# Implication of Music Education and Online Teaching in The New Normal.

**By**

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## Abstract

The new normal is a term coined to symbolise the changes that occurred in the pandemic tag "COVID19". Its implication in education, especially the changes that took place in the online teaching and learning processes using the available data/media channels for the transmission of musical information to a wider coverage in a heterogeneous society through teaching and learning. In this case, teachers and students can visualize themselves on screen, view themselves on stage, interact on social media and hear themselves vocalize over the radio airwaves. Other factors that encompass the online benefit such as the social media data communication and the satellite communication cable network, advertisements on marketing and sales of goods and services, as well as how it relates to broadcasting organizations were discussed in the paper. Being a subject matter that embodies the creative, expressive and aesthetic arts par excellence, relevant and sufficient data are provided for 'litmus test' for the sake of accurate information to actualize the said objectives. To this end, well meaning and well-informed individuals whose indispensable responses yielded positive results were consulted for diverse and judicious contributions. To challenge or debunk misguided popular opinions, print media that speak volumes for this topical issue were wisely consulted as sources of backup information. Pertaining to music education through the means of the online teaching and learning, adequate elucidations on how this study intertwines with the internet satellite cable communication are tactfully given deserved attention.

**KEYWORDS:** New Normal, Pandemic, Music Education, Online Teaching.

**Introduction.**

The word, 'New normal is a term crone to symbolise the changes that occurred in the pandemic tagged COVID19. Online teaching is a process of teaching and learning through the use of the social media with the aid of some setting Apps. The process is carried out from the comfort homes of persons without physical contact. The processes involved a burning desire to process, transmit and receive ideas, information, and messages through rapid transmission of information over long distances. It has conspicuously become a vital attribute of human society.

Our ancestors sought means of decoding and recording their language to no avail, save that they simply drew and painted on cave walls to convey messages and besides used signs and symbols in form of art works to designate tribal ownership of human creativity as well as non man-made-objects such as natural resources. As human knowledge was ameliorating, information transmission gradually become enhanced giving rise to 'pictographic' form of writing whereby symbols are applied to represent objects. The first developmental stage of this move was 'cuneiform' typified by-wedge-shaped characters inscribed with a stylus on a clay tablet. With time, 'ideography' emanated; this symbolically represented not only the object but also ideas and associated qualities. With human civilization, particularly in the area of science and technology, the aforesaid forms of representative writing were faced out paving way for communication at longer distances in order to conduct global trade and other affairs of man globally. At this juncture, factories, manufacturing industries for paper production (used as writing pads) and printing, stationery, postal services, tele (photo) graph, telegram, telephone, radio, and television were put in place. Others include: fax, email, cellular text message, picture communication, telemeter, computer link, and radar laser technology, telecottage communication links, didactic films on various subjects and audio-visual devices are exported and distributed from industrial nations for diverse functions. Pictures, posters, charts, mock-ups, slides, filmstrips and videotapes recorders are invariably employed extensively in the teaching of languages. (Okoro, 2005 pp. 40-42).

Through studies on educative publications, students and scholars reach out research findings on information through modern technological communicative gadgets. In addition, performers, listening audience and the entire public have in one way or the other witnessed the facet of human relationships with musical sound pitches and their duration through diverse sources on the satellite/telecommunication cable system, the date processing communicative system. These major components of mass media music communication paraphernalia are functionally purposive in accompanying such activities as: religious services, secular rituals, staged theatre, and fetes of all sorts among others. In

the otherwords, they are not meant for their own sake, or as white 'elephant projects' but to express unexampled invaluable values (if well harnessed) to ameliorate a society. The emphasis is on the field of study concerned with technological effort to improve innovation in education and on musical sound media sources for effective communication - teaching and learning. In response to this development, the focus on radio, television and the modern communication gadget-'the internet' pose some challenges in accomplishing these onuses. It is also worthy to note that in the face of this venture, the benefactors and beneficiaries alike have to be well-informed on a wide range of their application and management so as to meet up with the demand.

Today, the telecommunications and data communications evolutions have resulted in the revolution of the old systems. In summation, the World is now a "global village". Albeit, as the changing network of communications prove to have long-term positive effects, some expectations in view of that fact are nonexistent because the Third World perceptions of communication paraphernalia is more or less politically-minded and therefore not evenly distributed to serve the social needs.

