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# **Fostering E-Education in Nigeria**

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## **Abstract**

The world has become a global village where information could be obtained just by a click. While the use of electronic device is well recognised by the social world, it is still under-utilised by academes, especially in developing countries. There is a sharp contrast in the statistics of users on social media (more than half a million on monthly basis) with those on academic media. The variance is not only reflected in online academic media but also in the acquisition and transmission of E-Information in Nigerian schools. This paper examines the quality of E-Education in Nigeria. Expanding on what the quality of E-Education entails, the overview of education without electronic facilities is analysed. The availability, usage and the impact of inculcating Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in learning also form a part of the discussion. The paper concludes with recommendations on the way forward to maximise the use of electronic facilities and improve the standard of education in Nigeria.

**Keywords:** Academic media, E-Education, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Social media.

## **Introduction**

Education as defined by Wikipedia can be said to be “*a process of facilitating learning, or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs and habits*”. The critical elements of learning are based on collaboration, communication, critical thinking and problem solving, creativity and innovation. These elements have been the bedrocks of novelty and success for the past decades in the education system.

The Education system without technology has thrived within its own capacity to maintain quality in the acquisition and transmission of knowledge at the various strata of learning in Nigerian schools. Not going far back into the decades of what education has been without electronic facilities, but considering the quality of education in the nineteenth century (19<sup>th</sup> century); the use of slates, chalkboards and dusters, pen, pencils and erasers, notebooks, folders, filing cabinets, textbooks etc. was prominent. These tools in conjunction with teacher-centered approach of learning were then sufficient to maintain the quality of education.

## **Teacher-centered Approach**

This system of learning provides the teacher with full control of the classroom and its activities. He/she directs the affairs of the class and has no worries of missing outlines and lectures been not effectively delivered. This approach was not without its defects, it gives less room for students to fully express themselves, ask questions and direct their own learning.

## **Student-centered Approach**

The pedagogy that’s emerging in this 21<sup>st</sup> century looks far beyond the teacher-centered training and focuses on the student-centered and inquiry based learning. In this approach, the interest of

the students is driven by the learning process and the teacher shifts from being the ‘*sage on the stage*’ into being a *facilitator*. This modern way of learning has the quest of amassing the widest range of technological tools that will not only be needed for information acquisition in all its multimodal forms but creatively bringing up innovations and inventions.

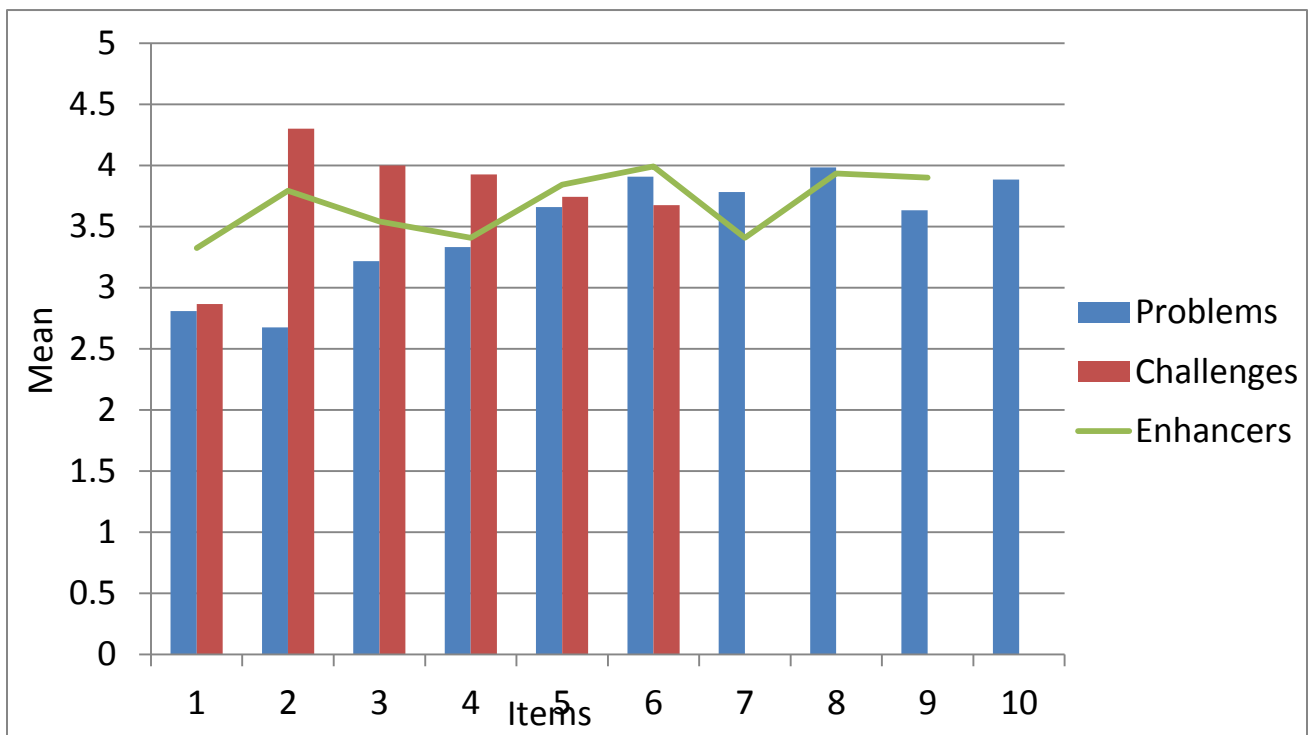
The advent of technology has made the world a global village where information could be obtained just by a click. Technology in its dynamicity is an ever evolving phenomenon which without the implementation of proper machinery; the chances of becoming obsolete and left out is imminent. Through the use of Information and Communication Technology, knowledge and information can be acquired and transmitted. Hence, the need to pay attention to the way information technology has revolutionised the education sector.

