

Social Networking Sites and Deviant Behaviors among Youth in Damaturu

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the social networking sites and deviant behaviors among youth in Damaturu metropolis of Yobe State, Nigeria. The study adopts survey methods by using both primary and secondary sources of data; the primary survey was conducted through structured questionnaires with close ended questions. While secondary data were collected from existing literature on social networking sites and deviant behavior. The study found that majority of the respondents were aware about the use of social networking sites to carry out deviant activities. However, the considerable number of respondents believed that they spent 1-12 hours in social networking sites engaged in deviant behaviors. The study further revealed that majority of the respondents believed that black mailing, sending of unethical, images, videos, abusive language and harassment are the most prevalence deviant behaviors carried out through social networking sites. The study recommended that the Internet Service Providers should play a significant role in controlling and monitoring of social networking sites deviant behaviors and Creation of more employment/empowerment opportunities can help to curtail the social networking sites deviant behaviors among youth.

Keywords: deviant behavior, internet, social networking sites, youth

I. INTRODUCTION

The increase of information and communication technologies (ICTs) has dramatically impacted the way in which people communicate and conduct their daily activities. The internet for example connects people all over the world easily, quickly and relatively cheaply. However, the internet and Computer Mediated Communication (CMC) can be used in negative ways, which have negative impact on our behaviors and societies. The technology has changed the world rapidly from what it had been before. Out of various technological changes, the most valuable and dynamics is evolution of the internet. Now, internet has become a part of one's life today. It has surrounded our lives so rapidly that it is beyond the imagination of human mind (Ahmad, 2011). The popularity of the internet and its services is growing rapidly worldwide. In 2014, internet users in Nigeria were 75746, 75 representing 42.7% of Nigerian population 2.7% of world population. Also, in 2015, internet users in Nigeria constituted 82,094,998 representing 45, 1% of Nigerian population and 2.66 of world population. Expectedly, number of internet users increased in 2016 in Nigeria constituting 86219,965, representing 46.1% of Nigerian population and 2.63% of world population (Internet Live Starts 2014, 2015&2016). As of 2017-2022, Nigeria had 32.9 million active social networking sites users. WhatsApp is the most popular platform used in the country, with over 90 million users. Face book, YouTube, instagram, Twitter and Tik Tok followed as the most use social networking sites.

The advancement of science and technology in human society is what brought the advent of internet as well as social networking sites. Therefore, social networking sites have become an integral part of healthy human societies as no modern societies can exist without the use of social networking sites in daily life. Social networking site are platforms which allow users to share information related to their opinions such as document, pictures, videos, music and related activities. Millions of people log in on a daily basis to connect and share their lives through photos and posts (Duggan, 2015). The accessibility of information on social networking sites influence relationship development over time, aids in relationship maintenance, displays relationship dissolution, and reveals the multimodality of information between (online and offline) relationships (Dainton, 2013).

Social network has revolutionized the way social interaction takes place. It is a process by which people socialize online. Through it people seek and enjoy the companionship of others online. It supports the sharing of information that challenge among individuals and groups having common interest. Social networking sites are modern interactive communication channels through which people connect to one another, share ideas, experience, pictures, messages and

information of interest. The advent of social networking has been described as the most exciting event in this decade (Agarwal, 2010).

Although social networking is possible in persons in the work place, universities and high schools, it is most popular online. Thus there are number of social networking sites that focus on a particular interest and other do not. Kuss and Griffiths 2011 described social networking sites as virtual communities where users can create public profiles; interact with real life friends and meet other people based on shared interest. Social networking sites are virtual places where people find themselves and share information. These social networking sites have an open membership. As soon as opens an account and uploads his data on the profiles page, the person is entitled to create a network of friends. (kuss and Griffiths,2011). However, there is a growing sense that the internet presents some unique opportunities for deviant behavior (Rogers and Liu, 2006). First, it confers new opportunities for deviance, such as the development of virus were social networking sites deviance behavior, computer hacking, online harassment, and certain self- harm behaviors (Giles, 2006).

In Nigeria social networking sites deviant behavior is carried out by people of all ages ranging from youths to old, but in most instances the youths. Several youths engage in social networking sites deviant behavior with the aim of emerging as the best hacker, or profit making venture since the tools for hacking in our modern world has become affordable by many. This record scam is made possible as a result of the large number of young people who now see social networking sites deviant behavior or internet fraud as source of livelihood. This study therefore examines the social networking sites and deviant behaviors among youth in Damaturu local government area of Yobe state, Nigeria.