**Statement of the Objectives.**

The study on this development centers on the changes that had taken place during this period of the pandemic tagged " COVID 19" especially in the aspect of teaching and learning- laying emphasis more on the social media telecommunications and data communications in Nigeria and the World in general. The focus mostly is on its use for effective teaching and learning in different Apps such as- Zoom, Skype, WhatsApp, Webinar, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Mchat, e.t.c; diverse channels on the internet, radio and Satellite communication to make teaching and learning easier for teachers, students and parent alike.

The social media and data communication network are channels in which, group of people, community or nation specifically identifies with themselves in disseminating information's to the general public. It has made teaching and learning more convenient and has eased the stress of traveling long distances. Keeping to Governmental rules and regulations of "social distances and stay at home" order by the Government, which teachers and students unavoidably abided to during the period.

The purpose of this research finding therefore, is to acknowledge the positive changes the pandemic had recorded in the aspect of education generally.

**The Benefits of the Social Media for Effective Teaching and Learning.**
What are the benefits of the internet to the educational process of teaching and learning music especially during the pandemic?

How effective is the Zoom, WhatsApp, Skype, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, Webinar, Telegram, and the internet communication to the modern innovative education method of teaching and learning?

These are some of the questions that arise in the course of researching on this topic.
The satellite cable communication and the data communication system had made it easier for teachers', students and parent to connect easily online and carry out teaching and learning conveniently, comfortably, and effectively without stress. Through the Zoom, Skype, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn e.t.c, teachers and students alike visualize themselves, screen share information, ask questions, and look as if, they are in an actual classroom situation seeing and talking to themselves.

The internet satellite cable communication and the data communication system have a positive benefit to the educational system. It makes teaching and learning possible even when schools were on locked down during the period of the pandemic. Attendants were taken by teachers. Assignments are carried out effectively by students. Teaching and learning process did not come to a standstill, rather, it continues.

Though, sometimes, poor network signals are experience. Notwithstanding, 75% positive result is achieved using the WhatsApp, zoom, Skype, Facebook, Twitter, e.t.c,.

**Reviewed of Related Literature.**
Tradition encompasses- myth, adages, idioms, folklore, and musical expression between times in social organization. Over the years, music has served as one of the means of communications in traditional setting even before the advent of modern information dissemination system through- the newspaper, radio airwaves, communicative system based on audio-visual perception, courtesy of Nigeria Television Authority (N.T.A) Network Service; the satellite and telephone cables message transmission gadgets are also discerned to capture the attention of the masses.

Musical tools for communication are pronounced in traditional culture, and are usually employed alongside songs. Such instruments render primarily, information services to the populace. For instance, in *Aladja* community of *Udu* local government, Delta State Nigeria, the *Ogbon* ( Elephant tusk) serves dual purposes: as musical instrument and equally

functions as a regalia for the *Okpako-Evwe-ya* (elders of the women group), at whose demise it is blown in collaboration with dance processions and War-like songs performed mainly by the marriageable ones of the community. The sound of such performance communicates forthwith to the people that the *Okpako-Evwe-ya* has passed on. This is superstitiously believed to have stimulated the incorporeity of the departed *Okpako* who transfer the mantle of *Ogbon* to her successor. In a different dimension, the *Ogbon* in turn serves as a sacred object with which any *Okpako* on the throne is decked as a mark of honour to whom it is due. Okoro, 2005 pp.25-26).

Certain sub-tribal groups in Nigeria incorporate some peculiar music into their circumcision ceremonial rites believing that it strengthens and encourages mankind, the circumcised to whom the music serves as a therapy during its rendition. Also to cow the habitual bedwetter among the youths in some part of Nigeria, songs of mockery are sung. Each time such songs are rendered, those concerned are instantly reminded of their childish acts. Thus, the songs serve communicatively as a corrective measure. In Ondo State of Nigeria, *Erofofofo* chant is strictly echoed by the women to signify child's deliverance. It draws people's attention to the scene. Any married female indigene who heard also propagates the good news by reverberating *Erofofofo* for others to hear and reciprocate. By this means, the entire community is notified. Its significance is to announce and welcome the baby to the community.

Again, among the *Urhobo* of Delta State in Nigeria, songs of insult are sang allusively to abuse any married woman who commits promiscuity or flirtation. The contents of such songs correct social ills. The Nigerian *Hausa* tribal courtship calls for songs composed with the intention to actualize the masculine marital proposal. Music traditionally functions as an avenue of insinuations against each other /one another, especially in a bigamous/polygamous situation.

