



We the people...inventing the future



Women@Web Activity Reporting

SOCIAL MEDIA ADVOCACY REPORT

Nairobi | Kenya
Jan 2020 - Mar 2020

WOMEN AT WEB SOCIAL MEDIA ADVOCACY REPORT

Siasa Place conducted seven activities towards our social media advocacy effort focused on digital security and safety for women in Kenya with support from KICTANET and AMWIK. This was done through the following ways:

1. Tweet Chat on Digital Rights
2. Tweet Chat on Digital Security
3. Writing Contest for young women aged 18-25 years on Digital Rights
4. Illustrations on Digital Security, Cyberbullying and Digital Rights on Instagram and Facebook
5. Tweet Chat on Fake News in these times of COVID-19
6. Tweet Chat on Working from Home; Is it different for Women
7. Infographic video on Digital Security shared across all platforms

ACTIVITY 1: TWEET CHAT ON DIGITAL RIGHTS

Date: 14th February 2020

Topic: Digital Rights; Are they important?

Time: 11.00am - 12.00pm EAT

Guests and their Twitter Handle; Liz Orembo - @lizorembo, Mwara Gichanga - @mwaragichanga, Lourdes Walusala - @akellowalusala

Background

Kenya is one of the most wired countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Kenya boasts of a growing tech savvy population and a vibrant online information landscape. With a penetration of over 40% internet access, do we know digital rights? #WomenAtWebKE was a discussion about Digital rights in Kenya involving women. What goes around in the digital space in regards to women who face a lot of cyberbullying and harassment. Thus the whole conversation was about how they deal with that and what does the government do and non profit organizations in terms of enhancing digital rights.

The campaign argued the following points:

- The question on what are the digital rights and do masses know about them? The masses are not informed about their digital rights laws in Kenya so that they can use the digital space safely and responsibly. There must be a deliberate move to create programs on digital rights that educate online users in this part of the world especially on how to protect themselves from online bullying.
- Data privacy was a key concern in terms of what we give permissions to organizations and how that data is protected. What happens with the data shared and what does the law do about it. The discussion involved some of the Kenyan Laws supporting Digital rights not limited to the penal code and the data protection law.
- On the issue of women safety online on what they can do about protecting themselves, Njoki Ngumi a Kenyan activist had the following to say. "This question is a cousin to how women can prevent abuse offline, and it goes down a slippery slope that gives more labour to abused folk

while abusers thrive. Everyone needs digisec though, and there are added considerations for minors. That would be a great place to begin.”

Way forward/Action Points

- There needs to be an increased awareness building for citizens to know and understand their rights and push for inclusion in decision making processes. The government needs to enhance the data protection law as that's an issue in the Kenyan systems where individuals give up their data (phone numbers and id numbers) and end up in the wrong hands.
- Telecommunication companies should have a privacy policy which anyone on the digital surface can understand and follow. People should know some data protection practices like ; Avoiding using public WiFi, especially for sensitive stuff such as online banking, Use strong passwords and two step verification when logging in to public spaces online.
Review your private settings to make sure the information you share is only available to the people you want, to see it.


Social Media Analytics for Digital Rights Tweet Chat - 14th February 2020



Social media analytics summary



- From the chat audience, 45% was female and 55% was male
- We gained 154 followers from 13796 - 13950
- We attracted 14,776,733 impressions
- We trended at No. 4 in the country. This was due to the main conversation of the day focusing on Valentines Day.

Trend analysis of the Chat - No. 4 in Kenya Trend on Twitter

 Kenya Trends 


#LoveLivesEveryDay
Tusker Lager, The Proud Sponsor of the 2020 Men's Conference
 Promoted by Tusker Kenya



1 **#MenConference2020** 
7,738 Tweets
 Lazooj, Joe Muhahami, and 3 more are Tweeting about this



2 **#ValentinesDay2020**  
368K Tweets


indiatvnews.com
Valentines' Day 2020: Honor Band 5i, Samsung Galaxy S10 and other tech gifting ideas



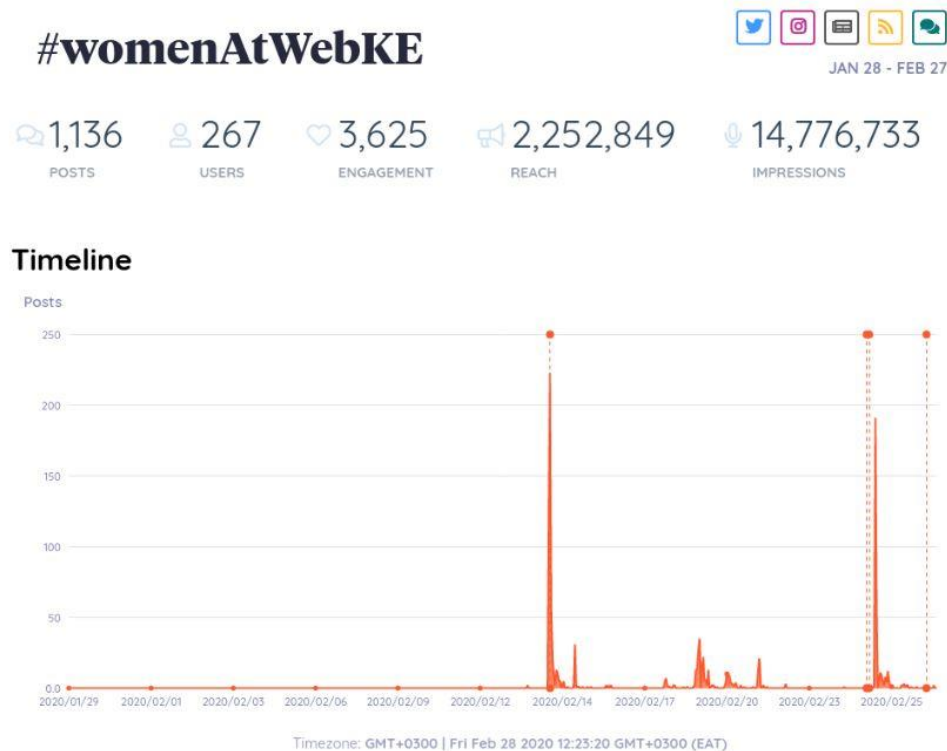
 Hon. Esther M Passaris, #KenyaNeedsAREvolution, and 1 more are Tweeting about this

3 **#TJAIF** 
 RASTA MAN™  is Tweeting about this

4 **#WomenAtWebKE** 
 The African Voice, MIKE MARSHALL PRINCE, and 1 more are Tweeting about this




5 **Mzee Kibor** 
1,250 Tweets

Overall reach for the #WomenAtWebKE Tweet Chat



Top Responses for #WomenAtWebKE








Top Posts

-  **Instagram Account** Feb 20 224 ❤️ 13 💬
Reposted from siasaplaceke We are here for the **#WomenAtWebKE** Digital Safety Clinic . Our Executive director nerimaw introducing the program on why it's important for women to have the conversation on digital safety. #DW #womenempowerment
-  **@mildredngesa** Feb 25 35 🔄 93 ❤️
"Use the "BLOCK" button when you feel harassed on-line. There is a day I pressed the "B" button 300 times! Your on-line space is YOUR space, do not be intimidated.👉to you Hon @MarthaKarua! We hear you loud & clear! **#womenatwebke** <https://t.co/xyc9Hblgms>
-  **@marilynkamuru** Feb 14 34 🔄 45 ❤️
WRONG question!