II. METHODOLOGY

The population of the study comprises of male and female within Damaturu metropolis. Accordingly. Therefore, the population of the of Damaturu metropolis is (88014) .National Population Commission, 2006'the sample size of the study is one hundred and sixty (160) out of the entire population of the study area. Stratified random sampling is used to collect the data for the study. Damaturu will be divided into four (4) stratums, namely: Bindigari, Central, Gwange and Nayi nawa. In addition, to arrive at the proximate sampling unit. Forty (40) respondents will be selected from the aforementioned wards on the basis of their availability for questionnaire distribution. This study adopts survey methods by using both primary and secondary sources of data. The primary survey was conducted through structured questionnaires with close ended questions. While secondary data were collected from existing literature on social networking sites and deviant behavior. In the data analysis the paper used simple percentages statistical technique of evaluation and the descriptive statistics involving tables.

III. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY AREA

Damaturu come into existence as a colony when it was carved out of the Alagarno district by the British. It resulted in the conquest of Borno Empire in 1902 by conial forces under the command colonel Thomas Morland. Damaturu town is a capital of Yobe State in north eastern Nigeria. Damaturu became the capital of newly state in1991. The town lies in a plains region that is covered by the savanna and support crops of millet, sorghum (guinea corn, groundnut).

Theoretical Framework

There are a variety of theories that explain why people engage in deviant behavior, including psychological, biological, and sociological explanations. In reality, there are likely many factors that play a role in deviant behavior such as genetics factors, personality, upbringing, environment, and societal influences. Some social network theories focuses on the role of social relationships in transmitting information, channeling personal or media influences and enabling attitudinal or behavioral change. This study adopted Space Transition Theory to explain how social networking sites leads to deviant behaviors. Space Transition perspective is an explanation about the nature of the behavior of the persons who bring out their conforming and non-conforming behavior in the physical space and cyber space (Jaishankar, 2008). Space Transition involves the movement of persons from one space to another (e.g., from physical space to cyber space and vice versa). Space transition theory argues that, people behave act differently when they move from one space to another. Some postulates of this theory according to Jaishankar includes, firstly, Persons with repressed criminal behavior (in the physical space) have a propensity to commit crime in cyberspace, which otherwise they would not commit in physical space, due to their status and position. Secondly, identity flexibility, dissociative anonymity and lack of deterrence factor in the cyberspace provides the offenders the choice to commit cybercrime. Thirdly, criminal behavior of offenders in cyberspace is likely to be imported to Physical space which, may be exported to cyberspace as well. Fourthly, associates of physical space are likely to unite to commit crime in cyberspace. Fifthly, persons from closed society are more likely to commit crimes in cyberspace than persons from open society and lastly, the conflict of Norms and Values of Physical Space with the Norms and Values of cyberspace may lead to cybercrimes study (Jaishankar, 2008). As indicated by the assumptions of Space Transition theory, social networking sites can

provides more space for users to move which may leads to cyberspace as well as to deviant behavior. Jaishankar (2008) opines that peoples tend to behave in cyber space contrary to their physical space normal behavior, he assumed that some youths have the intention of engaging into deviant behaviors in physical space but because of their status and positions they may tends to commit the act in cyber space. And also it is not easy to detect a deviant on cyber space, deviant behaviors are also committed in both cyber space and physical space, one can easily escape and will be difficult to be trace in cyber space, some of the cyber deviants meets in physical space can also commit the same act in the physical space, some of the youths in close societies are more likely to commit the deviant activities than in an open society, also norms and values differs in cyber space than in physical space.

Strengths and Weaknesses of Space Transition Theory

It is the only cybercrime specific theory that can adequately explained cyber criminality. One of the strength of the theory is that is extensively explained the nature of movement of criminal behavior from the physical space to the cyber space. Strength is that it identified certain individual who by their status cannot commit crime in the physical space because of their role or status but found it comfortable to commit it in the cyber space due to its perfect anonymity. Space transition can be used in modeling or designing system to counteract cybercrime which will serve as useful basis for surveillance activities of potential cybercrime occurrence and profiling of cybercrime perpetrators (Danquah&Longe, 2011). The cybercrime-specificity of space transition theory (Jaishankar, 2008) limits its scope and relevance in the mainstream Criminology. In other words, the theory is not useful in explain conventional crime.

