

**Impact of Networking Engagement on Academic Performance of Students in Kwara State
College of Arabic and Islamic Legal Studies, Ilorin**

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the Impact of Networking Engagement on Academic Performance of Students in Kwara State College of Arabic and Islamic Legal Studies, Ilorin, Nigeria. The study was guided by an objective, one research question and a null hypothesis. The descriptive statistics of frequency and percentage were used to present the demographic profiles, mean and standard deviation were used to answer the research question; while inferential statistic of Pearson's Product Moment Correlation (r) was used to test the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance. The study discovered that, there is positive impact of Networking Engagement on Academic Performance of Students in Kwara State College of Arabic and Islamic Legal Studies, Ilorin, Nigeria. It was recommended amongst others that, college counsellors should help students to sustain the use of media positively, through guidance programmes on networking engagement to facilitate effectiveness. Also, college management should facilitate positive use of networking through enlightenment programmes on the use of social media and ensure effective management of the websites been visited by students and restrict access to malicious ones, so as to have continuous positive networking engagement, which consequently improves students' academic performance in the College.

Key words: Impact, Networking, Academic Achievement, Students and College of Arabic and Islamic Legal Studies, Ilorin

INTRODUCTION

Networking has become more popular providing ways to interact, investigate, research, corporate and communicate with each other around the world. Networking became popular between 2004 and 2006, after Facebook and MySpace were created. Many networking sites (Blogs, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter, Youtube, etc.) are now being used. Facebook for example has over 500 million members and it is still growing and approximately 94% of undergraduate students are Facebook users (Jamiu, 2022). Adam and Nor (2014) noted that, networking sites has created a new social dimension where individuals can increase their social awareness by keeping in touch with old friends, making new friends, dispensing new data or products and gathering information in other aspects of everyday life. This helps individuals become more knowledgeable, which is very beneficial for students.

In another vein, Megat (2011) said that, apart from the traditional use of internet, which involves sending and seeking information, people have discovered that the internet can be used to connect with other people for business or commercial purposes, to make new friends, or to reawaken old friends and locate long-lost relatives. The emergence of networking sites simplifies the process because they do not require advanced internet knowledge or experience.

Jamiu, et al (2022) reported that, Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp are a widely used social media by most Nigerian students, such that almost all students obtain their smart phones to ensure

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access to this world largest widely used social network with over 500 million members, which is still growing. Globally, approximately 94% of undergraduate students are Facebook users, Twitter, WhatsApp etc. All of these provide students the opportunity to interact with their classmate, share ideas, class notes, pictures, videos, lectures and study links to develop their educational performance and this has assisted in overcoming their shyness factor, preparing for upcoming test and capable of organizing study groups.

Jamiu (2021) observed that, Networking Sites are also being used by teachers, lecturers and students as a communication tool, especially in developed countries. Developing countries like Nigeria also benefit from this through globalization, which bridged the gap in the accessibility to product of technology between the developed and underdeveloped countries. He added that, the engagement in Networking activities have impact on students' academic performance negatively or positively.

Statement of the Problem

The rapid advancement of media technology has had a great impact on the way students communicate on daily basis. The growing dimension of the social media usage among college students of today cannot be over emphasized and networking has become more popular among students and helps researchers in setting questions and grading of students' results. It is a way to make connections, not only on campus but with friends and family.

Jamiu (2022) stated that a number of studies have been conducted to find out the negative and positive impacts of networking on academic performance of students. He found out that the use of technology such as internet networking is one of the most important factors that can affect one's academic work adversely and cause a gradual drop in grades of students that has invested his or her time in social networking sites instead of his/her studies. It is against this background that this study aimed at finding out the Impact of Networking Engagement on Academic Performance among Students in Kwara State College of Arabic and Islamic Legal Studies, Ilorin, Nigeria.

Objective

The objective of this study is to determine the impact of networking engagement on academic performance among students in Kwara State College of Arabic and Islamic Legal Studies, Ilorin, Nigeria.

Research Questions

The Research question raised in line with the stated objective is: What are the networking sites commonly visited by students of Kwara State College of Arabic and Islamic Legal Studies, Ilorin, Nigeria?

Research Hypothesis

The hypothetical statement formulated for this study is: There is no significant impact of Networking Engagement (NWE) on Academic Performance of Students in Kwara State College of Arabic and Islamic Legal Studies, Ilorin, Nigeria.