Related Topics



Influential Users

 <p>@marilynkamuru 4,657 Followers 79 Avg Engagements</p>	 <p>@mildredngesa 2,052 Followers 51 Avg Engagements</p>	 <p>@adumawilkister 659 Followers 51 Avg Engagements</p>
 <p>@marthakarua 878,181 Followers 42 Avg Engagements</p>	 <p>@paulmacdy 104 Followers 38 Avg Engagements</p>	 <p>@itsserahthiga 697 Followers 31 Avg Engagements</p>
 <p>@nerimaw 13,429 Followers 29 Avg Engagements</p>	 <p>@bmmburu 1,195 Followers 29 Avg Engagements</p>	 <p>@kewopa 7,446 Followers 24 Avg Engagements</p>

Social Media Post Types

	Original	20 %
	Reply	4 %
	Retweet	75 %



Majority of the participants were based in Kenya

Location



Gender



Male

55 %



Female

45 %



ACTIVITY 2: TWEET CHAT ON DIGITAL SECURITY

Date: 28th February 2020

Topic: Digital Security

Time: 11am - 12noon EAT

Guests and their Twitter Handle; Liz Orembo - @lizorembo and Cecilia Maundu - @CeciliaMaundu

Background

Digital technology is changing the way in which society is operating and the ways we live our lives. Everyday, there are new ways to work and to play, new methods of interacting with one another. As our digital footprint grows exponentially, we are forming our own online identities. **Digital security** is the protection of this online identity. Criminals are finding new ways to operate and steal information from digital users for their own personal gain. Digital security is an all-encompassing term which includes the tools you can use to secure your identity, assets and technology in the online and mobile world.

#WomenAtWeb was a discussion on how every day, there are quite a number of cyber-attacks and anybody could be a victim of a cyber-theft, hack or crime.

The campaign discussed how it is important in being concerned and aware of the fact that the information we share through digital mediums could be used against us. Hence, we should be careful about what we share digitally and be extra cautious when receiving information which we suspect might be fraudulent.

The campaign argued the following points;

- The question on digital security and why we need Digital security? The masses are not informed that they need digital security especially when it comes to data protection laws. We have seen credit apps use their customers' information in manipulating them and only an informed user would make the right decision when downloading an app that exploits their data.
- Data laws was a key discussion on the campaign, we realized that there are technology laws in Kenya only that they are inadequate in terms of how digital technology is changing fast. A constant revision of the laws is needed to keep up with the fast changing technology.
- Key point discussed in the campaign was how to protect yourself better online. A number of contributors gave very credible tips on how to protect your data," Be cautious about how much personal information you provide on social networking sites. The more information you post, the easier it may be for a hacker or someone else to use that information to steal your identity, access your data. #WomenAtWeb254."
- Digital security challenges are rampant, first being the fast changing technology which makes it easier for hackers to attack vulnerable users. Also there are not enough laws protecting users from private organizations exploiting their data. The crimes identified have not been successfully prosecuted especially when it comes to women who are the most vulnerable to online attackers and cyberbullying.

Way Forward and Action Points

- There needs to be an increased awareness building for citizens to know and understand their rights and push for inclusion in decision making processes. The government needs to enhance

the data protection law as that's an issue in the Kenyan systems where individuals give up their data (phone numbers and id numbers) and end up in the wrong hands.

- Citizens need to be informed on why digital security is important as part of their daily lives as online users. Laws are available for their protection and it is their constitutional right. The government and NGO's need to come up with programs to educate the citizens on digital security and how they can be more informed on protecting themselves.
- Companies should have a privacy policy which anyone on the digital surface can understand and follow. People should know some data protection practices like ; Avoiding using public WiFi, especially for sensitive stuff such as online banking, Use strong passwords and two step verification when logging in to public spaces online.
- Review your private settings to make sure the information you share is only available to the people you want, to see it.

Social Media Analytics for Digital Security Tweet Chat - 28th February 2020

Social media analytics summary

- From the chat audience, 76% was female and 24% was male
- We gained 130 followers
- We attracted 10,941,272 impressions
- We trended at No. 4 in the country. This may have been due to the conversation surrounding the Corona Virus in Kenya.

Trend analysis for the #WomenAtWeb254 Tweet chat - No. 4 in the country

Kenya trends

1 · Politics · Trending

#uhurumustgo

5,936 Tweets



Shikoh Kihika, #LandFirst Mwalimu Wandia, and 2 more are Tweeting about this

2 · Politics · Trending

#coronavirusInkenya

24.7K Tweets



Mwalimu Mutemi wa Kiama, gathara, and 2 more are Tweeting about this

3 · Politics · Trending

#UhuruKenyatta

7,566 Tweets



Young Debaters' Society, sylvester omondi, and 4 more are Tweeting about this

4 · Trending

#WomenAtWeb254

1,548 Tweets



Liz Orembo and APC are Tweeting about this

Overall Reach for the #WomenAtWeb254 Tweet Chat

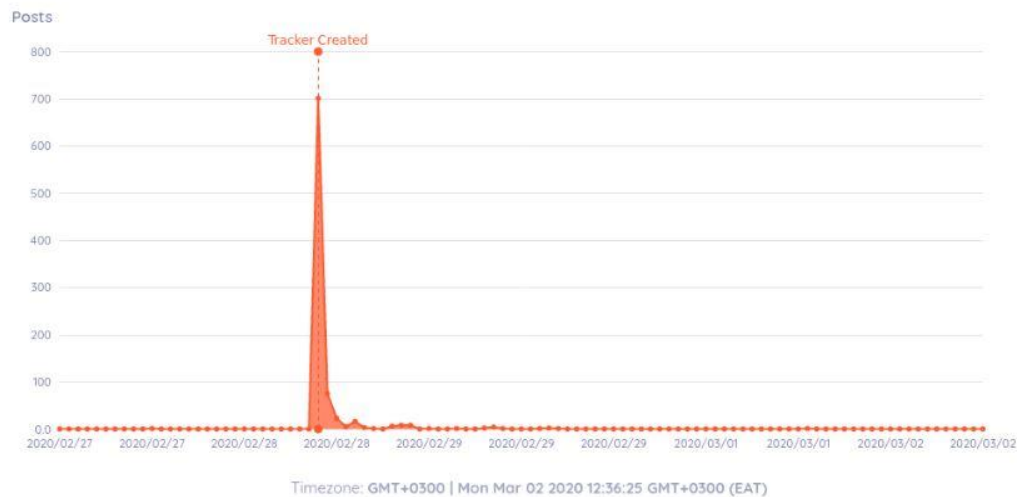
#WomenAtWeb254



FEB 27 - MAR 02

861 POSTS 122 USERS 2,002 ENGAGEMENT 939,339 REACH 10,941,272 IMPRESSIONS

Timeline



Top Responses for the #WomenAtWeb254 Tweet Chat

Top Posts

 **@APC_News** Feb 27 32  32 
Are you at risk? Join this special tweet chat tomorrow on digital security with @CeciliaMaundu and @lizorembo **#womenatweb254** @KICTANet <https://t.co/4MYzoxOF6X>

