Title: Enterprise Social Media Impact on Human Resource Practices

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Abstract

Purpose:

The purpose of this paper is to investigate how individual attitudes towards using enterprise social media (ESM) impacts trust, explicit and tacit knowledge sharing as well as work performance in emerging economies.

Design/methodology/approach:

The authors use data from a survey of 293 employed individuals in Lagos, Nigeria that work at organizations that have ESM systems.

Findings:

The authors find enterprise social media usage are significantly associated with trust. However, ESM use does not impact explicit or tactic knowledge transfer.

Practical implications:

The paper provides empirical evidence that individuals who perceive high levels of performance expectancy will engage in ESM usage which in turn increases trust amongst colleagues. Human resource managers can argue that by adopting ESM, they can facilitate improved trust and collaboration through online engagement amongst employees. This is important for multinational organizations wanting to expand into emerging economies where the organization and local workforce need to foster trust in knowledge sharing.

Originality/value:

There has been little evidence regarding HRM use of ESM in emerging economies. By understanding individual attitudes towards ESM and how the use impacts knowledge sharing, the academic discussions concerning use of technology to enhance knowledge sharing can continue to evolve.

Keywords: Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology, Enterprise Social Media, knowledge transfer, trust

Type: Research Paper

Introduction

Rapid development in information technology has resulted in many organizations adopting social media as a strategic tool in communicating with internal and external audiences. Human resource departments are increasingly using enterprise social media (ESM) to create social relationships, enhance communication and trust amongst employees. Studies show that the use of electronic networks has been linked to knowledge management (e.g. Alavi and Leidner 2001; Wasko and Faraj 2005) and improved communication and collaboration in order to enhance individual performance at work (North 2010). Furthermore, incorporation of internet technology has proven to impact organizational knowledge transfer and performance (e.g. Hsia et al. 2006; Chatti et al. 2007; Bennet et al. 2010; Leidner et al. 2010; Moqbel et al. 2013).

However, many studies involving the use of technology in the workplace are explored in the America and Western Europe context with HR departments in emerging economies slow to adapt to digital transformations. Some scholars argue that the digital divide is a result of modern telecommunications infrastructures in emerging economies such as sub-Saharan Africa ignoring the necessary development needed for land-lines and focusing on mobile instead (Lee et al. 2012). If individuals don't have access to online systems in the workplace, this may impeded attitudes towards engaging with ESM. Therefore, there is an opportunity to bridge the gap in knowledge by exploring in emerging economies if individual attitudes towards ESM and usage will impact on knowledge sharing and performance.

In order to understand these questions, we call upon three theories. Since social interaction is critical to any kind of exchange (Lin 2001), social capital theory proposes that tangible and intangible benefits can be gained through social interactions. This suggests that knowledge transfer can be best achieved through social interactions mediated through the use of ESM tools and technologies (Nahapiet and Ghoshal 1998; Lin 2007). Secondly, media synchronicity theory can be used to explore ESM impact on performance through the conveyance and convergence capacity of media (Dennis and Valacich 1999). Media synchronicity posits that goals are achieved and performance is enhanced when communication needs are supported by the medium used (Dennis et al. 2008). Finally, the unified theory of acceptance and use of technology (UTAUT) explains user perception and subsequent behavior and use of technology. It assumes that performance and effort expectancy directly determine individuals' usage intensions and behavior (Venkatesh et al. 2003). Together, these theories should assist us in answering if individual attitudes towards ESM use will impact knowledge transfer and performance.

This paper seeks to contribute to academic conversations threefold. First, using the social capital theory (Yoon and Rolland 2012) we examine how the unique collaborative and communicative potentials of ESM can help overcome barriers to knowledge transfer. Secondly, we add empirical evidence linking media synchronicity theory to higher performance at work (Cao et al. 2012). Finally we seek to answer Venkatesh et al.'s (2016) call for new outcome mechanisms such as "new consequences of behavioral intention and technology use added to the original UTAUT" (p. 335). Understanding the impact of ESM use on knowledge transfer will enable HR practitioners to effectively address the issues of knowledge transfer amongst individuals, across departments and geographical locations. Limitations and gaps from this study will also be beneficial in directing future research in this field.

