



Impact Of Information Technology On Marital Stability Among Female Academic Staff

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Abstract: Social media has affected the progress, development, and growth of many homes, positively we may say, however, negative aspects are also recorded. Many factors could be responsible for this influence. This study therefore, examined Social media use, age and educational level as determinants towards marital stability among female academic staff in the University of Ilorin, Nigeria. A descriptive survey research method was adopted for the study. The total numbers of seventy-three female respondents were selected from some faculties at the University of Ilorin using convenience sampling technique with the use of questionnaires to collect information from respondents. The data collected were carefully analyzed using frequency and percentages to represent the raw data in a meaningful manner. It was therefore discovered that social media does not cause an unhealthy relationship within the family. The study also found a significant relationship between marital stability and frequent use of social media. It is recommended that further research be conducted in other organizations, and across gender to further form a general opinion.

Keywords: Social media; Marital stability; Female Academics, Family, Nigeria

I. INTRODUCTION

well as promotes entertainment and enhances individuals' leisure opportunities [1]. It has not only promoted productivity and fun, but it has affected people's perception, the pattern of living, families, education and work experience [1]. Since technologies are important components in our day to day activities and can have a significant effect on the family [1], it is, therefore, essential to study the impact of technology among families. Family is the world's oldest form of human relationship that has been in existence for thousands of years. If a family could be regarded as building, it would be the most solid structure ever exist in human history [2]. The family could also be seen as a social system that contain certain roles in the community, rules that makes its governance effective and communication that creates effective negotiation among the members.

Educating the child is one of the numerous functions of the parents. A child's first words and pattern of speech are usually learned from parents within the family hence, mother tongue usage is encouraged in nursery and primary institutions. Generally, time spends by the female with their

Technology has been designed to increase productivity, orderliness, and efficiency in our everyday life, as children is more, compared to their spouse. Therefore, mothers could be regarded as teachers as well as disciplinarians within the family settings. According to [3], school children could spend six (6) hours in school and about eighteen (18) hours at home. Mothers' educational background is an important role in the child's growth and educational status. Although, educational responsibility of children lies in the hand of the parents, and the local community or the environment such as home has great effects on the growth and development of the child, a mother, therefore lay solid foundation, which a child could build on later to foster a better living and great personality in the society. This makes the mother the first friend and teacher to the child, and homemakers, they are obliged to make home favorable for the members of the family [4].

Technological tools such as social media are known to be computer-mediated tools that allow people to communicate by sharing and exchanging information, ideas, entertain with pictures and videos and get information on career choice using the virtual community and networking

[5]. Social media has continued to increase over the years, though with lots of positive effects like more effective communication, however, one of the foreseen negative effects could be an issue of marriage stability, the use of social media might have an influence on marriage quality and happiness due to overwhelming time people spend to chat and relate with others, this could, in turn, leads to experiencing a troubled marriage which divorce might occur. In view of this, it is clear that technology can affect marriages, either positively or negatively. While [6] examine IT and effects on administrative staff nature of work, this study examined the impact of social media on marital stability of female academic staff in selected faculties at University of Ilorin, Nigeria. The study only focuses on female academic staff within University of Ilorin main campus. The study also intends to find relationships that exist between female academic staff use of social media and their marital stability.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Concept of Marriage

Marriage is a social institution which brings about the union between two individuals as ordained by God. It is a lifelong relationship that requires total commitment, trust, and understanding among the two individuals to become a successful husband and wife. The relationship thereby leads to sexual relationship and reproduction of the next generation of children as members of the society [7]. Societies view marriage as bonds, permanent between the couples, in some societies, it is virtually irrevocable.

This marriage is an institution found in all societies, to some, it is a regular pattern of society's norms and level of association, with the mutual agreement between the couples, joining together a man and a woman in a unique way, using social and legal arrangement that serves several purposes for society. Although, marriage may differ from one tribe to another, or culture, where structure, function, dynamics, and meaning could be a factor [5]. This union and agreement entail a legal contract which could be written or verbal, and this agreement varies in the degree to which it can be void.