IV. LITERATURE REVIEW

A social networking service (also social networking site or social media) is an online platform that is used by people to build social networks or social relations with other people who share similar personal or career interests, activities, backgrounds or real-life connections. The variety of stand-alone and built-in social networking services currently available in the online space introduces challenges of definition; however, there are some common features: social networking services are internet-based applications, User-Generated Content (UGC) is the life blood of social networking sites organization, users create service-specific profiles for the site or app that are designed and maintained by the social networking sites organization, and social networking services facilitate the development of online social networks by connecting a user's profile with those of other individuals and/or groups. (Obar & Jonathan, 2015).

Kaplan and Heinlein (2010) defined social media as the interaction among people, through which they create, share, and/or exchange information and ideas in virtual communities and networks via social media sites. Through the use of social media, users achieve some form of sanctioning that allows a free forum for interactions (Duggan & Smith, 2013). The widely used social media channels in Nigeria are Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, WhatsApp, Snap chat, online dating sites, Youtube and Viber. There is evidence that while most social network services are web-based and provide means for users to interact over the Internet, such as by e-mail and instant messaging and online forums. Social networking sites are varied and they incorporate arrange of new information and communication tools such as availability on desktop and laptops, mobile devices such as tablet computers and smart phones , digital photo/video/sharing and "web logging" diary entries online (blogging) (Baker, 2013).

Online community services are sometimes considered a social network service, though in a broader sense, social network service usually means an individual-centered service whereas online community services are group-centered. Social networking sites allow users to share ideas, digital photos and videos, posts, and inform others about online or real world activities and events with people in their network. While in-person social networking, such as gathering in village market to talk about events has existed since the earliest developments of towns, the Web enables people to connect with others who live in different locations, ranging from across a city to across the world. Depending on the social media platform, members may be able to contact any other member. In other cases, members can contact anyone they have a connection to, and subsequently anyone that contact has a connection to, and so on. Linked In, a career social networking service, generally requires that a member personally know another member in real life before they contact them online. Some services require members to have a preexisting connection to contact other members. (Wildman & Steve, 2015). In general, social networking sites has numerous and varied advantages in peoples life, for instance its useful for educational purposes, building individual brand, stay up to date, getting connection to new people and relationships. But also has some downsides and disadvantages mainly for young people such as wasting a lot of time on social media, sleeplessness, fear of missing out and getting close to depression.

V. DEVIANT BEHAVIORS

However, in this discourse, the term “deviance” is used not in its traditional or generic sense of the word but in the rather specific sense that Holt, Bossler & Seigfried-Speller (2015) earlier used it to describe behaviors that cross the tolerance limit of society but are not legally prohibited. According to Ndubueze (2017), Cyber deviance refers to all amoral, indecent and inappropriate behaviors or activities that are perpetrated online but are not criminalized. Such behaviors or activities often contravene societal norms but not the law. Examples may include the use of vulgar language online, posting of indecent personal pictures online, use of informal language in official online communications, internet addiction, cyber-loitering, online self-medication and so on. Internet and computer-mediated communications have brought about the formation of different kinds of deviant sub-cultures online (Blevins & Holt, 2009). This portends danger for society as it has been argued that „networked individualism” may lead to the formation of some undesirable associations through the social media. These undesirable associations are eventually made known to hidden audiences through posting images and accepting friendship invitations online (Goldsmith, 2015). Bell (2007) observes that given that most “extreme communities” communicate via text-oriented medium (e.g. email list, newsgroups or web bulletin boards) which allows them to be visually anonymous, they are more likely to be formed online. Presdee (2000) traces the spate of crime and particularly social disorder in modern society to the political invitation of social life by social politics that inspire individuals to live two lives. The first life is the official life, which is work oriented and ruled by imposed order; while the second life is said to be of more genuine existence, where one expresses his/her true feelings for life. He notes that the internet, therefore, is increasingly becoming a safe site for people’s second life. Presdee’s proposition undoubtedly accounts for why diverse deviant sub-cultures are emerging online. People find in the internet a veritable platform to live out their second life and with the relative anonymity that it guarantees they believe that they can manage to escape societal sanction.

