Exploration of Parenting Issues and Teenage Digital Misuse of Internet in Nigeria: Implication on Education

By

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Abstract

Unprecedented teenage access to modern technology and digital deficiencies among parents has generated numerous vices caused by digital misuse. Digital misuses ranging from internet slangs, excessive video game usage to internet fraud that eventually culminate to e-cheating is gradually in vogue. In a bid to check these digital excesses, this study sought to *explore the relationship and perception of parents to digital misuse of digital internet devices possible educational defects. The research design adopted was a descriptive survey research design, a questionnaire through stratified random was administered on one hundred and twenty respondents.* Data was analyzed through Multiple Regression and finding revealed *that digital misuse has several educational defects. Consequently, the digital gap between the parents and teenagers is pronounced, as most parents are dormant in learning and updating knowledge and skills of using the Internet. While the teenagers regularly update their skills online. The need for massive sensitization and mechanism to curb digital misuse was recommended. Digitally, parents should be trained to acquire contemporary skills needed in checking and curbing digital misuse among teenagers. This will help to ameliorate digital misuse from gradually eroding Nigeria educational and social values.*

Key Words: *Parenting Issues, Teenage, Digital Misuse of Internet, Educational Defects.*

Introduction

The alarming rate of growing incidences of digital and internet devices, no doubt is on the increase. As an integral part of teenagers' daily life digital devices such as computers, laptops, smart phones and tablets via the Internet can access any content regardless of time, space and location. Teenagers as internet natives today are the generations that grow up with the internet while parents are analogue termed internet visitors. (Prensky, 2001) This enables teenagers to utilize internet for information, education, entertainment, and socialization (Shujun, 2015). Puberty characteristics of teenagers spur them to crave for more independent and have more self-control oat the expense of parental control. However, parent are incapacitated due to analogue and digital ambiguity to curb teenage internet excesses that prompt abuses. (Lin, C. H., Lin, S. L., & Wu, 2009). The inability of parents to digitally curb internet excesses of teenagers culminating into digital vices as internet slangs, internet fraud, excessive use of video games and e-cheating are growing digital trend. Much attention and measure has not paid to curb the effects of digital abuses. This has eroded teenage study time, exam credibility and quality of Nigerian education system. This served as the focus of this study.

Review of Related Literature

Theoretical Framework

The uses and gratifications (U&G) theory of Katz (1959) is the theoretical anchorage of this study. As proposed that people that is teenagers generally switch to application of a specific technology and media to meet explicit needs. This U &G theory was validated by Davis (1989) Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) relate reception and use of technology in diverse situations through apparent utility (PU) and supposed comfort of usage (PEOU). Ease of use and flexibility might likely increase the quantity at which teenagers adopt a particular system for internet slangs, excessive use of video games, internet fraud and e-cheating. The massive adoption and usage of new digital internet communication technologies in on verge of eroding parenting and academic values of the good old days (Bodomo, 2009). Relentless effort by parents to curb this digital menace has proved abortive and continuous proliferation of this digital crisis ruining lives of teenagers is gradually on the increase. However, due to economic pursuit and over zealousness of most Nigerian parents, it is disturbing to find that the majority of the parents are not supervising their teenagers' Internet use despite the aftermath effects. Inability of parenting factors to curb digital misuse such as internet slangs, internet fraud, and excessive use of video games culminating into e-cheating is gradually having a firm negative grip upon Nigerian educational system (Nwikpo, 2021). Despite positive relationship between parents and teenagers, digital gaps still thrive because of parents now have to compete with the technology speed and efficiency of teenagers. As projected by speculations difficulty exist in the process of parents engaging in open and honest communication with teenagers on digital misuse. Parents may have to compete for teenager's attention as more time is rather spent with their peers and increasing technology use (Kocamaz, 2021).

The family bond between parents and teenager has been taken away by inclination to technology. As observed in most developed countries clearly indicates that Internet usage absorbed up to 91.2% of primary school children browse on the Internet at home; in contrast to about 66% at school (Lee & Chae, 2007). The digital crisis is reflected in the digital between parents and teenagers, because parents consider their children as a home internet digital pundit. This according to this study is the dichotomy between internet visitors (parents) and internet natives (teenagers). The digital crisis is absence of adequate level of e-maturity to manage digital risks. Negatively, 42% of children are victim of cyber-bullying unwanted exposure to pornography, violence, explicit language (Chisholm, 2006, Vanlanduyt and De Cleyn, 2007, van Rooij and van den Eijden, 2007). The inability of parents to cope with wider technological gap between the internet natives and visitor has generated parenting crisis in numerous dimensions.