Theoretical Framework

Enterprise Social Media

ESM is the direct adoption of social media tools that are either public facing (such as a Facebook or LinkedIn page) or organizational facing (such as an intranet, internal wikis or closed Facebook or LinkedIn groups) with the purpose to facilitate communication, connection and collaboration amongst employees (Patroni et al. 2016). ESM can be optional, encouraged or even mandated for employees (Ellison and Boyd 2013). The use of each system differs though. Social media is primarily for social, interpersonal goals and entertainment; whereas, ESM is used to accomplish work related goals and maintaining professional contacts (Ellison and Boyd 2013). Finally, ESM allows for organizational content aggregation which can be used internally as a means of collaboration across silos (Kane 2015) or externally for crowdsourcing ideas or solutions to problems (Alimam et al. 2017).

Kaplan and Heinlein (2010) observed that early adoption and use of ESM was pioneered by employees who independently joined public sites like Myspace and Facebook and interacted with co-workers. Younger, new employees in companies like IBM and Microsoft, who were used to Facebook, used this social media extensively to learn about their new colleagues and create new social relationships (DiMicco and Millen 2007). In addition to socialization, these relationships paved the way for knowledge transfer. Tulgan (2007) suggests that flexible working, socialization, training and development functions can be promoted with ESM tools. Furthermore, various scholars advocate HR use of ESM internally to promote organizational citizenship behavior, performance, knowledge management and transfer in the organization (e.g. Nucleus 2009; Bennet et al. 2010; Leidner et al. 2010; Moqbel et al 2013).

ESM is not without criticism though. Nucleus Research (2009) suggests that Facebook use by organizational members' results in over 1.5% drop in productivity. D'Abate and Eddy (2007) noted that employers feared online activities would lead to cyber-loafing and loss of productivity. From an organizational aspect, Alimam et al. (2017) states that strategic planning and architectural design remains a challenge for organizations considering implementing ESM. Therefore, in order to address the issue of the trade-offs between how the employees elect to use ESM and the IT support needed by a company to develop their own system (non-public source such as IBM's BeeHive), one must first examine employees attitudes towards using ESM.

Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology

Formulated by Venkatesh et al. (2003), UTAUT was developed as a review of the leading technology adoption and acceptance theories in the field of Information Systems, such as the Theory of Reasoned Action, Technology Acceptance Model, and motivational theories. Over the past decade, UTAUT has been largely successful in explaining variance in behavioral intentions and variance in technology use and attempts to explain the various factors that influences at a micro level the individual's intentions and subsequent use of technology in over a thousand studies (Venkatesh et al. 2016). The four constructs that show the determinants of usage intentions and usage behavior are performance expectancy, effort expectancy, social influence and facilitating conditions (Venkatesh et al. 2003). Research shows that

usage expectancy and effort expectancy are the central constructs of UTAUT and can predict individual intention and behavior (Verhoeven et al. 2010).

Performance expectancy refers to the degree an individual believes that using an information system will aid individuals in attaining gains in their job performance (Venkatesh et al. 2003). If the technology is perceived as useful in performing daily duties, then it is most likely to be adopted by an individual. This construct was found to be the strongest in predicting usage intentions and actual use of technology for e-HRM usage (Obeidat 2016). Conversely, effort expectancy refers to the ease of use associated with information system (Venkatesh et al. 2003). It suggests that how straightforward it is to use a new information system, the easier it will be for individuals to do so (Im et al. 2011). Research shows that this is a significant factor at the early stages of adopting new technology, but becomes less effective with sustained and extended use (Wang et al. 2013).

Controls such as gender and age have played an important role in understanding how UTAUT differs (Venkatesh et al. 2016). El Ouirdi et al. (2016) found that being a younger male instead of a female was significantly related to effort expectancy and behavior intention. This was contrary to many other studies which found being a female would influence use (Venkatesh et al. 2016). These findings suggest that in developing or emerging economies that previously dominate moderating factors such as gender may differ then what is commonly found in Western studies. Most theories of technology use have hypothesized age as a moderating factor (Venkatesh et al. 2003; Venkatesh et al. 2012). Morris and Venkatesh (2000) found that an age difference exists when it comes to technological adoption. Posner (1996) attributes a decline in cognitive capabilities that follows the aging process and corresponds to Prensky's (2001) theory of digital natives and digital immigrants, which suggests that people born in the 80's are most comfortable in using technology. This implies that in countries where millennials make up the majority of the workforce, that they should be more comfortable in using ESM. Additionally, research shows that older workers have a harder time adapting to changes in work processes and are likely to take solace in familiar methods (Morris and Venkatesh 2000). This lack of familiarity and comfort in using new technology could inhibit older workers who will have more implicit knowledge from their wealth of experience from engaging in a platform that is favored by younger generations.