### **ICT in Nigerian School**

E-Information is one of the most educational, high-quality multimedia-enriched way of communication that enable students, tutors and lecturers learn the most pragmatic and credible skills. It is extremely sinuous and convenient, in regards to its operations from anywhere at any time. E-Education provides the academe with suppleness of using supportive electronic resources- internet facilities, interactive boards, video conferencing, videos/audios, e-documents, e-reports, mails etc. as an enhancement for learning and obtaining a complete in-depth understanding of concepts. E-Information makes education appropriate and realistic in today’s technological age by means of intuitive multi-media fortification, making studies simpler and interesting.

## Availability of Technology in Nigerian Schools

In an attempt to keep pace with the euphoria in technology, several attempts have been made in implementing technology in Nigerian schools. From a survey carried out on previous research as at 2016 shows the state of the availability of ICT in Nigerian highest institution of learning.



**Figure 1:- Response on the use of ICT in University Education in BRACED States in Nigeria according to the mean Scores Source: Adavbiele Justina Ajegbelen (2016)**

Some of the problems and challenges highlighted in the research include:

1. Low access to ICT facilities
2. Lack of consistency in power supply
3. High cost of setting up ICT infrastructures in schools
4. Appropriate rooms to house the technology and users.

5. Pedagogical issues on re-design in the mode of learning and use of ICT. (Adavbiele Justina Ajegbelen, 2016)

The research did provide means of enhancing E-Education in Nigerian schools but still not sufficient combat the problems and challenges highlighted. Hence there is the need to have a face-shift to academic media from the angle of social media.

### **Usage of Electronic Facilities in Social Media and Academic Media Social Media**

Studies suggests that when Nigerians go online(predominantly with their mobile phones) they spend much time on social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Whatsapp etc. “Sending and reading of mails, news and posting of research queries have become less important activities for Nigerians” –Seal World Technologies.