Digital crisis between internet natives and visitors: Contemporary indices

The unstoppable speed at which technologies is trending, many parents have far trailed behind in curbing excesses due to inadequate knowledge of internet usage compared teenagers. The widen gap has featured some digital parenting crisis reflecting Internet slangs, Excessive usages of video games and Internet fraud drastically affecting student study habit culminating into e-cheating (Livingstone, 2003; Sorbring, 2012; Wang et al., 2005). The need to illustrate this crisis is pertinent so as to indicate its impact on parenting.

Internet Slangs and Parenting

Modern technological inventions are gradually influencing digital language revolution by creating a gap between parents who cannot keep pace with these advancements, and internet versatile of teenagers. In sociological context text messaging is exceptionally influenced by social and cultural factors. Hayes, (2022) postulates that the introduction of short messaging service (SMS) has created the context for the emergence of new forms of language, new grammatical structures and a new communication medium. Undoubtedly, text messaging has influenced conventional language structures in an immense way. As more and more students worldwide acquire and use mobile internet devices text messaging is changing conventional language patterns, this negative change is called text jargons. Internet slang is characterized by choppy lingo, sloppy spellings, grammatical errors, unbridled use of abbreviations, alphanumerism and so on are the negative grammatical features of internet slangs. Teenagers and adults on social media (Facebook, Whatsapp, Instagram, Mebo, Twitter, 2go and so on) in Nigeria adopt some of the following internet slang in chatting: The crisis here is parents' inability to decode meaning of Internet slang in on the verge of creating immorality and social vices all at the expense of teenager academic pursuit and potential realization taking a clue from the table below:

Table 1. **Parenting Issues and Teenage Digital Misuse of Internet Slangs**

S/N	Internet Slang	Meaning	S/N	Internet Slang	Meaning

1	LH6-	Let's have sex.	12	CD9 -	Parents around/Code 9.
2	IPN-	I'm posting naked.	13	GYPO-.	Get your pants off
3	KOTL-	Kiss on the lips.	14	8 -	Oral sex.
4	9-	Parent watching.	15	99 -	Parent gone.
5	IWSN	I want sex now.	16	CU46 -	See you for sex.
6	PIR-	Parent in room.	17	53X-	Sex.
7	NIFOC	Naked in front of computer.	18	GNOC-	Get naked on camera.
8	420-	Marijuana.	19	POS	Parent over shoulder
9	PRON-	Porn.	20	LsMIRL-	Let's meet in real life.
10	SUGARPIC	Suggestive or erotic photo	21	Broken-	Hangover from alcohol
11	DOC-	Drug of choice.	22	KPC	- Keeping parents clueless.

Source: Online Survey 2023.

Sociolinguistic view of Bernstein (1960) refers to two communication codes, the restricted and elaborate code. The restricted code unlike internet slangs occurs in a relatively informal situation, linguistically highly predictable, lacking stylistic range and codes that could be meaningful to the members of the sub-culture. Conversely, elaborate code is used in relative formal, education situations, permitting people to be reasonable in their expression. Parents are in most cases are unable to decode internet slangs due to the restricted nature. Indices from the above table in items 4, 5, 6, 12, 15, 16 17, 19 22 and so on indicated the immoral and non-academic usage of internet slang and how internet visitors (parents) are alien and gullible in unravelling the meaning of this digital abuses. An examination of the text messages and jargons adopted on social media may seem like a foreign language and parents being non-conversant with the unique and idiosyncratic language are often times far removed from the normative language (Harris, 2010). Worst still, internet slangs are generally perceived to be a threat to student's proficiency in language skills as the emergence of technologically mediated languages and pervasive usage is frustrating teenage educational pursuit. The habit of using internet slangs in short forms and abbreviations is prevalent among students and the negative effects on students' academic and examination writing skill appears obvious. Students are gradually unintentionally get used to the habit and then use it in the formal writing tasks in school despite numerous sanctions provided and applied against cases of ungrammatical use of the English language (Yunus, 2012). Mistakes in such examination situations are usually unfailingly penalized by examiners indicating the gross damage caused by internet slangs on students' grammatical proficiency and examination writing skills (Oluga & Babalola, 2013).