Maratea & Kavanaugh (2012) argue that online deviance discourse offer special new insights into the dynamics of identity construction and reinforcement, role play, and the social organization of deviant communities. A study by Reyns, Henson and Fisher (2011) in a large urban university in Midwest found that online deviance measure was the strongest and most consistent predictor of cyber stalking victimization across models. Cyber criminologists are enormously concerned about how deviant subcultures emerge and operate online and how they are constantly eroding the traditional expectations of society. They are also concerned about how deviant subcultures create a “second life” and identity that alienates the mainstream culture and enable them to sometimes evade societal checks and sanctions. However, deviant behavior in this context is action or behavior that goes against social norms and expectations and violates social norms or formal laws is considered as deviant behavior which is committed through the use technology to assist the act in the cyber space. For instance sending of unethical images, videos, nude pictures, verbal and emotional abusive, vulgar language etc. The non-conformity to the norms of a particular group is what sociologists and criminologist’ term deviant behavior, and failure of religious and moral values is the main cause of deviant behavior in most social groups. In addition to deviant’s behavior through social networking sites is associated with inadequate communication and understanding with parents and lack of self-esteem, good governance, greed on the part of the youth. The recent literature on deviant behavior has shown there different types of deviant behavior been promoted social networking sites. These types of deviant behaviors are differ from society to another based on the nature of society.

VI. TYPES OF SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

Social networking service (SNS) is an Internet-based platform used in building and developing social relations among people. It provides means by which users can interact online with people of similar interests, whether it be for romantic or social purpose. It allows users to share emails, instant messaging, online comments, wikis, digital photos and videos, and post blog entries. It also offers people with disabilities a chance to make their thoughts and opinions known in a virtual environment (Mathew and Adedamola, 2019). Boyd and Ellison (2007) define social network services as web-based services which allow individuals to Construct a public or semipublic profile within a bounded system, Communicate with other users; and View the pages and details provided by other users within the system. Social Networking Site (SNS) is an online platform that allows users to create a public profile and interact with other users. A social networking site is any site that has a public or semi-public profile page, including dating sites, fan sites and so on. A social networking site is a type of online social media platform which people use to build social networks or social relationships with other people who share similar personal or career content, interests, activities, backgrounds or real-life connections. Social networking websites provide rich information about the person and his network, which can be utilized for various business purposes. Some of the main characteristics of social networking sites are: They act as a resource for advertisers to promote their brands through word-of-mouth to targeted customers. They provide a base for a new teacher-student relationship with more interactive sessions online. They promote the use of embedded

advertisements in online videos. They provide a platform for new artists to show their profile (Ateeq, 2011). In terms of concepts and terminologies, the term Social Networking Site will be used in this research.

WhatsApp

It was incorporated in 2009 by Brian Acton and Jan Koum, both former employees of Yahoo!. After Koum and Acton left Yahoo! in September 2007, the duo traveled to South America as a break from work. WhatsApp Messenger is a proprietary, cross-platform, encrypted instant messaging client for smart phones. It uses the Internet to make voice calls, video calls; send text messages, documents, PDF files, images, Gif, videos, user location, audio files, phone contacts and voice notes] to other users using standard cellular mobile numbers. WhatsApp Inc., based in Mountain View, California, was acquired by Facebook in February 2014 for approximately US \$ 19.3 billion. By February 2016, WhatsApp had a user base of over one billion, making it the most popular messaging application at the time. (WhatsApp Inc, 2016)

Facebook

Facebook website was launched on February 4, 2004, by Mark Zuckerberg, along with fellow Harvard College students and roommates, Eduardo Saverin, Andrew McCollum, Dustin Moskovitz, and Chris Hughes. Facebook is one of the popular social networking sites in the world which connect various people from the world (Ateeq, 2011). Facebook is a social networking site used for educational purposes to serve as an avenue to connect students and other members of the society to communicate in cyber space through the use of desktop, laptop, smart phones, tablet computer etc. However, Facebook was used for the purpose of academic activities and later turned to be used for deviant activities such as sending of phonographic video and nude pictures. The use of Facebook for negative aspects in our society plays a vital role for deviant activities which take place either in physical space or unphysical space (cyber space).

