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Utilization and Impact of Social Media in Curtailing the Spread of Covid-19 Pandemic in Nigeria

Adebambo A. Oduwole, Ph.D
[adebambo.oduwole@
oouagoiwoye.edu.ng](mailto:adebambo.oduwole@oouagoiwoye.edu.ng),
Olabisi Onabanjo University
Library, Ago -lwoye,
Ogun State

and

Olayinka Buraimo
[olayinka.buraimoh@
oouagoiwoye.edu.ng](mailto:olayinka.buraimoh@oouagoiwoye.edu.ng).
Olabisi Onabanjo University
Library, Ago –lwoye,
P.M.B. 2022
Ogun State

Abstract

This study examined the use and impact of social media in curtailing the spread of Covid-19 pandemic in Nigeria. Descriptive survey research design was adopted with a total population of 159 Librarians on the Ogun State Chapter of the Nigeria Library Association (NLA) WhatsApp group. Online questionnaire was the only instrument used for data collection. One hundred and twenty-eight (128) respondents completed the form within a period of four weeks. Responses generated were analyzed using descriptive statistics. It was gathered that all the respondents were aware of and use social media platform in Covid-19 information dissemination. Findings also revealed that social media provide adequate information about Covid-19 in Nigeria and have equally improved people knowledge about Covid-19 pandemic in the areas of taking precautionary measures against infection as well as steps needed to take if infected. In addition, social media as a medium of communication is very effective towards curtailing the spread of Covid-19 in Nigeria. The study further revealed that all the respondents have positive perception about social media as a tool towards curtailing the spread of Covid-19 in Nigeria. It was also gathered that Facebook, is the most informative social medium as far as dissemination of Covid-19 related information is concerned. Aside from the above librarians also make use of social media to get connected with family, friends, get information on happening within librarianship, around the world amongst others. Hence, social media proved to be informative and educating about Covid-19 pandemic prevention and control. Therefore, the government at the federal, state and local government levels needs to embark on aggressive advocacy using social media platform such as Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp among others to disseminate information to the general populace about covid-19 and ensure such disseminated information are adequate, correct and reliable.

Keywords: Social Media, Information, Covid-19 Pandemic, Online Survey, Olabisi Onabanjo University, Nigeria.

1.1 Introduction

Generally, what motivate the interest of the researchers of this study was that, millions of researches have been conducted on Covid-19 across every discipline and in

relation to every facet of live but, there is paucity of literature on what role social media play towards curtailing the spread of Covid-19 pandemic in Nigeria. Though, study on Covid-19 is recent in literature of which

researchers across globe have conducted studies related to perception, Attitude, knowledge, awareness, preventive measure among others on Covid-19 and other related issues. Similarly, researchers have even studied its economic, political and social implication whereas no single studies in Nigeria have looked into whether social media have played any significant roles towards controlling/curtailing the spread of this deadly virus. Rather, some authors have pointed out the role of social media in relation to misinformation, fake news, and political propaganda among others (Shafi & Ravikumar, 2018; Apuke & Omar, 2020; Ali, Khalid & Zahid, 2021, Akinwale&Onokala, 2022). Hence, the need for the study. Covid-19 as the name implies is a corona virus disease that was first discovered in Wuhan, China sometimes late December 2019 (Holshue, DeBolt, Lindquist, Lofy, and Wiesman et al., 2020). In less than two to three months after, it has becomes pandemic as a result of the rapid spread of the diseases to over 73 countries worldwide of which Nigeria is not left out (Mantwill, Monestel-Umaña and Schulz; 2015, World Health Organization, 2020 and Hussain, 2020).

As far as covid-19 in concern, it is been transmitted from one person to another with the same symptoms such as coughing, sneezing, high temperature, difficulty in breathing amongst others Laban and Laban (2020) and Donlop, Howe, Li and Allen, (2020). According to Yang, Zheng , Gou , Pu and Chen et al (2020), this virus has been found to have no specific treatment or cure in terms of vaccine because it is still new and are such, scientists globally are working tirelessly towards finding the lasting solution towards its cure. Similarly, it was gathered that this virus spreads on the average of one infected person to two or more person depending on how close an infected person is to other non-infected person Paasche-Orlow, Parker, Gazmararian, Nielsen-Bohlman and Rudd et

al (2015). Moreso, it was reported by [Assiri](#), Al-Tawfiq, Al-Rabeeah, Al-Rabiah, Al-Hajjar and Al-Barrak et al, (2013) and Laban and Laban (2020) that Coronavirus is transmitted majorly by respiratory droplets that people touch and get in contact with through the touching of one eye, nose or ear, also through sneeze, cough, or exhale. The need to take adequate measure about the virus therefore was as a result of the fact that it can adapt and survive for many hours on contact with object like tables or any metal object (O'Connor, Arvanitis, Wismer, Opsasnick, Sanchez and Muñoz et al 2019).

