Journal of Educational Foundations and Development Vol.12, No.1, pp. 38-53, June 2024 ISSN 2476 – 8375 www.jefad.org.ng

# Social Media Obsession and Associated Deviant Behaviour among Youths in Contemporary Nigerian Society

Ibinabo Stephen Koroye, ibinabostephen@yahoo.com, 08103415709

Department of Educational Foundations, Isaac Jasper Boro College of Education, Sagbama, Bayelsa State

#### **Abstract**

The paper assessed social media obsession and associated deviant behaviour among youths in contemporary Nigerian society. Four research questions and corresponding hypotheses were answered and tested in the study. Survey research design was adopted in the study while the population comprised youths in Yenagoa Local Government Area out of which 383 youths were sampled using convenience sampling technique. The instrument used for data collection was a 15item questionnaire titled "Social Media Obsession and Deviant Behaviour among Youths Questionnaire". The questionnaire was validated by three Sociology of Education experts at University of Port Harcourt. The reliability was estimated using Cronbach Alpha Statistics and a coefficient of 0.89 was obtained. Three hundred and eighty-three copies of the questionnaire were administered out of which 372 copies (174 males and 198 females) representing 97.1% were retrieved. The research questions were answered using mean, standard deviation and logistic regression while the hypotheses were tested using z-test at 0.05 level of significance. The result of the study indicated that social media was basically used for business purpose, academic purpose and building of interpersonal relationships among the youths. The findings revealed that the deviant social media behaviour exhibited by the youths included sexting, cyberbullying, internet fraud among others. The study also revealed that ownership of social media contributed to deviant behaviour among the youths. The study showed that counselling and formulation of appropriate policies can be used to assist youths to use social media responsibly. It was recommended that counselling services should be provided for youths on how to improve their use of social media sites.

**Keywords:** Social Media, Deviant Behaviour, Youths, Counselling, Nigeria

#### Introduction

Youths make up a significant fraction of the population of the world as well as regions or countries around the world and their role in the development or otherwise of any society cannot be overemphasized. What the youths do or fail to do has a great impact on the progress of the society and as such there is the need to empower them with the right skills, values and attitude that will contribute to societal development. However, in this age of social media advancement, several of these youths who are tech savvy have become so engrossed in the use of social media that its disadvantages to them and the society now outweigh the benefits.

Alluding to this, Onuoha and Saheed (2011) as well as Al-rahmi, Othman and Musa (2014) pointed out that the utilization of social media cuts across all age groups in any society and this is predominant among young people, particularly students. The inability of some of these young people to use such technology responsibly has resulted to unimaginable obsession which has resulted to several kind of social and economic challenges. Educational and related experts are now faced with finding solutions to the adverse use of social media among these individuals.

Chukwu and Onyema (2019) noted that the whole idea of moral decadence particularly as it relates to the use of social media among young people is absurd and it remains one of the major evils against preserving the nations value systems. Young people as a result of obsession in the use of social media now exhibit different forms of anti-social behaviour which have adverse effects on them and the society. Agreeing with this stand, Onasoga, Aluko, Adegbuyi, Filade and Shittu (2020) asserted that increased access to social media has given some of these youths easy access to explicit sexual materials which they now find easy to share with some of their friends. The privacy of some of these youths have also been eroded thereby exposing them to danger. It is on this note that it becomes important to investigate social media obsession and deviant behaviour among youths in today's contemporary society.

#### **Statement of the Problem**

Social media has the potential for economic and social prosperity until when its use began to be associated with several vices such as sexting, cyberbullying, internet fraud particularly among young people. There have been several accident cases among young people on the road as a result of social media usage while some others have connected with strangers which have resulted to several forms of calamity. Parents within the family circle also have difficulties in managing their young children as a result of obsession to social media. This raises questions regarding the drivers of social media usage among youths, the ownership of social media, how it results in deviant behaviour among youths and how young people could be assisted in using it responsibly? These forms the problem which this study intends to investigate.

## Aim and Objectives of the Study

The aim of the study was to investigate social media obsession and deviant behaviour among youths in contemporary Nigerian society. Specifically, the objectives of the study were to:

## Journal of Educational Foundations and Development

- 1. determine the factors driving social media usage among youths in contemporary Nigerian society.
- 2. find out the relationship between ownership of social media and deviant behaviour among youths in contemporary Nigerian society.
- 3. identify some of the deviant behaviours exhibited by youths in contemporary Nigerian society due to social media obsession.
- 4. describe ways of assisting young people to use social media responsibly in contemporary Nigerian society.