The conjugal union is established, which result in a living unit in the community refers to as 'family'. Children from this family unit are inculcated into the community and are introduced to the values and norms of society. However, childbearing is one of the most important factors of marriage in some societies, without the production of a child, the marriage could be considered unacceptable and might result in cancellation or divorce. While in some society, marriage won't be allowed until fertility is proven by way of conception or occurrence of pregnancy [8]. Marriage is used as a means to which sexual activities are regulated to allow lawful production of offspring and avoidance of unwanted birth in society. Children born into this unit of the community are gradually diffused into society.

B. Concept of Family

According to Engram [9] family is a place of sexuality, eating, sleeping, and intimate biological ties. The family could also mean two or more people living together and related by blood, marriage or adoption. In defining the family, [10] considered not only biological factors but also commitment as the intention to maintain a relationship and attachment, likewise the bonding that causes feelings of "at hominess" when the other person is present or easily accessible. A family could be far more than togetherness of individuals who occupy the same blood, physical, emotional, ideological and psychological space.

[11] Attribute functions of the family to cooperation among members, means of education, regulating sexual activities, production of children as family members, protection, maintaining order, socializing the new members, and merging individual goals into the societal values. Healthy families could have great potentials to raise healthy individuals, unlike unhealthy individuals which can cause damages to their family members, healthy individuals can pose as a great asset to the family by creating a conducive atmosphere for all. However, a broken marriage sometimes might create unhealthy individuals, whose impact is not only felt by the family members involved, but also the communities. This shows that everybody in the community pays for failed marriages. The perspective to which family system is shown indicates that a unit of the family is regarded more important than the summation of individual members in totality, meaning that, the family unit cannot simply be judged by knowing each individual member due to their different behavior outside the family unit [12].

According to [13] "multiple versions of the family may coexist both as the result of specific rules and doctrines, and as the product of attempts to integrate the concept of the family across the legal system", although, individual's behavior could reflect family background, and people could be comprehended through their family. When a problem is perceived, that affect an individual, not only does it becomes the family issue, but community issue that involved every member in finding a solution, reason been that everybody within the community gets concerned about the situation of every other person. A family simply cannot handle all problems all alone. Troubled marriages and families often lead to troubled communities. For a healthy relationship among individuals, the community must find a way to create a healthy atmosphere for all its members [14]. Therefore, the regulation of technology usage among community members could be a good idea.

C. Marital Stability

[15] Defines marital stability as a fulfillment, harmony, protection and marital satisfaction that ensures among couples which leads to a healthy, happy and stable marriage. It needs, among individuals and the society cannot

be overemphasized as it is important to understand the social, mental and emotional activity going on in marriages [15]. According to [16] marital stability has to do with individuals' health, wellbeing, marital satisfaction and marital success throughout the various stages of marriage.

According to [17] failure could be seen as a causal process model that specifies alternative paths which shows satisfaction or dissatisfaction to married partners. [17] Further asserts that negative message behavior signaled by marital partners causes a change in spouse perceptions of one another and could result in unfavorable beliefs about the partner. These negative message behaviors are further mentioned such as sarcasm, accusations, and counter-accusations, and conversely, positive-negative messages ratio could indicate stability. Stable couples having a 5:1 positive-negative message ratio could have a healthy relationship while unstable couples could show a 1:1 positive-negative message ratio. Unstable couples might be seen to show equality in the ratio of positive and negative messages behavior.

