

**DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATE: A SOCIAL NETWORK WEB APPLICATION
FOR E-LEARNING IN THE TERTIARY INSTITUTION**

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ABSTRACT

In this paper a web application that integrates social network functionalities into e-learning platform is presented. The web application named *Educate* has functionalities that include among others; sharing files, sharing updates, creating courses, adding courses, participating in discussions, submitting assignments and participating in surveys. The targeted users are students and lecturers in tertiary institutions. Notably, *Educate* is developed to take advantage of the increasing adoption of social network across the globe and in Nigeria as well. The results of the survey carried out in the project shows that all correspondents agree that social networks are beneficial to education. However, sixty-seven (67) % of correspondents rarely use these networks in an educational capacity. Also, seventy-three (73) % of respondents think Educational institutions in Nigeria do not make the most of social networks. These results show that there are huge opportunities for improving the use of social networks for educational purposes in Nigeria. Also from the results of the survey, Seventy-three (73) % of respondents rated *Educate's* user friendliness as good while thirteen (13) % rated it as being excellent. All respondents think *Educate* would actively engage students in the learning process. All respondents also think *Educate* would create an avenue for online collaboration and knowledge sharing. With the results of the survey, it is believed that the developed web application (*Educate*) would assist in solving problems of collaboration, distance learning, as well as being a connection and knowledge sharing platform for students and tutors.

Keywords: E-learning, learning management systems; Social Network Site (SNS) ; Education Supporting System ; tertiary education; Web Application; incremental software development methodology.