# **Research Questions**

The following research questions were raised to guide the study:

- 1. What are the factors driving social media usage among youths in contemporary Nigerian society?
- 2. What is the relationship between ownership of social media and deviant behaviour among youths in contemporary Nigerian society?
- 3. What are some of the deviant behaviours exhibited by youths in contemporary Nigerian society due to social media obsession?
- 4. What are ways of assisting young people to use social media responsibly in contemporary Nigerian society?

## **Hypotheses**

The following hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance:

- 1. There is no significant difference between the opinion of males and females on the factors driving social media usage among youths in contemporary Nigerian society.
- 2. There is no relationship between ownership of social media and deviant behaviour among youths in contemporary Nigerian society.
- There is no significant difference between the opinion of males and females on some of the deviant behaviours exhibited by youths in contemporary Nigerian society due to social media obsession.
- 4. There is no significant difference between the opinion of males and females on ways of assisting young people to use social media responsibly in contemporary Nigerian society.

#### **Literature Review**

Deviant behaviour has no singular definition in literature like every other concept. However, as the name implies, it suggests a behaviour that deviates from acceptable societal standards. On their part, Eteng, Abang, Uchegbue and Ntamu (2021) asserted that deviant behaviour is any form of behaviour that violates the standards of conduct or expectations within a particular group or society. This means that any behaviour that negates what a group of people have agreed to be a standard within a particular entity constitutes a deviant behaviour. On the other hand, Odofin and Ofojebe (2022) pointed out that when a person's behaviour is at variance to generally acceptable norms, such a behaviour is said to be deviant. They pointed out that it is therefore a behavioural departure from what is generally acceptable in an entity such as the family, school, community, peer groups, clubs, social organizations, employment organizations, and in the large society.

Social media is also used to connote a media platform that relies on the use of the internet to connect people for social interaction irrespective of their location. Malu and Nnamdi-Eze (2023) pointed out that social media is a web application and is one of the fastest growing technology in the 21st century with wide-ranging consequent influence on the populace. This media channel has had several influence on how people interact, behave and live their day to day life. Kaplan and Haenlein (2010) pointed out that this technology builds on the ideological and technological foundations of Web 2.0 and allows the creation and exchange of user generated content by sharing, creating, discussing and modifying user generated contents.

Bertot, Jaeger and Grimes (2010) asserted that the concept of social media is based on four main pillars which are partnership, participation, enablement, and time and this makes it easy for people to influence and be influenced by it as well as develop attitudes which were previously non-existent. The implications of social media obsession especially among youths cannot be estimated. Babatunde (2016) noted that some children resort to antisocial behaviour due to their inability to cope with the academic rigours of the school and this often happens when such children are engrossed in other social activities such as social media addiction.

Despite the enormous benefits associated with the use of social media by people of different age and social orientation, social media still has some form of social and psychological effects particularly among youths. Aleke, Omaka- Amari and Obande-Ogbuinya (2018) alluded to the fact that although social media sustains human friendship and socialization processes, it is yet to satisfy

all the social desires of human beings. This is because young people in particular who are often on social media platforms for longer time end up developing behaviours that are averse to acceptable norms in the society.

The need to address this crisis cannot be overemphasized as it is gradually creating more harm than good not only for the young users but their families, organizations, nation and the society as a whole. Bolu-steve and Esere (2017) agreed that in order to forestall the unforeseen disaster that may happen as a result of these changes, there is need for the use of reinforcement which can help curb undesired behaviour among users. This means that young people must be encouraged to use social media more positively with some form of regulation and counselling in order attract more of social media benefits than its dangers among young users in the society.