 **@siasaplace** Feb 28 27  19 
Welcome to today's hot topic on, "Digital Security". Are we are risk? What online behaviors put us at risk? Joining us today is @lizorembo and @ceciliamaundu Kindly introduce yourself to our followers. **#WomenAtWeb254** @dw_akademie <https://t.co/T62Z2HAKUX>

 **@Shikohkihika** Feb 28 23  19 
#WomenAtWeb254 online spaces have become amplifiers of different forms of violence it is important to start thinking and imagining what safe spaces mean to the users and especially for women <https://t.co/1CdrQH1muk>

Related Topics



Influential Users



@apc_news

12,761 Followers

64 Avg Engagements



@nyamoitanyak...

2,214 Followers

24 Avg Engagements



@wanjikumugane

30,614 Followers

21 Avg Engagements



@shikohkihika

41,116 Followers

20 Avg Engagements



@bevalynekwambo3

29,116 Followers

20 Avg Engagements



@techskilld

38 Followers

19 Avg Engagements



@collinskaunda

550 Followers

17 Avg Engagements



@lordmwesh

2,203 Followers

16 Avg Engagements



@ombotokenya

1,290 Followers

14 Avg Engagements

Majority of the participants were based in Kenya

Location



Gender



Social Media Post Types



ACTIVITY 3: WRITING CONTEST FOR YOUNG WOMEN

In the month of February we had a writing contest for young women between the age of 18-25 years. With increased internet penetration, there are more Kenyans engaging online on diverse issues, however, comparatively women's participation on online platforms still lags behind. When we think about the future, we have to think about digital space, technology and its application. As mobile phone penetration grows, so does our dependence on mobile network platforms for our daily transactions such as buying goods, paying utility bills, sending money and accessing credit. Our world has radically changed in the space of two decades and it is now inconceivable to live without a digital device. In spite of these technological advancements, there remains a digital divide between men and women in the form of access to technology.

The requirements for the writing contest were:

- The article must be at least 700 words and touch on either of the following topics:
 - The Data Protection Act
 - Online Harassment

- Current Affairs: e.g. Women's participation online?
- Must be Kenyan
- Deadline 29th February, 2020
- Articles to be sent to support@siasaplace.com
- Young Women between the ages of 18-25 years - We felt that this demographic of women would benefit the most from the award money of Ksh. 5000.

From the 40 articles received, six winners were selected. Below are their articles.

Article 1: Cyber Sexual Harassment among Women in their Emerging Adulthood By Hudlyn Kwas Hagoi

The internet and other digital tools are playing an increasingly central role in how Kenyans interact with one another. Such interactions include but not limited to; how they find and share information, how they connect with friends, family and professional networks, how they entertain themselves, how they seek answers to sensitive questions, how they learn about and access the world around them. In short, the internet has made the world a utopian place where most of our needs are met through the online tools at our disposal. The internet is not only built on the idea of a free flow of information but also on the idea of freely flowing discourse. Despite this utopia that the internet has created, one persistent challenge to this ideal is online harassment and digital abuse. One type of many forms of online harassment is cyber sexual harassment. Sexual harassment can exist towards any gender; however, this paper explores cyber sexual harassment towards the female gender mostly among the emerging adult women.

Arafa, Elbahrawe, Saber, Ahmed & Abbas (2018) define cyber sexual harassment as the sexual harassment that primarily occurs over the internet. Arafa et al. posit that cyber sexual harassment is an act of violence that mainly targets females. Online sexual harassment can occur via different mediums, including chat rooms, social network sites, messaging, emails, advertising, automatic linking, or spams (Arafa et al., 2018). Emerging adulthood is the age between 18 years and 25 years (Arnett, 2004). Lindsay, Booth, Messing, and Thaller (2016) extends this age to 29. They remark that this is the age where people's engagement with the internet is at its peak. While online sexual harassment is an issue that cuts across all developmental stages, this group is most affected. During this time, young people focus their energy on relationship building and begin to search for greater intimacy commonly through dating relationships.

Online sexual harassments takes different forms, but most of them take the form of either gender harassment through verbal or graphic means in which harasser use gender-humiliating comments or sexual remarks or images, online sexual attention using direct personal communication to convey sex-related messages or sexual coercion through pressuring the victim to obtain sexual cooperation (Arafa

et al., 2018). Unfortunately, sexual harassment is challenging to tackle since the harasser; in most cases, is anonymous. Additionally, although sexual harassment is a social phenomenon that can occur anywhere during daily communication, online virtual harassment makes the victims accessible anywhere and at any time. According to the study done by Burke et al. (2015), the majority of women in their emerging adulthood stage who have experienced online sexual harassment are enrolled in the learning institutions. Twenty percent of these students are repeatedly receiving unsolicited sexually obscene messages or sexual solicitation (Burke et al., 2015). More than 10 percent of the college and university students reported that they repeatedly received pornographic images and videos from people they did not know (Burke et al., 2015). More than a third of these women in their emerging adulthood reported that they felt anxious after the harassment; one-fifth reported that their sleeping and eating habits changed after the harassment, and the majority expressed that they felt helpless in dealing with the harassments.

Chawki and el Shazly (2013) also bring another critical aspect of online sexual harassment, which they call sextortion. Sextortion is a form of sexual exploitation where people get extorted with a nude image they shared online. Victims may be coerced into performing sexual acts with the people doing the extortion. The sextortion takes the form of sexual blackmail in which sexual information or images are used by the harasser to extort sexual favours from the victim. The Internet is often the source of such sexual materials and the threatened means of sharing it with others. Again, emerging adults do share their sexual information over the internet than all other groups consequently putting them at risk of sextortion than any other developmental group.

The issue of online sexual harassment should be tackled through cross-sectoral approaches. An effective solution would be establishing a multidimensional public-private collaboration between law enforcement agencies, the information technology industry, and ISPs. Without efficient public-private collaboration, online harassment can never be tackled effectively (Chawki and el Shazly, 2013). Innovative software programs can also help users to control the information they receive. This software can help internet users to block unwanted communication. The software programs should have the capacity to filter and block unwanted messages. I am glad the development of such software is ongoing, and some features like Cyber Sitter and Netnanny have been so useful in blocking and filtering unwanted communications (Chawki and el Shazly, 2013). Another recommendation to help tackle online sexual harassment should be to carry out extensive education programs to educate potential perpetrators on how to behave online. All internet users should be the first step towards self-protection. Internet education helps the perpetrators on how to behave and victims on how to respond to a variety of situations (Chawki and el Shazly, 2013). I wish that the public and private stakeholders should treat online sexual harassment as a matter of urgency and collaborate to find a lasting solution using multisector approaches suggested in this paper. Most of the females who are the victims of such misbehaviours are students whose education are adversely affected due to such harassments. In a broader perspective, every victim of sexual harassment is severely affected, and it is high time these behaviours are stopped.