With this epistemological findings about this deadly virus, coupled with the resultant increases in total number of confirmed and death cases resulted from Covid-19 all over the world, many countries of the world start immediate lockdown process and made it mandatory for its people to stay at home with no movement of any kind in order to curtail the spread of this deadly virus. As at April 11, 2021, not less than 135,057,587 people around the world have been infected, with an estimated 2,919,932 deaths (WHO, 2021). Coupled with this, effort and guidelines were also put in place to adequately informed people about step they need to take so as not to contact this deadly virus (Covid-19). It is surprising to note that despite all the effort put in place to curtail the spread of Covid-19, the total confirmed and death cases of Covid-19 keep on increasing at alarming rate. On 27th February, 2020, for example, the first case of COVID-19 was reported in Nigeria since the outbreak in December, 2019 at Wuhan in China (Nigeria Centre for Disease Control, 2020). This was followed by gradual and incessant increase in the number of confirmed and death cases of Covid-19(NCDC, 2020).

This forced the Federal government of Nigeria to take some preventive and precautionary measures in controlling and safeguarding the interest and well-being of

people against COVID-19 pandemic. For this, in March 30th, 2020, total lockdown took effect in Nigeria and yet, cases on Covid-19 continue to rise (NCDC, 2020). As at August 2, 2020, the total confirmed and death cases of Covid-19 in Nigeria were 43, 840 and 888 respectively compared to that of 1st of April 2020 which stood at 135 confirmed cases and 2 deaths (NCDC, 2020). As at 12th August 2020, the total confirmed and death cases of Covid-19 in Nigeria were 47, 290 and 958 respectively compared to that of 2nd April 2020. This is about 92% increase in total confirmed and death cases of Covid-19 in less than a week in Nigeria. Again, as at April 16, 2021, the number has reached about 164,000, with an estimated 2,061 deaths (NCDC, 2021). From the statistics above, it can be deduced without any doubt that there is an exponential increase in cases of Covid-19 in Nigeria which need urgent attention and intervention. Within this context of physical threat, social and physical distancing, regular washing of hands with soap, use of hand sanitizer amongst other precautionary measures, one cannot jettison the positive impact social media have played in the lives of individual, social and societal levels at large.

Today, social media platform have been considered credibly as powerful mean of sharing information to people due to it easy access, speed of reach, and penetration which give rise to over 2.9 billion individuals of its usage at a time (Clement, 2019). This is why Akinwale and Onokala (2022) affirmed that social media are critical to information gathering and dissemination processes, especially during public health crises. Thus, the rate at which social media can be harnessed to optimally support emergency response, resilience, and preparedness in pandemic time like this is not well understood. Moreso, as important social media is towards information dissemination, it is therefore not certain whether information received are of benefit in

assisting the populace to take positive measures as laid down by Government and other directive agency on Covid-19. Therefore, to curtail further spread of Covid-19 in Nigeria even after relapsing the lockdown, there is need for undiluted social media proliferation on attitude, awareness, precaution and preventive measures for better healthy living. It is based on the above that this study was design to investigate the utilization and impact of Social media in curtailing the spread of COVID-19 pandemic in Nigeria.

1.2 Objective of the Study

The broad objective of this study is to examine the utilization and impact of social Media in curtailing the spread of Covid-19 pandemic in Nigeria. Specifically, this study seeks to:

- i. Investigate the awareness and use of social media among Librarians in Ogun State.
- ii. Investigate the purposes of using social media among Librarians in Ogun State.
- iii. Examine the role of social media on information about Covid-19 in Nigeria.
- iv. Find out the level of belief people have about information they receive on social media about Covid-19.
- v. Investigate the impact of social media in curtailing the spread of Covid-19 in Nigeria.
- vi. Find out the attitudinal change of people about Covid-19 as a result of social media information.
- vii. To access the type of social media that appeal to people most about Covid-9 pandemic in Nigeria.
- viii. Find out the level of precautionary measure people take about Covid-19 through information they receive on social media.