Eteng, Abang, Uchegbue and Ntamu (2021) investigated social media involvement level and students' deviant behaviours in Nigerian Universities. The study is guided by a single hypothesis and research topic. In this work, survey research design was used. A questionnaire named "Media Involvement Level and Students' Deviant Behavior (MILSDEB)" was used as the data collection tool. Sixteen faculties across four universities in Nigeria's South-South geopolitical zone provided the data. There were sixty-nine thousand, one hundred fifty-two pupils enrolled. One thousand, five hundred and twenty-four pupils were selected from the population to make up the sample size. A total of 11491 copies of the questionnaire were completed and used in a satisfactory manner. To test the hypothesis at the 0.5 level of significance, data were examined using One Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA). The results showed that compared to their peers with low levels of involvement, students with high levels of involvement were considerably more deviant in terms of sexually linked deviant conduct and bullying.

Odofin and Ofojebe (2022) on their part conducted another study on relationship between social media addiction and deviant behaviour among secondary school students in Delta State. To direct the investigation, four research questions and four hypotheses were raised. For the study, a correlation research design was adopted. The tools utilized to gather data were the Deviant Behaviour Questionnaire (DBQ) and the Social Media Addiction Scale (SMAS). Internal consistency testing was done on the instruments, and the results showed reliability coefficients of 76 and 72, respectively. Regression and correlation were used to analyze the data. The findings showed a strong correlation between secondary school students' aberrant behavior and their

addiction to social media. There is no discernible link between a student's gender and their aberrant behaviour. For Delta State secondary school pupils, there is a strong link between the type of school and deviant behaviour.

On their part, Bolu-steve and Esere (2017) conducted a related study on strategies for managing deviant behaviour among in-school adolescents as expressed by secondary school counsellors in Kwara State, Nigeria. The research design method used in the study was a descriptive survey. The state's secondary school counselors were the study's target group. Seventy respondents were chosen from each of Kwara State's three senatorial districts using the purposeful sampling technique. The school counselors were given a questionnaire named "Strategies for Managing Deviant Behaviour Questionnaire." For the data analysis, both descriptive and inferential statistics were employed. The results showed that ineffective parenting is the root cause of aberrant behaviour. Also, the reinforcement technique is the main tactic counselors use to address behavioral issues. The results showed that, while considering the tactics for regulating deviant behaviour among teenagers enrolled in school, counselors' perceptions did not differ significantly based on factors such as years of service, religion, or kind of school.

Furthermore, Nwobodo and Nnadi (2018) investigated the strategies for curbing deviant behaviours among secondary school students in Udi Local Government Area of Enugu State. Three research questions and three null hypotheses served as the study's guiding questions in this descriptive survey methodology. 972 teachers who work in 25 secondary schools in the Udi Local Government Area of Enugu State make up the study's population. Ten secondary schools that were participating in the study were chosen using a simple random sampling technique, and fifteen instructors from each of the ten sampled schools were chosen using a stratified random selection technique. In all, 150 educators took part in the study. An assessment with a four-point rating scale served as the data gathering tool. The study questions were answered using mean scores, and the hypotheses were analyzed at the 0.05 level of significance using a t-test. The study's findings demonstrated that among secondary school students, drug addiction, absenteeism, and examination malpractice are examples of deviant behaviour.

#### Methodology

This study adopted a survey research design. Population of the study consisted of youths in Yenagoa Local Government Area, the capital of Bayelsa State with sufficient youths who have access to social media platforms. The sample is made up of 383 youths who were sampled using convenience sampling technique. A selection of youths was done from places where youths could be reached these places include schools, worship centres, market places and motor parks. The instrument used for data gathering was a 20-item questionnaire titled "Social Media Obsession and Deviant Behaviour among Youths Questionnaire" (SMODBYQ). The instrument had two sections with the Section A used for the collection of demographic data while the Section B contained the questionnaire items which were responded to on a four-point modified Likert scale of Strongly Agree (SA=4), Agree (A=3), Disagree (D=2) and Strongly Disagree (SD=1). The weights were summed up and divided by 4 to arrive at the criterion mean score of 2.50 which was used for decision making. The questionnaire was validated by three Sociology of Education experts. The reliability was determined using Cronbach Alpha statistics and reliability coefficient of 0.89 was obtained. Three hundred and eighty-three copies of the questionnaire were administered by the researcher with the aid of three research assistants. However, 372 copies (174 males and 198 females) representing 97.1% were retrieved. The research questions were answered using mean, standard deviation and logistic regression while the hypotheses were tested using z-test at 0.05 level of significance.

#### **Results**

**Research Question One:** What are the factors driving social media usage among youths in contemporary Nigerian society?