Cardon and Marshall (2015) noted that one of the barriers to wide adoption is entrenched habit and organizational cultural realities and individual perceptions. Undoubtedly the perception of the employee to ESM could bear a direct effect on ESM use and its ability to aid either knowledge transfer or performance. A positive perception of ESM could lead to the individual voluntarily using ESM systems. Thus, the following is hypothesized:

Hypothesis 1: Performance and effort expectancy are positively related to ESM usage.

Knowledge Transfer- Social Capital Theory

The essence of knowledge transfer lies in the provision of expertise, know-how and methods that help members of the organization develop ideas and implement procedures and processes (Wang and Noe 2010). Social capital theory assumes that social relationships are essential to resources and learning (Yoon and Roland 2012). It emphasizes the importance of the relational rather than the technical aspects of the organization, which is a strong point of ESM (McAfee 2009). Social capital plays a crucial role in knowledge transfer as ESM enhances these relationships by transcending bureaucratic hierarchies' and physical boundaries, helping identify expertise and fostering knowledge transfer (Chatti et al. 2007). Ellison et al. (2010) found that ESM facilitated the creation of weak ties where no connections existed, making knowledge transfer more likely. Therefore with ESM, relationships spanning the entire organization are created and maintained aiding the flow of diverse knowledge (Kavanaugh et al. 2005).

However, a major barrier to knowledge sharing is lack of trust amongst colleagues (Fang and Chiu 2010). Trust refers to an individual's capacity to authenticate knowledge received as being relevant and factual, devoid of risks, errors and inconsistencies (Lin 2007). Skinner et al. (2014, p.208) contends that trust is a "process" which focuses on individual pre-conceived beliefs that leads to a decision to trust and culminates in demonstrating ones trust. Fang and Chiu (2010) say trust generally develops overtime via interactions, relationships and experiences. Face-toface interactions, mutual experiences and length of time of familiarity lead to willingness and readiness to share knowledge (Fang and Chiu 2010). While many studies and surveys explore trust between employees and management (Malinen et al. 2013; Kampkotter et al. 2016) or how organizations attempt to regulate employee behaviors as a means of increasing employee trust within the organization (Weibel et al. 2016), trust amongst employees is equally important when it comes to knowledge transfer. This interpersonal trust focuses on the individual be willing to be vulnerable and believe in the positive behavior of their colleagues (De Jong et al. 2016). Trust, a key element of the relational dimension of the social capital theory, has been shown in research and theory to have a positive effect on the knowledge sharing intention

and behavior of individuals in organizations (Fang and Chiu 2010). ESM use can create and strengthen social networks and interactions which may lead to trust amongst colleagues (Fang and Chiu 2010). Studies about virtual teams and distributed working found that trust was positively associated with knowledge transfer, indicating that virtual team members' interpersonal trust was enhanced by mutual communication and understanding via ESM use (Wu et al. 2006, Chen and Hung 2010). Therefore, it is expected the organizations that adopt ESM that are used by employees can improve trusts amongst themselves.

Hypothesis 2: Use of ESM tools has a positive impact on trust.

A second area of concern is what form of knowledge needs to be transferred: tacit or explicit knowledge (Nonaka 1994). Explicit knowledge refers to knowledge that can be expressed in formal and systematic language and shared in written form e.g. manuals, formulae and specifications (Hsu 2006). Explicit knowledge is coded and articulated, therefore it is relatively easy for knowledge management systems to identify, store and transfer (Nonaka et al. 2000). ESM technologies provide features that enable organizations to effectively store and manage knowledge (Steininger et al. 2010). For example, explicit knowledge sharing involves all the organizations institutionalized and formal knowledge sharing methods and tools like manuals, documents procedures and formulas (Nonaka and Takeuchi 1995). ESM can enhance the availability and access to explicit knowledge especially when made available on organizations intranets, blogs and wikis (Nonaka and Takeuchi 1995). HRM's use of an intranet can be used to facilitate learning organizational culture (Bennett 2014). Steinfield et al. (2009) examined how IBM's BeeHive incorporated the creation of new social interactions that created linkages to resources within the organization, on or off site at any given time. They observed that this ESM system had an ability to create social capital as well as increase employee engagement and organizational citizenship behavior. With the move to digitalize many HRM aspects, it is imperative that the employees actively use these systems in order to absorb knowledge at an explicit level.

Hypothesis 3: Use of ESM tools has a positive impact on explicit knowledge transfer.