References

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Written By Hudlyn Kwas Hagoi | Email: hudlynk@gmail.com

Article 2: Online Harassment and Women's Online Participation By Edna Asesa

Online social networks are increasingly becoming a vital part of our everyday life as they have transformed how we interact with each other and go about our everyday lives. These networks are providing a platform for current events, digital activism and comedic conversations. These social platforms also aid in the creation of networks and formation of new alliances with people who share common interests, ideals and beliefs. Many people have been able to grow their careers through these networks. These opportunities and positive outcomes created by social networks are mostly attainable by having a presence and engaging with other people on these platforms. This makes it necessary to ensure that there is equal participation online for the purposes of online inclusivity and ensuring that everyone can enjoy the positive aspects of online social networks. Various studies have demonstrated the huge disparity that exists between the level of women and men's participation on online platforms (Herring, 2000; Broadhurst, 1993). According to these studies, there is a low level of online participation among women, despite the fact that women may be accessing these platforms just as much as men do.

While there are institutional and social influences to blame for this disparity, this digital divide is largely attributed to the online harassment that women experience. This was acknowledged in a joint statement by the United Nations Special Rapporteurs on Violence against Women and Freedom of Expression that highlighted how the "online participation of women journalists, activists, human rights defenders, activists, and artists and other public figures and private persons" is disrupted by violence

and abuse against women online. With the increased access to technology and the growth of social networks connecting people from all over the world, there is a growing phenomenon known as the online disinhibition effect. Online disinhibition effect is characterized by the tendency of people to behave online in ways that they would not when having in-person interactions. This has in turn resulted in online incivility which has brought with it vices such as online harassment, which is becoming increasingly rampant.

There has been increased awareness of the online harassment women face with the aim of bursting the bubble created by the online disinhibition effect and making platform users understand the harm caused by their words. One of the ways of creating awareness has been through hashtags on twitter such as the #mencallmethings which provided a platform for women to recount their personal experiences of online harassment and #morethanmean which was used to raise awareness about online harassment of women in sport journalism. These hashtags succeeded in showing just how much harassment women go through online.

Harassment of women online is partly attributed to the patriarchal political systems that exist online. These are the same systems that exist in in-person environments and become replicated and amplified online due to the amount of people with access to these platforms and the loosened inhibitions that come with online anonymity. Some societies such as African societies are still largely patriarchal and therefore women speaking up in public is viewed as going against the traditional boundaries, especially if they challenge patriarchal beliefs. Women who dare to challenge patriarchal beliefs are subjected to online harassment. I have personally observed this phenomenon among the Kenyan demographic on twitter where women who identify as feminists and publicly tweet about their feminist beliefs are insulted and even threatened. Hash tags such as #TakeBackTheTech, #ImagineAFeministInternet, #LiesToldByFemales, #IHateFemalesWho and #ThatsWhatSlutsDo have all been used in the past to spread misogynistic and sexist tweets and all began as a response to a particular opinion or campaign by a woman on Twitter.

The reality of many women is that they find themselves changing their behavior when they experience harassment such as “wearing less provocatively” and this translates to online behavior too as they become passive internet users so as to avoid online harassment. Women are choosing not to comment on online discussions even though they may be equally if not more interested and knowledgeable in the topic at hand. There is an aspect of intersectionality in this as Muslim women and generally women from marginalized communities are even more passive in their online participation. This is because they are viewed by some people as representing the views of an entire community and therefore for fear of being targeted if they say the “wrong” thing, they choose not to participate online. This also goes for women who are public figures such as women in politics.

The ripple effect of online harassment is clear from how low women online participation is affecting other aspects of the society. The low participation of women online affects the discourse on issues as the opinions seen or heard online fail to accurately reflect the actual views held by people. The freedom of expression of women is limited if they cannot freely express their views without fear of harassment. It also affects and stifles digital feminist activism as it poses a barrier to feminist voices. Online platforms have offered a voice to activists in various topics such as climate change but is still largely unwelcoming

to digital feminist activists.

Online platforms such as Twitter can contribute to the achievement of online social equality by enforcing stricter rules on the platform users such as banning the use of hashtags or language that promote incivility against women. More organizations should also host online discussion forums targeted specifically at women so as to encourage them to participate in important discussions online. For instance Siasa Place can host online political discussions for women only, to encourage them to participate in political discussions. It is clear that online social equality can only be achieved when both men and women are able to occupy online spaces and to influence and speak within that space without fear of harassment.

Written By Edna Asesa | Email: ednaasesa@gmail.com

Article 3: Digital Divides By Sally Ogola

Kenya proudly boasts of its progressiveness in the internet space; with the introduction and subsequent enactment of the data protection act 2019, the state becomes one of the very few African countries that has institutionalized a legal framework of this nature. The legislation among other things, focuses on the regulation of data and its corresponding control. It further sets guidelines necessary for the collection, processing, storage, use, retrieval and disclosure of data within the country and/or of data whose subjects are located in the country. It is important to note that the act fundamentally encompasses the aspect of digital privacy; It generally gives effect to article 31 (c) and (d) of the Kenyan constitution 2010 amongst other provisions found in other statutes which explicitly or impliedly focus on the mitigation and/ or the prevention of data breaches and its corresponding effects. Article 31 (d) particularly provides for every individual's right to privacy which is expressly extended to the right not to have the privacy of any persons' communications infringed. To understand the extent at which the data protection act gives effect to article articles 31 (c) and (d) of the constitution, it is important to read and interpret the act as a whole. Section 25 (a) of the act specifically obligates data controllers and data processors to ensure that any personal data is processed should conform with the right to privacy of the subject of such data. Section 26 of the act further provides for among other rights the right of the data subject to be informed of data, to object to the processing of any data and the right to have information forgotten. These subjects further have to explicitly consent to the processing of any data that is considered personal by the legislation or by the data protection commissioner failure of which controllers' and or data processors' will be held accountable and can be found liable of an offense. In simpler terms; the act makes service providers to a certain extent accountable for processing particular personal data and can accordingly be directed to pull down content on the basis of myriad reasons subject to the determination of the data protection commissioner. With the emerging spectrum of online related crimes, the data protection act will potentially promote the creation of secure online spaces for women that are free from online harassment and abuse.

While collecting and/or analyzing the extent of women's participation in the digital space, I happened to trample on various articles which attempted to demonstrate and further explain the reasons behind the huge gap and/ or digital divide between men and women in the digital space. Out of curiosity, I resorted to collecting a little more data from individuals that were at my disposal at that particular time.