2.1 Literature Review

Study on social media and it impact on

Covid-19 have been well documented. For instance, Molla (2020) emphasized that as COVID-19 begin to spread from its origin (Wuhan, China), individual who are ICT incline and have mobile phone that are connected to the internet turn to social media to get fact and necessary information about the virus. The author further stressed that within 2 days of web browsing, about 19 million people talk about COVID-19 and what they are experience and what people need to know about the virus. Furthermore, Hamassed, Kakashekh, Saud and Bahrami (2020) investigate the impact of Social Media on Panic during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Iraqi Kurdistan. According to the authors, it was concluded through the result of ordinary least square (OLS) that social media has a significant role in affecting the people during the COVID-19 crisis.

Moreover, Lima, Lopes and Brito (2020) on whether social media is a friend or foe in this time of COVID-19 pandemic. The authors' emphasized that social media is very important to wrestle against pandemic. According to the authors, it was also stated that the use of social media on any critical situation is not only to obtain information and be updated about it, but also to understand the kind of information in order to take a proactive measures for one's benefit. The authors also indicated that social media is helpful in educating people. For instance, during the Covid-19 lockdown around the world, researchers conducted conferences and seminar using webinars online on COVID-19 as well as gathering data online using social media platform on information they need to know about Covid-19. In support of the above, Tworek (2020) indicated that the use of communications devices such as twitter in a public health crisis is as paramount as medical intercession. According to the author, social media as a communication tools we have now, were not available some years back and therefore we need to utilize its existence

wisely to overcome any pandemic such as Covid-19. In addition, it was also stressed that the use of social media platform like facebook, twitter, etc provide useful link or website such as World Health Organization (WHO) where authentic information can be read and digest (Merchant and Lurie; 2020).

Hussain (2020) investigate the roles of social media during covid-19 pandemic in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. According to him, both the mass media such as radio, television as well as social media like facebook, twitter, whatsapp amongst others have play enormous role during the pandemic. For instance, the author stressed that media generally have adequately informed people about Covid-19 and have equally improve their knowledge, attitude and perception about the deadly virus. Equally, Ahmad and Murad (2020) in an online questionnaire study about the impact of social media on covid-19 pandemic in Kurdistan, Iraqi. It was stated categorically that social media play a significant role towards covid-19 pandemic (such roles includes: informative, communicating, and educating among others). It was further stressed that in all the social media studied, facebook were the most informative social media about Covid 19-pandemic. Ahmad and Murad(2020) further affirmed through a correlational analysis that positive significant correlation exist between social media utilization and the spread of panic related to Covid-19.

Similarly, in the work of Cellan-Jones (2020) on whether social media spread information about the virus or not, the author affirmed that during the Covid-19 pandemic apart from some misinformation about social media on Covid-19 that create fear and panic to people, it is equally a fact that cannot be neglected that more people still depend on social media to get relevant information and truth about COVID-19. In support of the above, Mejia, Ticona, Rodriguez-Alarcon, Campos-Urbina, and Catay-Medina et al (2020) carried out a study on informative role

of media during the period of Coronavirus Disease 2019(COVID-19). According to them, media play a positive role toward disseminating necessary information during period of Covid-19 pandemic which is ravaging the whole world. In addition, Liu (2020) also indicated that digital media like social media, mobile social networking apps among others were important parameter that encouraged people towards direct or indirect preventive behavior. According to the author, getting information that is related to COVID-19 on social media was said to influence preventive and responsive positive behaviors among people. The author further concluded that though information consumption about covid-19 on digital media (social media, MSNs etc.) during viral outbreak could aid fears and worried in mind of individuals but the aftermath effect will lead to increase preventive positive behaviors.

Consequently, Gralinski and Menachery (2020) stressed that media is very important in giving up to date information about any pandemic situation as well as improving their level of knowledge, awareness, and practices In another dimension, Gralinski and Menachery (2020) and Ippolito,Hui, Ntoui, Maeurer and Zumla (2020) affirmed that media plays a key role in communication among different categories of individuals and base on their profession towards effective and quick worldwide response. On the issues of utilisation of social media, Omini and Alayande (2019) stressed that most academic librarian make use of Facebook and Blogs in promoting library resources and services in the libraries as well as getting other relevant information needed. Likewise, Quadri and Idowu (2016) assessed the use of social media for information dissemination in Nigeria academic Library. According to them, the researcher found out that there is high level of awareness and utilization of social media among librarian. The authors further affirmed

