



SOCIAL MEDIA, A BASIS FOR MARITAL INSTABILITY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN OTA, OGUN STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The social media brought crises like divorce and violence into the family level. Hence, this paper assessed social media and marital instability as amalgamation for domestic violence in Ota Ogun State, Nigeria. The study anchors on betrayal theory and modernization theory. The study was cross-sectional and descriptive survey in nature, applied both quantitative and qualitative methods. The primary data were obtained through administration 150 questionnaires to the residents of Ota by convenience and purposive sampling methods, content analysis of textbooks, journals and online resources were the sources of secondary data, out of the 150 questionnaires taken to field only 138 were returned, consequently the response rate was 91.33%. Findings showed that 61% of the respondents were males, 39% were females, 95 of the respondents were using internet-enabled android phones, 5% of the respondents did not have android phones. The results of the hypothesis tested showed that the Spearman Regression analysis has a value of 0.94 which was greater than P value Of 0.05 at 5% level of significance, hence, the null hypothesis was rejected. This study recommends adequate orientation on the use of social media and subsistence counseling among couples. This study will be valuable to individuals in the community, families and researchers in the field of crime and family.

Key words. Social media, marital instability, domestic violence, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

Social media have been influenced by the 1840s introduction of the telegraph in the US, which connected the country, ARPANET which was introduced in 1967, and in the late 1970s developed an effective cultural exchange of non-government/business ideas and communication. In the year 1982 handbook on computing at MIT's AI Lab was launched (Sites, 2014). The PLATO system launched in 1960, which was developed at the [University of Illinois](#) and subsequently commercially marketed by [Control Data Corporation](#), offered early forms of social media with 1973-era innovations such as Notes, PLATO's message-forum application; TERM-talk, its instant-messaging feature. The application to technology has improved communication, interactions and social networking in the world. However, this feat has some demerits in every aspect of human development that it has impacted. There are various aspects of social media that people all over the world are operating, in order to establish diverse relationships all over the world (Kawaljeet, Kapour, Kuttimoni, and Scidhar, 2018). The history of social media could be traced to the penetration of a global system for a Mobile communication in 1960s. In Nigeria, the wide adoption of technology in the early 80s promoted the wide usage of the Global System for Mobile Communication in every aspect of human endeavors, the application of social media like face book, twitter, what's apps, To-go and other related applications. These technologies have greatly increased communications and interactions across the globe. One of the advantages of this innovation is reduction in the cost of communication across continents, which enhanced social communication and



interactions, creations of business and investment opportunities. However, at the family and other social institutions these applications have created a lot of crises like marital conflicts, loss of trust, violence and ultimately putting asunder into marital bond. There are instances where couples establish mere friendship through social media and eventually get engrossed in the relationship at the expense of their conjugal relationship. In the long run, this results in diminishing returns in family love affairs. Most families in Nigeria have experienced unprecedented conflicts induced by social media; there are reports of verbal arguments; where couples exchange hot arguments on accounts of postage of pictures and friendship on the social media, stabling among couples, divorce and even murder are rampant among couples who cannot manage the situation. These problems created by social media has negative influence on the larger society because family is among the veritable agencies of socialization, children are more socialized into these conflicts scenario are bound to be dangerous adults, which are inimical to future society. Hence, this paper assessed social media and marital instability: amalgamation for domestic violence in Nigeria: - an evaluation of Ota in Ogun state, Nigeria. The study will be guided by a major research question of: what is the place of social media on family instability in Nigeria?

The study specific objectives are:

- i. the roles of social media in family conflict,
- ii. The effects of conflict created by social media and
- iii. The coping strategies.

RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS.

There is a significant relationship between social media and domestic violence

METHODOLOGY.

The study was cross-sectional survey and descriptive in nature applying both qualitative and quantitative research methods. The study area was Ota, located in Ado-odo Local Government Area in Ogun West Senatorial District, it shares boundary with Lagos and Agbara, it is highly populated area and the indigenes are Awori people, its fast urbanization and most of the residents are highly educated and possess the use internet-enabled phones. The secondary data were obtained through content analysis of text-books, journals and online resources. Primary data were gotten through administration of 200 questionnaires on the resident of Ota, in Ogun State, Nigeria, through purposive and convenience sampling methods. 150 questionnaires were returned from the field while 138 completed questionnaires were used for the study. The response rate was 69%. This research design was chosen to get more information for the comparing of both dependent and independent variables. The inclusion criteria are the residency of Ota and individuals who possess phones. The hypothesis: There is no significant relationship between social media and family stability. It was tested with the analysis of variance. The study was conducted in the vicinity of tertiary institutions, like Covenant University, Ota and the Bells University Ota. The academic staff who are highly educated form the sizable number of the respondents. They were actively involved in research processes and demonstrated understanding and commitment to accept and answer questionnaires.

RESULTS

Initial analysis of the data was carried out on the different social media that is used by the respondents. The result is presented in table 1 below.

