

INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON SECURITY IN NIGERIA

¹HAMEED Oyelaja Gbadamosi, ²AINA Adeboye Philip, ³ Lawal Omoyemi Celina and
⁴NWOKONKO Justice Chijioke

Ogun State Institute of Technology, Igbesa.

¹princeolodanekun1@gmail.com, ²adeboyeaina@gmail.com, ³justice.nwo1@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Social media platform has reengineered social interaction among peers, businesses, governments globally. Social media platforms are used in advancing social and national insecurity, such as the situation in some parts of Nigeria. For some years now, terrorism, kidnapping and ritualism have engulfed the Nigerian states by insurgent groups while separatist groups have also carried out demonstrations in the western and southern parts of Nigeria. Each of these groups is using various kinds of online media to propagate their agenda, and the general public also uses social media platforms to escalate this propaganda, which sometimes is fake news. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design. A sample of 51 (fifty-one) personnel of government institutions that oversee national security such as Nigerian Police, Civil Defense Corpse, Nigeria Immigration officer, Nigeria Army and members of National Drug Law Enforcement Agency in Agbara and Igbesa Area of Ado-Odo/Ota Local Government, Ogun State were purposively selected due to vast geographical scope of intelligence gathering. Data were collected using Demographic data form and self-constructed questionnaire designed by the researchers. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics and regression analysis was used to test the hypothesis formulated at 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed social media have significant effect on National security of Nigeria. It was concluded that social media can be used by law enforcement officers to detect and prevent security threats since social media social media intelligence is an indispensable technique that could be leveraged to investigate national security threats as security organs can collect and analyse social media content and/or data with a view to drawing security strategic insights for evidence-based decision-making. It was recommended among others that social networking sites should be monitored for possible activities that may threaten the security of the nation, government and various relevant bodies should focus on policy development and public awareness campaigns to sensitize the public on how to utilize social media platforms well to promote cohesion and peaceful coexistence.

Key words: Security, National, Propaganda, Threat, Social media

INTRODUCTION

Generally, the media plays a very important role in the global fight against terrorism, kidnapping, riots and other vices that possess serious threat to any nation. In the same manner, social media can be used to fuel different kinds of terrorism and other criminal activities. In recent years, Nigeria's national security has been threatened by different forms of terrorism challenges, which has affected lives and properties worth billions of Naira. Among the 21st century internet inventions, social media has defined and changed social and political interactions and communication across nations. Terrorist and other criminal groups are using social media to pass their information to the general

public, because the platform is cheap and readily accessible. While the general public also uses social media to understand, and keep in touch with different kinds of socio-economic, political and social events, social media is no longer a new invention for the Nigerian society, whereby many young, old, private and public organisations make use of the platform on a daily basis.

The high level of social media penetration in Nigeria increased its use in discussing terrorism-related issues and any other form of social, political or religious attacks and rumors (social and religious security issues). It is as a result of the

above that this study aims to review the impacts of social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp etc on Nigeria's National security. The problem here is that little is known empirically about the impacts and the role of social media usage by the general public on security challenges of Nigeria.

Social media platform has reengineered social interaction among peers, businesses, governments global. Social media platforms are used in advancing social and national insecurity, such as the situation in some parts of Nigeria. For some years now, terrorism, kidnapping, ritualism and propaganda have engulfed the Nigerian states by insurgent groups while separatist groups have also carried out demonstrations in the western and southern parts of Nigeria. Each of these groups is using various kinds of online media to propagate their agenda, and the general public also uses social media platforms to escalate this propaganda, which sometimes is fake news.

