acceptable Mode Of Communication Among Fellow Students, They Also Perceive Their Use Of The Network As Nuisance Especially When Fellow Peers Are Uncontrollably Engrossed In The Chatting That Is Affects Their Face To Face Communication, Even During Lecture Times, In Buses, In Churches And In Public Gatherings. This Confirms The Stand Of Moisiej (2003) That Users Of Mobile Technologies Disrespect Events By Switching Their Phones Which Is A Minor Felony And That The More Pejorative Offence Was To Allow The Phone Ringing In Sensitive Gatherings And In The Process Distracting Events Because Of The Assumed Omnipresence Nature Of Mobile Technologies. In Terms Of Convenience, This Work Also Concludes With The Stand Of Ellison, Steinfield, & Lampe (2007), That Social Networking

Sites On The Internet May Be Used To Strengthen Relationships That Already Exist, Therefore Acting As A Bridge Between The Online And Offline Worlds.

IX. RECOMMENDATIONS

In The Light Of These Findings, This Work Therefore Recommends As Follows:

1. There Is Need For Regular Counseling Of The Students On The Use Of Social Media And Perhaps Regulating Their Level Of Use Of Same Especially In Public Gatherings And Classrooms To Help Cushion The Negative Effect O Such Excesses On Their Interpersonal Communication And Academic Work In General
2. Social Media Should Be Made A Compulsory Part Of The Introductory Content Of Mass Communication Discipline To Help Young Students Get Abreast Of The Prerequisite Knowledge On The Dangers Of Social Media As Some May Unintentionally Have Mediated Relationships With Some Unknown Persons Via Any Of The Platforms Or May Have Witnessed A Failed Relationship Or Negative Experiences Through Such Formations
3. The Restrictions Of The Use Of The Social Should Be Made A Compelling Attitude For Young Students Who May Find The Social Media Luxuriant And Tend To Devote A Greater Part Of Their Productive Periods Chatting With Both Known And Known Persons Such That Their Interpersonal Communication Gets Jeopardized
4. This Study Could Be Replicated In Another University Community To Help Determine Whether Such Trends As Found In This Study Exists Across Other Climes.

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