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics of the Factors Driving Social Media Usage among Youths in Contemporary Nigerian Society

S/No	Items	_	Male Respondents n=174		ondents	Mean Set	
		Mean $\bar{X}_1$	SD	n=198 Mean X <sub>2</sub>	SD	$X \bar{X}$	Decision
1	Membership of social groups	2.75	0.82	2.84	0.87	2.80	Agreed
2	Desire for better interpersonal relationship	2.70	0.85	2.92	0.81	2.81	Agreed
3	Parental educational and income level	2.65	0.88	2.82	0.96	2.74	Agreed
4	For research and academic purposes	2.68	0.86	2.60	0.94	2.64	Agreed
5	Promotion of business activities	2.74	0.83	2.96	0.79	2.85	Agreed
	Grand Mean and Standard Deviation	2.70	0.85	2.83	0.87	2.77	Agreed

Table 1 showed that in response to items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, the male respondents answered the questions with mean scores of 2.75, 2.70, 2.65, 2.68 and 2.74 while the female respondents answered the same set of items with mean responses of 2.84, 2.92, 2.82, 2.60 and 2.96. The various items had mean scores that exceeded the decision mean score of 2.50 which is the criterion mean score. Item 5 had the highest mean set score of 2.85 implying that the use of social media for business activities was the main factor driving social media usage among youths in Nigeria. The grand mean scores of 2.74 and 2.96 from the male and female respondents agree with the average mean set score of 2.77 to indicate that the respondents averagely agreed with the items listed as the factors driving social media usage among youths in contemporary Nigerian society.

**Research Question Two:** What is the relationship between ownership of social media and deviant behaviour among youths in contemporary Nigerian society?

Table 2: Logistic Regression Analysis on the Relationship between Ownership of Social Media and Deviant Behaviour among Youths in Contemporary Nigerian Society

		9	1 0	
		<b>Model Summary</b>		
Step	-2 Log likelihood	Cox & Snell R Square	Nagelkerke R Square	
1	$.000^{a}$	.75	50 1.	.000
a. Estima	ation terminated at iteration n	number 20 because maximum item	rations has been reached. Final solution	
cannot be	e found.			

Table 2 indicated that from the value of Cox & Snell R Square used for the logistic regression, the value of 0.750 implied the existence of a strong positive relationship between ownership of social media and deviant behaviour among youths in contemporary Nigerian society.

**Research Question Three:** What are some of the deviant behaviours exhibited by youths in contemporary Nigerian society due to social media obsession?

Table 3: Descriptive Statistics of the Deviant Behaviours Exhibited by Youths in Contemporary Nigerian Society Due to Social Media Obsession

S/No	Items	Male Respondents n=174		Female Respondents n=198		Mean Set	
		Mean $\bar{X}_1$	SD	<b>Mean</b> $\bar{X}_2$	SD	$X\bar{X}$	Decision
1	Cyberbullying is common among youths addicted to social media use	2.52	0.95	2.98	0.78	2.75	Agreed
2	Youths engage in sexting when exposed to excessive social media	2.78	0.82	2.94	0.80	2.86	Agreed

3 Some youths engage in internet fraud from prolonged socion media usage	m	0.77	2.57	0.97	2.72	Agreed
4 Bad communication style is developed from excessive socion media usage	ed	0.81	2.74	0.89	2.77	Agreed
5 The use of soci media distorts youth attentiveness		0.79	2.81	0.86	2.79	Agreed
Grand Mean an		0.83	2.81	0.86	2.78	Agreed
Standard Deviation	l					

Table 3 revealed that the male respondents answered items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 with mean scores of 2.52, 2.78, 2.86, 2.80 and 2.76 while the female respondents answered the same set of items with mean values of 2.98, 2.94, 2.57, 2.74 and 2.81. Since all of the items were above the criterion mean score of 2.50 used for decision making, they were all agreed by the respondents. The highest mean set score of 2.86 from item 2 indicated that engaging in sexting was the major deviant behaviour youths engage in on social media. The grand mean scores of 2.74 and 2.81 from the male and female respondents align with the average mean set score of 2.78 to suggest that the respondents averagely agreed with the items listed as some of the deviant behaviours exhibited by youths in contemporary Nigerian society due to social media obsession.