Undoubtedly, social media can be seen as the most widely accepted technological invention in the 21st century. Social media is now a social communication norm in developing countries. Social media promotes positive and negative agendas. Globally, terrorists, separatists, political organizations, religious groups, individuals and so on are using social media to spread their information and ideas. In this case, Nigerian national security is under threat by the activities of Boko Haram (BH), Fulani Headsmen, Niger Delta avengers, agitation of Independent People of Biafra (IPOB), agitation for Yoruba nation and others. Social media is an open world of communication platform with little control by government agents. BH and IPOB groups, Yoruba nation agitators and others are noticeably using social media in advancing their activities. The current body of academic literature is replete with information on the interplay between social media usage and national security.

There is evidence both at the global, regional, and local level on the effects of social media on security of countries (Howard & Hussain, 2021; Howard et al., 2021). Altheide (2023) suggests that technological progress across the globe continues to dictate and define the way people share and/or exchange information, where the use of social

platforms over the internet has transfigured the way in which people interest and share information. Stieglitz and Dang-Xuan (2023) states that the demand and desire for social media in the modern society and indeed among the youth continues to increase owing to efficiency in which social media platforms enhance exchange of information.

According to Newman (2021), social media platforms have increased the use of virtual platforms to the extent that people from various corners of the world are able to hold discussions and deliberate on issues as necessary. Put differently, social media has made it possible for people to utilize internet for communication, ranging from audio to video conversations, signifying that social media continues to define and shape how people share and exchange idea. Presently, more multinational corporations are leveraging social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter to interact with their customers, suggesting that the role of social media in the contemporary society cannot be overstated. Sanger et al., (2019) contend that before the turn of the new millennium, communication relied on computers and television; However, with evolution and revolution of information and communication technology, use of small and more portable communication devices, such as mobile phones and laptops are used for communication since they support use of social media platforms once connected to the internet.

Scholars argue that information technology has reduced the world to a global village since information sharing has been enhanced (Wall et al.,2017). Even though social media platforms, as revolutionized by information technology have enhanced sharing of information and idea, it continues to pose major security in the international system (Read, Taithe & Mac Ginty, 2016; Sanger et al., 2019; Shin & Lowry, 2020). This evidence seems to suggest that social media has both positive and negative outcomes on national security since online platforms can be used to spread propaganda and terrorism. On the other hand, it plays a crucial role in raising awareness on issues that pose any security threat. It is instructive to note that social media in the contemporary society is accessible to any age

group and geographical location except where stated otherwise, implying that it portends possible effect on national security of any country.

Meanwhile, there are few or no empirical studies to justify whether the general public using social media believes that the platform impacts on

national security. However, there is no comprehensive study on the review of social media and its influence on Nigeria security architecture. As a result of the above, this study sought to investigate social media and its influence on Nigeria security.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The broad objective of the study is to examine the effect of social media on Nigeria's security of Nigeria.

RESEARCH QUESTION

- What is the significant effect of social media on National security of Nigeria.

HYPOTHESES

Ho: Social media have no significant effect on National security of Nigeria.

Hi: Social media have no significant effect on National security of Nigeria.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study was confined to monitor, gather, and analyze security information in Nigeria. Due to vast geographical scope of intelligence gathering, the study was limited to security agencies such as Nigerian Police, Civil Defense Corpse, Nigeria

Immigration officer, Nigeria Army and members of National Drug Law Enforcement Agency headquarters in Ado-Odo/Ota Local Government area of Ogun State.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This study hinged on Technological determinism theory propounded by Marshall McLuhan in 1964. The theory postulates that changes in communication modes largely determine the course of history. McLuhan's theory aimed at drawing attention to the portent strength of communication technologies; it emphasizes the dimension of information craze in the society, as a direct result of the information explosion fostered by ICTs. It is therefore safe to assume that social, historical, economic and cultural changes occurring in human society today is as a result of development of new technologies.

That is, our actions and behaviour is a product of new technology. According to Asemah (2011) the basic premise of technological determinism theory is that the media are extensions of human body. He further explains that the media not only alter their environment, but the very message they convey. The media bring new perceptual habits while their technologies create new environments. Based on this theory, people tend to think, behave and act as a result of what they have seen or heard from the

media. It simply means that the kind of technology we use now dictate how we react to situations around us. The use of multi-media phones now determine how people behave, react and interact with their environment.