Conversely, tacit knowledge is highly personalized and hard to formalize and may include personal insights, hunches, intuition and feelings (Nonaka and Takeuchi 1995). Tacit knowledge is developed mainly through experiences, routine and emotions (Nonaka et al. 2000). Individuals possess tacit knowledge in the form of technical know-how, experience and insight (Abidi et al. 2005). It is instrumental in improving organizations knowledge base, quality of work, productivity and competitiveness (Nonaka and Takeuchi 1995). The unstructured nature of tacit knowledge makes it difficult to manage and share (McKenzie and Potter 2004). While it is possible to share through traditional methods of face-to-face interactions (apprenticeships and direct observation), the cost involved makes it expedient for alternative methods (Alavi and Leidner 1999), but may provide better interactivity, cooperation and engagement of the recipient (McKenzie and Potter 2004).

ESM can be used to facilitate effective tacit knowledge transfer by enabling relations across organizational silos (Sambamurthy and Subramani 2005). They afford easier and better access to knowledge by creating social connections that ensure that originators and recipients communicate and collaborate, even without face-to-face contact (Majchrzak et al. 2005). Abidi et al. (2009), further espouses that ESM can be helpful for tacit knowledge through its collaborative, interactive technologies, allowing for criticism to enhance the quality of experiential knowledge.

However, Haldin-Herrgard (2000) argues that knowledge sharing through the use of ESM is too limited, if not impossible to achieve. It may be possible to facilitate tacit knowledge transfer using ESMs, but it may not be as rich as face-toface interactions in the old systems of knowledge management (Falconer 2006). On the other hand, using blogs, video blogs and wikis are as effective and efficient ways of tacit knowledge transfer as face-to-face communication if not better, due to its ability to replay and be stored for longer while providing access for more employees' organization wide (Khan and Jones 2011). Together, these studies lead us to hypothesize the following.

Hypothesis 4: Use of ESM tools has a positive impact on tacit knowledge transfer.

Performance

The media synchronicity theory (MST) was developed by Dennis et al. (2008) to explain the role of technology in enhancing employee performance. MST focuses on the capability of information technology to support and enhance synergy and collaboration between individuals working to achieve the same goals (Dennis et al. 2008). It postulates that it is the extent to which the capabilities of a communication medium enable individuals to achieve synchronicity through conveyance and convergence (Dennis et al. 2008). The conveyance process represents the transmission of new information and the processing of that information by the recipient in order to create, modify and align one's mental image of the situation (Cao et al. 2012). This process is enhanced by media that is low in synchronicity because it needs cognitive resources to read and understand and then integrate information or knowledge into a mental model. Therefore, lower synchronicity allows more time between message transmissions so recipients can assimilate them better (Cao et al. 2012). With less understanding of the task, media and colleagues involved, communication processes should use the conveyance process with lower media synchronicity (Dennis et al. 2008).

Conversely, the convergence process uses mediums with higher synchronicity which leads to better communication performance. Because information has already been transferred and integrated into the recipients' mental models, therefore the resulting discussion focuses on already conveyed and processed information (Dennis and Valacich 1999). This process involves mutual agreement on the meaning of information and is enhanced by media high on synchronicity, allowing for 'give and take' between sender and recipient in order to arrive at a mutual understanding (Cao et al. 2012). Convergence process will likely be used in a situation where there is a better understanding of the task, the media and colleague, therefore utilizing higher media synchronicity communication (Dennis et al. 2008; Cao et al. 2012).

Moqbel et al. (2013) contend that increased commitment afforded by the use of ESM tools will positively influence job satisfaction and performance of the employer. Other researchers supports this assertion by establishing the use of social media at work was worthwhile, given that it enabled creation of new relationships and sustaining existing relationships (North 2010). Leidner et al. (2010) found that new employees performed better and faster after using the ESM when building new relationships and facilitating quick tacit and explicit knowledge transfer. Collective knowledge was improved when using ESM hence contributing to the job performance of the employees (Bennett et al. 2010). Therefore this study hypothesizes the following:

Hypothesis 5: Use of ESM tools has a positive effect on work performance.

Figure 1 depicts our conceptual model.

Insert Figure 1 about here

Method

Research Context

While there is a burgeoning group of studies concerning Nigerian universities using social media as knowledge transformation (e.g. ObotEkaNjeze 2012, Fasae and Adegbilero 2016; Quadri and Abebayo 2016), there are no studies to our knowledge on HR's uses of ESM in developing countries of sub-Saharan Africa or Nigeria. With the return of democratic government in Nigeria, foreign investment has increased with large multinational corporations like Google, Samsung, MTN and HP coming into the country for the first time (Amaeshi and Amao 2009). ESM systems are most likely being used in these companies home country and may have proven effective in bridging geographical, social and boundaries to knowledge transfer and performance. With the prevailing social boundaries, ESM tools can help build trust and better social connections, facilitating better communication and performance

(Leonardi et al. 2013). Therefore, we use a sample of Nigerian employees in order to investigate how ESM use impacts communication, knowledge transfer and performance in emerging economies.