During the *Igue* festival in Benin kingdom, Edo State of Nigeria, the three *Ikpema* drums are played to pass message(s): "May the Oba fulfil his words". In the same *Igue* festival, the *Idon* drums are played to dignify the Oba's motion while the Elephant tusks (horn) are blown to symbolize War. In *Agbarha-Otor* of Delta State Nigeria, the *Okwakwa* drum is played once in two decades as a reminder for the commencement of their *Akene* festival. The present generation understand their ancestral history when court Musicians or praise singers sing parabolically about the noble men and their exploits in the land. In the same vein, cowards as well as dubious characters are ridiculed through music, particularly in Africa, south of Sahara. At other times, certain songs minister victory, or signify danger to the community. Situation in country home communal life sometimes provoke music media

communication through which people's problems are identified and subsequently solved. In this regard, music making in traditional setting serves not only as a source of communication, but additionally helps ease tension, alleviate tiredness, and above all facilitate work through sound revivification process. However, music as a performing art of communication has to be employed religiously and judiciously too.

Okoro in Okoro (2020) affirmed:

> Musical sounds from the viewpoint of every academic discipline, are pronounced in every broadcast media and all walks of life, especially in the African situation where almost all activities go with music. Most often, traders advertise and dispose off their goods, marketing products, or articles of trade with songs that could attract customer's attention. Likewise, occupational groups such as farmers, fishermen, hunters, involve music making in their vocation. Also, in the political and socio-cultural aspect of life, music is equally not left out. It is used either single-handedly or as communication aid for the creation of public awareness and spiritual motivation. (Okoro, 2020 p.279).

Furthermore, through research findings, Okoro states:

> Music advertising is an act of employing music in order to create public awareness of a product or services thereby capturing the interest of consumers, educate, promoting the sales of the commodity as well as motivating the targeted labour force who may wish to apply for job opportunity.
>
> After production, mankind opting for strategic methods for consumers to have more knowledge of the available goods came up with such devices as- notice board, handbills, pictures, and currently, radio airwaves, or television broadcasts to guide whom it may concern. Business transaction broadcast without jingles undoubtedly render such atmosphere boring rather than lively and interesting. Music communicates fast in advertisement; and creates more social awareness of the product being advertised. The effects of such natural phenomena as; strength, peace, love, action, bliss, or melancholy is certainly felt through music, which additionally acts as didactic mechanism to the silent listeners. Thus, music is more or less products promoter, indispensably sought after in the comity of nations, most essentially in the broadcasting industry. Okoro, 2010 p.42).

Advertising is an economic activity that involves the use of the Mass Media. The purpose is to inform and persuade. (Okon, 1998). Any form of public announcement intended to aid directly or indirectly in the sale of a commodity.

In a bid to excel in the competitive marketing business in the face of embargo on goods, advertisers take it upon them to survive the restriction. For this reason, electronic sound systems such as microphone-radio transmitter and loud speakers are locally used among street hawkers e.t.c for their products promotion, identification, or recognition before haggling follows suit. (Okon. 1998), affirm: the role of advertising is to show people how they can live better, enjoy better things in life and get better satisfaction by improving their way of living.

The above are some of the ways music/ musical instruments had functioned positively in diverse ways to aid/ ease communication within and outside our environment. In the modern trend, especially in the era of the pandemic, new innovative technology had taken over the old styles. Educators, Manufacturers, Producers, Sellers and the end users-(consumers) now make use of the new modern technology- the satellite communicative cable system through the television and radio; the data communication system – computers such as Desktops, Laptops, Tablet, Phablet. Different kinds of Smartphone, such as - Android, tablet, iphone, ipad with the aid of data to actualize the said objectives.

**Music in Information Orientation.**

Musical orientation is the act of creating social knowledge of a given situation, circumstance, products, e.t.c through music media. Ogisi in a keynote lecture – 'Music Advertisement' emphatically pointed out that: "music is among one of the good things of life the poor cannot afford easily". Messages are passed across the general public conveniently and quickly through music communiqué or album sleeve. Through music, the masses are well-informed and educated, particularly on governmental activities or issues; our rulers dubious and nonchalant attitudes to the subjects they claim to serve are disclosed too.