The theory is relevant to the study in the sense that it says new media technologies create new environment; development of any given society is driven by technology.

The theory is relevant to the study in the sense that its assertion aptly captures how the audience members now tend to engage the media in a discussion as they do to human beings. The relevance of the theory to the paper cannot be overemphasized because it explain how people treat the media like human beings, so whatever people see via the media, they tend to believe because they respond to the mass media, especially computer and television, the way they will respond to human beings

CONCEPTUAL REVIEW

Historical Overview of Social Media and Nigerian Security Challenges

The concept of security is no doubt a complex phenomenon. This is the case because the issue of security continues to pose a serious challenge to nations and the global community at large. Without a doubt, issues bordering on maintaining or tackling security challenges across the globe have taken centre stage in the international political system. To this end, policy-makers across the globe and decision-makers and leaders, particularly in Nigeria, have come to the realization that security remains an unequivocal policy challenge in governance. Apart from these, the dynamics of contemporary global security challenges, including terrorism, equally influence and inform the crescendos of security challenges in Nigeria today. Intrinsically, Nigeria, as a subsisting global entity, inherited some of her internal security challenges by virtue of this status (Ani and Onyebukwa, 2016). A security challenge, such as terrorism in Nigeria, which premised originally as a global phenomenon and was inherently alien to the country, is a handy example.

Since independence in 1960, the country has struggled to contend the concerns of serious ethno-political and religious challenges. The country had co-existed as a heterogeneous entity since independence, following the colonial amalgamation of 1914 (Adamu and Ochaeni, 2016). This colonial arrangement saw over 500 ethnic groups of people, with the largest including the Igbo, Hausa and Yoruba, who speak more than 1,500 dialects and practice divergent socio-cultural and religious beliefs as well as an estimated population 170 million people, faced with the challenge of peaceful cohabitation (ibid). To date, this scrappy arrangement precipitated an insidious lack of national identity and integration

The Overview of Social Media (New Media)

The 21st century has created advanced technological knowledge with the help of Web 2.0 powering social media platforms. Our world today is filled with advanced technological knowledge and skills that have redefined human communication and interaction in modern society. social media can be regarded as a 21st century technological invention and innovation. social media, with its attributes, brings knowledge, skills

among Nigerians (Adamu and Ochaeni, 2016; Akwara et al., 2023; Ashley, 2017). Accordingly, each ethnic group remains preoccupied with how best not only to identify but express these traditional distinctiveness within Nigeria, which culminated into huge security challenges manifesting in various religious, ethnic and political conflicts across the nation for many years (Akwara et al., 2023). To this end, Nigeria brawls to subsist under this array of herculean security challenges as a political entity. Unfortunately, national security as a very fundamental aspect of governance in Nigeria remains progressively vulnerable under consistently threatened national existence and cohabitation. Moreover, the contemporary Nigerian security challenges stem from a plethora of national queries bordering on ethnic, religious, socio-political and cultural issues. More specifically, the BH Islamic sect, the militia from the oil-rich Niger Delta, the renewed clamor for secession in the south-eastern and South Western parts of Nigeria, initially from the Movement for the Actualization of Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) and recently from the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) as well, The agitation for Yoruba Nation coupled with Fulani herdsman killings across the country (Akov, 2017; Adamu and Ochaeni, 2016; Ezemenaka and Prouza, 2016; Ani and Onyebukwa, 2016; Badiora, 2015; Ogedebe and Jacob, 2022), are at the crux of Nigerian security challenges contemporarily. Consequently, the country has consistently grappled with various levels of ethnic, religious, socio-political and cultural security challenges. By extension, the contiguous upshots of the activities of these groups precipitated the incessant spate of instability, destabilization and wanton destruction of lives and property in Nigeria today.

and events closer to the people and has revolutionized access to information. social media can be defined as internet-based services that allow a person to connect to the general public, to understand what others are doing and thinking, as well as their connections (Trottier and Fuchs, 2014). Furthermore, social media is an online-based application built on the Web 2.0 platform with the idea to create and share individual

contents (Sajithra and Patil, 2023). Web 2.0 can be seen as a platform through which individuals create content and allow the continuous sharing of information modifications by others (Sajithra and Patil, 2023). In this study, SM is regarded as a Web 2.0 platform that connects people in sharing information, knowledge and many more.

