



## Social Networks as Correlates of Violence among Secondary School Students in Sokoto Metropolis: Implications for Stem Education in Nigeria

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**Abstract:** The paper focused on the social networks as correlates of violence among secondary school students in Sokoto metropolis: implications for stem education in Nigeria. The population consists of all the senior secondary school students in Sokoto metropolis, 361 respondents were selected using research advisor 2006, with descriptive correlational research design. Researchers designed questionnaire titled social networks and violence among youth, frequency, percentages and Pearson product moment correlation coefficient were used in analyzing the data for the study. Findings revealed that there is significant relationship between social networks and violence among secondary school students in Sokoto metropolis, some recommendations were made to include; Secondary school teachers should monitor and stop their students from using social networks in schools through enforcing laws that would aimed at stopping students from using handset always as well as regulating their access to internet.

**Key Words:** Social Network, Violence and Education

### Introduction

Violence is seen as the act of threat or using physical, emotional or verbal power to intimidate, humiliate or physically injured anyone within the circle. (Ogbuka, 2003). Thus, it encapsulates all forms of family squabbles, physical combat between parents, parents-children conflict, sibling bitterness and rivalry, students-teacher conflict, teachers-school authorities' conflict, political, religious as well as peer group conflict, all of which spring from families, schools and extend to the society. The effect of violence is always reflected in the life of the society. This also explain the genesis of various riots we experience, the high rate of broken homes, and increase in juvenile delinquency, turning the society into a den of all social vices. The people disrupting the peace of the society through violent behaviors have their sources, they do not just drop down from the sky, but rather from violence experienced from some social networking, in the homes, schools and society. It can also be learnt, over a period of time, perhaps from the childhood.

World health organization (WHO, 2002), defines violence as the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened against oneself and another person, or against a group of people or community that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, physical defect or deprivation. Since the last decade, there have been reported cases of violence on Nigerian students such as torture, kidnapping, shooting, sexual harassment, rape, corporal punishment and so on. Imam (2002), described violence as the application of which injures or hurts people. According to article 1 of the declaration of the UN General assembly, violence against secondary school students includes any act of gender-violence that result in or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivations of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life (UN General Assembly, 2006). Another form of violence among secondary school students is Ethnic Violence therefore implies the physical, psychological and moral violence inflicted on individual which is meant to the community as a whole specifically the identify group of which that individual is a member.

Due to the devastating nature of the violence, there are several existing types of violence as highlighted by UNICEF (2007), which revealed that there are existing types of violence in schools and society in general especially among secondary school students, which include physical, psychological, sexual, gender based and health based violence. The report went ahead to states that physical violence has the highest percentage occurrence in Nigeria with 85%, followed by psychological violence with 50%, which according to the report said that its accounted for the bulk of violence against students. Other types of violence reported include gender based violence 5%, sexual violence 4%, health related violence with only 1% according to the report.



## Effects of violence

Violence generally affect all the categories of people, ethnic groups as well as gender level. However its implications may be more severe to students, as it affect their health, their ability to learn or even their willingness to go school. It can lead students to run away from home, exposing them to further danger. Violence also Destroy students self-confidence and esteem and undermines their ability to grow into well-adjusted adults. Students subjected to violence are prone to depression and suicide in later life. In most cases, violence Lead to injury and death (UNICEF, 2007). Psychological consequences: This is very serious, the experience of this violence give students low self-esteem and it put them at greater risk of a variety of mental health risk. This can lead to depression thoughts of suicide, post-traumatic stress disorders, alcoholism and drug abuse. It has been observed that depression is becoming a major health problem all over the world (Ustun, 1999). Behavioral consequences: Violence against female students may lead to risky sexual behavior. Female students who have been sexually abused often engage in risky sexual behavior as adolescents and as adults. This sexual behavior put them at risk of unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections.

Another effect of violence is physical consequences this is a major cause of injury to secondary school students, ranging from minor cuts and bruises to permanent disability and death. Population based studies suggested that 40% to 75% of individuals who are physically abused by a partner are injured by this abused at some point in life (Ellsberg, 2006). Health consequences is one of the effects of violence has been linked to many serious health problems both immediate and long-term. These include physical health problems such as injury, chronic pain syndrome and gastrointestinal disorder, and a range of mental health problems, including anxiety and depression (WHO, 2008).

## Concept of social Networks

A **social network** is a [social structure](#) made up of a set of [social](#) actors (such as individuals or organizations) and a set of the [dyadic](#) ties between these actors. The social network perspective provides a set of methods for analyzing the structure of whole social entities as well as a variety of theories explaining the patterns observed in these structures. Social network is a [theoretical construct](#) useful in the [social sciences](#) to study relationships between individuals, [groups](#), [organizations](#), or even entire [societies](#). The term is used to describe a [social structure](#) determined by such [interactions](#). The ties through which any given social unit connects represent the convergence of

the various social contacts of that unit. This theoretical approach is, necessarily, relational (Wikipedia, 2014).