**Research Question Four:** What are ways of assisting young people to use social media responsibly in contemporary Nigerian society?

Table 4: Descriptive Statistics of Ways of Assisting Young People in Using Social Media

**Responsibly in Contemporary Nigerian Society** 

S/No	Items	Male Respondents n=174		Female Respondents n=198		Mean Set	
		Mean $\bar{X}_1$	SD	Mean $\bar{X}_2$	SD	$X \bar{X}$	Decision
1	Policies should be formulated to guide the use of social media	2.88	0.76	2.82	0.85	2.85	Agreed
2	Youths should be trained on the use of social media	2.90	0.75	2.92	0.81	2.91	Agreed
3	Social media software should be monitored to identify violations	2.95	0.73	2.87	0.83	2.91	Agreed

pro	inseling should be vided for healthy ial media usage	2.94	0.73	2.98	0.78	2.96	Agreed
mot	on the should be civated on how to efit from social lia	2.99	0.71	2.97	0.79	2.98	Agreed
01.	and Mean and ndard Deviation	2.93	0.74	2.91	0.81	2.92	Agreed

Table 4 showed that the response of the male respondents to items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 were 2.88, 2.90, 2.95, 2.94 and 2.99 while the female respondents answered the various questions with mean values of 2.82, 2.92, 2.87, 2.98 and 2.97 for the same set of items. Since the items all had mean responses that exceeded the criterion mean value of 2.50 used for decision making, it was implied that all the items were agreed. Item 5 had the highest mean value of 2.98 indicating that motivating youths on the right use of social media was a way of assisting youths to use social media responsibly. The grand mean scores of 2.93 and 2.91 from the male and female respondents align with the average mean set score of 2.92 to suggest that the respondents averagely agreed with the items as ways of assisting young people to use social media responsibly in contemporary Nigerian society.

**Hypothesis One:** There is no significant difference between the opinion of males and females on the factors driving social media usage among youths in contemporary Nigerian society.

Table 5: Summary of z-test Analysis on the Difference between the Mean Ratings of Male and Female respondents on the Factors Driving Social Media Usage Among Youths in Contemporary Nigerian Society

Gender	n	Mean	SD	df	z-cal.	z-crit.	Level of Significance	Decision
Male	174	2.70	0.85					
				370	1.46	1.96	0.05	Retained
Female	198	2.83	0.87					

Table 5 revealed that the value of z-cal. of 1.46 was less than the value of z-crit. of 1.96 and as such, the null hypothesis was retained revealing that there was no significant difference between the opinion of males and females on the factors driving social media usage among youths in contemporary Nigerian society.

**Hypothesis Two:** There is no relationship between ownership of social media and deviant behaviour among youths in contemporary Nigerian society.

Table 6: Significance Level on the Relationship between Ownership of Social Media and Deviant Behaviour among Youths in Contemporary Nigerian Society

	Variables not in the Equation									
			Score	df	Sig.					
Step 0	Variables	Cyberbulling	15.292	1	.000					
		Sexting	12.364	1	.000					
		Internet_Fraud	5.565	1	.018					
		Bad_Communication	16.265	1	.000					
		Lack_of_Attention	12.931	1	.000					
	Overall Sta	tistics	18.658	5	.002					

Table 2 indicated that all the significance value for cyberbullying, sexting, internet fraud, bad communication and lack of attention were below the p-value of 0.05 and this implied that there was a significant relationship between ownership of social media and deviant behaviours among Nigerian youths.

**Hypothesis Three:** There is no significant difference between the opinion of males and females on some of the deviant behaviours exhibited by youths in contemporary Nigerian society due to social media obsession.

Table 7: Summary of z-test Analysis on the Difference between the Mean Ratings of Male and Female respondents on Some of the Deviant Behaviours Exhibited by Youths in Contemporary Nigerian Society Due to Social Media Obsession

Gender	N	Mean	SD	df	z-cal.	z-crit.	Level of Significance	Decision
Male	174	2.74	0.83					
				370	0.80	1.96	0.05	Retained
Female	198	2.81	0.86					

Table 7 showed that the value of z-cal. of 0.80 was less than the value of z-crit. of 1.96 and as such, the null hypothesis was retained showing that there was no significant difference between the opinion of males and females on some of the deviant behaviours exhibited by youths in contemporary Nigerian society due to social media obsession.

