

EMPLOYING ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY IN ADVANCING MODERN COMMUNICATION IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

The paper discussed on the use of electronic technology in Nigeria for promotion of modern communication. Electronic technology offers some gains in modern communication. Telecommunication, a product of electronic technology, has the advantage of covering a large audience within a short time, irrespective of distance. Electronic technology brought about Information Technology (Internet) which has helped in information handling, business activities and acquisition of education. So, there is need for Nigeria to advance in application of electronic technology in modern communication for national development. The paper made some recommendations to encourage and support the employment of electronic technology in enhancing modern communication in Nigeria.

A vital source for development need in human society is technology. Technology is vital in achieving progress in a society for it plays a vital role in alleviating the environmental problems of man (Nwosu, 2005). In this modern society, it is very hard for a nation to survive without a cling to technology. However, an aspect of technology greatly needed in this modern era is electronic technology. Electronic technology has proved to be useful in promotion of modern communication. Communication is greatly needed for effective operations and interactions in human activities. For instance, social activities needed in human society are possible through the process of communication.

There have been the traditional methods of communication such as the use of symbols, town criers, wooden gong etc. However, the methods seem to be strenuous. Other means of communication are letters, telegrams and electronic media. Modern communication involves the use of electronic media. Advances made in modern communication are as a result of electronic technology and the technology makes it possible for a wider audience to be communicated (Nwosu and Chukwuebuka-Nwosu, 2007).

Despite the role of electronic technology in modern communication, Nigeria is lagging behind in the area of electronic technology. In fact, low involvement in science

and technology is one of the problems in Nigeria. The paper discusses on the use of electronic technology to promote modern communication in Nigeria.

Value of Electronic Technology in Communication

Technology is the practical application of scientific phenomena in creating devices or instruments for making man's environment more enjoyable or satisfactory (Nwosu, 2005). Brugger (1974) in Nwoko (1992) pointed out that "technology is the methodical utilization of natural resources and forces on the basis of the knowledge of nature to take care of man's need". It can be said that technology is the use of scientific ideas in utilization of natural resources to produce materials and devices to make man's environment more comfortable to live.

A great technology that has revolutionized human life in this modern era is electronic technology. Electronic technology is a technology that involves electricity. The technology deals with the use of scientific knowledge of electronics to solve some of human needs. Electronics is a field of electrical science that is concerned with the passage of electricity through semi-conductor materials or valves. Examples of products of electronic technology that are usually encountered are computer, video machines, audio amplifier, television, radio, calculator etc.

Electronic technology is greatly utilized in the field of communication. In modern communication, electronic devices such as radio, television, computer, transmitter, satellite, telephone, etc are used. As rightly noted by Inyama (2004), electronic technology has brought about changes in communication and the important development in electronic communication has impact on the way business, administration, education and government is conducted in the emerging world of the third millennium.

Electronic technology has gone far in making the world a global village. Ibenta (2004) noted that the once very rigid and unbreakable boundaries of national and regional market have been turned into global electronic village on the eve of twenty-first century as a result of existence of computers and telecommunication. Information technology, which is greatly associated with the Internet, is a product of electronic technology. In the Internet are various media for communication in a manner that is cheap and very fast.

Applying Telecommunication in Modern Communication

Communication is a process of human interaction whereby information is sent and obtained. The information determines the action and behaviour to be taken by human. Okeke (2003) pointed out that "in every form of interaction, ideas are usually shared. Such sharing of ideas facilitates understanding and enhances progress".

With development in electronic technology, telecommunication means are utilized in modern communication. Telecommunication is the study and practice of the transference of information by any kind of electromagnetic system e.g. wire, radio etc as in telephone, television, radio, etc (Pitt, 1977). It can be said that telecommunication is the dissemination of information over long distance using electromagnetic wave. The

advantage in use of telecommunication is that it covers a large audience because it addresses the problems of time and space by breaking physical barriers of distance.

Another telecommunication device used in modern communication is satellite. The satellite is an artificial body that is projected from the earth with aim of receiving and transmitting voice, radio and television signals. Communication satellite makes it possible to transmit knowledge and information round the globe and in a fast rate.

However, despite the advantages of telecommunication, Nigeria is not doing well in utilization of telecommunication. For instance, there is under utilization of the frequency allotted to Nigeria and she started late (began in 2001) to use GSM frequency, which has long existed. For Nigeria to derive the benefits which modern communication offers, there is the need to make effective use of telecommunication technology.

Use of Information Technology in Enhancing Communication

Information Technology (IT) has brought about existence of the Internet. Internet stands for “International Network” and it is the greatest computer network in the world such that computers in the network can communicate one another from any part of the world.

Internet as an electronic technology for communication has helped in information handling, business activities, acquisition of education. Internet can be used for communication as can be seen in E-mail, E-commerce, E-learning etc. Inyama (2004) pointed out that Internet has transformed the human world into “global village” where people can easily communicate with one another in multi-media, electronically from any point in the globe to another and the technology affects socio-economic activities. Internet, as a source of information, has proved to be a very important resource for human development and hence socio-economic development by acting as a resource for acquisition of education (Nwosu, 2006).

Although the use of Internet greatly promotes development in human society, Nigeria is not making adequate use of the Internet. Inyama (2004) stated that “Nigeria is lagging far behind in the application of I.T. She is, therefore, not contributing enough towards the evolution of the appropriate learning process for the futures” Effective use of the Internet will help Nigeria improve tremendously in her standard of living; with proper use of the Internet, the nation can foster communication practice and get well fitted in globalization (Nwosu and Chukwuebuka-Nwosu, 2007).

Conclusion

For there to be development in human society there is need to have effective communication. A means of promoting communication in this modern era is electronic technology. Advantage of applying electronic technology in communication is that it enables dissemination of information round the world in a fast rate irrespective of geographical distance.

However, Nigeria is not doing well as expected in the use of electronic technology in communication. Based on the use of electronic technology in modern communication, Nigeria should have high focus in the knowledge and use of electronic

technology in communication. High involvement in electronic-based communication will help Nigeria advance in her political and socio-economic well being.

Recommendations

To enhance the use of electronic technology in modern communication, the following recommendations are needed:

1. Various academic and research institutions in Nigeria should be engaged in effective electronic education relating to communication.
2. Good ethical conducts should be observed in Nigeria in the use of electronic technology in communication to avoid evil and corrupt acts that inhibit development in society.
3. Government, organizations and wealthy individuals should encourage and support provision of resources needed for effective knowledge and use of electronic-based communication equipment in Nigeria.
4. Nigerian people should develop high value system in technology like electronic technology required for national development instead of being too conscious and interested in illegal wealth acquisition.

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