Parenting and Excessive usages of video games

Pathological video gaming has been found to be prevalent among teenagers with some of its attendant negative effects ranging from lower social competence to low school performance (Gentile, Choo, Liau, Sim, Li, Fung & Khoo, 2011). Some of the reasons why young people are motivated to play video games include: (i) entertainment (ii) escapism and (iii) virtual friendship (Beranuy, Carbonell & Griffiths, 2013). The family bond enjoyed by family that enhances effective parenting is gradually eroded by teenage inclination and excessive usage of video games. Teenage preoccupation with thoughts of the video games prefer spending time playing rather than socializing with others which continually instills the fear that without playing video games, life will go sour and if disturbed by others when playing, user becomes upset. (Mythily, Qiu, & Winslow (2008). The individualistic tendencies created by teenage excessive usage of video games is a parenting issues because the communal family bonds are broken. However, despite parents resistance to video games teenager still secretly play video games. More conveniently, apart from visiting play stations teenagers can install most video games applications into their mobile devices and play frequently irrespective of time and space. These digital dynamics debar parents from effectively monitoring and cautioning excessive video gaming among teenagers. Most parents that are analogue or not digitally inclined appears inefficient to check this digital excesses.

The resultant effect this digital misuse, is significantly related to poor academic outcome as reflected in neglect of academic work and study activities which result to low academic performance due to lengthy time devoted video game usage. Teenagers that lacks e-maturity, who are excessive inclined to video game as reported by Young (2007) admitted that their scores and class assignments nearly declined all the time due to excessive playing of video game. Reason adduced for poor academic performance due to teenagers' video game usage ranges from inadequate study habits, irregular lectures attendance, or lose concentration owing to sleep deprivation. Thus, this findings, came to conclusion that unchecked or excessive video games activities correlates negatively with student's low academic performance. Therefore, poor academic scores are a predictor variable for excessive video games usage (Liu, 2010).

Internet Fraud and Parenting

Worrisomely, it is estimated that four of every ten teenagers confidentially are involved in internet fraud or cybercrime called "Yahoo Yahoo". Contemporarily parenting is faced with the inability of checking and monitoring these digital abnormal excesses. Adversely, societal values such as integrity, hard work and dignity of labour has been grossly eroded. The present society is built on wrong principles that are clearly inconsistent, members' goals become ill focused (Oyeyemi, 2023). The gap creates between analogue parents and digitally inclined teenagers limit the extent of parents monitoring digital misuse. Past studies on parents' view and parents checking teenage Internet use; such as setting family rules, monitoring time and content of use, parents' active participation in teenagers' internet activities, installing monitoring software and so on are ineffective (Eastin , 2006; Kyung, Yop, & Bum, 2009; Lin & Yu, 2008; Livingstone & Helsper, 2009b; Wang, 2005). The four types of parenting observed by Eastin (2006) such as authoritarian,

authoritative, permissive, and neglectful having adopted several measures to check digital misuse are reported to be also ineffective to check teenage digital excess.

The issue of internet fraud via the internet asserts that teenagers and individuals' inability achieve cultural goal now resort to illegitimate means to achieve same. The new trend is the society that celebrates wealth, regardless of its source thereby producing a generation of teenagers aggressively pursuing wealth by indulging in all kinds of social vices, including cybercrime and criminality (Oyeyemi, 2023). Shamefully, some parents supports their teenagers in this illicit internet crime, by employing fetish means some even enroll their children as apprentice to acquire skills in internet fraud. Worst still some parents due to shameful false pride now form association of Mothers of Yahoo Yahoo (Internet Fraud) displaying dubious wealth accumulated by their wrongly-groomed children through internet crime. Incidence of cybercrime has become one of the major security issues for law enforcement agencies globally. Ribadu (2007) stated that the prominent forms of cybercrime in Nigeria are cloning of websites, false representations, internet purchase, fraudulent electronic mails and other e – commerce kinds of fraud. Ibrahim (2006) opines that cyber criminals in Nigeria are usually teenagers within the ages of 18 and 30 years, who are in or outside the secondary schools, but are either in the university or are about to be admitted into the university. Lending credence to this, a study by Zero Tolerance (2006) indicates that cyber criminals are usually within the age of 18 and 30 years and they indulge in the crime to survive and have a taste of good life. DeMarco (2001), also noted that cyberspace make young people susceptible to risk of engaging in cybercriminal activity by providing open, uncensored and unregulated sites that provide information, directives and tools about hacking, network intrusion, and criminal procedures. The end result is either victims are apprehended by law or develop health or mental issues because of the diabolic means used to facilitate the get-rich-quick syndrome as indicated by the table below:

Table 2. **Selected Cases of New Strategies of Yahoo Plus format among Nigeria Youth**

S/N	Description	Venue	Date
1	3 yahoo boys caught during attempt to sacrifice a young girl	IGUEBEN lga Edo state	2/2/2021
2	15 years old Yahoo guy arrested with coffin containing charms	Shagamu, Ogun State	28/4/2022
3	Confession girl run mad, become useless after we use them for yahoo plus	Lagos State	2/4/2022
4	EFCC arrested 5 yahoo girls and boys posing as US soldiers	Kaduna State	4/7/2019
5	Boys of 14 and 15 accosted from Delta state that travelled down to Lagos to learn Yahoo Yahoo	Lagos State	2 /2/2022
6	Yahoo boy caught eating fasces	Osun State	27/7/2021

7	Yahoo plus; Disgusting video of man eating lady's Poo directly from his anus	Lagos State	17/9/2018
8	Yahoo boys caught stealing bras and pants for money ritual	Lagos State	6/1/2019
9	Yahoo boy barking like a dog	Ijebu ode, Ogun State	4/4/2018
10	Yahoo plus guys caught with human parts for money ritual	Abraka, Delta State	7/11/2019

Source, Online Survey, 2023.

The pathetic, disgusting and appalling nature of incidence of the negative end results of internet crime shows contemporary parenting issues posed by digital misuse of internet. Most parents are constrained due to digital inability to check, curtail or detect if their ward indulges in internet crime, since they lack such digital proficiency (Nwikpo, 2021)

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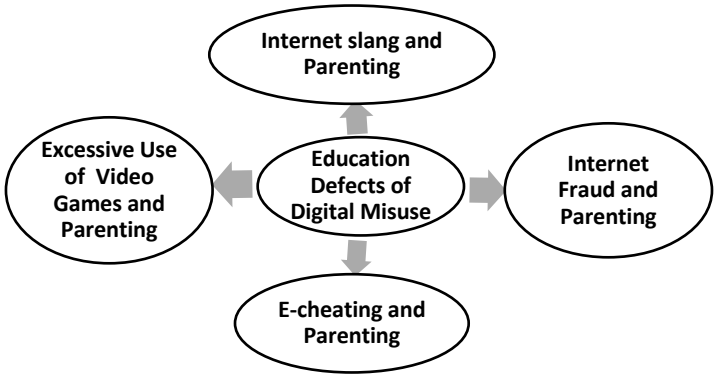
E-cheating and Parenting.

The enormous complex issues associated with parenting and teenagers' digital misuse is intricately interwoven. Teenagers' excessive indulgence in internet slang, excessive use of video games and internet fraud may definitely have a declining study habit. Akande (2007) argued that students nowadays are more materialistic and create little or no time to go through books, newspapers and magazines. Students' wrong priority is to earn money, at the detriment of knowledge acquisition. Imagine, will students not laugh at the teachers that try to make them study hard when a budget of 4000 naira will get them ten subjects examination question before exams. These have contributed to learning difficulty together with its attendant negative impacts on the minds of secondary school students (Yusuf, 2007). These negative habits have resulted in slow and gradual decline in student's positive study habits (Olajide, 2008). Teenagers engrossed in digital misuse may be tempted to indulge in e-examination malpractices such as e-cheating. This is digital new wave of cheating associated ICT and internet service of which Ill-minded individuals engage in various vices (cyber scam, e-cheating, hijacked e-mails, fake websites, high-tech and computer fraud) through the aid of the internet online business transactions (Chawki, 2009) as cited by (Igwe, 2011). Here effort is made by students to engaging ICT devices to indulge in examination misconduct, in the bid to smartly beat the effort of civil society group and well-meaning Nigerians in curtailing examination fraud. Nwaorgu (2012) pathetically, states that the graveyard tranquility which characterized exam halls in the good old days has suddenly disappeared, having collected bribes, officials look the other way when students go into examination halls with ICT devices to facilitate e-cheating through online runs sites. Some ladies insert their phones or PDAs (Personal Digital Assistant) in sensitive and private parts of their bodies. It may be difficult and embarrassing especially for a male supervisor to apprehend such ladies, without being accused of and prosecuted morally for sexual harassment. The end result when caught on parenting is students being rusticated or dismissed which dents the family name and realization of teenager potentials. Parents may at time develop hazardous psychological and health issues because of scandal emanating from such act. However, the culminating effect of digital misuse deduced from this study can represented in the model proposed below:

Figure 1: Proposed Model for Parenting Issues, Teenage Digital Misuse of Internet, and Educational defects (Source: Oyeyemi, 2023).