Twitter

It is an online news and social networking service where users post and read short 140-character messages called "tweets". Registered users can post and read tweets, but those who are unregistered can only read them. Users access Twitter through the website interface, SMS or mobile device app. (Nwangwa, 2014). However, Twitter is associated with online deviant behaviors which give room for using of vulgar language against others in the platform.

YouTube

YouTube is a social networking site which launched on February 14th, 2005, by Steve Chen, Chad Hurley and Jawed Karim. It is owned by Google. YouTube is a video sharing website which allows users to share their videos with friends, family and the world (Nwangwa, 2014.) YouTube includes music videos, video clips, news, short films, feature films, documentaries, audio recordings, movie trailers, teasers, live streams which can be a source of deviant behaviors among young people. YouTube now allows users to upload HD videos and recently launched a service to provide TV shows and movies under license from their copyright holders (Ateeq, 2011).

Instagram

It is a photo and video sharing social networking service owned by American company Meta Platform. The app allows users to upload media that can be edited with filters and organized by hash tags and geographical tagging. Posts can be shared publicly or preapproved followers. Users can browse other users' content by tag and location, view trending content, like photos, and follow other users to add their content to a personal feed. Instagram can enhance deviant actions and practices among youth and adolescents due to viral phonographic videos posted by all ages in the platform.

TikTok

It is another social networking which is owned by Chinese company ByteDance which hosts user-submitted videos, which can range in duration from 3 seconds to 10 minutes. TikTok platform can be used for academic purposes such as slide video or mathematical formula for solving equations and religious preaching (positive). It also promotes deviant activities among youth and adolescents due to viral pornographic videos posted by all ages in the platform (negative).

VII. PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

Table 1: Demographic Data of Respondents

S.No	Item	Frequency	Percentage	S.No	Item	Frequency	Percentage
1-	Gender			3-	Education		
	Male	98	63		Primary	15	10
	Female	57	37		Secondary	43	28
	Total	155	100		Tertiary	87	56
2-	Age				Traditional	10	6
	16-25	67	43		Total	155	100
	26-35	49	32	4-	Member of SNS		
	36-46	34	22		Yes	150	97
	46 and above	15	13		No	5	3
	Total	155	100		Total	155	100

Table 1 shows the gender distribution of the respondents. 63% of the respondents were males, while 37% of the respondents were females. Therefore, majority of the respondents were males. While the age distribution of the respondents, 43% of the respondents were between the 16-25 years of age, 32% of the respondents were between 26-35 years of age, 22% of the respondents were between 36-46 years of age, while 13% of the respondents were 46 years of age and above. Therefore, most of the respondents were between 16-25 years of age. Educational Status of the Respondents, 10% of the respondents were in primary school, 28% of the respondents were in secondary school, and 56% of the respondents were in tertiary institution, while 6% of the respondents were traditional. Therefore, most of the respondents were in tertiary institution. Member of Social Networking Site among respondents, 97% of the respondents were members of social networking sites, while 3% of the respondents were not the member of social networking sites. Therefore, most of the respondents were member of social networking sites.

Table 2: Which of the Following Social Networking Sites is your Favorite

Favorite SNS	Frequency	Percentage
Facebook	50	32
Tik tok	8	5
Instagram	5	3
WhatsApp	87	56
Twitter	5	3
Total	155	99

Source: Field survey, 2023

Table 2: shows the Favorite Networking Site of the Respondents, 32% of the respondents Facebook was their favorite social networking site, 5% of the respondents tiktok was their favorite social networking site, 3% of the respondents instagram was their favorite social networking site, 56% of the respondents WhatsApp was their favorite social networking site, while 3% of the respondents twitter was their favorite social networking site. Therefore, most of the respondents were WhatsApp favorite users.

Table 3: For What Purpose do you Use Social Networking Sites

Purpose of SNS	Frequency	Percentage
Entertainment	33	21
Education	78	50
Time Pass	19	12
Contact with others	25	16
Total	155	99

Source: Field survey, 2023

Table 3: shows the Respondents Purpose for using Social Networking Site, 21% of the respondents were using social networking site for entertainment, 50% of the respondents were using it for educational purpose, and 12% of the respondents

were using it for time pass, while 16% of the respondents were using it for contacting others. Therefore, most of the respondents were using social networking sites for educational purpose.