Interestingly, I deduced that although most of these individuals had almost equal access to the digital space. Men unlike their women counterparts increasingly took part in online debates. Further analysis of this situation showed that the reason behind women's laid back behavior was as a result of the harsh judgements meted particularly on women in these online platforms; simply put, the digital confidence of women is much lesser than that of men in these online platforms. Social media platforms which are currently common to the Kenyan youths and or young adults are increasingly being used as a tool for perpetuating cyberbullying and other related crimes/ vices of this nature with a majority of women becoming victims of such crimes. Online sexual harassment, stalking, offensive comments, manipulation of personal data and the distribution of intimate images and videos of women who were neither aware that data of this nature had been processed and or consented to the distribution of such data has increasingly become a norm in the Kenyan cyberspace. This trend has further been facilitated by the pure misogynistic culture in the country which treads back to our traditional conceptions related to the place of women in the society. It is not uncommon to find most women politicians being subjected to such online harassment and their opinions are more likely to be gauged with "out of the box" aspects including their physical appearance, their past and present relationships amongst other nitty gritty which rarely relates to their public work obligations. In comparison, their male counterparts are rarely subjected to such discussions neither are their abilities judged on the basis of the aforementioned aspects.

Women like their male counterparts have a voice in public discourse, and their opinions matter. With the enactment of the data protection act, the full participation of women in the digital space will potentially be encouraged. Most importantly, such participation will accelerate the ability of women across the board to take part in empowerment and development activities in the country through the internet without the apparent fear of being judged in a certain way, or being harassed or even being dismissed in an abusive and/ or intimidating manner. Kenya in the spirit of progressiveness ought to not only recognize that online violence should be constructed and be included as another form of gender based violence, rather, parliament should additionally formulate more elaborate legislations which link digital related crimes to violations of this nature. The bottom line however is; digital gender inequality still remains to be a prominent issue in the country and it should be addressed as soon as possible.

Written by Sally Ogolla | Email: ogolasally44@gmail.com

Article 4: Online Harassment By Wanjiku Ng'ang'a

Can technology make people safer from threats like violent extremism, censorship, cyber bullying or persecution? Imagine this. You're a woman, you're married and you have a kid. You post something at work on social media and in reply you are told that you will be raped. Details of where, when and even your home address are sent for everyone to see. That feels like a pretty real threat, doesn't it? Once the information is out there on the internet, you are most likely to lose control over it. Would you still go home that day or even continue with what you were doing?

Scrolling through social media feeds feels like a harmless part of our daily lives. But is it actually as harmless as it seems? Our growing and unchecked obsession with social media has unintended long-term consequences on our mental health. Online harassment is a worldwide problem that's growing

very fast. Research shows that nine out of ten victims don't tell anyone that they are being harassed or bullied.

What is Online harassment?

Online harassment/cyber bullying has become this perverse art of figuring out what makes people angry, afraid, insecure and then pushing those pressure points until they are silenced. When this goes unchecked, free speech is overlooked and even the people hosting the conversation call it quits. They close up their comment sections and forums all together. This clearly confirms that we are losing spaces online to meet, socialize and exchange ideas.

This in turn enables the spread of miscommunication, lack of job opportunities and insecurity. What if technology could instead enable empathy at scale? If we had technology that understands the emotional impact of language, we can build empathy. We can have dialogue with people who have different politics, beliefs, values and personalities.

In today's world, technology is so prominent that it's easy for us to forget that it wasn't long ago when the internet didn't even exist. Computers are just about in every home as well as most schools giving children access to technology they have never had before. Bullying is certainly not something new but it has changed over the years. Before this revolution, bullying stopped when the bell rang or when we had to go home after the end of the day.

But when it comes to online, bullies are not confined to any sought of playground or costumes. People, especially the young generation across the world are being tormented, threatened, harassed and embarrassed. Online harassment is seven days a week, 24hours a day. It can happen anytime, anywhere leaving silent victims with no place they can feel safe.

What many of us fail to realize is that the root of the problem begins with the behavior of children and teens using social media. One of the unique things about cyber bullying is that it can be done anonymously. With resharing and reposting, things that are said online have the potential to go viral. When we create fake accounts just to abuse others, we really don't know what they are going through. Words are hurtful, they impact people. Deleting inappropriate messages or pictures does not change anything. Nothing disappears off the internet.

How do we evaluate what we are saying online and while offline? Most of our young people don't really think before they type or share something on the internet. Amy J. Martin, an American speaker and author once said, just as we teach our children how to ride a bike, we must also teach them how to navigate through social media. Raising children especially in today's world can be very challenging. But what we are able to do is learn from people's experiences, tragedies and triumphs.

Imagine if machine learning could give commenters real time feedback about how their words might land on others. Just like facial expressions do in face to face conversations. When people use technology to exploit and harm others, they are preying on human fears and vulnerabilities. If we want to build technology that can overcome the challenges that we face, we need to learn and understand issues and build solutions that are human as the problems they aim to solve.

The messages we post online about a person, a place or even an event are very important. Those few seconds you decide whether or not to post can mean a lot in the future. When we are online, we need

to use words that are encouraging. If adults can be better listeners and students be empowered to stand up and intervene, we can change a person's life. How amazing would that be? So, before posting something online, we need to ask ourselves about the consequences of our actions.

By Wanjiku Ng'ang'a | Email: mnganga701@gmail.com

Article 5: Online harassment has become the order of the day By Faith Ogega

With the global rise in the use of the internet, 87% of Kenyans can now access it and freely interact online across different social media platforms. However, there's a worrying digital gap between men and women.

According to research conducted by the Association of Media Women in Kenya (AMWIK) and Article 19, Eastern Africa reveals that common attacks targeting women journalists were cyberstalking, sexual harassment, surveillance, unauthorized use and manipulation of personal information, including images and videos.

Looking into the future of digital space; men will be one step ahead of women in access to technology while women will still be struggling to secure their space. In this very advancing sector of our daily lives, men have acquitted themselves with the technological advancements hence their huge online participation across diverse issues.

Sadly, even in this era of the internet, access to the right information is still the major problem facing both women and men. Traditionally, women did not access education because their roles revolved around the home. Men, on the other hand, were the heads of the family and they were privileged to access education which has to date contributed to the lagging of women.

Although that was the case, things have now changed and there are no definite roles meant for either men or women. Down the years, new generations have emerged and to date, anyone can access the internet using their mobile phones, laptops and some visit the cyber cafes thanks to new technologies.

With the penetration of new technology, men and women have equal access to opportunities across different online platforms. Though, this has not been the case because women have no access to these technologies. Yes, both men and women can access the internet but the male gender has taken the wheel, they are perceived as the smart type therefore any kind of opportunities are first presented to them.

As much as women are being encouraged to participate in the innovation of new technologies, the men have it all. Their innovations are incubated, unlike women whose space in the digital world is still uncertain. In addition to that, women's participation in diverse topics is to date a major problem.

Online harassment has caused several women to withdraw from using the internet, and in many cases, women have stopped working for some time. It has also changed women's patterns of online interaction, as they sometimes avoid engaging in online discussions for fear of being targeted.

For instance, let's take a look at Twitter as a social media platform that now sets most of the agendas discussed in the media, not only in Kenya but also in the world. First, Twitter is known for its efficiency,

effectiveness and timeliness when it comes to global communication. Secondly, it sets the agenda of the day, the majority of the issues discussed end up on the mainstream media. Therefore, anyone trading on this platform is always advised to be thoughtful.

