

# GINKS ICT IN EDUCATION FORUM

## Using ICT and Social Media to Build Capacity Among University Students

This month's ICT in Education forum was organized for students of Africa University College of Communication in Accra under the **theme "Using ICT and Social Media to build capacity of University Students"**.

The forum aimed at exposing students to the numerous advantages of social media tools and application in academic and social life. Social media is a powerful tool and students can even earn incomes through the use of social media while in school. The forum was also used as an avenue to bring together prominent and practicing social media managers to share with students the numerous benefits and experience through the use of social media.

Mr Ogochukwu Nweke, the moderator of the forum and also a lecturer at Africa University College of Communication (AUCC) introduced the organizing team from GINKS to the students and said communication is very important especially for students of the African University College of Communication. Ogo further stated that online education to some extent could be free, emphasizing that education is moving from the four walls of the classrooms to the next level, making it possible for all to enjoy quality but good education no matter our geographical location.

He said social media is all about sharing information, knowledge through the various platforms and even even do research, assignment, interview etc. ICT and social media usage in Ghana has its own challenges compared to the experience in Germany or USA or other countries.

*'If we have access to power supply consistently, we will actually enjoy our online experience and better communicate with friends'.* Ogo

social media has changed the political terrain in Ghana enabling politicians and presidential candidates to sign onto the various platform to share information about their campaign in a way to influence elections in Ghana.

It is easier to use ICT and social media for administration, politics etc Google docs is a very useful collaboration platform for a group presentation and even though you may not be together, the work can be done in group remotely.

*"there will be a time when everything will happen online expect eating and sleeping"* Ogo

Zakiyu Iddris Tandunnayir is a Social Media Manager and shared with students his experiences in the use of social media. He demonstrated how social media can help students adding that facebook has the population, it is the biggest social media platform online. Zakiyu said he has been posting ideas on the upcoming election on his pages and lots of people follow and comments. He has been learning at [www.alison.com](http://www.alison.com) and they have been interviewing him talking more about himself as a social media manager.

Zakiyu said he can do so much on social media on daily basis which is making him gain worldwide recognition. He mentioned that he was nominated by an unknown person to contest for the popular TV show "**who wants to be rich**" hosted in Ghana through someone who has been monitoring his writings on social media.

*'I do not write just anything on my social media page and more often people come to me for an advice'* Zakiyu

He said he has gained popularity through social media, he once wrote an article and posted on his page and all of a sudden it was published on [motivateus.org](http://motivateus.org). He said [motivateus.com](http://motivateus.com) is a one web page to now over 2500, and its aim is to share quotations, stories, articles, poems and essays to uplift and encourage one another with the hope of helping you to feel motivated, inspired and empowered; and that as a result, you will learn how to think and feel better about yourself and others.

Zakiyu reiterate that there is so much going on in social media, we can do learn more through the use of social media. He said [alison.com](http://alison.com) is a good place to learn and to build capacity and also through social media, he is working, making money and paying his school fees. Alison has variety of subject areas to learn from and one can even get certificate after taking a course by paying something little.

*"What you write on your page invites like minded people"* Zakiyu

He said there will be a time when facebook users will make money through the number of friends they have on the platform, already facebook is making millions of money through its users and users must do likewise.

he said some students talented with craft, arts and vocational skills should take a bold step to create free facebook account and published what they do and people will buy. Some people have made it a habit to religiously keep changing their profile pictures each moment but not the content.

The moderator, Mr. Ogochukwu urged students to venture into the use of social media from today and learn more online.

*'Nobody is a basket of knowledge, nobody knows it all, let's all open up and make it happen'*  
Ogo

Taking her turn to talk about her experience in social media, Sena Aseye who is a student said she has been involved in the use of social media and ICT across africa. He has been using a free online called resource called Coursera ([www.coursera.org](http://www.coursera.org)) and you can get certificate in return.

Coursera is hooked up with many major universities across the world offering teaching for free and so much more. Couseira also provide videos on some courses and you can get access to lecturers online live during classes period and you can even ask questions and post your assignments online.

Sena said Coursera has just introduced a new 72 courses and urged her colleague communication students to take advantage of it to better their skills in their interest areas. Her experience has help her in her academic excellence.

*"Social media and ICT tools has really empowered me and build my capacity up to now and will like to encourage all to be on board"* Sena

The president of the Journalist for Human rights has achieve some much online. Mr Danis S. said dropbox has been very powerful collaborative tool for group work. Dropbox is good for group assignment. Knowledge reside in each and everyone no matter how smart each and everyone are. He said google map is one area one can learn about a country etc...

Google map is just like wikipadae and it is important to know what we want to learn and where we want to learn. People can make money on facebook on part time basis and he could not believe it until he received his first cheques from facebook. The more you write the more people find it important to visit your blog. We can blog about what we do or what happen in our life and people will follow our blogs frequently.

*"I believe that my page should be a resource point for all. As communication students, we must be able to play our part with social media "* Denis

The moderator upon careful listening to Denis, added that the strongest way to affect generation is to allow them to talk with themselves.

Ogo said it is time students must take advantage of the flexible time table to make extra effort to do extra learning online instead of taking pictures and posting on facebook. Students can use their phones to study online.

*'It does not matter whether you are present at the university to study or not it is the same certificate and it valid everywhere'* Ogo

Mr. Ibrahim Inusah, the Coordinator of GINKS gave a brief background of GINKS. He said GINKS is NGO which promote the use of ICT for development and operates in certain areas, ICT in Education, Gender, Youth and Agric and. He added that GINKS also conduct research on ICT related topics. We have a network where members interact online and offline in the form of workshop, seminars and forum. He said GINKS also produce a quarterly newsletter called 'iconnect' which focuses on ICT issues and distributed to members who do not have access to the internet.

GINKS has made tremendous impact in the ICT4D landscape in Ghana and notably among its contributions is the involvement in the development of the Ghana ICT documents geared towards the National ICT Policy documents. He urged students to sign onto the membership of GINKS to share knowledge, learn and benefit from the various resources.

Adding to what Mr. Ibrahim said, Ogo said GINKS has done a lot on ICT and Agric, ICT and Gender etc in Ghana and still doing more. He said students should take advantage of the GINKS dgroups letting them know that the President of AUCC and some other prominent members such as Eva Lokko and the Director General of Kofi Anna Centre of Excellence in ICT are all on the ginks Dgroups mailing list.

A representative from Journalists for human rights AUCC chapter, Elizabeth spoke briefly about JHR urging all to be on board. She said JHS is an organisation that battle for human rights uses, they mobiles people to fight for their rights. Journalist for Human Rights -AUCC Chapter is a Non - Governmental, Non-partisan, Non-profit and Non partial organization. Our motto is Empowering Voice

AUCC Chapter Programme's purpose is to engage the next generation of Ghanaian young leaders and journalists in domestic and international human rights issues. JHR believes that the media is the most effective tool for human rights education, and, as such, focuses its activities on media related projects.

The moderator together with one of the students thanks all for their presence here today and also for speakers educating them by doing justice to the theme under discussion.