Table 4: Averagely, How Much Time Do you Spend Daily on Social Networking Sites

Average time Spend in SNS	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 1h	48	30
1-12h	69	45
13-24h	38	25
Total	155	100

Source: Field survey, 2023

Table4: shows average time respondents spent daily on social networking site, 30% of the respondents spent less than 1hour daily, 45% of the respondents spent 1-12hours daily, while 25% of the respondents spent 13-24hours daily. Therefore, most of the respondents were spending 1-12hours daily on social networking site.

Table 5: Type of Deviant Behavior Promoted by Social Networking Sites

Deviants' behavior promoted by SNS	Frequency	Percentage
Black mailing	40	25
Unethical image	23	15
Abusive language	35	23
Unethical videos	23	15
Harassment	20	13
Verbal and Emotional Abuse	14	9
Total	155	100

Source: Field survey, 2023

Table 5 shows the types of deviants' behavior promoted by social networking site, 25% of the respondents believe that blackmailing was promoted by social networking site, while 23% of the respondents believe that abusive language was promoted by social networking site. But Unethical image and Unethical videos constitute 15% equally as deviant behavior promoted by social networking sites, 13% of the respondents believe that harassment was promoted by social networking site while 9% of the respondents believe that verbal and emotional abuse was promoted by social networking site. Therefore, most of the respondents believe that blackmailing was promoted by social networking sites.

Table 6: Types of Deviants Behavior Rapidly Growth among Youths in Damaturu

Types of deviants behavior	Frequency	Percentage
Unethical videos	68	44
Vulgar Language	24	15
Posting of indecent personal pictures	63	41
Total	155	100

Source: Field survey, 2023

Table 6 shows the types of deviants behavior that growth rapidly among youth, 44% of the respondents believe that unethical videos growth rapidly among youth, 15% of the respondents believe that vulgar language growth rapidly among youth while 41 % of the respondents believe that posting indecent personal pictures growth rapidly among youth. Therefore, most of the respondents believe that unethical videos growth rapidly among youth.

Table 7: Do you Think Social Networking Sites Censorship by Government will help in Controlling the Abuse of SNS by Youth?

Censorship	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	130	84
No	25	16
Total	155	100

Source: Field survey, 2023

Table 7 shows that Social Networking Site censorship by government will help in controlling the abuse of the Social networking site by youth, 84% of the respondents agree that SNS censorship by government will help in controlling the abuse by youth, while 16% disagree. Therefore, most of the respondents agree that social networking sites censorship by governments will help in controlling the abuse of social networking site by youth.

Table 8: Which Organization do you think is Primarily Responsible for Controlling Deviants' Activities in Social Networking Sites?

Organization	Frequency	Percentage
Police	40	26
EFCC	23	15
NCC	58	37
ISPs	30	19
Others	4	3
Total	155	100

Source: Field survey, 2023

Table 8: shows the organization that is primarily responsible for controlling deviants' activities in Social networking sites, 26% of the respondents think police is primarily responsible for controlling deviants' activities in SNS, 15% of the respondents think EFCC is responsible for controlling it, 37% of the respondents think NCC is responsible for controlling it, 19% of the respondents think ISPs is responsible for controlling it, while 3% of the respondents think other organization will be responsible for controlling it. Therefore, most of the respondents think NCC is primarily responsible for controlling deviants' activities in social networking sites.

Table 9: Possible Solution to the Use of Social Networking Sites for Deviant Activities

Possible solution	Frequency	Percentage
Creation of more employment/empowerment opportunities for youth	68	44
Provision of adequate sporting/recreational facilities for youth	52	34
Value re-orientation/enlightenment campaigns by National Orientation campaigns	35	22
Total	155	100

Source: Field survey, 2023

Table 9: shows the possible solution to the use of SNS by youth's to involvement in deviant activities on social networking sites. 68% of the respondents were on the view that Creation of more employment/empowerment opportunities for youth, 52% of the respondents were on the view that Government and internet services providers should censorship the activities of youth in social networking site while 35% of the respondents were on the view that Enlightenment and campaigns by National Orientation Agency. Therefore, most of the respondents were on the view that creation of more employment/empowerment opportunities for youth would be solution for youth involvement in deviant behaviors in social networking site.