Table 1: Statistics of Social Media Users in Nigeria (July 2019 to July, 2020)

S/N	Social Media	Number of Users	Position
1.	Face Book	64.66	1 st
2.	Twitter	16.62	2 nd
3.	Pinterest	13.	3 rd
4.	YouTube	2.9	4 th
5.	Instagram	2.14	5 th
6.	LinkedIn	0.36	6 th
	Total	100	

Source: Adopted from <https://www.statista.com/statistics/278414/number-of-worldwide-social-network-users/> on 16 January 2017 modified by the author

From Table 1, majority of Nigerians use Face Book; they have friends on Face Book, the married ones are likely to be tempted into adultery. If any one of the partners get them to know about hidden relationship, it might result in domestic violence. The end results of this are unsuitable, and dangerous to entire society. As the number of users of social media increases, threats associated with the technology like domestic violence increases. The Twitter has the second largest number of users, this is less violence-prone than Face Book.

Descriptive Statistics

Table 2: Gender distribution of respondents

S/N	Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Male	98	71.0
2.	Female	40	29.0
	Total	138	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2019

From the table 2, most of the respondents that participated in the study were males 98 (71.0%)

Table 3: Age distribution of respondents

S/N	Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	20—27 years	17	12.3
2	28---35 years	28	20.3
3	36---42years	34	24.6
4	43—50years	41	29.7
5	51---58years	10	7.2
6	59years and above	8	5.8
	Total	138	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2018

From table 3, most of the respondents that participated in the survey were between the ages of 43—50 years, 41(29.7%). This showed that the participants of this study were in their active ages to embrace social media.

Table 4: Showing educational qualification distribution of the respondents

S/N	Level of Education	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	No Education	12	8.7
2	Primary School	17	12.3
3	SSCE	22	15.9
4	N.C.E/DIPLOMA	29	21.0
5	B.Sc/HND	37	26.8
6	Postgraduate	21	15.2
	Total	138	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2019

From Table 4, majority of the respondents 37(26.8%) were B.Sc/ HND holders; majority of the respondents were highly educated.

Table 5: The Distribution of respondents by the hours spent on social media in a day.

S/N	Hours on social media	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	.> 1hr	23	16.7
2	1-3hrs	50	36.2
3	4-6hrs	32	23.2
4	7-8hrs	21	15.2
5	9-10hrs	12	8.7
	Total	138	100

Source: Field Survey, 2018

From the Table 5, most of the respondents 50(36.2%) spends 1-3hrs on social media daily.



Table 6: Social Media is one of the causes of domestic violence

S/N	Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Agree	24	17.4
2	Slightly agree	11	8.0
3	Strongly agree	64	46.4
4	Disagree	13	9.4
5	Slightly disagree	11	8.0
6	Strongly disagree	9	6.5
7	Neutral	6	4.3
	Total	138	100

Source: Field Survey, 2019

From Table 6, most of the respondents 64 (46.4%) strongly agreed that social media leads to domestic violence.

Hypothesis Testing

There is significant relationship between social media and domestic violence

Table 7: Showing the relationship between Social media and domestic violence

Predictor	B	R	R-SQUARE	F	P
Time spent on social media	0.933	0.90	0.81	131.6	< 0.05

Dependent Variable: Instigation of domestic violence

Table 7 indicates that the time spends on social media significantly determines domestic violence ($R= 0.90$, $R^2=0.81$, $F=13.6$ and $P<0.05$). Hence, there is a strong relationship between time spent on social media and domestic violence.

DISCUSSIONS

This study shows that there is a significant relationship between time spent on social media and domestic violence. It revealed that time spent on social media significantly results in domestic violence, and it does affect the home. Despite numerous benefits of social media, there are some hindrances social media has put in the way of family stability. It has injected mistrust in some families, according to Joseph and Lilach,(2015), supported by Noah (2000). The rate at which couples engaged in social media and pronounced presence of some couples in some aspects of social media has resulted in loss of confidence among the couples. Social media is a powerful means of global communication that stimulates interactions in every social institution including the family (Katherine, 2012), supported by *Romanov, et al, (2017)*. When this problem is not given timely attention, it escalates into violence which will ultimately consume the family in its entirety. The level of infidelity created by social media is unthinkable. From findings, 64.6% of social media users are face book subscribers. This social media likewise are not respecters of marital status, 71% of the respondents were male. This revealed that in the male are actively involved in social media, this account of an increasing rate of extra marital relation. The age of those that participate in social media could felt between 36 to 42 years. This shows youths increased interests in Android phones, and possibility to join face book. The education level of the responds is because the study was conducted around Covenant and the Bells, as the majority of the respondents were academic and non-academic staff of these higher institutions staff are expected to have higher academic qualification. This



warranted the higher number of highly educated people who participated in the study. As revealed from the study, social media like face book, twitter, Instagram are threatening marital stability across the globe. In the same vein, 64% of the respondents strongly agreed that social media causes domestic violence. The results is destructive to families.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Findings from the tested hypothesis showed that there is a significant relationship between social media and domestic violence; the secondary data gotten from difference sources also consolidate these results, meanwhile we cannot disregard the facts that social media has brought some advantages in the family interactions in terms reconnecting distant family members and in other areas of human endeavors like business, politics and economic management. The paper recommends consistent counseling among family members and minimizes their presence in social media to alleviate jealousy and other undesirable consequences. The study will be useful to individuals as members of family, organizations in charge of family affairs, non-government establishments and researchers in the field of social and behavioral sciences.



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