**Hypothesis Four:** There is no significant difference between the opinion of males and females on ways of assisting young people to use social media responsibly in contemporary Nigerian society.

Table 8: Summary of z-test Analysis on the Difference between the Mean Ratings of Male and Female respondents on Ways of Assisting Young People to Use Social Media Responsibly in Contemporary Nigerian Society

Gender	n	Mean	SD	df	z-cal.	z-crit.	Level of Significance	Decision
Male	174	2.93	0.74	270	0.25	1.06	0.05	D ( ! 1
				370	0.25	1.96	0.05	Retained
Female	198	2.91	0.81					

Table 8 indicated that the value of z-cal. of 0.25 was less than the value of z-crit. of 1.96 and as such, the null hypothesis was retained indicating that there was no significant difference between the opinion of males and females on ways of assisting young people to use social media responsibly in contemporary Nigerian society.

## **Discussion of Findings**

The responses from the respondents of the study indicated that there were several factors that drive the use of social media among youths in contemporary Nigerian society and there was no significant difference in the opinion of the respondents on this. This finding agrees with that of Odofin and Ofojebe (2022) which showed that there was no gender difference in how youths responded to social media. This could be due to the fact that both males and females have similar needs for the use of Social Media. The response from the respondents also showed that most of the youths use social media basically for business purposes. The use of social media platforms for business purpose has no doubt continued to increase among young people who promoted their businesses using such platforms. Similarly, it was revealed that youths also used social media for the purpose of building interpersonal relationship. Some youths who feel bored either in or outside the home setting tend to use social media for the purpose of making new friends. Youths therefore use social media for the purpose of connecting with friends which meets other social, emotional and mental needs for them. The youths also revealed in their responses that those who belong to social groups are also compelled to use social media and this may be because such platforms enable members to connect with one another for personal or professional purposes. Other reasons indicated by the youths why they use social media include parental income and level of education as well as for academic purposes. It therefore suggests that youths use social media based on their

current social situation such as whether they are in school, business or any form of professional network.

The result from the data analysis equally showed that owning a social media device or platform has a very high positive effect on deviant behaviour. This means that those who owned social media are more likely to be deviant than those who do not. This may explain why Nwobodo and Nnadi (2018) found that there are several deviant behaviours that social media can result to and this study also established that these effects are very significant, meaning that they cannot be ignored.

The findings of the study also showed that there was no significant difference between the mean scores of male and female respondents on some of the deviant behaviours exhibited by youths in contemporary Nigerian society due to social media obsession. It was indicated that the major deviant behaviour that youths engage in on social media is sexting which is the use of social media for sending and receiving sexual content. This finding aligns with the result of the study by Eteng, Abang, Uchegbue and Ntamu (2021) which revealed that high usage of social media among young people resulted to higher cases of sexual misbehavior and bullying among them. The fact that youths use social media for building interpersonal relationship suggests that this may expose them to illicit sexual behaviour especially where such relations is between people of opposite sex. The respondents also agreed that youths lose attention as a result of social media obsession. This, if nor checked can result to mental health challenges. The use of social media sometimes creates distractions which result to loss of attention at work or school which can also affect performance and efficiency. It was also shown that social media obsession results to deviant behaviours such as cyberbullying where young people bully each other electronically including trolling and body shaming. The respondents also pointed out that some youths engage in internet fraud due to excessive use of social media why some develop bad communication patterns such as the use of wrong spoken and written vocabulary which are against societal values.

Responses from the youths sampled for the study showed that there are ways by which they think the issue of social media obsession can be corrected. The youths indicated that motivation on the right use of social media was the major way social media obsession can be addressed. This means that youths must be encouraged on responsible use of social media such as engaging in competition, projects and networking which has more benefits to them. They also indicated that

counselling of youths on how to use social media responsibly will also go a long way to assist them use such platforms in a more meaningful manner. Supporting this finding, Bolu-steve and Esere (2017) identified that poor parental attention results to social media addition among youths and as such, the need for counselling in addressing this cannot be overemphasized. Other intervention strategies such as training of youths on how to use social media more productively, monitoring of social media software and activities as well as formulation of policies on social media use among young people are among the recognized ways of assisting young people to use social media responsibly in contemporary Nigerian society.