Methodology

The design adopted for the study is a survey of correlational type. This is because the study seeks to establish impact on variable and hypotheses. This design is appropriate for use when researchers are dealing with systematic collection of data or information from a population through the use of opinion scale and questionnaire. The population for this study consisted of 647 Diploma

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students in Kwara State College of Arabic and Islamic Legal Studies, Ilorin, Nigeria. A sample of 386 was drawn from the entire students' population in Diploma I and Diploma II.

The researchers used multi-stage sampling procedure which involved purposive, proportionate and simple random sampling technique to select this sample size of 386 male and female college students across the existing five Schools. Simple Random Sampling Technique was used in selecting five departments, one each from the five Schools. Proportionate sampling technique was employed because the population of students across departments varies. Therefore, to ensure equitable distribution of the sample, respondents were chosen in proportion to students' population in each department. The instrument used to collect data in the study was tagged Networking Engagement Impact Questionnaire (NEIQ). The instrument was validated by two experts who are Senior Lecturers from the Department of Educational Management and Counselling, Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin, Nigeria. The test-retest reliability method adopted yielded a co-efficient of 0.74. Thus, it is found to be both valid and reliable.

Academic performance was determined using students' Grade Point Average (GPA) for Diploma I students and the Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) for Diploma II students at the end of the first semester in the 2020/2021 academic session. The GPA/CGPA was transformed into raw scores for ease of correlation as follow: 0.00 – 0.99 (30); 1.00 – 2.39 (40); 2.40 – 3.49 (50); 3.50 – 4.49 (60); and 4.50 – 5.00 (70).

The data collected were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Frequency and percentages were used to analyse the bio data of the participants, Mean and Standard deviation were used to answer the research question raised and Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Statistics (r) was used to test the null hypothesis at 0.05 alpha level of significance using the SPSS 21.0 version.

Results

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

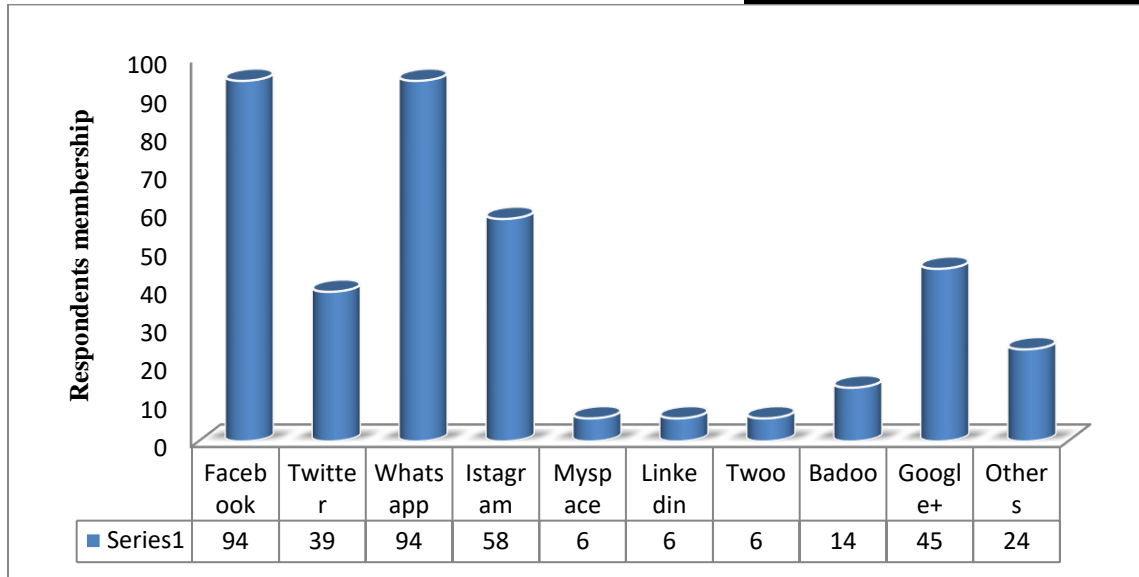
Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender		
Male	276	71.5%
Female	110	28.5%
Total	386	100
Level		
Diploma II	245	63.5%
Diploma I	141	36.5%
Total	386	100
Departments		
Shariah and Common Law	205	53.1%
Library Science	46	11.9%
Education	12	3.2%
Islamic Studies	65	16.8%
Arabic	58	15.0%
Total	386	100