[17] Ascertain a conflicting behavior perceived as negative could pave way for negative emotional reactions. Differences observed between couples' stability status of being stable or unstable could also serve as evidence in what constitutes partners' negative behavior. This behavior could lead sometimes to a failed marriage and marital conflict between the couples. Stable couples give compliment as positive comments to explain negative actions such as 'the soup taste sweet without salt' or 'I like it when you cook and forget to add seasoned'. Unlike the stable couples, unstable couples use no compliment but complain about the partners negative behaviour without considering the consequence of their comments, these couple gives a direct explanation of what happened and sometimes could be aggressive such as 'the soup tastes bad because you didn't add salt' or 'I don't know how your cook taste without seasoning'. This could get worse than harsh language and personal attributes could be used to deteriorate one another, causing couples to distance themselves, get separated and then divorce. In order to maintain stability in marriage, positive complimentary words should be used to address partners negative action, which the technology had made easy to easily have access to partners by sending messages on the social media or giving compliments on the social network that can be viewed by many, meanwhile, [17] suggest the use of cooperative messages, avoiding reciprocating in a negative manner, and explaining partner's hostile behaviour in a non-hostile way and however, recommendation to seek the assistance of a marriage counselor, therapist, community or spiritual leader is appropriate if one is losing hope about the partner.

D. Social media

Social media with the help of Web 2.0 applications are characterized as User-Generated Content (UGC). This

indicates that most of the contents found on social media are generated by the user of the particular social media. Users personally create their profiles on the site or on designed applications, maintained by the social media organization. Social media also aid the development of online social network through a connection of user's profile to other users and groups [4]. The use of social media can be enjoined by ensuring some infrastructures are readily available like adequate internet access, access to a computer and a stable power supply [18].

Social media which could be seen as a means by which individual connect with other people outside their community by creating new friends and networking could also have its negative or positive impact on family marital stability. By connecting outside the immediate family or community could also be a way of neglecting the immediate family or bringing opportunity to the family. Social media such as WhatsApp, Facebook, twitter, google+, IMO, Instagram are seen to have an impact on individual and community. Some of the media create an enlightenment community and serves as a medium to which information is easily disseminated. This could also play a role in stability or instability of marriage, as some individual prefer to live a secluded life having no interest in the bigger community nonetheless the global community.

The use of social media has continued to increase over the years, though with lots of positive effects like more effective communication, its negative effects cannot be overemphasized, most especially on the issue of marriage stability, the use of social media might negatively correlate with marriage quality and happiness. Use of social media could positively correlate with experiencing a troubled marriage and considering divorce. Researchers continued to find these correlations even after taking into account various economic, demographic, and psychological variables that are known to be related to marriage well-being, which suggests that social media plays a much larger role than we think in marriages [1].

Therefore, the issue of marital stability is a great concern in this social media era. Studies on marital stability and instability are not observed among female academic staff and the rate of stability could be measured by the number of divorce in society.

This study is thereby unique from previous researches such as [17] on marital stability because it evaluates the impact social media has on marital stability of female academic staff.

III. METHODOLOGY

In this study, the survey research design was used and a questionnaire was administered in order to collect data. The study population consists of the female academic staff of the University of Ilorin in Nigeria. This study involves staff from the faculty of Science, Social and Management, Law, Communication and Information Science, and Education

within the main campus of the University. The sample for this study consists of seventy-three respondents from different faculties within the University of Ilorin, involving only married female academic staff that use social media and are conveniently sampled. The questionnaire was in two sections. The first section was used to collect information about the demographic characteristics of the respondents, budget and the frequency of mobile phone and social media usage and the second section measures family, frequency, health implication, job, trust and usage of social media. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS 21.0) was used to perform inferential and descriptive statistics procedure on the collected data. The descriptive statistics shows the percentage and other demography information of the respondents, as shown in table 1 below. While the inferential statistics in the other tables indicates the relationship among variables. The study used both spearman's rho and Pearson correlation to determine the relationship between variables.

IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A. Demographic Information

Only 73 responses were used out of the 79 responses received, due to their incomplete response. These demographic characteristics are age, educational level, profession, length of the marriage, and rate and length of social media usage. Table 1 shows its characteristics. The profile of the respondents shown in the table does not indicate the gender, as the study is a single gender study which only focuses on married female academic staff at the University of Ilorin. Respondents with the age between 31 to 40 years had the highest percentage of 46.6%, followed by those with age between 41 to 50 and 21 to 30 which account for 24.7% and 20.5% respectively. Respondents with the age of 51 and above account for the lowest number of response received for the study as most of them are professors and difficult to get them to administer a questionnaire. This age described the caliber of female academic staff that works within the university system, as most of them are known to be matured and also good for this study.

The educational level is found to be significant for the study as respondents with Master and Ph.D. have the highest respondents with 49.3% and 34.2% respectively, this was due to the organization which is an educational institution that requires highly qualified intellectuals. While the profession of the respondents was found to be of very interesting, those in Sciences and IT account for 58.9%, Law has 19.2%, Social science and Management Science having 13.7% and Education having 8.2%, this indicate the rate at which staff from Science and IT shows more enthusiasm to answer the questionnaire relating to Technology.

B. Frequency and Length of Social Media Usage

Respondents' general frequency of social media usage was also gathered through the questionnaire and also the length of period for which the respondents had been using the internet was collected, the study found the highest percentage of respondents (83.6%) have been using social media for more than five years, those that use the internet between 1 to 5 years account for 8.2%, and those respondents that use social media for less than one year are having a response rate of 8.2%. This is in line with the study which seeks to get respondents that have so much experience on how to use social media.

It was also found that the highest number of respondents (67.1%) uses social media 'when needed', and 16.4% were found to use social media in the morning. Respondents that uses the social media during 'working hours' account for 2.7%, respondents that use the social media 'after working hours' account for 16.4%, while no respondent was found to use the social media at the 'evening time'.

From the percentage given above, it can be noticed that respondents that uses social media when needed dominates the response, which shows the majority of female academic staff uses the social media for a particular purpose not just usage sake. Using social media at the evening was found to have no response, this could be due to the home duty schedule that occupy the time of the married females.

Table 1: Respondents General Profile

Characteristics	Items	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age	21 – 30	15	20.5
	31 – 40	34	46.6
	41 – 50	18	24.7
	51 – 60	6	8.2
	61 – 70	0	0
Educational Level	Bachelor	12	16.4
	Master	36	49.3
	PhD	25	34.2
How long have you been married	1 – 5 years	12	16.4
	6 – 10 years	24	32.9
	11 and above	37	50.7
Profession	Education	6	8.2
	Law	14	19.2
	IT	23	31.5
	Science Social/ Manage	20	27.4
		10	13.7
How long have you being using Social Media	Less than 1 year	6	8.2
	1 to 5 years	6	8.2
	More than 5 years	61	83.6
When do you use Social Media Most	When needed Working hours	49	67.1
	After working hours	10	13.7
	Morning	12	16.4
	Evening	0	0
How would you rate your usage of your Social Media	Very low	3	4.1
	Low	7	9.6
	Medium	42	57.5
	Heavy	21	28.8
	Very heavy	0	0

C. Relationship between Variables of the Study Using Spearman's Rho

These variables consist of Marital Stability, Frequency of social media usage, Health, job, family trust and social media usage among respondents. In [6], gender and age are found to have no difference however, this study found the relationship between respondents Marital Stability with Frequency of social media usage at 0.005 significant level, Marital Stability with Health at 0.000 significant level, Marital Stability with Job at 0.001 significant level and all the relationship at two tail. The study found Frequency of Social Media Usage to have a relationship with Social Media Usage at 0.000 significant level, Frequency of Social Media Usage with Health at 0.000 significant level and Frequency of Social Media Usage with Job at 0.000 significant level, all at two tail. The study found Health to have a relationship with Social Media Usage at 0.000 significant level, Health with Trust at 0.004 significant level and Health with Job at 0.000 significant level. The job was found to have a relationship with Social Media Usage and Trust at 0.004 and 0.000 significant level respectively. These are shown below in Table 4.

