TECHNIQUES FOR PROMOTING THE USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY IN BUSINESS EDUCATION

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Abstract

To make Business Educator and Business Education graduates vital in this world of technological era, there is need for up grading the use of information and communication Technology ICT in the teaching and learning of business education. To improve the process of upgrading ICT usage in the teaching and imparting of business management are recommended as the following strategies Provision of full time technical support team, creating effective goals for technology usage, increased access to technology etc.

One of the recent issues in the educational sector is the rapid use of technology (ICT) in teaching and learning. The importance of technologies in teaching and learning have long been recognized (Tiny, 2003). For instance:

- Technology is used to define and represent educational problems.
- Technology is used to find educational resources.
- Technology is used to summarize and present findings.

It is used for collaboration and benefits, there are many obstacles limiting their full realization. They include high cost of technology, poor funding, high rate of equipment obsolesce etc. Information and communication technology are diverse set of technological tools and resources used to communicate and to create disseminate, store and manage information.

These technologies include computers, the internet, broadcasting technologies (radio and television) and telephony (Tinio, 2003).

The role of technology in teaching and learning is rapidly becoming one of the must important and widely discussed issues in contemporary education policy (Rosen and Michelle, 1995 and Thierer, 2000). Globally, the nature of learning and teaching is changing rapidly due to increasing interaction from more accessible global telecommunication net work driven by the content of the internet. With the increasing capacity of information and communication technology there is a rise in new learning opportunities beyond the traditional book teacher's model. The shift from teacher-centered to student learning via the internet means teachers and students at all levels embrace information and communication technology.

Ejiofor (2000) urges business and office educators to use appropriate methodology to discover requirements and abilities (i.e competences) needed in the modern business office organization to respond to technological audiences in the collection, processing, storage and retrieval of information. He opines that the new ability requirement should be converted into educational objectives in the form of performance goals that explicitly describe jobs and tasks in a modern office.

The role of information technology in Business Education:

ICT as a Tool for Distance Learning in business: Education the computer can be used extend the process oil business education beyond the four walls of the school. Computers, modely, fax machines, satellite, video transmissions, the internet and other communication technologies offer many promising possibilities in business education, Alex (2001) pointed out that for some business students, the most important application of computers in technology and learning of their field of study is distance learning.

Obijiofor. Inayatullah and Stevensun (2005) put out that business students connection with their colleagues of the world and keep them up to date with development in their discipline through the internet. Business education courses can be completed by the aid of computer, business education courses can offer .students without travelling to central sites (Schools). Also, business educators can -receive additional education without leaving their schools. He added that distance learning offers a lot of promise for business educators whose jobs are changing or being eliminated due to shift in the economy. Many business educators may not have the abilities to relocate their families elsewhere so that they can learn new still. Others who still have jobs but want to go back to school are faced with similar location problems. But with the utilization of electronic outreach programmes, these people can update their skills while remaining in the job communities.

ICT as a Tool for Higher Technological Development

According to Elluh (1989) technology is progressively changing the two previous environments, nature and society. The environment Elluh talks about is that which enables us to live. He asserted that modern men cannot live without gadgets. This is what makes human subservient to technology rather than technology being subservient to humanity. There is no doubt that of today's realities is an extremely fast development of high technology. This" has resulted in a huge change of the individual's life in business. There is strong need to know and use modern technology in our, business and education. New and sophisticated breakthrough in high technology encourages companies to introduce technological innovations rapidly into their business practices. As computer technology and communication coverage on the business world, it is pertinent to give room for competent to make business education a bed of roses and juicy discipline. This paves the way for many people to use home computers (laptops) for education and information and allows facilities what it is called individualized learning. This allows students to learn at their own pace. Teachers can then spend their time working one-on-one with the students on important activity that is almost impossible in typical classroom presentation and discussion. Also, the use of computer in the teaching and learning of business education turns the practice on computer into an entertaining game for the students and it motivates them for further practices.

ICT as a Tool for Quality

Business Education products. In world of business today, business education curriculum needs to replace *the traditional pedagogical practices that still underpin its teaching and learning process. From a competitive stand point the greatest challenges faced by business education products are that they are deficient in 'computer skills and understand international business trends. The curriculum needs ICT not only as tool for communication., but also as a tool for teaching and learning and in the carrying out of researches.

ICT as a Tool for Educational Management

It is not real to find educational institutions that still keep records in files where they accumulate dusts, some, of these files are eaten up by cockroaches and other rodents: thereby rendering them irretrievable.

Some administrative works in educational institutions are still being done manually. In some institutions, officials still go through the exercise of manually registering students, maintaining records of students, pay bills, printing reports and typing with Manuel type writers. The ICT has reduced the huge time spent on these work, and has enhanced management procedure. ICT has a major role to play of storing large quantities of information on small disk or tape. ICT has a major role to play in business education offices. Buchana and Boddy (1997) defined office automation as using computer and communication technology to help people better use and ... information. The automation of business offices have resulted to the development of a faster, cheaper more accurate and more flexible methods of handling information.