that social media like facebook, twitter amongst others were the most useful tool or information dissemination and absorption. Lastly, Agim, Oraekwe, Chivuzo, and Emenari (2020) investigated the librarians' use of Social Media in propagating health Information on COVID-19 in Nigeria. The theoretical paper made a critical submission that librarians can support the health practitioners in playing significant roles towards disseminating useful information about Covid-19 pandemic to the public. According to them, effective social media like facebook, Whatsapp, 2go, LinkedIn, Instagram, YouTube amongst others can be utilize by the librarians across Nigeria in educating people towards maintaining precautionary measures as regard contacting the deadly virus. In addition to the above Ladan, Haruna, and Madu (2020) examined the role of libraries and library associations in information dissemination about COVID-19 Pandemic and Social Media News in Nigeria. According to them, libraries and library associations have been set aside as very important social organisation in provision of indisputable information and broadcasting. Therefore, they call on all librarians to rise and support in the fighting against Covid-19 pandemic that is ravaging the whole world through authentic social media propagations.

3.1 Research Methodology

This study adopted the survey research design of expo-facto type. The study population comprised of 159 Librarians in Ogun State Chapter of Nigerian Library Association (NLA) WhatsApp group. Because the population is not too large to cover, and in conjunction with the nature of the study (Online Questionnaire Survey), total enumeration sampling techniques was adopted. Hence, the sample for this study is 159 Librarians. A structured questionnaire named, 'Online Social Media survey COVID-19 Response Scale' (OSM-19RS) was used as

the instrument for data collection. The questionnaire was divided into two sections. Section A was based on demographic details while Section B was structured in such a way that provides answer to the research objective formulated for testing. The questionnaire was validated by experts in Department of Computer Science and Social and Management Science, Olabisi Onabanjo University, Nigeria. The questionnaire was sent online and response rate was activated for

a period of four weeks (a month) after which the response rate was deactivated to allow for data collation. At the time lapse, a response rate of one hundred and twenty eight (128) were retried and downloaded which give rise to 80.5% rate of return. The downloaded data from excel worksheet was later import to SPSS version 21.0 for windows and was analysed using descriptive statistics (simple percentage and multiple bar chart).

4.1 Data Analysis, Interpretation and Discussion of Findings

Table 1: distribution of Respondents by Demographic Information

Parameters	Frequency(f)	Percentage (%)
<i>Gender</i>		
Male	67	52.3
Female	61	47.7
Total	128	100.0
<i>Age Group</i>		
Below 30 years	2	1.6
30-40 years	39	30.5
41-50 years	53	41.4
51-60 years	30	23.4
Above 60 years	4	3.1
Total	128	100.0
<i>Marital Status</i>		
Single	33	25.8
Married	95	74.2
Total	128	100.0
<i>Educational Level</i>		
BLS Equivalent	15	11.7
MLS/ Equivalent	86	67.2
Doctorate Degree	27	21.1
Total	128	100.0
<i>Employment Status</i>		
Assistant Librarian or Below	11	8.6
Librarian II - Librarian I	50	39.1
Senior Librarian - Principal Librarian	41	32.0
DUL - UL	26	20.3
Total	128	100.0

Table 1 present the distribution based on demographic distribution of respondents. Findings revealed that male gender dominated the study population as majority of the study population were between 41-50 years of age. This was followed by age group 30-40 years and the least age group were ages 30 years or less as indicated by 1.6 % of the total population. In terms of marital status, majority were married while MLS degree/equivalent dominated the study population. Consequently majority of about 39.1% of the total population were within the Librarian II and Librarian I Cadre while only about 32.0% were within Senior Librarian and Principal Librarian Cadre. In the like manner, 8.2% were assistant librarian cadre or less while 20.3% were within the Deputy University Librarian and university Librarian Cadre.

Objective 1: To investigate the awareness and use of social media among Librarians

Table 2: Awareness and use of Social media among Librarians

Parameters	Awareness of Social Media		Use of Social Media	
	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	128	100.0	128	100.0
No	0	0.0	0	0.0
Maybe	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	128	100.0	128	100.0

Table 2 present the awareness and utilization of Social media among Librarian in Ogun State, Nigeria. It was gathered that 128(100.0%) of the respondents were aware and make use of social media and 0(0.0%) were not while 0(0.0%) were uncertain. This indicated that majority of the sample audience were aware of social media as well as making use of social media platform.