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## Types of social Networking

All the options for getting involved in social media fall into 6 general bucks.

1. **Social Networks** - Services that allow you to connect with other people of similar interests and background. Usually they consist of a profile, various ways to interact with other users, ability to setup groups, etc. The most popular are [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).
2. **Bookmarking Sites** - Services that allow you to save, organize and manage links to various websites and resources around the internet. Most allow you to “tag” your links to make them easy to search and share. The most popular are [Delicious](#) and [Stumble Upon](#).
3. **Social News** - Services that allow people to post various news items or links to outside articles and then allows its users to “vote” on the items. The voting is the core social aspect as the items that get the most votes are displayed the most prominently. The community decides which news items get seen by more people.
4. **Media Sharing** - Services that allow you to upload and share various media such as pictures and video. Most services have additional social features such as profiles, commenting, etc. The most popular are [YouTube](#) and [Flickr](#).
5. **Micro blogging** - Services that focus on short updates that are pushed out to anyone subscribed to receive the updates. The most popular is [Twitter](#).



6. **Blog Comments and Forums** - Online forums allow members to hold conversations by posting messages. Blog comments are similar except they are attached to blogs and usually the discussion centers around the topic of the blog post. There are MANY popular blogs and forums.

#### **Theoretical basis on social networking**

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#### **Challenges of Social networks on violence among secondary school students.**

The emergence of some social networking in Nigeria such as 2go, you tube, face book, we chat, badoo, whatsapp, instagram, have contributed significantly to the violent behaviors among secondary school students in Sokoto metropolis, such that youths learn most of the violence behavior through these networks, some of which include cultism, area boyism, drug abuse, bullying among others. Although violence may be linked to many social and psychological consequences such as poverty, corruption, unemployment, crime, self-esteem, peer group influence and many more, but with emergence of social networking youth tend to spent most of their time on it than other life pattern, hence it have greatly divert most of their attention and change all their life patterns to suit that of social networking. Based on this reason, the main thrust of this study is to investigate on the relationship between social networks on the violence behaviour among secondary school students in Sokoto metropolis: implications for counselling.

The violence generally Affect all the categories of people, ethnic groups as well as gender level. Violence can have severe implications for student's development. It can affect their health, their ability to learn or even their willingness to go school. It can lead children to run away from home, exposing them to further danger. Violence also Destroy

youth self-confidence and esteem and undermines their ability to grow into well-adjusted adults. Youths subjected to violence are prone to depression and suicide in later life. The effects of domestic violence in children's education are enormous and devastating, some effects on youth include truancy, violence at school, drug use, alcohol, runaways, teen pregnancy etc. also domestic violence result to poor performance in the classroom, depression, aloofness from other youth, being aggressive to others and consequences of these are drop out from school, becoming wayward youth.

#### **Statement of the problem**

Nigeria is a colonial construct with diverse ethnic, religious, language and cultural heritage. Crises have been experienced since independence in 1960 until today when the country attains fifty three years of independence. Conflict continue to invade and spread into various dimension such as religious, inter-ethnic and struggle over status, power and resources, in addition to mix effects of insecurity, political instability, corrupt political institutions and poverty all generated as a result of unemployment. Youth who are mostly at the age of secondary school, left school as a result of violence (of any dimension) which will subsequently lead to unemployment, because they have not acquired the basic vocational skills to be used as self-employed with absence of white color jobs. Schools are sometime destroyed; teachers and students killed which will all contributed to the unemployment among youth. Violence has adverse effects on individual, families and societies, the multi-dimensional nature of the effects of violence, socially, educationally, psychologically and physiologically, has a case for serious investigation. It is in light of the above, that this present study aimed at studying the social networks as correlates of violence among secondary school students in Sokoto metropolis: implications for stem education.

#### **Objectives of the study**

The main purpose of this study is to investigate the relationship between social networks and violence among secondary school students in Sokoto metropolis: implications for counselling.

#### **Research Questions**

1. Do secondary school students in Sokoto metropolis uses social networks
2. Do secondary school students in Sokoto metropolis involved in violence

#### **Research hypotheses**



1. There is no significant relationship between social networks and violence among secondary school students in Sokoto metropolis.