Sample and procedure

To test our hypotheses, we distributed web-based surveys through HR departments in the public sector, non-profit and multi-national organizations in Lagos, Nigeria. These organizations were chosen as many of the local organizations' private sector HR departments did not actively use social media or ESM to engage with employees. After screening responses for incomplete surveys or unengaged responses, 293 valid respondents were considered for the study. The final population sample consisted of 58% males. Generation X respondents accounted for 54.3% and millennials accounted for 41%. Prensky (2001) highlighted the digital divide when it comes to adopting technology amongst the various generations. Furthermore, generational studies have been increasingly important in HR literature when managing different generations (Lieber 2010). When the data was collected, Millennials were aged 31and younger, Generation X were 32-46 and Baby Boomers were 47-66 (Lieber 2010). Respondents were almost evenly distributed between the multi-national (private) sector and public sector with 47.4% and 39.2% respectively, while non-profit sector consisted of 13.3%. Respondents were mostly drawn from middle management level (33.8%) and closely followed by intermediate level (24.9%). Middle management has often been associated with efficacy of HRM practices in high-involvement HR systems (Krausert 2014), while intermediate or professional employees do not. The majority (81.2%) of respondents had worked less than 10 years at their organization and the largest percentage of tenure was two years (14.7%). Educationally, the majority of respondents (53.9%) possessed a bachelor's degree. As per the studies

mentioned in the research context, it is understood that those who possessed a degree probably had a larger exposure to the internet and social media during their studies.

Measures of main variables

Our dependent variable (DV) knowledge transfer was measured using by Cao et al.'s (2012) nine-item social capital theory scale consisting of dimensions: trust, explicit knowledge and tacit knowledge transfer (Appendix 1). The second DV performance was measured by three validated questions based on media synchronicity theory from Dennis et al. (2008). Our independent variable (IV) used items measuring ESM determinants (i.e. performance expectancy, effort expectancy and use) adopted from Venkatesh et al. (2003) UTAUT model. All scales used a 5-point Likert scale where 1 is strongly disagree and 5 is strongly agree.

Control variables

Respondents were asked to indicate their biological gender (male =0, female =1), age, education level, job level, tenure and sector of employment. This information was necessary for the research as prior research indicates that age, gender and experience moderate the acceptance and use of technology (Venkatesh et al. 2003). Tenure was measured in years. Dummy variables were created for education (Bachelors: 0= no, 1= yes), job level (middle management 0= no, 1= yes) and sector (private (multi-national): 0= no, 1= yes). Age was divided into generations as mentioned above and dummy variables were created for each (1=yes, 0=no).

Measurement quality and data analysis

After the data was screened to ensure compatibility with SEM assumptions, a confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) was conducted to test the internal consistency of

observed items in order to determine adequate measurement model. CFA assumes that the data obtained fits the hypothesized model developed in theory (Hu and Bentler 1999). The standardized coefficients all had values between 0.691 and 0.853 which conformed to Hair et al.'s (2010) recommended value of 0.50 for each item. We conducted a CFA with results confirming the proposed structure (Table 1 and 2). The analysis of the measurement model fit met Hair et al.'s (2010) recommended matrices. Therefore, the proposed model provided a good fit. Composite reliability were all higher than .60 and the average variance extracted (AVE) was all above .50.

Insert Table 1 and Table 2 about here

Common method bias (CMB) was tested using a zero-constraint approach to see if the shared variance across all items were significantly different than zero by conducting a chi-squared difference test. The unconstrained model had a Chi-square= 1.662 and df= 4, while the fully constrained (zero constrained) model had had a Chisquare= 8.406 and df= 11. As the p-value = .456, it was invariant and therefore no evidence of CMB was present (Podsakoff et al. 2013). A multicollinearity test for the DVs showed the mean variance inflation factor (VIF) is less than three with the single highest VIF as 1.855 and thus acceptable (Hair 2010). The descriptive analysis (table 3) shows the correlations amongst all variables (IV, DV and controls) and reveals that there are high associations amongst variables.