Figure 1: Multiple Bar Chart showing the type of social media the Librarians was aware and makes use of

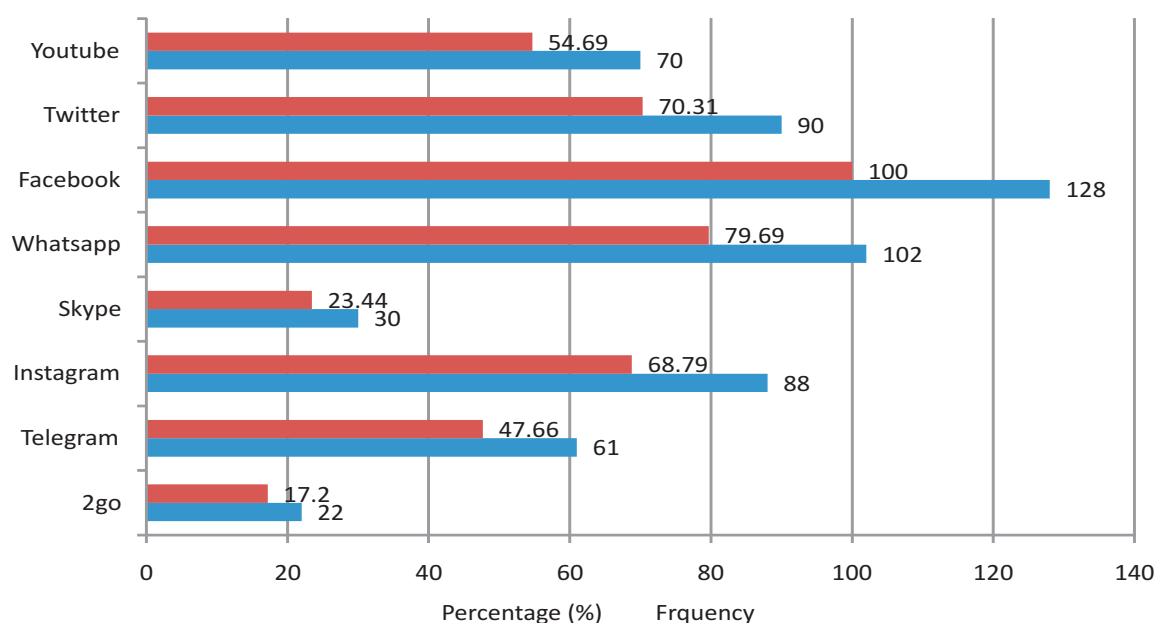


Figure 1 above present a simple bar chart showing the type of social media the librarian aware and make use of. Findings indicated that 17.2% of the respondents were aware of 2go and also make use of it, 47.66% were aware of telegram, 68.79% were aware of Instagram, 23.44% were aware of Skype, 79.69 % were aware of Whatsapp, 100.0% were aware of Facebook and 70.31% were aware of twitter while 54.69% were aware of YouTube. The most social media that most librarians claimed to aware and make use of include: Whatsapp, Facebook, twitter, YouTube, and Instagram.

Objective 2: Examine the purpose of social media utilization among Librarian in Ogun State, Nigeria

Table 3: Purpose of Social Media Utilization

Purposes	Yes		No	
	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Get connected with happening in librarianship	118	92.20	10	7.80
To get first hand information around the world	126	98.44	2	1.56
To get connected with friends, families and relatives	128	100.0	0	0.0
To get connected with online workshop , seminar, conferences etc	99	77.34	29	22.66
To disseminate minutes of meetings and reports	80	62.50	48	37.50
To share file, and necessary information with vendors and publishers	71	55.47	57	44.53
For knowledge sharing	88	68.75	40	21.25
To support r esearch within and outside my work domain	95	74.22	33	25.78

Result in table 3 indicates the purpose of social media utilization among Librarian. Findings revealed that librarians make use of social media for diverse purposes. For instance, findings of this study revealed that they make use of social media to get connected with happening within librarianship (92.2%) , to get first hand information around the world (98.44%), to get connected with friends, families and relatives (100.0%) , to get

connected with online workshop , seminar, conferences etc (77.34%) , to disseminate minutes of meetings and reports (62.5%) , to share file, and necessary information with vendors and publishers (55.47%) , for knowledge sharing (68.75%) and to support research within and outside the work domain (74.22%)

Objective 3: Examine the role of social media on information about Covid-19 in Nigeria