**Methodology**

The study employed a descriptive correlational research design, with secondary school students in Sokoto metropolis as the population, 361 respondents were selected as the samples for the study using research advisor (2006). A researcher designed questionnaire titled: social networks and violence among secondary school students were used in collecting data for this study, with three part, part A on the students use of social networks,

part B on the students involvement in to violence and part C on the social networks and violence among students, four point likert scales of strongly agree, agree, disagree and strongly disagree, where SA, A, D and SD stands for 4, 3, 2 and 1 respectively. The validity was obtained after a series of corrections by expert in research and statistics of the department of education, Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto, and adjudged the instrument to have content validity and reliability was obtained using test re-test method that yielded 0.79 index. Pearson product moment correlation coefficient was used in analyzing the data collected in this study.

**Analyses**

1. Do secondary school students in Sokoto metropolis uses social networks

**Table 1 uses social networks among students in Sokoto metropolis**

Social Networks Use	frequency	percentages
Yes	296	82%
No	65	18%
Total	361	100%

From the table 1 on the frequency and percentages of the respondents based on the use of social networks among students in Sokoto metropolis, it indicated that two hundred and ninety six (296) respondents amounting to eighty two (82%) and sixty five (65) respondents amounting to eighteen (18%) percent.

2. Do secondary school students in Sokoto metropolis involved in to violence

**Table 2 Students involvement into violence in Sokoto metropolis**

Violence involvement	frequency	percentages
Yes	152	42%
No	209	58%
Total	361	100%

From the table 2 on the frequency and percentages of the respondents based on the students involvement into violence in Sokoto metropolis, it indicated that one hundred and fifty two (152) respondents amounting to forty two (42%) and two hundred and nine (209) respondents amounting to fifty eight (58%) percent.

Ho1: There is no significant relationship between social networks and violence among secondary school students in Sokoto metropolis.

Table 11. Relationship of social networks and violence among secondary school students.

Variables	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	r-Cal	p-Value	Decision
social networks	261	63.14	13.22	.338	.000	H <sub>0</sub> Rejected
Violence	261	75.20	11.91			

From the result of table 3, relationship of social networks and violence among students was positive and significant, Pearson's  $r = .338$ ,  $p = .000$ . This indicates a significant relationship between social networks and violence among students because the p-value is less than the r-Cal at .05 level of significance. Therefore, H<sub>01</sub> which states that there is no significant relationship between social

networks and violence among secondary school students in Sokoto metropolis was rejected.

**Discussion**

The study investigated the relationship between social networks and violence among secondary school students in Sokoto metropolis. Findings revealed that secondary school students in Sokoto metropolis uses social networks, also secondary





school students in Sokoto metropolis does not involved in to violence and finally there is significant relationship between social networks and violence among secondary school students in Sokoto metropolis,

This finding agrees with other existing findings, for example; the violence generally Affect all the categories of people, ethnic groups as well as gender level. Violence can have severe implications for children development. It can affect children's health, their ability to learn or even their willingness to go school. It can lead children to run away from home, exposing them to further danger. Violence also Destroy child's self-confidence and esteem and undermines their ability to grow into well-adjusted adults. Children subjected to violence are prone to depression and suicide in later life. In most cases, violence Lead to injury and death (UNICEF, 2007).

The emergence of some social networking in Nigeria such as 2go, you tube, face book, we chat, badoo, whatsapp, instagram, have contributed significantly to the violent behaviour among youth, such that youths learn most of the violence behavior through these networks, some of which include cultism, area boyism, drug abuse, bullying among others. Although violence may be linked to many social and psychological consequences such as poverty, corruption, unemployment, crime, self-esteem, peer group influence and many more, but with emergence of social networking youth tend to spent most of their time on it than other life pattern, hence it have greatly divert most of their attention and change all their life pattern to suit that of social networking.

**Conclusion**

Conclusion drawn from this study indicated that secondary school students in Sokoto metropolis uses social networks, but they are not involved into violence as a result of their usage, and finally it shows a significant relationship between social networks and violence among secondary school students in Sokoto metropolis. This was as a result of the fact that, The emergence of some social networking in Nigeria such as 2go, you tube, face book, we chat, badoo, whatsapp, instagram, have contributed significantly to the violent behaviour among youth, such that youths learn most of the violence behavior through these networks, some of which include cultism, area boyism, drug abuse, bullying among others.

**Recommendations**

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were put forward;

1. Government should look at the possibility of registering all the social networks operating in the nation as well as monitoring the activities of their users.
2. Parents should take good care of their wards as well as monitor their relationship with peers and other activities as they relate to the use of social networks to avoid being involved into violent act.
3. Stem educators in the schools should come up with programmes that are geared toward reducing the excessive use of social networking sites by students especially in secondary schools.
4. science teachers association of Nigeria should partner with government and other non-governmental organization in organizing programmes that are geared towards the menace of social networks as it relate to violence in schools.

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