Contemporarily teenage unprecedented access and usage of digital technology has been time consuming and gradually eroding teenage quality of attachment to parents, parenting interaction and in-person relationships. Aside digital misuse there abounds numerous academic benefits of digital technology. As asserted by Wang (2008) observing that digital mobile internet devices functions and features can be utilized for effective learning within or outside the classroom in the following measures: (i). Downloading e-books, software and dictionaries from mobile internet for studies that can help in solving the problem of a literacy. (ii) Use of dictionary checking words meaning, spelling errors and improve vocabulary. (iii) Capturing class notes picture of esthetic beauty of nature by the means of mobile camera and video camera (iv). Use of Opera-mini device via mobile internet to support, discover and acquire knowledge on curricula subject matter and content areas after school hours.

Educational defect now abounds due to due to digital misuse and emanating from teenager versatility and ownership of digital devices and parents non-proficiency to monitor to non-academically tailor teenager internet usage. Such defects as indicated in the model asserts a neglect of the educational benefits due to teenager digital misuses ranging from internet slangs, to excessive use of video games, internet fraud and finally culminating to e-cheating. This according to this study is the crisis emanating based on digital gap between parents (internet visitors) and digitally inclined teenagers (internet natives). The barn of this study stems from neglect of stakeholders of teenage digital misuse and the gross and appalling academic and social defects of this digital menace of the lives of contemporary teenagers. Notably, societal values have been eroded, students study habit is grossly declining due to crave for wealth and materialism. The inability of parents to awake to this digital reality that is on the verge of continuously erupting the ideals of education is the concern of this study. Thus this study seeks to find answers to the extent

that digital misuse of internet slangs, excessive video game usage, internet fraud and e-cheating has defected much cherished educational and parenting values in Nigeria.

This study sought to find answers to following questions:

I. What is the significant existing relationship between misuse of Internet slangs and parenting factor among teenagers in Lagos State?
II. What is the significant existing relationship between misuse of usages of video games and parenting factor in Lagos State?
III. What is the significant existing significant relationship between internet fraud and parenting in Lagos State?
IV. What is the significant existing significant relationship between e-cheating and parenting factor in Lagos State??

Research Hypotheses

The following hypotheses has been designed to guide this study:

I. There is no significant relationship existing between misuses of Internet slangs and parenting factor in Lagos State.
II. There is no significant relationship existing between misuses of usages of video games and parenting factor in Lagos State.
III. There is no significant relationship existing between internet frauds and parenting in Lagos State.
IV. There is no significant relationship existing between e-cheating and parenting factor in Lagos State.

Methods

The research design for this study was a descriptive survey design. Simple random sampling technique was utilized to select one hundred and twenty parents. Sixty parents were selected from Badagry West Local government Area and Sito Gbethrome Secondary Secondary School on the basis of rural area. While the urban sample of sixty parents were also drawn from Government Secondary School Ijanikin and Oto Awori Local Government Area, Lagos, Nigeria. A questionnaire to test parenting and digital misuse and effect on education was adopted as an instrument having established the reliability coefficient at 0.72%. Statistically, respondents were made to respond by ticking any of three Likert scale of either High, Moderate or Low. Administration of questionnaire was self-administered by the researcher after fulfilling all ethical considerations. Descriptive statistics such as Mean, and Standard Deviation and inferential statistics of Multiple Regression were utilized for data analysis.

Results

Table 3: Descriptive analysis of the data sourced

Descriptive Statistics

	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Educational and Parental values	3.2500	.98114	120
Internet fraud	2.5500	.94246	120
Misuse of Internet Slangs	2.6500	.95658	120
Excessive Video Games Usage	3.1500	.96711	120
E-Cheating	3.3000	1.00920	120

From the table 3 above it shows that a sample of 120 respondents was sampled for this research. It further recorded that E-cheating is very high with a mean and standard deviation of (3.30 and1.009); Educational and Parental values is closely followed by mean and standard deviation value as (3.25 and 0.981); Excessive Video Games Usage also recorded a high mean and stand deviation value of (3.15 and 0.967); Misuse of Internet Slangs have a mean and standard deviation value as (2.65 and 0.95) while the least variable that recorded the lowest mean and standard deviation value was internet fraud (2.55 and 0.942) respectively.