ICT as Aids to Teaching and Learning in Business Education

The need for ICT is quite clear from the educational dimension. It's quite true that radio, typewriters, textbooks, chalkboard, films have been used in teaching business education .These days, yet the importance of using computer internet in teaching and learning cannot be over emphasized. Computer is capable of activating the senses of sight, hearing and touch to develop their individual skills, intellectual and creative ability, ICT helps in-the development of human mental resources which allow people to successfully apply the existing knowledge and produce new knowledge (Shavimina, 2001). The rigid nature of learning associated with the use of radio, typewriter and film projector not contribute services innovative changes to traditional method of teaching? business education programme.

Observed Challenges in the use of ICT in Business Education

There are various challenges to the successful use of ICT in business education. They include poor maintenance culture, illiteracy and lack of basic computing skills, lack of support from the government, insufficient electricity supply and telephone system.

Lack of Basic Computing Skills

According to Anao (2003), some school teachers lack the skills to fully utilize technology in curriculum implementation, the traditional chalk and duster approach still dominates in school pedagogy. Information transfer using ICT is minimal or non-extent in schools in Nigeria. To fully integrate ICT into educational programmes, the need for skilled and trained workers to install, maintain and support these systems cannot be over emphasized. There is acute shortage of trained personnel in application software, operating system, not work administration and technicians to service and repair computer facilities. Those who are designated to use computer in Nigeria do not receive adequate training at worst.

In business education, many teachers lack skills to fully utilize technology in curriculum implementation, hence the traditional method of "Book-teacher" model still dominates in business education pedagogy. Many teachers are reluctant to use ICT, especially computer and the internet. Hannafin and Savenye (1993) pointed some of the reasons for this reluctance, about the effectiveness of computer in improving learning outcomes, lack of administrative support, how to use it for teaching and the fear

of losing their authority in the classroom as it becomes more learnt centered. Although, there are in adequate skilled and trained. Infrastructure sits at top of the national telecommunication and information infrastructure. Computer equipment was made to function with other infrastructure such as electricity under controlled conditions. In a country where electricity supply is epileptic in nature makes it difficult to depend on the nation ICT infrastructure. In Nigeria, many electronics equipment and computers have been damaged due to power fluctuation. When electricity supply is not stable and constant it is difficult to keep high teach-equipment such as computers functioning especially under extreme weather conditions as obtained in Nigeria. The high electronic equipment to have short life span. Moreover educational institution, before ICT programme is launched, policy makers and planners must carefully consider the following:

- Availability of rooms and buildings to the technology.
- Availability of adequate supply of electricity, safety/security.
- Access to computers internet connectively.

Ignorance:- In some tertiary institutions, ignorance is a major obstacle to the use of ICT. Those aware mostly the few lectures, students arid literate offices in the school say as they appreciate the need and importance of ICTs the economic situation and high cost of the ICTs make difficult for people to acquire them there by education programmes constructive attitude are still in process. Business educators are comfortable maintain the status of doing things the way they are used to the integration of ICT into business education programme threatens some teachers, that ICT will replace them. That makes the teachers to be redundant. ICT cannot replace the teacher, the teacher's primary task becomes to teach the students how to ask questions and solve problems, formulate hypothesis, locate information and vertically assess the information, in relative to the problems posed. Since ICT enhances learning in a new experience even for the teachers, the teachers become co-learners and discover new thing along with their students

Challenges of Using Information Technology in the Classroom

Embracing information technology in 'the classroom means far home than providing students with computer-driven and stimulations, current technology allows for a much richer experimental learning opportunity for our students; Classroom should be modernized, computer- compatible and linked to the world web. Instructors should take advantage of these technological innovations to enhance course offering, we are no longer constrained to textbooks of SYZ corporation, but can have students access quarterly and annual financial statement of real companies either directly from the firm or the securities and exchange commission.

There is a potential downside to information technology and it is a big one. While technology allows us to enhance the collegiate experience in ways never before imagined, it also represents the single biggest threat to the existence at of higher education as we know it. This trend however is changing. Recent on-line course offerings by highly respected institutions such as National Open University of Nigeria, Abagana centre and the journal USA adds on entirely new dimension of credibility to the online degree, When justifying our continued existence as an institution a valued argument can be made that the traditional university structure offers a screening, signaling and verification process not currently available to web-based students and course of study. However, this benefit becomes for less important in professional degree programmes. On-line training may be a more effective and efficient alternative for part-

time, students their way up through the rank on the career fast-track.

Conclusion

Information technology is increasing at a very high speed, making it a challenge for business educators. The existence of sophiscated ICT has helped in effective and efficient dissemination of information, record management, improvement in commerce and wider economy. To provide our students with the talent necessary to complete in the business-world, we must recognize and accept the challenges in information technology before us today.

Recommendations

Based on the challenges, the following recommendations are suggested:
1. Business education department should, have appropriate rooms or building to house the high-tech equipment with reliable electricity and telephoning system.
2. Business organizations should try to retrain their staff on the latest high technology communication
3. Qualified technicians should be provided for repairs and maintenance of computer equipment-by the school authority.
4. The existing computer programmes and facilities in higher institution should be reviewed and up dated with a view to improving students performance on information technology packages
5. More time should be allocated for training students on the use and application of information technology application package/ equipment for higher productivity.
6. Government should provide adequate fund for business education programmes to enable it provide necessary high-tech equipment which include computer, internet connectivity for machines etc.

7. Institutions of higher learning should equip business departments with ICT gadgets so to give important training to business education students to enable them have full knowledge and skill to be useful in the 21st century

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