Table 4: Role of Social media on Information about Covid-19

Statement	Yes		No	
	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Social media provide adequate information about Covid-19 pandemic	121	94.5	8	5.5
Social media has improved people knowledge about Covid-19 pandemic	122	95.3	6	4.7
Enable one to take adequate precautionary measure about the Virus	122	95.4	6	4.6
Social media make people to comply with directives on covid-19 pandemic (E.g. Social distancing, Use of hand sanitize noise mask usage etc)	122	95.4	6	4.6
Social media played the role of misinformation about Covid-19 pandemic	20	15.6	108	84.4
Trend in Covid-pandemic in Nigeria would have increase more than expected if not its awareness through social media	99	77.3	29	22.7

Table 4 present the descriptive statistics showing the role of social media on information about Covid-19 in Nigeria. Findings indicated that about 94.5% of the audience surveyed stressed that social media such as Facebook, Whatsapp, Twitter, amongst others provide people with adequate information about Covid-19 pandemic. Similarly, findings also revealed that about 95.3 % of the study population indicated that the use of social media improved their knowledge about Covid-19 pandemic. Also 95.4% also agreed with the statement that social media information about Covid-19 pandemic enable them to take adequate precautionary measure about the Virus.

Moreover, the above findings also indicated that improvement in the use of hand sanitizer, noise mask, regular washing of hand with soap and water had been made possible due to information they receive on social

media about Covid-19 pandemic. This also stressed with the fact that people comply with Covid-19 directives as stipulated by government and its agencies. Despite believe of some people that social media misinforming people about Covid-19, findings of this study indicated that about 84.4 of the sample population disagreed with such assertion. Consequently, findings also indicated that though the trend in Covid-19 in Nigeria is on the high side, but would have been on the increase more than expected if not for intervention of social media that give more awareness to millions of people daily.

Four: To find out the level of belief people have about information they receive on social media about Covid-19.

Table 5: Descriptive statistics showing people level of belief about Covid-19 information they receive through social

Parameter	Frequency	Percent
Very High	39	30.5
High	79	61.7
Low	10	7.8
Total	128	100.0

The above presents the descriptive statistics showing people level of belief about Covid-19 information they receive through social media. Findings showed that 39 representing 30.5% indicated “Very high “, and 79 representing 61.7% indicated “High” while 10 representing 7.8% indicated “Low”. By implication people have high level belief about Covid-19 information through social media platform.

Five: To investigate the impact of social media in curtailing the spread of Covid-19 in Nigeria. Table 6(a): Impact of social media in curtailing the spread of Covid-19 in Nigeria.

parameter	Frequency	Percent
Positive	117	91.4
Negative	9	7.0
No impact	2	1.6
Total	128	100.0

Table 6(a) showed that social media play a positive impact towards curtailing the spread of Covid-19 in Nigeria as indicated by 91.4%. By implication, it means that social media is

not only an entertaining platform, but it's also deals with information dissemination, communication, education among others.

Table 6(b): Perception of the impact of social media in curtailing the spread of Covid-19 in

Statement	Yes		No	
	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Social media have done a lot towards reducing the incidence of Covid-19 in Nigeria and all over the world	123	96.1	5	3.9
There is a significant impact of social media towards curtailing the spread of Covid-19	120	93.8	8	6.2

On the perception of people towards the impact of social media in curtailing the spread of Covid-19 in Nigeria, it was gathered that social media have done a lot towards reducing the incidence of Covid-19 in Nigeria and all over the world as indicated by 96.1%. Findings further revealed that there is a significant impact of social media towards curtailing the spread of Covid-19 as indicated by 93.8%. In a nut shell, the above stressed that Nigeria has a positive perception and belief about the impact of social media in curtailing the spread of Covid-19 in Nigeria.

Six: To investigate the attitudinal change of people about Covid-19 as a result of social media information

Table 7: Attitudinal change due to social media information

Statement	SA		A		D		SD	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
I always comply with the laid down guideline from social media on social distancing techniques	30	23.4	87	68.0	9	7.0	2	1.6
As result of information gathered about Covid-19 pandemic through social media I make sure I use my face mask regularly	46	35.9	72	56.3	10	7.8	0	0.0
As result of information gathered about Covid-19 pandemic through social media I make sure I wash my hand regularly	49	38.3	67	52.3	12	9.4	0	0.0
Due to information heard on Social media, I desist from going out when it is not very important	43	33.6	71	55.5	14	10.9	0	0.0

Table 7 present the descriptive statistics showing the attitudinal change of people about Covid-19 as a result of social media information. Findings revealed that, as a result of what people see and heard about social media reportage on Covid-19 pandemic, majority desist from going out when it is not very important, people wash their hand regularly, they make use of face mask and above all, they followed the laid down guideline by NCDC (Nigeria Centre for Disease and Control) about the Covid-19.