To Trottier and Fuchs (2014), SM is very broad and difficult to define. The difficulties are as a result of the fact that social media encompasses networked tools and applications that allow connection between two or more people. social media, like any other computer technology, facilitates cognitive systems because they collect individual and societal values (Trottier and Fuchs, 2014). It is a communication tool because it allows the hooking up and formation of new friendships, society, personal and corporate connections and the maintenance of existing ones. Cann (2021) also states that social media is internet based-services that allow users to generate their own contents for service and others. This means that social media is meant for the formation of social virtual communities ("social aggregation") based on the web/internet in facilitating societal discussions and events.

Impact of Social Media on National Security

In the Nigerian state, over 87.37 percent of social media activities are conducted on Facebook. The National Communications Commission (NCC) attributes 74 percent of this traffic to 32,513,261 young Nigerians who use mobile devices (Beckley, 2018). This new media eliminates the gatekeeping mechanism of traditional media, which has allowed a large number of youth the freedom to communicate anonymously thereby resulting from directing hate filled comments to other Nigerians. Such actions generate and fuel hatred, which then leads to acts of individual and collective violence which pose significant threats to national security. Accordingly, the Nigerian government adopted measures, including establishing the Nigeria Internet Registration Association and other organizations which censor content deemed offensive to the Nigerian community (Beckley, 2018). Also, the National Assembly passed the Prohibition of Frivolous Petitions and Other Related Matters Act 2017, which popularly, termed the 'social media bill' that

There are different forms of social media networking platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, Google Plus, Yahoo Messenger, Instagram, Wikipedia and the list continues. Presently, social media tools and their applications have affected the social, economic, cultural and political aspects of human endeavors. Events and information associated with these aspects are virtually discussed, which gather very large audiences. The tools have also promoted rumors and fake news in the recent past. Today, millions of social media users across Nigeria and those in the diaspora are connected to events happening in Nigeria, while some use this medium to promote fake news, propaganda and events. Examples can be found in the case of BH, Biafra agitation and Fulani Herdsmen. Then, the presence of social media in Nigeria sometimes threatens the peace and stability of Nigeria and gives rise to security challenges across the country. Facebook is mostly used and mentioned when talking about social networking platforms, including WhatsApp and Twitter (Cann, 2011). social media has empowered users to become social communicators and content originators (Nsudu and Onwe, 2017).

aims to censor aspects of conduct on social media. These steps have failed to curtail hate speech, incitement to violence and other criminal activities conducted over social media in Nigeria. The lack of synergy among relevant agencies in charge of digital communication inhibits greater achievement of the unified efforts of the individual agencies that are assigned either advocacy or control responsibility on social media. This resulted in the absence of a designated body endowed with the responsibility to clamp down on perpetrators of abuses on the social media, civil violations and social media related crimes. There is no agency currently saddled with the responsibility and requisite enablement to filter social media postings that constitute a threat to national security and track the perpetrators as well as site owners in order to bring them to justice. The absence of a regulating body or law for social media users means that messages can be sent without being monitored nor censured regardless of its possible effects on national security (Beckley, 2018). On the

other hand, social media has created a cost effective means of participatory political discourse. It gives voices to voiceless people and community. It enables members of the larger society to broadcast their feelings without necessarily seeking the services of journalists. It empowers users to get first-hand information and also allows them to contribute and rebroadcast what they read with other users.