Insert Table 3 about here

Analysis and results

Structural equation modelling (SEM) was used to test the research model. The major advantages of SEM over traditional methods includes the ability to test complex models with more accuracy, simultaneous analysis of multiple variables and a visual representation of models that is translated into mathematical equations needed for analysis (Byrne 2011). In order to achieve an acceptable goodness of fit of the structural model, DV performance had to be deleted due to modification indices existing between performance and IV effort expectancy. While it is acceptable to covary error terms, it is inacceptable to covary between observed and latent variables (Byrne 2011). This means we were unable to test our hypothesis concerning performance. The assessment of the full structural model demonstrated a goodness of fit [Chi-square/df (CMIN/DF) = 2.349; Goodness of fit index (GFI) = .944; Adjusted goodness of fit index (AGFI)= .914; root mean square error of approximation (RMSEA)=0.068 and PCLOSE= .043]. When using only knowledge transfer variable explicit as an outcomes it demonstrated a better fit then the complete model: CMIN/DF= 1.599; GFI=0.970; AGFI=0.948; RMSEA=0.045 and PCLOSE= .591. When using only knowledge transfer variable tacit as an outcomes it also demonstrated a better fit then the complete model: CMIN/DF= 1.694; GFI=0.969; AGFI=0.946; RMSEA=0.049 and PCLOSE= .503. Even when using only trust as an outcome, it demonstrated a good fit: CMIN/DF = 2.375; GFI=0.957; AGFI=0.926; RMSEA=0.069 and PCLOSE= .079.

The results of the final structure model (shown in figure 2 and table 4) show that expectancy factors significantly influence use which in turn impacts explicit knowledge and performance.

Insert Figure 2 and Table 4 about here

Hypothesis 1 expects performance and effort expectancy to positively affect use of ESM while at work. Effort expectance as measured by perceived usefulness proved to be a good predictor of ESM use (β = .359, p < .001), but perceived ease of use was insignificant (β = .060, p = .408). The model accounted for 18.4% of the variance in ESM use and resulted in partial support for H1.

Hypothesis 2 expects ESM use to have a positive impact on trust. ESM use was a good predictor of trust (β = .141 p < .05), but the model accounted for only 2% of the variance in trust. Thus, H2 is supported.

Hypothesis 3 expects ESM use to have a positive impact on explicit knowledge. However, ESM use was not a good predictor of explicit knowledge (β = .074, p=.204), and the model accounted for only .6 % of the variance in explicit knowledge. Hence, there is no evidence that H3 is supported. Hypothesis 4 expects ESM use to have a positive impact on tacit knowledge. However, use was not a good predictor of tacit knowledge (β = .027 p = .640) and the model accounted for .1% of the variance in trust. Accordingly, H4 is rejected.

Discussion

This paper aimed to answer the question of how individuals' use of ESM could impact knowledge transfer and performance. The intent was to further the discussion in HRM literature as to how ESM impacts employees in Nigeria. We found evidence that performance expectancy positively impacted ESM use, thus complementing numerous other western studies findings (Venkatesh et al. 2016). The logic is that if one expects ESM to improve their performance then it would lead to use. However, that effort expectancy was not related to ESM use was unexpected. This could be due to the sample in emerging economy having other priorities in organizations that may not be resource rich in access to IT and technology.

Unlike many UTAUT studies (Venkatesh et al. 2016), the majority of the controls were not significant. Age did not influence ESM use unlike Morris and Venkatesh (2000) study which suggests that age influenced the adoption of technology or Prensky's (2001) study which states younger people having a more positive attitude to learning new technology. Since technology has boomed in the last decade in the Nigerian education sector, age was expected to be a significant influence on this relationship (Awoleye et al. 2008). However, those at the lower level of tenure were significantly related to usage. This conforms to Leidner et al. (2010) study that found new employees performed better when ESM tools were used to help them form new relationships and access stored knowledge. It could be that collectively, new hires had developed technological skills regardless of age. Gender, however, was also not significant which is at odds with Morris and Venkatesh's (2000) and Cao et al.'s (2012) finding that gender has a significant influence on this relationship. Finally, with an increasing amount of Nigerian Millennials using social media during their university studies (Faese et al. 2016), it was unclear why it is not

being used more so at work. One possibility is that Nigerian HR departments are using ESM in its basic form of an intranet and have not used it in a manner that facilitates engagement and knowledge sharing, such as wikis, chat forums or interactive social sites. Alternatively, as the majority of private internet usage in Nigeria is via mobile, it could be that individuals prefer to use their data plan towards online activities that are of a personal nature opposed to using their data plan to conduct work.