Seven : To access the type of social media that appeal to people most about Covid-9 pandemic

Figure 2: Multiple Bar chart showing the social media that appeal to people most about Covid-9 pandemic in Nigeria

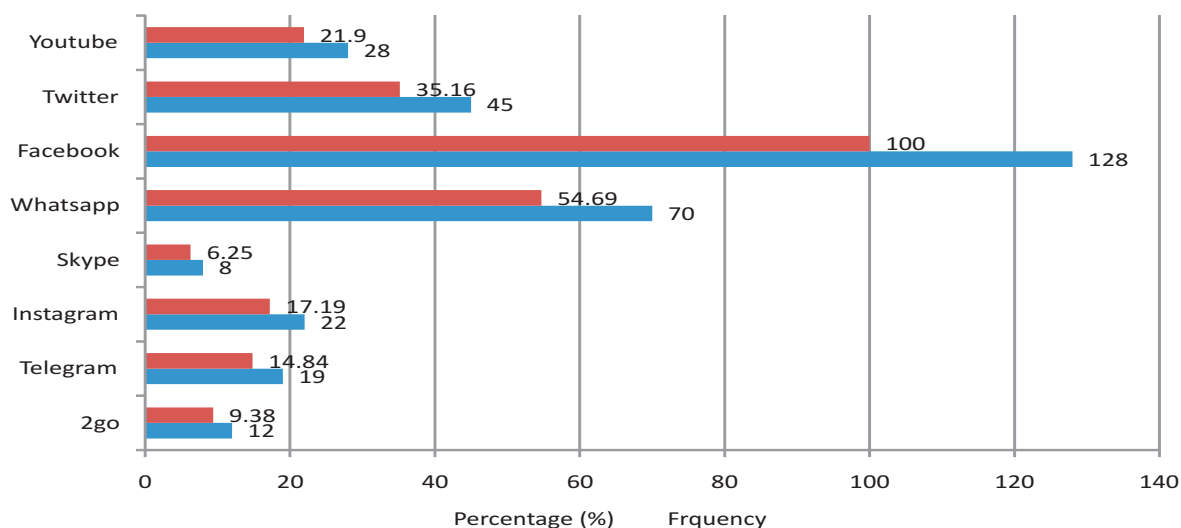


Figure 2 present a simple bar chart showing the media that appeal to people most about Covid-19 pandemic in Nigeria. Findings reveal that facebook was the most social media platform that appeals to people about Covid-19 pandemic in Nigeria (100.0%). This was followed by Whatsapp (54.7%) then by twitter(35.16%). The least media that appeal to people about covid-19 pandemic in Nigeria was Skype and 2go.

Eight: To find out the level of precautionary measure people take about Covid-19 through information they receive on social media.

Table 8: Level of precaution on Covid-19 through information gathered on social media

Parameter	Frequency	Percent
Very High	45	35.2
High	73	57.0
Low	10	7.8
Very Low	0	0.0
Total	128	100.0

The above presents the descriptive statistics showing the level of precaution people take concerning Covid-19 through information they gathered on social media. Findings showed that 45 representing 35.2% indicated “Very high “, 73 representing 57.0% indicated “High” and 10 representing 7.8% indicated “Low” while 0 representing about 0.0% indicated” Very Low”. By implication people take high level of precaution concerning Covid-19 through information they received from social media

5.1 Discussion of Findings

Result of the findings of this study indicated that majority of the sample population were aware and make use of social media like Whatsapp, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram. Twitter among others. This is not surprising because since inception of the above mentioned social media, the rate at which people make use of them on daily basis was on the high side. This was in line with the work of Quadri and Idowu (2016) and Omini and Alayande (2019). According to them, most academic librarians were aware and make use of social media like facebook, twitter whatsapp among others for information dissemination, meeting with friend and families, get connected with happening within librarianship and around the world , get first had information as soon as possible amongst others. The above corroborate with the work of Omini and Alayande (2019) and Agim, Oraekwe, Chivuzo, and Emenari (2020). According to them, social media is use for communicating and educating purposes. In

addition, findings of this study also indicated that the sample size audience makes use of social media for diverse purposes. This includes: getting connected with family, friends, get information on happening within librarianship, around the worlds, for online training and workshop amongst others. Similarly, findings indicated that social media is informative, it improve people knowledge about Covid-19 pandemic, it assist people to take adequate precautionary measures such as use of use of hand sanitizer, use of noise mask, regular washing of hand with soap and water amongst others, The above were in line with the work of Merchant and Lurie (2020) and Mejia, Ticona, Rodriguez-Alarcon, Campos-Urbina, and Catay-Medina et. al. (2020) who affirmed that social media like facebook, twitter provide useful information it time of pandemic. Also, findings were in line with that of **Hussain (2020)** who pointed out that social media is informative and also, it gives people more knowledge about Covid-19 pandemic. Cellan-Jones (2020) and Gralinski and Menachery (2020) also stressed that people depend on social media to get information about Covid-19.