According to an investigation I carried out on Twitter, I found out that 15 Twitter influencers 11 were male and the rest were female. Putting in mind that most of the conversations debated here end in the mainstream media it highlighted why women are still lagging. Being a digital savvy and a daily user of twitter, I daily check the trends and the male interactions supersedes the female engagements.

On this very platform, online harassment is real; the majority of the women on this application are bullied. A recent case study would be the trolling of Neema Bosibori popularly known as Bosibori – a Twitter Influencer. A simple tweet from her was turned against her and as bullies are, they took it to her looks and said all sorts of body shaming words they could remember. That not being the only scenario, a lot of women who post their pictures on twitter are in one way or another body-shamed to an extent others pull down their pictures.

Online harassment has become the order of the day across digital platforms. To tackle such incidents its important counseling programs are established to offer psychosocial support to traumatized women. Also, victims are advised to develop anti-sexual violence policies to provide gender-responsive mechanisms for tackling harassment.

Written By Faith Ogega | Email: faithogega95@gmail.com

Article 6: The Power of the Web is in it's Universality By Rose Anyango

Abstract

“The power of the Web is in its universality access by everyone regardless of disability is an essential aspect”. This was stated by W3C Director and inventor of the World Wide Web, Tim Berners-Lee. The above quoted is contrary with regards to the digital divide between men and women in the form of access to technology that has been prevalent over the years.

The concept Digital Gender Divide or Digital Split

This is a term that refers to a gap between the amount of information available between men and women with focus on access

It also refers to differences in resources and capabilities to access and effectively utilize Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) that exist within and between countries, regions, sectors and socio-economic groups.

United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan's statement to the world summit on the Information society Geneva, 10 December 2003:

The so-called digital divide is actually several gaps in one. There is a technological divide, great gaps in infrastructure and there is also a content divide. A lot of web-based information is simply not relevant to the real needs of people. Nearly 70% of the world's websites are in English, at times crowding out local voices and views.

There is a gender divide with women enjoying less access to information technology than men. The digital gender divide is characterized by poverty, cultural norms and stereotypical perceptions. Several media platforms such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, YouTube among others are used to market and distribute pornographic materials and prostitution and they can also facilitate human trafficking for sexual purposes.

Introduction

Kenya has experienced an increase in the proliferation of ICT and social media due to affordability, easy availability and accessibility of gadgets such as internet enabled mobile phones (smart phones). This has however come without the necessary checks in terms of litigation and ICT policies to help mitigate the negative impacts that the growth may have on gender relations.

The available documented evidence points to a deficit in knowledge and understanding of the new and sophisticated permutations of violence against women as experienced on social media. In the Kenyan context, some of the acts of aggression were seen as isolated cases and reported as incidents that are not gendered. This points to a lack of acknowledgement of the harms that social media and the tools of ICT pose to women.

Many women have suffered online harassment in the hands of online bullies, anonymous or known to them. Some have been afraid to enjoy social media for fear of the dangers lurking within, some have suffered in silence with no knowledge of whom to turn to for justice. I am an example of those women who have suffered cyber bullying. This began from sexting, in the hands of an anonymous online bully way back in my teen age of seventeen. The supposed gentleman texted me on Facebook with sex texts which I found inappropriate to respond. Upon realizing I was ignoring him, he said he would edit the chat to make it look like I was warming up to him and attach nude pictures of me through morphing to the chats then share it to all media platforms. How frightened and worried I was imagining the shame that was awaiting me, I could not hold back my tears, I really wept in silence. I have also experienced sexting with a prominent person in Kenya whose name I withhold. I never knew I would ever find some platform to share these haunting experiences at least for relief if not for anything else.

Online harassment stands out as the main reason for the prevalence of digital gender divide. It takes the following listed forms;

- **Cyber stalking:** This refers to repeatedly sending messages that include threats of harm, highly intimidating or engaging in other online activities that make a person afraid.
- **Denigration:** Sending or posting cruel gossip or rumors about a person to damage their reputations or friendships.
- **Flaming:** Online fights using electronic messages with angry and vulgar language.
- **Morphing:** Is attaching a photo to make one image. For example, a face may be attached to a naked body or a pornographic situation. The software used in this is so advanced that it's not easy to tell that the image is not real.
- **Outing and image circulation:** This involves tricking someone to share their secrets or embarrassing information about themselves then you share it online to the public.

- **Sexting:** The use of communication technology to send or receive sexually explicit messages and photos.

The above listed forms of online harassment explain why women are usually victims of the prevailing digital gender divide as illustrated below;

i. Cyber laws are often gender blind

When new laws concerning the internet are introduced, it is often done through protectionist frameworks without consultation with women's organizations. In Kenya, legal regulations serve to censor the internet broadly, which also affects women. Social media platforms are often reluctant to deal with misogynist expressions; expressions made by a person who dislikes, despises or is highly prejudiced against women (a woman hater or male chauvinist). Governments as well as the private sector have been reluctant in dealing with online harassment of women.

Any woman who experiences denigration may suffer shame and stigma thus making her shy away from online platforms thus widening the digital gender divide gap.

ii. Blackmails by boyfriends and ex-boyfriends

In the course of romantic affairs, lovers usually take pictures together out of which some may be seductive, others exposing more than necessary and some suggestive. These pictures are taken either with or without the other person's consent. When things turn stale between the lovers, there is always a trend of the boyfriends revealing those nearly nude pictures they possess by posting them online to shame the lady in them. These photos may also be used to blackmail the lady to remain in abusive relationships with the condition that if they don't remain with the boyfriend those pictures she would want no one to see will be revealed to the public. Chats are also revealed with abusive captions attached to them. This makes the victim to suffer psychological and emotional torture. As a result they may fully exit online platforms especially Facebook to hide from shame and to heal. This thus does more harm by further widening the digital gender divide gap.

iii. Partner rivalry

This is usually common among ladies who are fighting over a man. The victimized lady who feels the other party snatched her man may take to online platforms specifically Facebook just to shame her fellow through what was mentioned earlier as flaming. This is usually aimed at shaming the victim and diverting her attention so that he can leave the man to the claimant. It should be noted that it is not always men who perpetrate this digital gender divide but also women themselves. The victim will undoubtedly seek hiding away from the internet so as to deal with the situation and seek personal peace.

iv. Leaking sextapes

This is so common even among the prominent people in the country. Some ladies may be lured into featuring in pornographic videos and some who are unsuspecting may only learn of the videos after they get to the limelight. The perpetrators sometimes place micro cameras in the room where the action takes place and thereafter upload it to YouTube for monetary gains without the victim's consent. This

degree of online harassment results in societal stigmatization of women who may be innocent and also have far reaching consequences on ruining their reputation. Thus resulting in them having negative perceptions of using the internet and all related technologies hence the digital gender divide.

Conclusion;

It should be noted that there is a greater need to bridge the digital gender divide as it can provide the basis for substantial progress in development. This is because women's digital inclusion can help to catalyze broader gender equality in social, economic and political dimensions benefiting not only women themselves but also their families and the broader society.