When exploring ESM use and how it impacted knowledge transfer, ESM use was significantly related to trust, but not explicit or tacit knowledge. This implies that the current ESM use has been identified by the respondents as not being vital in facilitating knowledge transfer in their organizations, but possible further ESM adoption may be! The significant relation between ESM usage and trust is supported with Lin's (2007) and Joia and Lemos's (2010) studies which emphasized the role of ESM in building trust necessary for social interactions and relationships which drive knowledge transfer. Intangibly, the social network aspect of ESM use help create social relationships where one did not exist (weak ties) and also strengthen existing ties, increasing the potentials for social capital (Bennet et al.2012). Social network tools use has been validated as a strong tool for building trust, which is the major factor in knowledge transfer. Therefore HR use of these tools could increase trust, making it easier to connect to sources of knowledge in the organization (Ellison et al. 2014).

As noted earlier, tacit knowledge is inherent in people and difficult to transfer in organizations (Nonaka and Takeushi 1995). Results do not supported the notion that ESM use (in its current form) by HR departments in Nigeria can overcome these problems to improve tacit knowledge sharing. Our findings fail to corroborate Sambamurthy and Subrami's (2005) view that ESM enhances knowledge transfer in organizations through effective access and most importantly through social connections (Majchrzak et al. 2005). Looking back at the main ESM assumptions adopted in this study, the affordance approach by Leonardi and Barley (2008) stated that ESM aids knowledge transfer through social networks, sharing, collaboration and authoring. On the other hand, the assumptions of social capital theory that relationships create tangible benefits (Choi et al. 2014) was emphasized and supported by results which show that respondents mostly used ESM to create and sustain relationships. In the Nigerian context of ESM, HR use and knowledge transfer results do not support affordances and are not consistent with the assumptions of the social capital theory.

Finally, there was no evidence that ESM usage was significantly related to explicit knowledge transfer. Cao et al.'s (2012) study, found that ESM use was more significant on tacit knowledge transfer rather than explicit knowledge. However, in this study- neither explicit nor tacit knowledge was related ESM usage. It could be that Nigerian HR departments have only emphasized organizational material on intranets (which most employees may be reluctant to read) and are limited in their use of ESM tools on wikis or blogs.

As with all research, this study is not without limitations. One area that should have been taken into consideration was the types of ESM system in place at the respondents work and if they accessed it during their workday or on their own time. For example, organizations that rely on ESM tools such as an intranet may improve explicit knowledge, but would not be able to provide an arena for engagement that is needed for tacit knowledge sharing. Secondly, by understanding the type of system in place, the authors might have been able to discover why there was a stronger link between ESM uses for trust opposed to explicit or tacit knowledge. Additionally, understanding the context of how the respondents accessed the ESM, may serve to provide a better understanding about the actual adoption habits and access. This is especially important in emerging economies that rely primarily on mobile as means to access the internet as official organizational knowledge transfer documents could suffer from poor responsive design of a standard intranet designed for desktop usage opposed to mobile optimization. Finally, because this was a web-based survey, this may have alienated potential respondents who prefer to not use the web. Therefore, future research recommendations include looking at how individuals access and in what manner.

Conclusions

In summary, our empirical results suggest that ESM use does impact trust when it comes to knowledge transfer. This paper contributed to our theoretical understanding by providing empirical evidence surrounding social capital theory and how ESM can improve knowledge sharing. Additionally, we answer Venkatesh et al.'s (2016) call for new outcome mechanisms when using UTAUT with our incorporation of knowledge transfer and performance.

These tools can help HR to reach to distributed locations of the organization cheaply and more effectively (Yoon and Roland 2012). This means that teams can work together and exchange information across spatiotemporal barriers as ESM helps to blur barriers between departments and locations (Ellison et al. 2014). Finally, Nigerian HR should recognize that young Nigerians are used to social media will also expect to use these tools at work to enhance learning, socialization and performance. Therefore, HR should use these tools to the organizations advantage and provide wikis and blogs to capture organizational knowledge. This will also help HR to make visible the organizations expertise and make it accessible to those who need it. Additionally through the monitoring of active usage, HR can also recognize talent in the work force and take steps to develop and nurture them.

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Appendices- Tables

 Table 1: Confirmatory Factor Analysis

	Items	Factor Loading	Error Variance	t-value	composite reliability	average variance extracted
			non-			
Criteria		.597	negative	>1.96	>.6	>.5
Performance	PU1	0.691	0.503	9.541	0 697	0.524
expectancy	PU2	0.755	0.377	8.014	0.087	0.524
Effort	EASE1	0.853	0.241	5.319	0 767	0.624
expectancy	EASE2	0.721	0.391	9.294	0.707	0.021
Use	USE1	0.846	0.438	7.896		
Behavior	USE2	0.852	0.363	7.709	0.885	0.720
	USE3	0.848	0.343	7.857		