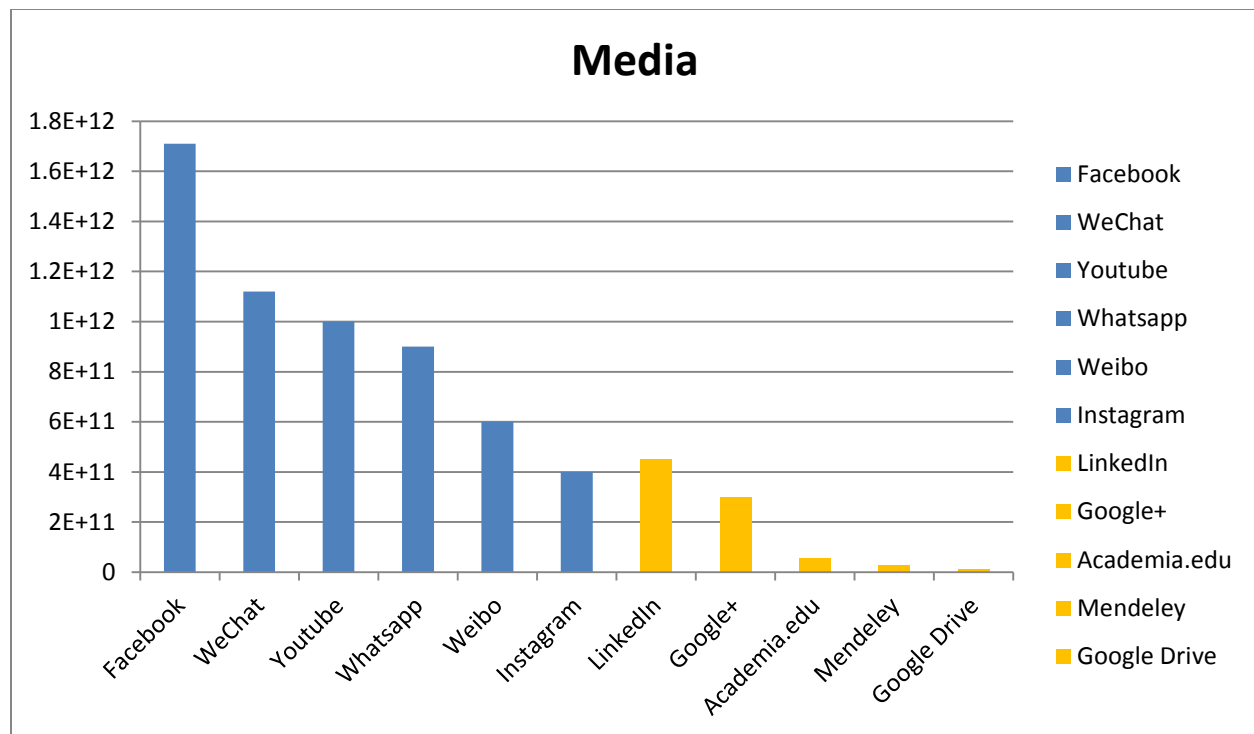
Reading is an indispensable factor that forms the foundation of greatness in everyone's life irrespective of gender, status and age. As cogent as it is for any reasonable student to pass an examination, it also serves as a basis of developing the intellect of an individual. The reading habits of students have been washed down the drain as a result of the emergence of technology and advent of social media. One of the major reason for the dwindling rate at which students read is due to the introduction of phones, computers, laptops and the wrong usage of all forms of communication technology. Social media and the use of Internet as a whole have been the major obsessions of most Nigerian youths. (InformationParlour, 2017)

**Table 1: Number of users of Social media**

<b>Social Media</b>	<b>Number of Users</b>
Facebook	1.71 billion users
WeChat	1.12billion users
Youtube	Over 1 billion users
Whatsapp	900 million users
Weibo	600 million users
Instagram	400 million users

**Table 2: Number of users on Academic media**

<b>Academic Media</b>	<b>Number of Users</b>
LinkedIn	450 million
Google+	300 million
Mendeley	2.5million
Google Drive	10 million
Academia.edu	Over 53million



**Figure 2: Social media versus Academic media**

### **Improving the Quality of E-Education**

Why should academics be using social media? Which social media should they be using?

Despite the fact that the social media is making student's academics suffer, it also have some positive contributions to education.

There are so many tools and networks that could be of potential use to scholars. Some of these media include:

- a. AutoCollage: teaching tool that uses face and object recognition to collate several images
- b. CoverItLive: Engage remote audience during lectures and events
- c. Diaspora: Another Facebook, but with better values. Though not strictly for Higher Education, but with good networking potentials

- d. Others include: Eventbrite, Evernote,, Googlescholar, instapaper, journalmap, linkedIn, Plickers, quora, Researchgate, scribd, Slideshare, Udemy etc.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

To maintain the quality and standard of Education, the rate at which academic media are being used must soar from its standing point. Not forgetting the main purpose of inculcating ICT in Education i.e. collaboration, communication, critical thinking and problem solving, and creativity and innovation.

### **References**

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