VIII. DISCUSSION OF MAJOR FINDINGS

This section is concerned with discussion of major findings based on the objectives of the study. Therefore, the section divided into 2 sub-divisions namely, the socio-demographic data, substantive issues which covers the social networking sites and deviants behavior among youths in Damaturu metropolis of Yobe State. The study found that male respondents, between the ages of 16-25 respondents, single respondents, respondents with tertiary level of education, are more likely to perpetrate social networking sites deviant behaviors than the rest of their counterparts. This finding correspond with the finding of Ajewole (2013) he examined on the addiction to social networking sites among Nigerian Youths using eight higher institutions in Oyo State. It was shown that majority of Nigerian youths show a tendency towards addiction to social

networking sites. Currently there are 5,357,500 Facebook users in the Nigeria, which makes it 35 in the ranking of all Facebook statistics by Country. The largest age group is currently 18-24 with total of 1 930 460 users, followed by the users in the age of 25-34. There are 69% male users and 31% female users in Nigeria.

The study also found that the majority of the respondents were social networking sites users, the favorite social networking sites of the respondents were whatsapp, facebook twitter and my space. Which support the finding of Bakers (2013) study who opines that the widely used of social media channels in Nigeria are Whatsapp and Facebook followed by Twitter, Instagram, Snap chart, online dating sites, YouTube and Viber. The respondents use social networking site for educational purpose rather than deviant behavior, the study also revealed that the respondents use social networking site for 1-3 years on average daily hours of 1-12h. The study also revealed that the respondents were not sending an offensive comments, their nude picture and advance repeated sexual through social networking sites, the respondents were also on the view black mailing is the common form deviants behavior that promote social networking sites in the study area, the respondents were also on the view that unethical videos is the types of deviants behavior that rapidly growth in the study area.

On the final analysis, the study found that censor ship by government will help in controlling the abusive of social networking sites while the Nigeria communication commission are primary responsible for controlling deviants behaviors among youths Creation of more employment/empowerment opportunities for all can help to control social networking site by youths in the study area. The study concluded that majority of the respondents were not sure whether third party policing can help to controlling social networking sites However it is dissimilar to that of Ndubueze & Igbo (2014) who found that third party policing can prevent cybercrime especially the type II (intervening and rescuing third party).

IX. CONCLUSION

Social network has come to stay notwithstanding, youth need to strike a balance between the use of social networking sites and their studies. The study shows that youths use social networking sites for educational purpose, browse and chat in their everyday life when studies are on-going and when they ought to be doing other more profitable things, they are so gripped online in their chats. This shows great misuse of resources of time and intellect. Although this is not enough for them, some of the youths find the social networking sites as a place or space of perpetrating or committing diverse deviant activities such as sending offensive comments, nude pictures, sharing of rumors hate speech and alike. And this are carried out as a result of cyber space perfect anonymity and also because the youths believes that Nigeria is among the under developed countries that lacks the technological sophisticated machines to trace and track criminals or even some proactive strategies and measures to put in place so that to protect it since from its initial stage of occurrence.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the above findings, the following recommendations were made.

1. The relevant regulatory agencies such as the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) and the Economic Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) should collaborate with the National Orientation Agency (NAO) through campaign and awareness of public on the implications of social networking sites deviant behaviors among the general public.
2. Internet users should be careful to whom they interact in social media in order to avoid falling victims of hate speeches, offensive comments, sending nude pictures and alike on the social networking sites.
3. Internet users should stop accepting unnecessarily friends request from strangers.
4. The internet service providers (ISPs) should monitor the activities of individuals online. This will also curtail the level of youth's deviant behaviors on the social media.
5. Social networking sites deviant behaviors campaign should be taken to different villages and towns. This will ensure that young persons who are internet-savvy are discouraged from indulging into the deviant activities.
6. The mass media such as radio and television jingles should be employed by the Nigerian government to enhance more public awareness on the menace of social networking sites deviant behaviors. This will ensures that a diverse audience including non-literate people is reached. This can also be done in some major Nigerian local languages.
7. The university management should make a public lectures to their students regularly, this will reduced the level of social networking sites deviant behaviors among the youths in higher institutions of Nigeria.
8. The government should censor the use of the social media. This will curb the numerous uses of the social media to commit offensive comments and hate speeches.

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