

# IMPACT OF ICT ON BUSINESS EDUCATION IN NIGERIA EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

*Chikwuo S. Udu*

## **Abstract**

The entire globe is experiencing revolution. Computer education is fast becoming essential to the growth and sustenance of every area of human endeavour. This paper discussed the importance of ICT on business education in Nigeria, problems of ICT and application of ICT in Nigeria in the areas of Administration and communication. The write up was concluded by useful recommendations towards enhancement of computer education in Nigeria.

A computer is an electronic device that performs calculations and processed data with great speed and accuracy as well as storing information that can be easily retrieved when desired. Computer application is a process of applying computer technology to solving problems in different sectors of the economy. The history of computer is traced to the history of mathematics as early computers were mainly built to perform mathematical functions. Many people study computer for different reasons, some learn computer to understand and appreciate what it can do. Computer is now being used by everybody with its application in several important sectors of the economy. Such as scientific research, engineering, business, government and publishing companies etc.

However, Okeke and Adeji (2002) stated that “the level of development of a nation will be assessed by her rate of computer knowledge”. That shows for a developing nation like ours to be developed, the knowledge of computer and its application is very important. Moreover, to increase efficiency and productivity, institutions that offer business

education in the country need the knowledge of computer and its application for successful promotion of education.

## **The Origin of Computer Education in Nigeria**

Computer education came into the Nigerian soil through universities in the 1960s. That time, Nigeria had only six universities with enrollment of about 25,000 students (William, 1977). According to Abiona and Eze (2001), these universities are situated in Benin, Ibadab, Ife, Lagos, Nsukka, and Zaria. However, apart from these universities, the Federal, Government was the first organized body to use computer in Nigeria to carry out the 1963 – population census. By late 1960s, many Nigerian universities stepped in for the study of computer science. Different forms of computer packages came in. To maintain stability and good usage, a workshop was organized at Ife in December, 1975 and Ibadan in 1976 for professionals of software operator throughout West Africa to make the use of statistical packages for social scientists. Added to this, various polytechnics started offering computer as a course by 1990s. More so the colleges of Education (COE) started introducing computer studies in to their colleges (Abimede 1996). As from mid 1980s, individuals and companies had started using computers (Okebukola 1990). When the government saw the importance of computer Education, National committee on Computer Education (NCCE) was inaugurated on 14<sup>th</sup> December 1987

Computer Education has spreaded rapidly in Nigeria especially from late 1990s to

date. many private computer institutions, and centres have emerged. study of computer has become income pronounced in public schools. Now, computer is studied not only at the post secondary level but also in secondary and primary schools.

### **How the Computer Works**

The computer is a facilitative technology that allows those who are doing something to do more of it faster, better, accurately and more elegantly. According to Umoru (1999) "a computer may be defined as a collection of electronic and electro-mechanical machinery which work together on data supplied by the user to perform some specified data processing operations guided by a set of operational instructions under a unique programming language". Moreover, Akum (1999) sees computer as a machine, which accepts data from an input device that perform arithmetical and logical operation in accordance with a predefined programme and processed data to an output. Looking at the two definitions above, it is seen that the computer cannot work or perform every operation unless the user input some information into the computer. When the wrong information is passed into the computer the computer does not have the ability to change the wrong information,

but it can give the signal that there is an error but the error cannot be corrected except the user detect it and makes necessary corrections. It is the set of information that goes into the computer that will determine the output. So, a computer is like a tape recorder whose function (sound produced) depends on what the user input into it. It may equally be regarded as a tool like kitchen blender, but whose function is not fixed by its architecture.

### **Application of Computer in the Area of Administration and Communication**

The most common applications available for administrators are

- i. Word processing
- ii. Spread Sheet, and
- iii. Data base

**Word Processing:** These are powerful tools that assist administrators / educationists in the preparation of written documents. Word processors may be dedicated, non-dedicated or blind. Most currently used word processing system show on the screen exactly what will be produced on paper when the document is printed. This is a powerful system which allows the user to combine text, graphic and charts on a single page, using multiple columns and wide variety of fonts and styles. Furthermore, by adding optical scanners the system photographs and printing can be reproduced on the computer.

**Spread Sheets:** Spread sheets such as lotus 1-2-3 and Excel are packages typically used by school administrators in financial analysis such as budget or decisions support. Often, formulas are entered instead of numbers, and the system calculates the result. Once the completed spread sheet is entered, several additional features can be invoked. Graphs can be created to show particular features of sections. Statistical analysis can be conducted using spread sheet software. Most spread sheet packages are menu-driven.

**Database:** There are equally powerful tools which school administrators use in managing various aspects of the organizations information. Through database, relevant data could be stored information which are efficient, flexible and without redundancy.

While data base system are often managed by a central function (often called MIS – Management Information System), individual users can gain access to the database to update

information. In addition, portions of the database can be downloaded to a PC for additional processing by an individual. This is vital decision making in our schools.

Knowledge of application of computer have been taught through the following:

**Internet:** This is a global collection of many different types of net works which are linked together. It is analogues to the telephone, but while the telephone enables you talk to someone with a phone anywhere in the world (sound) the internet enables people to exchange information (visual) with other computer users where ever they may be. Once your PC is connected to the internet, you can send or receive mail messages, access information on business, science and technology, education, sports, recreation or entertainment, dictionaries and encyclopedia.