Table 4: Summary of Regression model Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics					Durbin Watson
					R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Changes	
1	.890[a]	.878	.717	.59132	.313	13.076	4	115	.000	1.544

a. **Predictors: (Constant), E-Cheating, Misuse of Internet slangs ,Internet fraud, Excessive video games usage**

b. ***Dependent Variable: Educational and Parental values***

From table 4 above the regression summary model reveals that Correlation R value of 0.890 was obtained and was derived . (1-0.878 will produce 0.122). By implication it shows that the regression analysis of this model ca while events outside the model can best be explained with 0.122 respectively.

Table 5: Regression coefficients analysis Coefficients

	Unstandardized Coefficient	Standardized Coefficient		Correlations

Model	B	Std. Error	Beta	T	Sig.	Zero-order	Partial	
1. (Constant)	5.075	.397		12.794	.000			
Internet fraud	-.403	.065	-.541	-6.197	.000	-.515	.500	.497
Misuse of Internet Slangs	-.192	.089	-.180	2.154	003	-.246	.197	.167
Excessive video games usage	-.147	.065	-.202	-2.240	.004	.093	.204	.173
E-cheating	.053	.059	.076	.892	.017	.107	.083	.064

a. Dependent Variable: Educational and Parental values

From table 6 above, it shows that internet fraud, misuse of internet slangs, excessive video games usage and E-cheating culminate to measure teenage misuse of internet while the dependent variable remains educational and parental values. Although e-cheating tends to contribute more to the relationship than other variables. Moreso from the unstandardized coefficients, only e-cheating recorded a positively moderate value of 0.53 meanwhile, internet fraud has a sig value of 0.00 as $p<0.05$; misuse of internet slangs has a sig value of 0.33 as $p<0.05$; excessive video games usage has a sig value of 0.004 as $p<0.05$; and E-cheating have a sig value of 0.17 as $p<0.05$ respectively. Since they all show significance, statistically, the null hypothesis is retained and alternative which depicts that Misuse of internet slangs, Excessive video games usage, Internet fraud and E-cheating does significantly promote Educational and parental values is rejected.

Discussion of Findings

The widespread possession of digital devices among the teenagers in Nigeria, and parent neglect in monitoring digital misuse and abuses is at an alarming rate gradually causing social and academic havoc. A study digitally developed world of European Union indicated that one third of the parents reported applies a variety of measures to ensure teenage internet safety and check digital misuse, however, there still abounds pronounced level of deficiency (Livingstone, 2011 & Stahl & Fritz, 2002). The Nigerian featured problem of digital gap between the parents and their teenager, as most parents may not be as faster as their teenager in learning and updating knowledge and skills of using the Internet, therefore, lack the ability to curb digital misuse (Wang, 2005).

The offshoot of parents' inability to check digital misuse of internet slangs, excessive video game usage, internet fraud and e-cheating has defected the much cherished educational and parenting values in Nigeria. Findings from this study revealled the unchecked and excessive use of internet slangs among teenagers have brought some of the negative habits into formal essays paragraphs and writings in examinations, displaying some academic irresponsibility among students when writing academically. They start to neglect the rules and the forms which are necessary in producing meaningful pieces of writing. In addition, they commit spelling mistakes as reflected in their frequently sent text messages. (Bouchikhi&Bouanani, 2017) This further corroborates the

fact that the habit of using internet slangs and abbreviations is prevalent among teenagers. The negatively effects on students' academic and examination writing skills is that students may get used to the habit and then use it in the formal writing tasks in school (Yunus, 2012).

Digital misuse of video game an parental inability to checked this excess, was reported by the findings of this study was obvious as Rubijesmin (2017) reported that video games could affect student's studying time because enormous time spend on playing video games alleviate the time for students to do their assignments, preparing for test and classes and any activity related to academic. As equally reported by Anand (2007) observed a negative correlation between the time students invest into playing video game and their academic performance. In concurrence with the study, Weis and Cerankosky (2010) also found a negative impact of excessive videogame usage on academic performance.