Use of Social Media to Detect and Prevent Security Threats

Karasek (2018) delved into social Media Intelligence as a tool for immigration and national security purposes and underscored the need for open source intelligence and internet monitoring with a view to detecting and preventing terrorism activities. This result suggest that plethora of personal information on the internet has been applied to detect and thwart terrorism activities, meaning that it has enhanced policing in the current internet age. The authors underline the use of Social Media Intelligence as a tool for monitoring immigration procedures. This evidence suggest that personal information acquired through the internet can be used to provide real time intelligence when individuals are moving from one country to another. For instance, Social Media Intelligence can be used to screen individuals in need for visas, signfying that it has the potential to detect and prevent threats to national security, such as preventing individuals from entering a country to commit serious crimes. Feng, Li, Ji, Guo, and Meng (2019) conducted a study on stopping the cyber attack in the early stage and reviewed security risks posed to the users of social networking sites. The authors acknowledged the role played by social media in the daily life of individuals. Through the assessment of risks posed to users, it was evident that social networking sites predispose individuals to dire consequences and threats of attack. For instance, the attackers can use information posted on social media platforms to launch attacks on civilians. This suggests that even though social media has increased surveillance, it has the potential of exposing people to attacks. As a consequence of social engineering, it has become apparent that attackers are using personal information to commit crime and go undetected. Since perpetrators are using personal information

for various crime, the authors propose methods that can be used to circumvent this vices, such as provision of educational programs and training before social media users are attacked. The authors proposed the use of an assessment technique that analyzes the information base of people who have been victims, where personal information, such as semantic features and statistical attributes are put into perspective. The end goal is to use the features and compose a security risk score obtained from user analysis model, where social media users with higher scores of security scores are alerted for possible attack.

Chandramouli (2021) delved into emerging social media threats and observed that use of social media continues to affect people leading to economic loss. Use of social media platforms to launch attacks requires perpetrators with expertise. However, governments across the world are deepening synergies through Interpol to thwart use of social networking sites as avenues of coordinating crime. Formulation of various policies at the national and international levels has been a result of potential threats posed through use of social media since it has become easy for threats to national security to be undertaken in an easy manner. The author proposes use of social media platforms by governments to enhance diplomacy by sharing information to their respective intelligence bodies for evidence-based action.

Marcellino, Smith, Paul, and Skrabala (2017) argue that social media analysis is playing an important in terms of entrenching how information from various medial platforms has been used for various functions to thwart security threats. This suggests that analysis of social media provides important entry points for law enforcement and indeed countries to support military operations

since most heinous acts are conducted through the internet. The authors argue that the U.S. Department of Defense is now analysing social media information with a view to formulating approaches aimed at circumventing the negative uses of the social networking sites. There is evidence to suggest that most countries do not have policy and legal frameworks that allow them to use social media as a tool for security intelligence. To leverage a robust social media analysis approach, there is need for security agencies to leverage training and technological aspects since social media surveillance requires building of resilient and sustainable capabilities that support information exchange the world security agencies. Cragin (2017) focused on Paris attacks and stated

that social media platforms have emerged as key channels of information dissemination and have also been instrumental in calling for societal change. Cragin carried out a study whose findings showed that social media platforms have emerged as key sources of information and increasingly vital in influencing the people's understanding of terrorism activities and their effects. The widespread use of smartphones has enabled people to report suspicious terror activities and to closely follow the aftermaths of terror attacks. For instance, in the Paris attack during the Bataclan concert, one of the affected people described the occurrences and pleaded for rescue using social media.

