Amos Mathias

The Use of Social Media and the Academic Performance of Students

A Study of Taraba State University Jalingo in Nigeria

Master's Thesis

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Use of Social Media to Improve Students' Academic Performance in Nigeria: A study of Taraba State University, Jalingo

By

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DEDICATION

This research is dedicated to God Almighty and to my late Father, Rev. Amos A. Wadings.

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To God the father of our Lord Jesus Christ be the Glory.

ABSTRACT

In recent times, institutions of higher learning around the world are exploring various technologies that encourage active learning. One of such technologies is the use of social media in building learning communities. Learning communities have assisted students' learning process by means of collaboration, sharing of ideas and information in their respective subject areas. This is in accordance with the benefits of mobile technologies / ubiquitous computing, internet of a thing and emerging technologies such as web 2.0 and social networking that has captivated the attention of students globally. It is this development that has triggered this research on use of social media to improve students' academic performance in Nigeria. The study was guided by the interpretivist theoretical perspective which follows a qualitative approach. The case study method and triangulation sampling were employed for indept data collection. Interviews, online survey and observation were used as sources of primary data collection. Constant comparative analysis method was used to analyse the data. The findings revealed that Taraba State University students have access to social media, but there is no official social media platform to build learning communities for the improvement of students' academic performances in the university. Google+ was recommended as a tool that will promote the use of social media towards building learning communities for the improvement of academic performance of students in Taraba State University, Jalingo and other Nigerian universities.

***Keywords**: social media, social media in education, academic performance, facilitators of academic performance, learning community.*

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