Much emphasis has been laid on Bulletin Board system. With this non commercial interaction Bulletin Board System (BBS) on PCs in home or offices. It is a free service to which any user can call using a modem without any prior management such information such as on coming conferences, new resources or products; book, journals, selected articles or advertisements be may placed on the electronic not the boards.

Tele-conferencing - Introduction of teleconferencing has done much good in education. This is an activity where users converse with others in real time, speaking through their keyboard and "hearing" through their screens. Depending on the software used, group of users from widely dispersed geographical locations may be linked together. It works.

The advantages of teleconferencing include simplicity, satisfactory empowerment, immediacy and cost effectiveness. By typical into and reading from personal computers, in their homes/offices, participants avoid the time

and expense of travel and the logistics problems of scheduling face-to-face meetings.

**Telephone:** This has done its on part. Cell phones are known as handsets, mobile phones or just GSM. They are wireless and vary in sizes, shapes and functions. Some handsets have e-mail, fax and communication capabilities and may be connected to the computer for data synchronization. Data synchronization is the exchanging data from the handset to the computer and vice versa. Some handsets have calculations, clods, games, etc, and serve as mini computers.

### **Benefits on the Use of ICT on the Side of Business Education in Nigeria**

Computer Education helps to get things done better and faster. The world has changed over the years, the computer has changed the way we work, learn and even the way we communicate. There are the Automatic teller machine suspense currency from various countries. Almost, every aspect of business, institutions whether large or small embark on the use of computer. Tracks of raw material are kept with the aid of computer and most designs are via computer system. In many institutions and organizations much importance is attached to computer, most of their decisions are taken with the aid of information stored in computer. This helps to enhance the education and the use of computer also reduced the cost of production because the number of man power will be greatly reduced because a computer can perform the task of about seventy people or more, if it is properly instructed.

In the area of communication, computer has enhanced our ability to communicate with one another. Our conventional system of sending mails has changed through computer Education.

These days, memos, letters and business information are through computer varieties. All electronic mail are typical example, with this,

individual computer users are provided address to which computer message can be sent and it will arrive the destination and there it will be stored until the addressed uses a computer to access the message. Moreover, e-mail is one of the commonest medium of communication readily available now and it really enhance businesses and education. Computer Education has transformed Nigerian homes, schools, and other technical know how. For instance, most of the radio entertainment, games are through computer system, for us to have progress in our world sound computer education is needed in our developing society.

### **The Problems Facing Computer Applications in Nigeria**

A lot of problems are facing the use of computer applications in Nigeria. Some of which includes:

Attitudinal factors:- Most people have a wrong impression about the use of computers. Some believe that the introduction of computer to a business organization and in schools will bring about redirection in the work force of the organization, that is, some people believes that computer application brings about unemployment since computer is able to perform the work that is meant for about 60 people if it is properly instructed.

Irregular supply of electricity has been one of the major problems that has not allowed for the proper or adequate use of computer in many of our schools. In most places, electricity is irregular while there is none at all in many places, so some institutions which cannot provide for alternatives or maintain the cost of alternative will not be able to perform maximally when there is irregular supply of electricity.

The relative high cost of installing and maintaining a computer in a poor economy like ours is also a problem. Institutions without solid financial foundation many not be able to

afford the cost of procuring, installing and maintaining computer.

Finally, there is the unavailability of adequate computer personnel and the unfunctionable telecommunication facilities. Computer is a complicated gadget, which needs the touch of an expert especially when there is any fault. These expertises are scarce in our society.

Many developed and developing countries have adopted the current revolution in information and communication called ICT (Information Communication Technology). Therefore, there is every need that this revolution should be allowed to take its position in our education since it has been tried and proved to be one of the methods in management of education. This new development should be used in offices.

### **Recommendations**

If the effect of computers and information technologies are to be felt in our business organizations, schools and in our society, the following recommendations must be put into considerations.

- (1) People should be trained to become skilled computer personnel not just to learn how to operate computers.
- (2) A handsome of the proceed from the education tax fund and excess from our oil experts should be used for the provision of computer training of our younger generation by sending our graduates to the advanced countries to work and acquire experiences and come back to impart the knowledge to those at home.
- (3) The government, federal, state and local should make provision for computer education in the budgets and ensure strict compliance of that aspect of the budget. (4) Our electric power generation and transmission should be improved upon so as to ensure an uninterrupted electric supply.

- (5) It is an unquestionable fact that computer education and information technology serves as a measure of growth and development of nation. (6) For our institution and business organization to attain the desired target, there is the need for adequate and proper attention to computer and information technology.
- (7) Teachers should attend seminars, and workshop on ICT. Primary, Secondary and tertiary education curriculum, and should be done both theory and practical.
- (8) Finally, Federal government should provide more computer sets in institutions.

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*Chikwuo S. Udu*  
*School of Business Education,*  
*Department of Co-Operative/Commerce*  
*Education,*  
*Federal College of Education (Technical),*  
*Umunze.*