This can be done through formulation of gender sensitive ICT policies and offering training to women in Kenya on how they can ensure their safety while online. Women's rights matter online as much as they matter offline.

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Written By Rose Anyango | Email: roseanyango744@gmail.com

ACTIVITY 4: FAKE NEWS TWEET CHAT

Date: 18th March 2020

Topic: Fake News; How to verify your sources

Guests and their Twitter Handle; Kennedy Kachwanya @kachwanya - *Chairman of BAKE (Bloggers Association of Kenya)*

Hashtag: #SiasaWednesday

Background

In recent times in the world, we are facing a global pandemic, Corona virus that has seen over 1000 deaths and over 80,000 people infected. As the virus reached the country we saw a rise in misleading information in regards to the virus. Most of it being fake news. The effect has caused panic and confusion among citizens on what's true and what should be done. The government has tried to educate the masses on different channels including, social media and SMS, Radio and Tv on the facts about the virus.

Challenges

The technological ease of copying, pasting, clicking and sharing content online has helped these types of articles to proliferate. Easy access to social media and their immediacy for so many people makes it easy for people to share these fake news. Technology advancement E.g Algorithms and Artificial Intelligence make it easier to share information without necessarily involving humans thus making it hard to curb Fake news spread. Lack of awareness on the masses part and ignorance makes it hard to curb fake news on social sites.

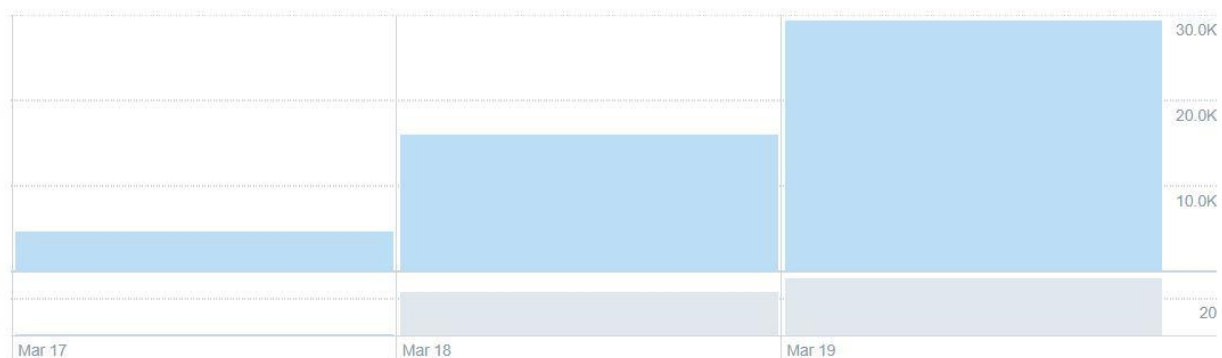
Way Forward/ Action Points

A mass sensitization on Fake News on how to spot them. There are organizations like KICTANET which have done research on fake news; such information should be available to the masses to help curb fake news. We should sensitize the public not to spread fake news. NCIC, CA and other offices should do great campaigns that teach people how to spot & flag fake news. It's important also for citizens and the Kenyan public at large share the right and factual information to avoid unnecessary panic. People should not "forward as received" messages without first verifying the content is correct.

Summary of Social Media Analytics

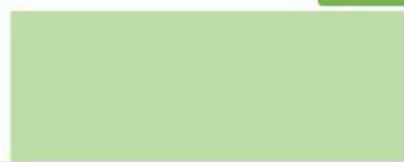
- We had 50,000 impressions over the the three-day period from 17th-19th March 2020

Your Tweets earned **50.0K impressions** over this **3 day** period



Retweets

38



On average, you earned **38 Retweets** per day

Likes

62



On average, you earned **62 likes** per day

Replies

17

Mar 18
17 replies

On average, you earned **17 replies** per day

ACTIVITY 5: ILLUSTRATIONS ON DIGITAL SECURITY, CYBERBULLYING AND DIGITAL RIGHTS ON INSTAGRAM AND FACEBOOK

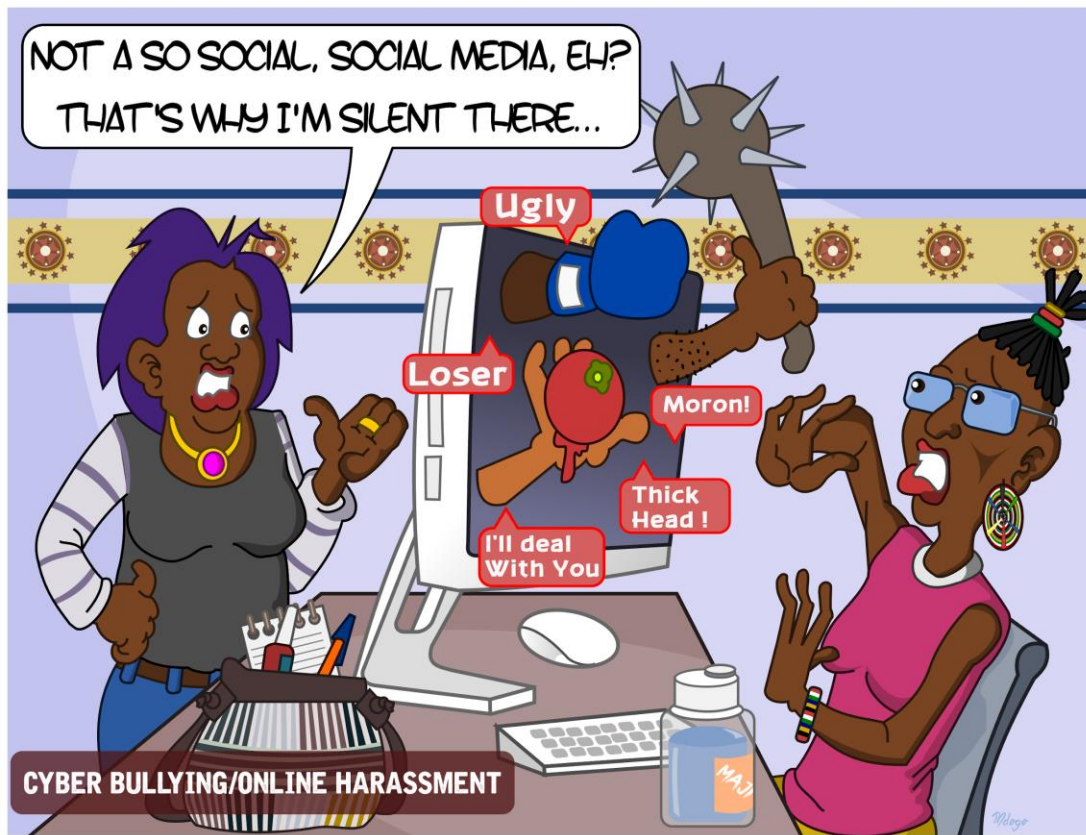
In order to sensitize the public on the importance of Digital Security, Digital Rights and Online Harassment, we had Bwana Mdogo, a cartoonist create illustrations with captions on the topic that we share on our Facebook and Instagram accounts. The task was for people online to give their most creative captions to the six illustrations, put the hashtag **#WomenAtWebKE** at their end of their comments. We received creative captions from nine participants. Below are their captions to the illustrations:



1.
Captions:

1. Waswa Grace

waswagrace Bullying? But of course. I'm talented at leaving bruises on people. #womenatwebke



2.