#### **Conclusion**

Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that social media ownership is positively associated with certain forms of deviant behaviour. For instance, excessive use of social media could lead to exposure to harmful content, which may increase the likelihood of vices such as sexting, cyberbullying and so forth. Therefore, social media obsession is an issue that need to be addressed among youths in order to prevent further rise in antisocial behaviour among them.

#### Recommendations

The recommendations of the researcher in line with the findings of the study were as follows:

- 1. Social media censoring is imperative. There is need for the government to enact laws on the age limit for the use of social media among young people. This will make it easy for users to mature mentally, physically, emotionally and socially for the use of social media and avoid possible pitfalls.
- 2. Parents need to be more committed to the upbringing of their children as this will make it easy for them to quickly identify possible antisocial behaviours that are building among their children and ward and make it easy to correct any wrong behaviour that may be building up in them.
- 3. Social media application developers should be more determined in providing regulations that will make it difficult for underage children to use available applications and use such platforms for wrong motives which can have adverse effect on their overall development.
- 4. Counselling services should be provided for youths who have developed deviant behaviours as a result of social media obsession. This will serve as a rehabilitation therapy

to assist these youths to overcome the wrong values developed as a result of excessive obsession to social media.

#### References

- Aleke, C. O., Omaka- Amari, L. N. & Obande-Ogbuinya, N. E. (2018). Consequences of social media use among adolescents in Nigeria: *International Journal of Innovative Science and Research Technology*, *3*(4), 766-773
- Al-rahmi, W. M., Othman, M. S. & Musa, M. A. (2014). The improvement of students' academic performance by using social media through collaborative learning in Malaysian higher education: *Asian Social Science*, 10(8), 210-221
- Babatunde, A. N. (2016). *Influence of reinforcement technique in reducing students' classroom undesirable behaviours as expressed by secondary school teachers in Ilorin Metropolis, Kwara State*. Masters Dissertation submitted to the Department of Counsellor Education, University of Ilorin
- Bertot, J. C., Jaeger, P. T. & Grimes, J. M. (2010). Using ICTs to create a culture of transparency: E- government and social media as openness and anti-corruption tools for societies. *Government information quarterly*, 27(3), 264-271
- Bolu-steve, F. N. & Esere, M. O. (2017). Strategies for managing deviant behaviour among inschool adolescents as expressed by secondary school counsellors in Kwara State, Nigeria. *Inkanyiso: Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 9(1), 87-97
- Chukwu, C. C. & Onyema, C. (2019). Social media usage, moral decadence and the impact on the Nigerian family values: A critical perspective. *Global Scientific Journal*, 7(8), 874-895
- Eteng, M. E., Abang, K. B., Uchegbue, H. O. & Ntamu, B. A. (2021). Social media involvement level and students' deviant behaviours in Nigerian Universities: *European Journal of Social Sciences*, 62(4), 151-159
- Kaplan, A. M. & Haenlein, M. (2010). Users of the world, unite! The challenges and opportunities of social media. *Business horizons*, 53(1), 59-68
- Malu, D. C. & Nnamdi-Eze, N. R. (2023). Influence of social media on the performance of secondary school students in English Language in Enugu Education Zone of Enugu State: *International Journal of Education, Research and Scientific Development*, 2(1), 1-12
- Nwobodo, D. N. & Nnadi, D. N. (2018). Strategies for curbing deviant behaviors among secondary school students in Udi Local Government Area of Enugu State: *International Research Journal of Human Resources and Social Sciences*, 5(5), 110-119
- Odofin, T. & Ofojebe, E. N. (2022). Relationship between social media addiction and deviant behaviour among secondary school students in Delta State: *Journal of the Nigerian Academy of Education*, 16(2), 27-37
- Onasoga, O. A., Aluko, J. O., Adegbuyi, S. N., Filade, O. A. & Shittu, H. I. B. (2020). Influence of Social Media Use on Sexual Behaviour of Undergraduate Students in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria: *Interdisciplinary Journal of Education*, 3(2), 112-122

Onuoha, U. D. & Saheed, F. O. (2011), Perceived influence of online social networks on academic performance: A study of undergraduates in selected universities in Ogun State, Nigeria. *The Information Manager*, 11(1&2), 6-13