In [19], staff using resources that are available account for 62%, those that demonstrate computer knowledge have 75% and those with advanced knowledge are 20% of respondents, though this study found using social media at the evening was found to have no response, this could be due to the home duty schedule that occupies the time of the married females.

D. Relationship between Variables of the Study Using Pearson Correlation

This section of the study explored the relationship between the variables of the study using the Pearson correlation. These variables consist of Marital Stability, Frequency of social media usage, Health, job, family trust and Social Media usage among respondents.

Table 2: ANOVA between Demography and Social media Usage

		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Age	Between Groups	19.269	12	1.606	2.781	.004
	Within Groups	34.649	60	.577		
	Total	53.918	72			
Education Level	Between Groups	9.540	12	.795	1.897	.053
	Within Groups	25.145	60	.419		
	Total	34.685	72			
the course of study description	Between Groups	39.470	12	3.289	3.534	.001
	Within Groups	55.845	60	.931		
	Total	95.315	72			

Table 3: ANOVA between Demography and Frequency of Social media Usage

		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Age	Between Groups	6.760	15	.451	.545	.903
	Within Groups	47.157	57	.827		
	Total	53.918	72			
Education Level	Between Groups	8.372	15	.558	1.209	.292
	Within Groups	26.313	57	.462		
	Total	34.685	72			
the course of study description	Between Groups	32.273	15	2.152	1.945	.037
	Within Groups	63.042	57	1.106		
	Total	95.315	72			

Table 4: Spearman's rho Correlations

		Frequency Usage SMUsage	Marital Stability	Health	Trust	Job
Frequency Usage	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.503**	.325**	.083	.498**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.000	.005	.487	.000
	N	73	73	73	73	73
SM Usage	Correlation Coefficient	.503**	1.000	-.034	.399**	.333**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.	.778	.000	.004
	N	73	73	73	73	73
Marital Stability	Correlation Coefficient	.325**	-.034	1.000	.507**	.396**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.005	.778	.	.000	.147
	N	73	73	73	73	73
Health	Correlation Coefficient	.585**	.399**	.507**	1.000	.702**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.	.004
	N	73	73	73	73	73
Trust	Correlation Coefficient	.083	.156	.171	.330**	1.000
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.487	.187	.147	.004	.
	N	73	73	73	73	73
Job	Correlation Coefficient	.498**	.333**	.396**	.702**	1.000
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.004	.001	.000	.000
	N	73	73	73	73	73

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The study found the relationship between respondents Marital Stability with Frequency of social media usage at 0.002 significant level, Marital Stability with Health at 0.000 significant level, Marital Stability with Job at 0.001 significant level and all the relationship at two tail. The study found Frequency of Social Media Usage to have a relationship with Social Media Usage at 0.000 significant level, Frequency of Social Media Usage with Health at 0.000 significant level and Frequency of Social Media Usage with Job at 0.000 significant level, all at two tail. The study found Health to have a relationship with Social Media Usage at 0.000 significant level, Health with Trust at 0.001 significant level and Health with Job at 0.000 significant level. Job was found to have a relationship with Social Media Usage and

Trust at 0.004 and 0.000 significant level respectively. These are shown in Table 5.

The Spearman's rho and Pearson correlation indicates that while Frequency of Social Media Usage might have an influence on Marital-stability, the Social Media Usage might not have any relationship with Marital Stability. The Frequency of Social Media Usage which is the length to which social media is being used is seen to influence the stability of marriage. Marital Stability is seen to have a relationship with Health and Job, this could be an influence on health and job. Frequency of social media is seen to relate to Social media usage, health, and Job.

