

ENHANCING THE PRODUCTIVITY OF GOVERNMENT WORKERS USING COMPUTER SYSTEM

Nwosu, Frederick Chukwuebuka and Chijioke, Amaka Immaculeta

Abstract

For government to satisfy the socio-economic needs of the masses, government workers are expected to be productive. The paper focuses on how computer system serves as a technological device needed for enhancing the productivity of government workers. Computer system is an important electronic product that can enhance the productivity of government workers because it can: promote better yield of goods and services, help in intellectual development, facilitate communication and foster technological awareness.

Introduction

Government exists for the well being of the citizens. The masses greatly depend on the government for provision of socio-economic comfort in the society. For government to carry out its obligations to the people (the masses), workers are employed to work in government establishments (organizations). Thus, government workers are vital human resources, which assist the government in providing satisfaction to the needs of the nation.

However, for government workers to make appreciable output in their work, productivity is greatly demanded. Productivity is concerned with ensuring high capacity and quality in the goods and services produced for the welfare of the people in the society. Productivity is a major concern of human development. According to Chike - Okoli (2004), "productivity is the measure of the efficiency with which a nation's resources are transformed into commodities and services and it depends heavily on human development even though productivity is a function of amount of manpower, materials, physical capacity and equipment available in use". Productivity brings about national development. National development is synonymous with nation building and it is a situation such that the political, social, economic processes are conducive to the masses. A means to achieve productivity is the use of computer system.

In fact, computer system is a vital product of electronic technology, which government workers can utilize for promoting the national economy. Computer system is a technological device that is used in almost every aspect of human endeavours. The utilization of computer virtually in many aspects of human activities has characterized this modern era as "computer age". Computer system is capable of enhancing the productivity of government workers because it is a device that can: promote better yield of product, enhance the intellect of government workers, enhance communication, and promote technological consciousness.

Computer System and Its Importance

Computer system is among the electronic device that is familiar to modern society. Computer technology has taken over almost every sphere of life, be it education, communication, economic transaction, weaponry, building and conversation (Adedeji, 2004). In fact, computer system is an essential technological product that has helped men in his activities towards personal welfare and national development. Computer technology is fast replacing manual tasks worldwide (Okwoche 2004).

Actually, computer system is an electronic device that makes works easier for man by accepting input data and based on set of logical instruction called programmes, processes the data with a high speed and accuracy to generate an output result. Obianu (1994) in Okwoche (2004) pointed out that "the computer is a device for storing larger amount of information and for processing this in specific ways in very short period of time. It is a machine specifically designed for the manipulation of coded information, an automatic machine for performing simple and complex operations far beyond the capabilities of man". According to Anigbogu (2000), computer is an electronic device capable of accepting data and instructions, processing the data based on the

instruments to generate results or output in such a manner that is to be equaled by any other machine known to mankind". Computer system consists of hardware component (the physical device and circuitry) and the software component (the set of logical instructions called program which makes the computer to be active and functional). Although there are various types and sizes of computer system, every computer performs four basic operations: input, storage, processing and output.

Computer system has interesting features that make it to be a great technological device of our present age. In fact, a computer system has an important characteristic nature that plays great role in ensuring productivity. Nwosu (2004) noted that a computer operates at a fast rate and gives error-free results. Once there is no fault encountered, a computer is "reliable for it does not experience fatigue and so can perform several functions for a long time. Based on the flexibility of computer, data fed into it can be adjusted and computer can be adapted to carry out a particular work of interest. Also, computer does a neat and nice work. It can be said that these valuable characteristic of computer system can be beneficial to government workers in performing their duties.

The Role of Government Workers in the Economy

Government workers are employees of the government. Thus they work in government owned organizations or establishments. Government workers are the civil servants and public servants. The government, through the workers, engages in production (goods and services) for the welfare of the citizens. A government worker has certain periods to serve the government and the people before he or she retires from work.

The role of government worker, in the economy is just the same with any other worker, A worker is someone who, in an effort to earn a living, engages in production activity for the welfare of the society. Workers are the human resources that provide the labour required in production. A worker may be working for himself in self-employment, generally assigning duties and responsibilities to himself and setting out to perform the task involved and ultimately performing, the role he has mapped out for himself (Mba, 1990). N.waogu (1985) pointed out that "man is a factor in production and therefore, in economic terms, real capital".