Findings also indicated that people have high level of belief about Covid-19 as a result of information they gathered through social media. This correlated with the work of Lima, Lopes and Brito (2020) who concluded that social media is helpful in educating people in other to improve their level of usage, perception and belief. The findings also corroborate with that of Agim, Oraekwe, Chivuzo, and Emenari (2020) who affirmed

that in trying to support health practitioners towards propagating information about Covid-19 in Nigeria, the authors specifically mentioned that librarians can make use of effective social media like Facebook, Whatsapp, 2go etc to educate people and to pass across useful information.

Findings also indicted that there is a significant impact of social media towards curtailing the spread of Covid-19. This goes in line with the work of Mejia, Ticona, Rodriguez-Alarcon, Campos-Urbina, and Catay-Medina et. al. (2020) and Agim, Oraekwe, Chivuzo, and Emenari (2020). According to them, social media play a positive role toward disseminating necessary information during period of Covid-19 pandemic. Also, finding corroborate with the work of Hamassed, Kakashekh, Saud and Bahrami (2020) who said that social media has a significant role in affecting the people during the COVID-19 crisis.

In addition, findings of this study proofed that social media has effect on the attitude of people towards Covid-19. The above were in line with that of Gralinski and Menachery (2020) and Ippolito, Hui, Ntoumi, Maeurer and Zumla (2020) who indicated that media play a key role towards effective and quick worldwide response. Also, findings showed that facebook as social media platform was the most effective social media that appeal to people about Covid-19 is concern. This corroborate with the findings of Ahmad and Murad (2020) who stressed that in all the social media that relate information to people about Covid-19, facebook was the most informative during the pandemic time.

Findings of this study further showed that people take high level of precaution concerning Covid-19 through information they receive from social media. This went in line with the work of Liu (2020) who affirmed that social media encouraged people towards direct or indirect preventive behavior. The author further concluded that getting

information that is related to COVID-19 on social media influence preventive and responsive positive behaviors among people.

Conclusion

In conclusion, these studies have stressed the importance of social media in communicating useful information about Covid-19 pandemic. It is therefore believe that its roles towards curtailing the spread of Covid-19 cannot be over estimated. In this regard, the use of social media should be tailored towards information dissemination than entertainment. By doing so, more people can get fact they needed at any given period and most especially during pandemic period. Not only that, there is need for regulating bodies whose sole responsibilities are to filter social media information most especially in the area of health related issues like Covid-19, Ebola, HIV amongst other before allowing it to get to the general public. By so doing all of such information could be seen as fact rather than rumor, misinformation or political propaganda.

Recommendations

In line with the findings of this study, it is hereby recommended that:

- i. Government at all should therefore as a matter of urgency harness all available social media platform to communicate and propagate useful information to people about Covid-19 pandemic. This is because statistics have shown that billions of people worldwide go online to source for information they needed.
- ii. Similarly, social media have been found to be helpful in this time of Covid-19, it is therefore recommended that the tariff rate for getting information should be reduce so that people can have what it takes to get needed information.
- iii. A special social media site should be created worldwide and be made free of

- use for purpose of communicating an emergency related cases to people.
- iv. Information about Covid-19 should be communicated mostly to people on Facebook and Whatsapp media. This is because, this is the most common media that appeal to people mostly about Covid-19 pandemic in this study.
 - v. People should also be directed to social media platform where they can get useful information about Covid-19. This can be done by simply passing across text messages to phone number of people for further directive.
 - vi. It is equally recommended by World Health Organization (WHO) should be linked directly to all social media platform to filter health related issues before dissemination.
 - vii. People should not see social media as platform for misinformation or political propaganda when it comes to health related cases. Rather they should adhere to guidelines and messages therein before complain because precaution is better than cure.
 - viii. While disseminating online information, librarians as information manager should make sure they get accurate fact in whatever information they are propagating online before doing so. Through this, they will be recognized as fact carriers of authentic information today and forever.

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