Captions:

2. Stellah Kaviti



3. Marya Collete



4. Judith Waka





3.

Captions:

5. Ian Maqueta



ianamaqueta Without privacy there's no need of being an individual
#WomenAtWebKE

4 d 2 likes Reply

6. Smooth Operator - IG



smooth.operator_ke Our right to privacy is enshrined in the Constitution. Therefore, Governments, private entities and people in authority should not violate this sacred right. #WomenAtWebKE

4 d 2 likes Reply

7. Nginda Nganga



nginda_nganga Ugh, I am finally in my room, I could do with some privacy!

2 d 1 like Reply



4.

Caption:

8. Annmercy Wairimu

annmercy_wairimu It's that geotag that gave you away, Easy right there, STOP, THINK, CONNECT. Before you engage better be sure what information you putting out here. Keep sensitive personal information to yourself. #WomenAtWebKE





5.

Captions:

9. Franny Mwanza



Franny Mwanza Here you are..seated in a cyber..trying to log into a company recruitment portal to apply for that job whose deadline is 5pm today..its 4:45pm..panicked! you try to write a username and password..ngo! itabidi umetumia all types of keys on the keyboard this time..

#WomenAtWebKE

Like · Reply · Message · 4d





ACTIVITY 6: WORKING FROM HOME TWEET CHAT

Date: 30th March 2020

Topic: Working from Home; Is it different for women?

Time: 2.00pm - 3.00pm EAT

Guests and their Twitter Handle; Liz Orembo - @lizorembo, Dinah Kituyi - @DinahKituyi and Bina Maseno - @BinaMaseno

Background

Necessity is the mother of invention," coronavirus (COVID-19) forced many around the world to rethink our daily lives from work to school to entertainment. In response to travel bans, school closures, and recommendations to not gather in large groups and keep our distance from fellow humans to limit the spread of the virus, many people turned to digital tools to keep some semblance of normality.

It has become imperative to digitally transform our places of work and education to be able to operate effectively. How has this affected our way of life especially for women? The Tweet chat was aimed at discussing the challenge that is working from home and how one can maneuver around it.

Challenges

The first challenge realized was knowledge, of and use of and access to the internet as a major barrier to work from home. Not as many people have internet access especially women and this affects how they work from home. Their digital literacy level on how to use and maneuver tools for working from home will be required and not as many have the resources. There are also significant differences in the perceptions of barriers to Internet access and use between men and women in Kenya. It's also notable that remote working is only applicable for certain kinds of jobs and skills. It's more applicable for knowledge based kinds of skills. Hence the assertion that unpaid work by women accounts for 2.6 times

that of men. Having to adjust our environment to adapt to home and work in the same place has been a task and on top having to deal with the pandemic facing us.

Way Forward/ Action Points

Career changes may be in order after #COVID19 for the informal sector. There needs to be synergy between the formal and informal sector of employment. They need to work together to keep many jobs alive. As women we are the majority of the population as well as the workforce. Gender sensitive policies must be put in place. Engage in Public Participation. Women are advised to take advantage of the technology to connect more with your family & friends and not just consume online news. The following were some measures recommended by one of our tweet chat participant;

1. Have a flexible schedule
2. Discuss the changes with family
3. Connect with friends on social media
4. Minimize the amount of news you consume even on social media
5. Arm yourself with credible news channels like WHO

Social Media Analytics for the tweet chat - 30th March 2020

Social media analytics summary

- From the chat audience, 45% was female and 55% was male
- We attracted 1,243,619 impressions
- We trended at No. 2 in the country.

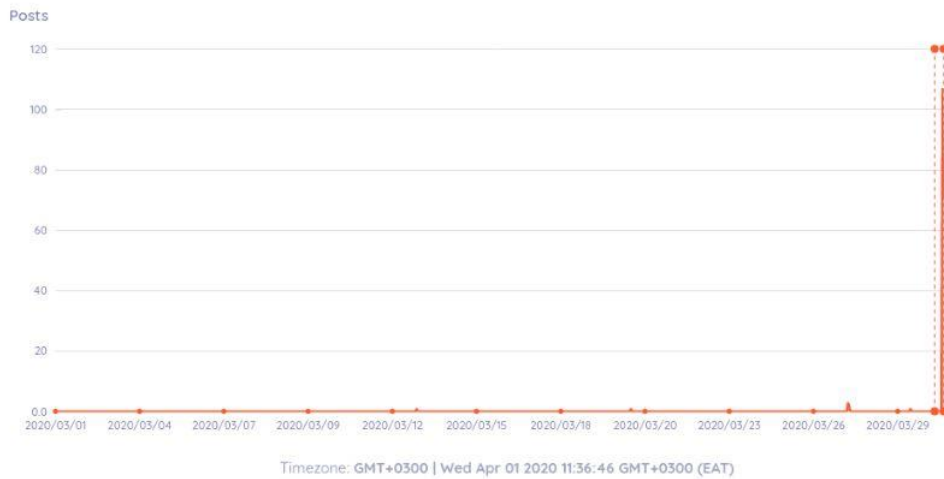
Trend analysis for the #WomenAtWebKE Tweet chat - No. 2 in the country



Overall Reach for the #WomenAtWebKE Tweet Chat



Timeline












Top Responses for the #WomenAtWeb254 Tweet Chat

Related Topics



Influential Users

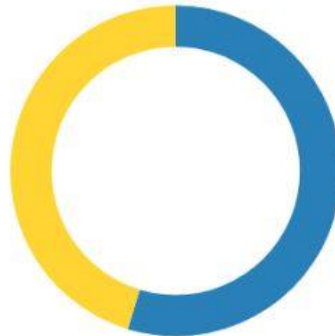
 @teddyeugene 25,800 Followers 22 Avg Engagements	 @omomanyi_ 28,187 Followers 15 Avg Engagements	 @britneykerubo 8,137 Followers 14 Avg Engagements
 @stellanderitu 2,266 Followers 14 Avg Engagements	 @binamaseno 1,416 Followers 14 Avg Engagements	 @miriamwanda 846 Followers 11 Avg Engagements
 @nichonasri1 40,851 Followers 9 Avg Engagements	 @amwik 5,999 Followers 9 Avg Engagements	 @itskiokoh 20,525 Followers 8 Avg Engagements

Majority of the participants were based in Kenya

Location



Gender



Social Media Post Types



ACTIVITY 7: INFOGRAPHIC VIDEO ON DIGITAL SECURITY, DIGITAL RIGHTS AND FAKE NEWS

To support the tweet chat, there were three short infographic videos that were created for our YouTube Channel.

Below are the links to the videos:

1. Digital Security - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yAGU--AVHKY>
2. Digital Rights - https://youtu.be/n9bboZ_K-U0
3. Fake News - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hhGOPL7xUFI>