EMPIRICAL REVIEW

In a study conducted by Kimutai (2014) on Social Media and National Security Threats by targeting all members of the military working in Nairobi units. The study targeted 50 military personnel stationed within the capital Nairobi. To achieve the required sample size, proportional stratified sampling was applied. The study revealed that social media has been used to undertake cyber crime, where the internet-based platform has been used for fundraising activities. Moreover, the study established that Islamists use the social networking sites to propagate terror activities to an extent that this throws the whole citizens into a fear. In addition, analysis of study findings established that social media has been used by radicalization groups, such as Sungusungu, Mombasa Republican Council, and Mungiki to recruit and train their followers and to a large extent, spread propaganda. The study established that Nigeria's military has used social media in various work, such as "operation Linda Nigeria" to communicate to the country and boost the morale of soldiers. This seem to suggest that social media has been applied by the army to dispel rumors and update various international actors on the security of the country. Social media has been leveraged by military to analyze intelligence through Open-Source Intelligence as a means to analyzing threats that emanate from the social media. Over and above, social media has been used by the republic of Nigeria as diplomacy tool, where it has facilitated dissemination of information.

So also, in a study conducted by Molony (2019) the study focused on social media warfare and Nigeria's conflict with Al Shabaab Somalia and suggested that social networking sites have been used to discuss social, political, and economic issues. The study found that Nigeria is grappling with security issues coupled with the use of internet-based social networking sites to spread hate and progapanda. Furthermore, the study established that social media is used to coordinate tribal clashes, fuel terrorsim, hate, and cattle rustling. Moreover, the study found that social medial has been used by perpetrators of crime to coordinate with various groups coupled with fundraising activities. The study concluded by asserting that social media provides a platform for terror groups to organize their activities to the extent that this has disenfranchised citizens who consider Nigeria not to be doing enough in terms of maintaining law and order.

In a study conducted in Italy by Montagnese (2022) on the impact of social media on national security, where the authors suggested that social networking sites has been used to connect people all over the world. Due to flexibility and social media platforms, the world is getting connected since people are able to communicate. For instance, it is cheap to exchange information using social media sites. However, with continued connectedness of the world, use of the internet-based social networking sites poses serious

concerns to nations across the globe since it affects the strategic interests and national security of nations. The author argued that appropriate use of social media by law enforcement officers can make it possible for countries to analyze, detect and prevent threats to national security since analysis of online content can draw patterns for evidence-based decision-making. The author underscores the need to constantly monitor social media platforms with a view to demystifying the manner in which socio-cultural and geo-economics interactions work. With proper analysis of online content, the findings affirm that countries can deter extremism by putting in place pro-active measures designed to provide intelligence for timely decision-making.

Pandalai (2016) also conducted a study on the impact and opportunities for social media usage and stated that in the age of internet of things, social media platforms have provided avenues for

METHODOLOGY

The study adopted a descriptive design since the study seeks to delineate the interlinkages between social media and national security. Through a descriptive approach, the research provided snapshots and draw inferences in relation to how social media has impacted national security in Nigeria.

Target Population

The research targeted government institutions that are in charge of national security such as Nigerian Police, Civil Defense Corpse, Nigeria Immigration officer, Nigeria Army and members of National Drug Law Enforcement Agency headquarters in Ado-odo ota local government area of Ogun State.

Sample Design and Size

A sample of 51 (Fifty-one) personnel of government institutions that oversee national security such as Nigerian Police, Civil Defense Corpse, Nigeria Immigration officer, Nigeria Army and members of National Drug Law Enforcement Agency in Agbara and Igbesa Area of Ado-Odo/Ota Local Government, Ogun State were purposively selected due to vast geographical scope of intelligence gathering.

information exchange leading to disruption of traditional means of communication. For instance, the advent of social media has led to disruptions, such as how information is shared and in relation to real time receiving of information. In addition, social media has triggered information exchanged across the globe, where governments and people have been forced to manage the manner in which they exchange information in the world that is increasingly getting interconnected. This finding seems to suggest that social media as a consequences of revolution of information technology has altered the ecosystem of exchanging information, where there has been a change in the information hierarchies. In addition, this evidence implies that information and communication technology with particular emphasis on social networking sites has opened up geographical borders and barriers and facilitated information exchange.