	Measurement Items	Criteria	Results
Preliminary	Factor Loading	.597	Compliant
Fit Criteria		non-	
	Error Variance	negative	Compliant
Fit of	Composite reliability	>.6	Compliant
internal			
structure of			
model	Average variance extracted	>.5	Compliant
	χ2/d.f.(normed Chi-square)	<3	Compliant (CMIN/DF .764)
Overall	Goodness of fit index (GFI)	>.8	Compliant (GFI .992)
Model Fit	Adjusted goodness of fit index (AGFI)	>.8	Compliant (AGFI .980)
	Root mean square Residual (RMSEA)	<.05	Compliant (RMSEA .000, PCLOSE= .954)

Table 2: Comparison between fit criteria and results of the model

					Co	rrelation	5						
	Mean	S.D.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1 Performance Expectancy	3.94	.838											
2 Effort Expectancy	3.97	.829	.679**										
3 Usage	3.48	1.053	.409**	.323**									
4 Trust	3.42	.982	$.250^{**}$.206**	$.142^{*}$								
5 Explicit	3.25	.939	025	095	.075	.197**							
6 Tacit	3.74	.716	.017	.137*	.027	.065	.111						
7 Performance	3.71	.740	.362**	.434**	.327**	.273**	.014	.248**					
8 Gender	.42	.494	.014	035	.020	122*	051	072	092				
9 Millennial	.41	.493	.049	.056	.103	042	.019	012	.085	.079			
10 Middle Mgt	.31	.462	.090	.101	.060	.020	.039	067	.030	087	133*		
11 Education (BA)	.56	.497	.049	.092	017	$.120^{*}$.047	010	$.137^{*}$.002	.012	035	
12 Years	6.96	6.027	088	174**	177***	$.117^{*}$.069	.001	122*	109	476**	.001	066

Table 3: Descriptive analysis

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed). *. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Note *S.D. = Standard Deviation, Observations =

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Нур.		Path		Standardized	S.E.	Support
	-			Estimate B		
H1	Usage	<	Performance	0.359***	0.090	Yes
			Expectancy			
	Usage	<	Effort	0.060	0.091	No
			Expectancy	0.000	0.071	
	Usage	<	Millennial	0.025	0.128	
	Usage	<	Gender	0.004	0.112	
	Usage	<	Middle Mgt	0.024	0.120	
	Usage	<	Education BA	-0.048	0.111	
	Usage	<	Years	-0.127*	0.010	
H2	Trust	<	Usage	0.141*	0.054	Yes
H3	Explicit	<	Usage	0.074	0.052	No
H4	Tacit	<	Usage	0.027	0.040	No

Table 4: Hypotheses testing results

Note: *** *p* <.001, ** *p* <.01, * *p*<.05, † *p*<.10

Figures:

Figure 1: Conceptual Model







Note: Per_Use= Performance Expectancy; Per_ease= Effort Expectancy; Usage= Enterprise Social Media Actual Use; MidMgt= middle management (1=yes, 0=no); EDU_BA= Education at Bachelors level (1=yes, 0=no); Millennial= respondents aged middle management (1=yes, 0=no);

Appendix A

THEORY	CONSTRUCT	QUESTIONS	SOURCE		
	Effort Expectancy	Learning to operate my workplace social media will be easy for me It will be easy to become skillful at using this social media system			
Unified Theory Of	Performance Expectancy	Using the workplace social media will help me accomplish tasks faster and more efficiently Workplace social media will			
Acceptance And Use Of Technology		be useful in my job My company has social media to help staff communicate with each other at work. I often use workplace social	Venkatesh et al. 2003		
	Actual Use	media to obtain work- related information and knowledge What is your frequency of usage of workplace social media			
Media Synchronicity Theory	Performance	rformance Using the system increases 20	Dennis et al. 2008		
·		Knowledge I gain makes me perform better			
Social Capital Theory	Trust	Given their track record I see no reason to doubt my colleagues competence I believe that colleagues I seek information from on the company social media are dedicated professionals It is easier for me to seek information from my colleagues using company social network	Cao et al. 2012		
	Explicit Knowledge	I learned written knowledge about the technology effectively from my colleagues I learned business manuals			

1	
	effectively from my
	colleagues in an effective
	way
	I learned written knowledge
	about management
	techniques effectively from
	my colleagues
	I learned written knowledge
	about the technology
	effectively from my
	colleagues
	I learned new working
Tooit Knowladge	methods and expertise
Tacit Kilowieuge	effectively from my
	colleagues
	I gain knowledge about the
	company culture effectively
	from my colleagues
	I learn managerial
	techniques effectively from
	my colleagues