No wonder Okafor during a seminar lecture states that – "music deals with not only sound but social facts". Every piece of music has a meaning and information to disseminate, which are utilized in several occasions and in various ways, by the recipients; this, however, depends on their orientation towards the situation being addressed. Pop stars of reggae, Afro beat, e.t.c in addition to music in traditional society of diverse people's culture commonly styled- folk music precisely serve as information orientation agents to the populace. Music provokes action; it is a tool instrumental in struggle for people's freedom, which is scarcely bestowed on them peradventure. Bob Marley's musical track titled "Get up, stand up", is used to inspire the 'black race' (under the bondage of colonization), urging them to rise and fight for their rights. To be specific, the music was used point-blank to address the 'black race' of South Africa in the mid 1970s when they were under

colonialism. In a similar vein, the freedom fighter – late Fela Anikulapo Kuti, a Nigerian Afro beat musician and Joseph Osaremorhe of Edo State Nigeria, used music to appeal to compatriots to awake from slumber and face the challenge of the day.

In the late 1970s, Fela exposed the incumbent government in power through his music with a track titled I.T.T (international thief thief). He made bold to mention names. All these aforementioned instances are evidences of musical information orientations through the channel of the broadcast media and the Internet cable satellite dish.

Above all, the media have brought solution to the problem of reaching the masses with great ease especially in this new dispensation of the new normal era. They also function as avenues for expressing views, either by individuals, the general public or governmental organizations through the under listed tools- radio, television, album sleeve, loudhailer, microphone- diaphragm/megaphone: these are sound transmitters with which messages are converted into electromagnetic signals, and the intercom systems. Lectures are carried out online through various applications like: Zoom, WhatsApp, Telegram, Webinar, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, e.t.c. While some orientation through music is advantageous to the masses who gain from such messages, contrary is always the case when the information is either misguided or misdirected. In this case, it could lead to speculations, rumour-mongering, libel, scandals or character- assassination which could be disadvantageous to the society.

> The successful running of any learning experience depends on many things, one of which being effective communication between teachers and their students. If no proper communication between teachers and students is available, both teaching and learning will become difficult. For this reason, teachers need to continuously monitor students for understanding the students' problems, fear, or confusion will help faculty better understand students' learning difficulties.... G. Praveen Kumar, M. Vasinmalairaja (26 April, 2019).

**Theoritical Framework.**

The theory is based on technological innovative change. It took its root from the theory of Greg Kearsley and Ben Shneiderman Engagement Theory (1998): A Framework for Technological- Based Teaching and Learning. The conceptual idea was to provide a theory of teaching and learning through the electronic digital communicative medium- the Internet satellite communication network and the Data communication network services in music education. The purpose is to propose a theory of electronic distance learning

through different Applications using the social media for effective teaching and learning without physical contact.

My experience as a student and music teacher- lecturer and educator during this pandemic has helped inform these ideas. The theory takes action in a conceptual model that I believe might serve as a frame of reference for scholars.

Using the Technological acceptance model has made Teaching and Learning easier. It is obvious that the social media has work positively and purposefully to achieve a creditable result in this period of the pandemic. In this regard, the research tends to analyze the component and usefulness of digital satellite communication network and the data communication network, its innovative success to teaching and learning in this period of the pandemic.

**Methodology.**
The approach depends on the descriptive and analytical method. It involved field, desk work and personal experience within the period of the pandemic. This method is selected for this research because it is believed that appropriate and more authentic result would be derived through the use of this method.

Oral interview gathered from the field were supported by textbooks, journals, and were analyses, to achieve an authentic result.

**Conclusion.**
The advent of modern information technologies has indeed brought forth with it continual changes (in the right direction) in music media communication. For this reason, media personnel are not able to function effectively void of the presence of worthwhile musical sound gadgets while discharging their official duties.

We keenly acknowledge the sense of musical creativity as an indispensable force with which to attract people's attention to documentary programmes as well as other matters of public interest. Apart from entertainment, music assists one overcome burden and also revives those working under emotional stress; it promotes a particular cause of action in human community.

No doubt, modern information technology has brought about positive changes in the right direction in all aspects of life especially in teaching and learning through the data and satellite cable internet system and more vital in every walks of life during the pandemic

**Recommendation.**

The satellite communication system has help ease the stress of reaching the masses. It informs, educate, persuade, promote, motivate and entertain.

It is recommended that teachers, parents and students alike should be more involve and exposed to the use of the social media and internet for effective media communication/ teaching and learning, especially in this new unexpected dispensation tag (COVID19). This will definitely boost the teaching and learning methods.

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