Instruments for Data Collection

The major research instrument used for this study is the questionnaires. This was appropriately moderated. The participants were administered with the questionnaires to complete, with or without disclosing their identities. The questionnaire was designed to obtain sufficient and relevant information from the respondents. The primary data contained information extracted from the questionnaires in which the respondents were required to give specific answer to a question by ticking in front of an appropriate answer and administered the same on staff of the two organizations: The questionnaires contained structured questions which were divided into sections A and B. Section A comprised of demographic data of the respondents which section comprised of questions relating to the objectives of the instrument.

Reliability of the Data Collection Instrument

To achieve the reliability of the data collection tools, a test-retest reliability test was used on participant who are not part of the original sample for this study with a view to establishing whether the said tools were able to give results that are consistent to inform sound generalizations The



research instrument had an overall Cronbach Alpha coefficient of 0.784.

Validity of research instrument.

Prior to actual data collection, the researcher undertook construct and content validity with a view to establishing whether the data collection tools solicited appropriate and suitable data for the study. Content validity was undertaken with the help of the test and measurement expert, where this

was done by checking consistent of the questionnaires

Data Analysis and Presentation

Data were analysed using descriptive statistics and Chi-Square Statistics was used to test the hypotheses formulated at 0.05 level of significance.

Data Analysis and Results

Descriptive Analysis

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Gender		
Male	25	49.0
Female	26	51.0
Level of Education		
Primary level	3	5.9
Secondary level	19	37.3
College/University level	29	56.9
Work Experience		
Less than 2 years	6	11.8
3 to 5 years	7	13.7
6-10 years	22	43.1
Over 11 years	16	31.4
Sector/Department		
Nigerian Police	16	31.4
Civil Defense	8	15.7
NDLEA	4	7.8
NIS	7	13.7
Nigeria Army	16	31.4
Designation		
Management level	6	11.8
Middle level	25	49.0
Lower cadre	12	23.5
Support level	8	15.7



4.1 Testing of Hypotheses

Hypothesis one: social media have no significant effect on National security of Nigeria.

Table 2 Summary of multiple regression between Social Media and National security of Nigeria.

N	Model	B	Sig.	T	ANOVA (Sig.)	R	Adjusted R ²	F (4,381)
	(Constant)	10.099	0.000	8.289	0.000 ^a	0.525 ^a	0.268	35.790
	Crime management	0.150	0.007	2.709				
	Threat to National security	0.206	0.000	3.810				
381	Prevention all forms of terror attack.	0.122	0.043	2.031				
	Improve National Security	0.089	0.125	1.538				
Predictors: (Constant), Crime management, threat to national security, prevention of all forms of terror attack, improve National Security								
Dependent Variable: National Security								

Source: Author's computation, 2023 underlying data from Field Survey

Table 2 shows the multiple regression analysis results to examine the effect of social media on National Security of Nigeria. The results showed that crime management ($\beta = 0.150$, $t = 2.709$, $p < 0.05$); threat to National Security ($\beta = 0.206$, $t = 3.810$, $p < 0.05$) and prevention of all forms of terror attack ($\beta = 0.122$, $t = 2.031$, $p < 0.05$) exerted a positive and significant on National security of Nigeria. Improvement of national security is the only factor that shows a positive but insignificant effect ($\beta = 0.089$, $t = 1.539$, $p > 0.05$) on National security. This implies that, social media usage is for crime management, social media usage can be a threat to national threat, and social media could be used in prevention of all terror attack are important factors in social media and National security.