It can be said that government workers (civil or public servants) are essential in society because they contribute labour needed for economic development. Workers occupy high position and play great role in economic development because they are provider of human resources (labour) required for such development (Nwosu, 2005). It is an axiom that economic development occurs through production. Ezeokonkwo (1999) noted that the main purpose of production is to increase the material well being or economic welfare of the people. In a simpler way, the aim of production is to satisfy people's wants.

Usefulness of Computer System in Promoting the Productivity of Government Workers

Increase in productivity is witnessed when there is better yield of product. Better yield of product signifies satisfactory production. To achieve a satisfactory production there should be economy of time and energy. Fortunately, computer system is a technological device that saves time and energy and also produces accurate result (output). In fact, government workers can use computer system to make job easier and enjoyable for themselves. According to Ekemezie (2003), the purpose of computer system is to speed up problem solving and increase productivity. Anigbogu (2000) noted that "computer is a kind of machine which mankind can use to solve different types of problems much more easily" According to Nwachukwu (1988), "productivity is the output resulting from a given resources input-at a given time. Computer system enables a competent worker to produce an accurate result and produce products in a short time. With the use of computer, workers can achieve higher yield of products within stipulated time".

The productivity of government workers can be improved through intellectual enhancement. Intellectual enhancement pertains to acquisition of necessary education that assist one performs effectively and efficiently. Computer system has proved to be a vital electronic resource for intellectual enhancement. Okwoche (2004) pointed out that ability of citizens to have access to sound and qualitative education helps in the manpower development of any nation. According to Nwaogu (1985), "to educate a man means adding to real capital, therefore, increasing his productivity or real income". If government workers are educated on the use of computer system, they will be more fitted

to work better for economic development. Ohayagha (2003) pointed out that "there is the need for computer literacy, which will enhance the individual's productivity at home and at work". Computer system has brought about the existence of Internet and its use in intellectual enhancement. Government workers can get improved intellectually for economic development by using the Internet because Internet makes it possible for people to exchange information needed for economic development. With the Internet, workers can download information of any sort from websites, get news update and look up new technologies as they unfold. Internet is a great source of knowledge in this era of globalization. Thus, for workers to function effectively in this modern time, they should also seek knowledge from the Internet (Nwosu, 2005).

Communication is needed to achieve productivity. The major aim of communication is to send or receive information. Okeke (2003) pointed out that without adequate communication facilities, information dissemination strategies and the capacity to utilize such information, no meaningful development can take place. Government workers can achieve productivity by using computer system to store vital information, which can be retrieved for future use. In government organizations, information can be transmitted or received from one department or office to another using computer network system. Communication for production (economic development) can be carried out using the Internet. Internet enhances communication through the use of electronic mail (E-mail) for it provides a fast, economic convenient means of sending messages to people and receiving messages from them. In fact, Internet (and hence computer system) is an electronic technology that can be vital to government workers in achieving communication needed for socio-economic activities.

The use of computer system brings the government workers close to technology. It is an axiom that technology is a resource for productivity. Nwachukwu (1988) noted that the nature of technology determines the level of productivity and improved technology increases productivity. For our nation to develop, we need to be technologically conscious. In fact, proper utilization of computer system by government workers is a resource to create technological awareness in our society. Adedeji (2004) pointed that technology is rapidly changing the human society and computer technology has taken over almost every aspect of human activities.

Recommendation

Based on the fact that government workers can use computer system to enhance their productivity, the followings are recommended,

1. Government workers should maintain sound ethics in the use of computer so as to avoid computer crimes. Computer crimes inhibit productivity and national development.
2. Government should aim at computerizing government organizations and ensure that departments and offices have enough computers for their works.
3. Serious efforts should be made to ensure that government workers acquire computer literacy.
4. Teaching and learning of computer should be effectively carried out in our academic institutions to ensure adequate provision of manpower needed in computer-based operations.

Conclusion

There is the need to enhance productivity of government workers to ensure national development. However, proper utilization of computer system is a means by which government workers can enhance their productivity. Computer system is an electronic device that can be utilized for enhancing productivity because it is used in: achieving higher yield of product, educating the workers for better performance, provision of necessary information and developing technological awareness. In fact, the use of computer system should be encouraged among government workers.

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