Table 5: Pearson Correlation

		Frequency Usage	SM Usage	Marital Stability	Health	trust	Job
Frequency Usage	Pearson Correlation	1	.508**	.355**	.599**	.109	.531**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.002	.000	.360	.000
	N	73	73	73	73	73	73
SM Usage	Pearson Correlation	.508**	1	-.041	.440**	.168	.334**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.728	.000	.155	.004
	N	73	73	73	73	73	73
Marital Stability	Pearson Correlation	.355**	-.041	1	.456**	.180	.372**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.002	.728		.000	.128	.001
	N	73	73	73	73	73	73
Health	Pearson Correlation	.599**	.440**	.456**	1	.382**	.691**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000		.001	.000
	N	73	73	73	73	73	73
Trust	Pearson Correlation	.109	.168	.180	.382**	1	.500**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.360	.155	.128	.001		.000
	N	73	73	73	73	73	73
Job	Pearson Correlation	.531**	.334**	.372**	.691**	.500**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.004	.001	.000	.000	
	N	73	73	73	73	73	73

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

This could be the use of social media will interest the user to frequently make use of the social media for personal or work related, however, frequency of usage could have a negative effect on the user as if might affects the family relationship, physical health and proper discharge of duty at the working place. Health is seen to relate with Social Media Usage, Trust and Job. This could be the usage of social media to affect the healthy relationship within the family, it could be lack of trust due to the use of social media and could also have an influence on the discharge of duty at the working place. Job is found to have a relationship with Social Media Usage and Trust, this could be social media usage having an influence on the individual at the place of work. This could affect the individuals' discharge of duty and the level at which the individual carry on with the work-related responsibility.

E. Relationship between Social Media (Independent Variables) and Marriage Stability (Dependent Variables)

In this section, the study tries to find the relationship between marriage stability which it refers to as marital stability and social media. Marriage stability was measured in terms of one factor (marital stability) with four items, this factors had already satisfied the validity and reliability test, and represents the dependent variable, the items include 'Social media affects family relationship', 'My use of social media affect my marriage', 'Social media cause instability in my marriage' and 'I unintentionally give preference to social media than my husband', while social media was measured using two factors that already satisfied the validity and reliability test. Social media usage

was measured using items such as 'I read Newspaper on my mobile phone', 'I watch movies on my mobile phone', 'I used social media to get information', 'My mobile phone use has widened my social Networking' and Frequency of social media usage was measured using items 'I use social media when I am at home', 'I am always online chatting and browsing', 'Social media consume a lot of my time everyday' and 'The amount of communication with others increased due to Social Network'. These factors that measured social media are the frequency of social media usage and social media usage and represent the independent variable. The Spearman's and Pearson correlation between the independent variable and dependent variable is shown in Table 6. This study, therefore, found a significant relationship between Social media and Marriage stability.

Table 6: Spearman's and Pearson Correlation between Marriage Stability and Social Media

	Spearman's	Rho	Pearson	
Marital Stability	Frequency of Usage	Usage of Social Media	Frequency of Usage	Usage of Social Media
2-tailed	0.325**	-0.034	0.355**	-0.041
Sig	0.005	0.778	0.002	0.728

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

V. CONCLUSION

The study investigated the impact of social media (as Information Technology) on the marital stability of female academic staff at the University of Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria. Six factors are used for this study which is marital stability, frequency of social media usage, health, job, trust, and social media usage and the demographic factors used include age, course of study or profession.

This study found a significant relationship between marital stability and the healthy family relationship, social media use does not cause unhealthy relationship within the family. This shows that the family can relate effectively using social media as long as they make proper use and avoid unnecessary distraction. Furthermore, the study found a significant relationship between the marital stability and frequency use of social media, this could be frequent use of social media having a relationship with the stability of marriage among the female academic staff. The study found the frequency of social media use to relate to social media use, this could be enthusiasm in the use of social media having a positive influence on the frequency of usage among the academic staff, thereby, female academic staff do not get disturbed by their use of social media and do their job-related work at the appropriate time.

Further research should be conducted to see if social media might be one of the factors that can contribute to success in the educational institution through female academic staff use of social media

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