Table 1 above shows the demographic profiles of the respondents that participated in the study. The profiles include gender: male 276 (71.5%) and female 110 (28.5%). Level: Diploma II, 245 (63.5%), Diploma I, 141 (36.5%). Departments: Shariah and Common Law, 205 (53.1%), Library Science, 66 (11.9%), Education, 12 (3.2%), Islamic Studies, 65 (16.8%), and Arabic, 58 (15.0%).

Results

Research Question 1: What are the networking sites commonly visited by students of Kwara State College of Arabic and Islamic Legal Studies, Ilorin, Nigeria?

Fig 1: Networking sites commonly visited by students of Kwara State College of Arabic and Islamic Legal Studies, Ilorin, Nigeria



Source: Field Survey, 2022 retrieved from college ICT center

Fig. 1 above presents usage of social networking sites by students. Accordingly, Facebook and WhatsApp have the highest patronage with 94 and 93 students representing 24.4% and 24.1% respectively. Twitter has 39 students representing 10.1%. Instagram is being visited by 58 students representing 15.0%, Google has 45 students (11.7%), Badoo has 14 students (3.6%) while MySpace, LinkedIn and Twoo has six students representing 1.6% each. Other social networking sites have 24 students representing 6.2 percent.

Hypothesis Testing

Research Hypothesis: There is no significant relationship between Networking Engagement (NWE) and academic performance of students in Kwara State College of Arabic and Islamic Legal Studies, Ilorin, Nigeria.

Table 2: Result of Pearson’s Product Moment Correlation Statistics on the relationship between Networking Engagement (NWE) and students’ academic performance in Kwara State College of Arabic and Islamic Legal Studies, Ilorin, Nigeria:

Variables	N	Mean	SD	r-Cal	Sig.	Decision
NWE	386	12.28	3.673			
Academic Performance	386	12.61	3.881	.702	.000	Rejected

Table 2 shows that the mean score of Networking Engagement (NWE) is 12.28 with standard deviation of 3.673; while the mean score of Academic Performance is 12.61 with standard deviation of 3.881. The calculated r of .702 at .05 level of significance with 384 degree of freedom is higher than the Significant value (.000). Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected. This means that, there is significant relationship between Networking Engagement and students’ academic performance in the Kwara State College of Arabic and Islamic Legal Studies, Ilorin, Nigeria.

Discussions

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The finding of this study was that, there is positive impact of networking sites on academic performance of students in Kwara State College of Arabic and Islamic Legal Studies, Ilorin, Nigeria. Several studies in the body of literature are in line with the findings of this study from the tested hypotheses. The finding revealed that there is Impact of Networking Engagement on Academic Achievement among Students in Kwara State College of Arabic and Islamic Legal Studies, Ilorin, Nigeria.

This current finding discussed that using Networking engagement for the purpose of harnessing the benefits embedded in it, while given an adjustment that is conducive and encouraging academic achievement among others is more likely to enhance student's level of adjustment to the school environment.

The finding is in line with Obochi, (2011) report that, students usually attribute successes to internal factors and failure to external factors. However, correlational research statistics were used by others researchers and also correlational researches were used in correlating academic achievement.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, it was concluded that, positive Impact of Networking Engagement on Academic Achievement exists among Students in Kwara State College of Arabic and Islamic Legal Studies, Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria.

In this regard, positive networking engagement remain effective Academic Achievement among college's students, this demonstrated that students are aware of networking sites and had access to them. Findings of this work revealed that networking engagement has positive impact on students' performance.

Recommendations

In line with the above findings, it was recommended that, students should encourage one another on sustaining positive use of networking engagement for improving their academic performance. The authority should also by make the college's climate a fascinating condition that foster overall educational adjustment for academic success.

Lecturers should be encouraged to interact with the students on networking sites since many of their students visit and use social networking sites. This will in turn encourage the use of networking sites for educational purposes by students.

Centre for Information Technology should ensure that web management software is integrated in the college wireless network to ensure full monitoring of students' activities over social networking sites and ensure restriction of access to malicious websites to promote morality among students.

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