Worst as found by the study is the love for materialism the further lure teenager into internet fraud term as "Yahoo Yahoo" in Nigeria. Adversely, societal values such as integrity, hard work and dignity of labour have been grossly eroded as the present society is built on wrong principles that are clearly inconsistent, members' goals become ill focused (Oyeyemi, 2023). More importantly, the prominent forms of cybercrime in Nigeria are cloning of websites, false representations, internet purchase, fraudulent electronic mails and other e – commerce kinds of fraud, orchestrated by teenagers (Ribadu, 2006 & Ibrahim, 2007). Lending credence to this, a study by Zero Tolerance (2006) indicates that cyber criminals are usually within the age of 18 and 30 years and they indulge in the crime to survive and have a taste of good life. DeMarco (2001). The gap create between analogue parents and digitally inclined teenagers limit the extent of parents monitoring digital misuse. Past studies on parents' view and parents checking teenage Internet use; such as setting family rules, monitoring time and content of use, parents' active participation in teenagers' internet activities, installing monitoring software and so on are ineffective (Eastin , 2006; Kyung, Yop, & Bum, 2009; Lin & Yu, 2008; Livingstone & Helsper, 2009b; Wang, 2005). The disastrous end result to their academics' goal is victim apprehended by law or becomes abnormal health wise because of the diabolic means used to facilitate the get-rich-quick syndrome.

Teenager that are absorbed with excessive digital misuse of internet featuring internet slangs, excessive usage of video games and the greed for materialism luring them to internet fraud may not concentrate and could be academically maladjusted. This as reported by this study is e-cheating employed as a short-cut to educational success. The findings reported in this research point to the fact that adequate knowledge usage of e-cheating could result in students' engagement to commit examination malpractices which reduces the quality of examination and debar realization of potentials. Ishii (2011) observed that ICT when wrongly applied does more harm to school students rather than enhancing educational goals and objectives with respect to students owning them. As further asserted this digital new wave of cheating associated ICT and internet service of which Ill-minded individuals engage in various vices (cyber scam, e-cheating, hijacked e-mails, fake websites, high-tech and computer fraud) through the aid of the internet online business transactions create enormous havoc to teenager academic pursuit (Chawki, 2009).

Conclusion and recommendations

The digital gap between the internet visitor (parents} and internet natives (teenagers) as indicated in this study has erupted some digital crises. This featured in this study as digital misuse of internet slangs, excessive usage of video games, internet fraud degenerating to the educational vices of e-cheating. The analogue nature of parents and economic zealousness creates the inability to monitor or check this digital vices. Attempt was made by this study to access and create an awareness of gradual havoc of these digital devices. However it was discover that the Nigerian featured problem of digital gap between the parents and their teenager, as most parents may not be as faster as their teenager in learning and updating knowledge and skills of using the Internet, therefore, parents lack the ability to curb digital misuse. This appears as the basis for the alarming rate of digital misuse of the internet by teenager that calls for urgent concern.

A good communication, understanding and appreciation between parents and teenagers is the key to ensure the best use of the Internet. The study further recommends a holistic approach by stakeholders (parents' teachers and policy makers) to curb this digital menace to avoid gross erosion of Nigeria educational values.

Scholars found that families play an important role in preventing digital Internet misuse, so more programs should be considered by schools, policymakers, and social workers to enhance parents' involvement in their children's Internet use. Parents need to be educated about digital Internet misuse and the ways their teens can be checked to avoid the common risks and develop healthy attitude to digital internet usage.
Digitally, parents should acquire skills to check digital misuse by learning how to use filtering and blocking software programmes and applications such measure can be adopted to teenage android Portable Devices:

I. Register a Gmail account for them with the correct age and with your email as the parent.

II. Install Google Family Link on your own phone.

III. Add their registered e-mail to your Google Family Link.

IV. Factory reset their android device if they already have one then login the device with their own Gmail account that is linked to your Google Family Link.

V. If it is new device, make sure it is their Gmail you use to activate the device.

VI. Immediately you carry out step 4 & 5 above, your phone will get a notification to allow them activate the device, this is the beginning of you taking control from anywhere.

VII. All adult content of any form will never load in their phone.

VIII. They cannot install anything without your approval remotely from the Family Link.

IX. You can lock their device from anywhere.

X. You can set a start and stop time for their device usage, the phone will lock when it gets to that time even if you forget.

XI. YouTube will not allow them see adult content too.

XII. There is also YKids, which is YouTube for Kids, I recommend you remove the normal YouTube and give them YKids.

XIII. From your Google Family Link, you can see how long they stayed on each app or page to warn them where necessary.

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