The R value of 0.525% supports this result and it indicates that social media component has a strong positive relationship with National security of Nigeria. The coefficient of multiple determination

$Adj.R^2 = 0.268$ indicates that about 26.8% variation that occurs in the National security can be accounted for by the social media while the remaining 74.2% changes that occurs is accounted for by other variables not captured in the model. The predictive and prescriptive multiple regression models are thus expressed:

$$CMT = 10.099 + 0.150CM + 0.206TNS + 0.122POAFTA + 0.08INS + U_i \text{---Eqn (i) (Predictive Model)}$$

$$CMT = 0.150CM + 0.206TNS + 0.122POAFTA + U_i \text{-----Eqn(ii) (Prescriptive Model)}$$

Where:

CM = Crime management

TNS = Threat to National Security

POAFTA = Prevention of all forms of terror attack,

INS = Improve National Security

DISCUSSION

The regression model shows that holding social media to a constant zero, National Security would be 10.099 which is positive. In the predictive model it is seen that of all the variables, improve National security is positive and insignificant, so

the social media usage can downplay these variables and that is why they were not included in the prescriptive model. The results of the multiple regression analysis as seen in the prescriptive model indicate that when all other variables of



social media indices (Crime management, Threat to National Security and prevention of all forms of attack) are improved by one unit National security would be affected by 0.150, 0.206 and 0.122 respectively and vice-versa. This implies that an effect of social media in crime management, Threat to National Security and prevention of all forms of attack would lead to an effect in National security of Nigeria. Also, the F-statistics ($df = 4, 381$) = 35.790 at $p = 0.000$ ($p < 0.05$) indicates that the overall model is significant in predicting the effect of social media on National security which implies that social media components except improve National security are important determinants in the National security Nigeria. Therefore, the null hypothesis (H_0) which states that social media have no significant effect on National security of Nigeria was rejected. This finding agrees with the existing body of literature on the interplay between usage of social media and national security. For instance, Chukwuere and Onyebukwa (2018) stated that social vices have been spread, such as propaganda and terrorism by various rebellious groups through social media, where the work of these groups have been enhanced using social media platforms. Additionally, the study established that social media has been leveraged by various entities/groups of individuals to undertake activities that affect national security. This result is in tandem with a study done by Abdulhamid *et al.* (2014) suggested that various groups and individuals in Nigeria are taking advantage of social media to perpetuate activities that pose

serious concerns to national security.

This finding agrees with the work of Ali (2018) who contended that social media platforms have been used to radicalize, recruit and train perpetrators of heinous acts against humanity. The study established that social media usage is one of the platforms that law breakers leverage to undertake cyber-attacks, terrorism activities, hate mongering, propaganda, fundraising activities and ethnic mobilization. The study underscores that social media can be used by law enforcement officers within the republic of Nigeria to detect and prevent security threats. This result agrees with a study done by Kimutai (2014) social media in enhancing national security given that these platforms can be leveraged with a view to strengthening information sharing for greater action by military and police. The study established that social media intelligence is an indispensable approach that could be leveraged to investigate national security threats since it is central to thwarting threats to national security since security organs can collect and analyse social media content and/or data with a view to drawing security strategic insights for evidence-based decision-making. This finding has similar conceptual and empirical thinking of a study done by Karasek (2018) who stated that open source intelligence and internet monitoring are central to detecting and preventing terrorism activities.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the study findings, the study concludes that social media was aligned to national security, which means that social media influences national security, either negatively or positively. The study underscores that social media seems to have a greater negative impact on national security than a positive one. In addition, social media can be used by law enforcement officers to detect and prevent

security threats since social media social media intelligence is an indispensable technique that could be leveraged to investigate national security threats as security organs can collect and analyse social media content and/or data with a view to drawing security strategic insights for evidence-based decision-making.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings and conclusion of this study, the following recommendations are made:

- Relevant government authorities should intensify social media surveillance and monitoring of content shared on these platforms to control and abate threats to national security.
- Government should send law enforcement agents for superior trainings to attain specialized technological skills on how to battle negative impacts of social media on national security.
- Government should formulate data protection and privacy policies, which is lacking in most developing countries for the maintenance of trust in the ICT platforms to ensure best practices in data protection and information security.
- The government and various relevant bodies should focus on policy development and public awareness campaigns to sensitize the public on how to utilize social media platforms well to promote cohesion and peaceful coexistence.

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