

Comparison of the Academic Performance of Nursing Students in Imo State University and Madonna University in 2018 Nursing and Midwifery Council Examination

Chioma Ibe, Clementina Ezenwuba, Chinelo C.N. Vincent, Julia Ibebuike and Solomon Adanma J. Nwagwu

Department of Nursing Science, Faculty of Health Sciences, Imo State University, Owerri

Abstract

This study was conducted to compare the influence of social media on academic performance of nursing students in two selected tertiary institutions in Nigeria. A retrospective comparative design was adopted for the study. Relevant literatures were reviewed. The total population of the study is 1,752. Census sampling technique was employed. Data was collected from previous Nursing and Midwifery council examination results, which was analyzed and computed statistically using SPSS version 22 and presented in tables, frequency and mean scores while the hypothesis was tested using independent sample t-test at 0.5 level of significance. From the findings, the Nursing council results of students who use social media in 2018 are given as 53.19%, while students who do not use social media had 52.46%. This implies that there is statistically significant difference ($p < 0.5$) in the academic performance of students who use social media and those who do not. Based on the findings, the researchers recommended that students should be taught self-regulatory drills as part of their courses to enable them control their social media impulse, also that more research should be carried out on factors influencing the academic performance of Nursing students.

Keywords: *academic performance, nursing students, university*

Introduction

In today's society, social media have become almost indispensable part of daily life, particularly among university students who are generally heavy social media users. Little is known about how social media usage and social media multitasking influence the academic performance of university students.¹ The evaluation of internet technology has led to its use as the best medium for communication, whereby 2/3 of the world's internet population visits social network or blogging site, thus serving as a communication and connection tool. Today the internet has taken a firm place in people's lives, it is difficult to imagine a young man who at least once a day does not check for updates on social network and does not read through the news lines.

During the time spent discovering individuals for acquaintances, youngsters go into different connections and get the chance to speak with a relatively boundless number of individuals and premium gathering, with a wide range of identities, taken in a considerable measure of stories,

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have the opportunity to trade suppositions and talk about issues important to them. Therefore, users of social network in most cases are representative of younger generation.²

The internet as at today has become the most important site and source of information in the global market. Since the advent of social media sites in 1990s, assumptions insinuating that the academic performance of students is facing a lot of hiccups and negligence has been put forward in many parts of the world.³

Most students engage their time in surfing the internet and chatting on social media rather than study. Most of these students claim that social media increases their learning ability and widens their knowledge towards information access.⁴

It seems to be that since the rampant use of social media, issues like cyber bullying, depression, body shaming, anxiety, and other negative effects have been on the increase. All these indirectly affects academic performance of students. Against this backdrop, this study will examine the influence of social media on student's academic performance with specific reference to Imo State University Nursing students and Madonna University Nursing students.

Research Methodology

Research Design

The study adopted a retrospective comparative design.

Study Areas

The study was conducted in Imo State University, Owerri and Madonna University, Elele.

Population of the Study

The population of the study includes all nursing students of Imo State University, Owerri (945) and Madonna University, Elele (807) who took the nursing and midwifery council examinations in 2018. This summed up to a total of 1,752 Students. Also, past records of nursing council examination results of Imo State University and Madonna University in 2018 was used for this study.

Sample and Sampling Techniques

The breakdown is as follows:

Imo State University_ 2018 =210

Madonna University_ 2018 = 150

Instrument for Data Collection

The instrument used for data collection for this study is the past nursing and Midwifery council examination results. The nursing and Midwifery council examination was conducted yearly in every month of November and March of 2018. The hard copies of the past results of the nursing and Midwifery council examinations were collected from the exams and records, through the head of Nursing department of both institutions.

Ethical Considerations

Ethical clearance was obtained from ethical team from Imo State University, Owerri and Madonna University, Elele to conduct the research study. This was done by issuing a letter of permission to the ethical team of both institutions with purpose of the study clearly stated in the letter. Anonymity was assured. The teams reviewed the letter, thereafter, gave it an affirmative response.

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Method of Data Collection

This was done by obtaining ethical clearance from Imo State University, Owerri and Madonna University, Elele for collection of past records of nursing council examination results. Furthermore, past records of nursing and midwifery council examination results of 2018 were retrieved from both universities for analysis.

Method of Data Analysis

Data collated was filled and analyzed using statistical package for the social sciences (SPSS) version 22. Results were presented using frequency and percentage mean scores while the hypothesis was tested using independent samples t-test at 0.05 level of significance.

Inclusion Criteria

Nursing students from Imo State University, Owerri and Madonna University, Elele who took past Nursing and midwifery council examination of the year 2018 were recruited into the study. Also, past records of nursing council examination results of both Universities were included.

Results

Table 1: comparison of the academic performance of nursing students in Imo State University (those who use social media) and Madonna University (those who do not use social media) in 2018 nursing and midwifery council examination

S/N	Group	N	Percentage % mean	% mean difference
1.	IMSU (social media use)	210	53.19	
2.	MADONNA (no social media)	150	52.46	0.73

Data on table 1 show comparison between the percentage mean score of the academic performance of nursing students who use social media (Imo State University) and those who do not use social media (Madonna University) in the 2018 November/March nursing and midwifery council examinations. The results show that the nursing students who use social media had a percentage mean score of 53.19 while students who do not use social media got a mean score of 52.46. The difference in their percentage mean score is given as 0.73% which is quite negligible. This implies that the nursing students who use social media performed similarly with those who do not use social media in the 2018 nursing and midwifery council results.

Discussion

The percentage mean performance scores in question five showed that the nursing students who do not use social media performed significantly better than their counterparts who use social media in the nursing and midwifery council examinations of the students who use social media in 2018 are given as 53.19% while the nursing students who do not use social media had percentage mean

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performance scores of 52.46%. The results clearly implied that students who do not use social media have better academic performance than their counterparts who use social media.

This finding is strongly supported by the findings of Osharive⁵ who in his study on influence of social media and academic performance of Lagos State University students, found out that a high number of students were addicted to social media use which in turn affected their academic performance negatively.

Also supporting this finding are the findings of Ezeabii *et al*⁶, who in their study the influence of social media on academic performance of business education students in public universities in South-East states of Nigeria reported a high academic drop in students' performance as a result of addiction to social media and misuse of time on social media among the students.

Conclusion

The need for consistent academic success among nursing students serves as a constant in every nursing department. The implication of having nurses who are dedicated to their studies and not distracted by social media cannot be overemphasized. It is very important that caution be exercised when using social media so as to avoid incidences of addiction among the students. Social media is the order of the day especially among university students and nursing students are not left out.

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