

The Importance of Information and Communication Technology in our Society (A Case Study of 3,600 Business Centre, in Different Locations, of Osun State, Nigeria)

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ABSTRACT

This research work was carried out, to find the importance of (ICT), Information and Communication Technology, in the 4 Local governments, namely: (Ife East, Ife South, Ife Central and Ife North), local government areas, in Ile – Ife Kingdom of Osun State, Nigeria. 3,600 open questionnaires were distributed to 4 Local Governments, out of which 900 was used in each local government. A total of 36 different locations were visited and sampled in all the four Local Governments, out of which 100 questionnaires were used in each location. It was gathered that above 65% of the people from the four local governments, supported that (ICT), Information and Communication Technology, in our society, was important while below 35% of the people could not even understand whether Information and Communication Technology, has importance or not. The results from the questionnaires when using Pearson two-tailed correlation coefficient revealed that there was no significant difference from the summary data collected within the four local government visited and sampled, ($p < 0.01$) table 5. It therefore showed clearly that the above 65% of the people who supported that (ICT), Information and Communication Technology, in our society was important, has become a reality, ($p < 0.01$) table 5. The reasons may be due to the fact that, there was only a few aspects of our life nowadays which are unaffected by ICT for example, in the office, factory or at home, visiting a bank, supermarket or garage and in many other places, etc. Pie chart was used to depict the summary data of each of the local government areas sampled in Ile – Ife Kingdom, of Osun State Nigeria.

INTRODUCTION

ICT (Information and Communication Technology), its application in business and social life has opened up new possibilities for running and managing organisations, for marketing products and services and for

communication between individuals and groups. There are few aspects of life nowadays which are unaffected by ICT in the office, factory or at home, visiting a bank, supermarket or garage and in many other places. ICT are used to carry out transactions, provide information, record data, make decisions and perform an ever-increasing range of tasks. ICT, not only comprise the hardware and software, but also incorporate the network and communication structures, data structures and information, together with control and access levels for different users, user interfaces, operating procedures, and organizational arrangements and policies for their use. In relation to communications, ICT enables electronic communication through facsimile (fax), email, voicemail, and video conferencing, and have led to the widespread employment of networking technologies such as the internet, the World Wide Web, intranets, extranets, online databases, integration of information systems and mobile communication. ICT can be defined as the dissemination of Information in the Global World.

According to Wodbus (2010), ICT is the study or business of developing and using technology to process information and aid communication. It is an umbrella term that includes any communication device or application such as radio, television, cellular phones, computer and network, hardware and software, satellite systems and so on as well as the various services and applications associated with them, such as videoconferencing and distance learning.

ICTs are often spoken of in a particular context, such as ICTs in education, health care, or libraries. ICT can be viewed as facilitating technologies, replacement technologies and enhancement technologies. As facilitating technologies, the internet and the World Wide Web (WWW), facilitate people in communicating and accessing remote information from worldwide sources and hence, remove the constraints of time and distance. ICT also facilitate humans in the analysis of complex information. Moreover, they have the potential to facilitate the emergence of virtual forms of business operation (e.g. as in e-commerce).

Examples of ICT as replacement technologies include robots in car assembly, line tasks and computer automation, (where computers replace people in certain business processes). ICT can be programmed to automate certain routine mechanical and business operations and thus replace humans totally or partially. ICT-based computer systems enhance the effectiveness of

managers through enabling effective information management, business coordination, control, decision making and strategic planning. ICT also enhance organizational communication through e-mail, video conferencing and chat room facilities on the Internet. In addition, they enhance the ability of humans to access and analyse data more efficiently.

ICT is also known as IT (Information Technology), which covers the process of storing, creating, transmitting and retrieving data. The term “Information Technology” first came about in the 1970s, ICT came about more recently.

CASE STUDY AREA

Case Study Area

The study has been conducted in Osun State of Nigeria. Osun State is an inland State in South-western Nigeria. Its capital is Osogbo. It has a population of 3.4 million and of 9,251 km² in Area. It is bounded in the North by Ekiti State and partly by Ondo State, in the South by Ogun State and in the West by Oyo State.



Fig. 1 Study Area Map of Osun State of Nigeria

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The responses of the people in different locations of the four local government areas can be seen from the decision table as below:

Table 1: Decision Table

Sub	Above 65%	Below 35%	Open headed Questionnaires
ICT is Important in our society	X		
I do not know		X	
State open questionnaires			X

Below are the points ticked by the majority of the people (above 65% table 1) from the questionnaires who understood the importance of Information and Communication Technology in our society:

(a). Timely, better and cheaper access to knowledge and information.



(b). Causes human beings to interact with each other in new ways.



The Importance of Information and Communication Technology in our Society (A Case Study of 3,600 Business Centre, in Different Locations, of Osun State, Nigeria)

(c). Distance becomes irrelevant in business transaction and dealings.



(d). Enables people to interact with others worldwide



(e). Innovative ways of interaction.



(f). Searching for data is much faster.



(g). Data storage capacity is almost limitless in a computer system.



(h). Data communications are fast and accurate



(i). ICT Impact on Employment: The use of ICT in workplace made people benefited to be retrained and earned more skilled with added promotions to use the new ICT equipments



(j). Lifelong Learning:: As ICT knowledge and skills needs to be kept up-to-date, Our learning should continue and take a new leave so as to reflect the new changes.



(k). Technology driven: ICT brings about new development in technology.



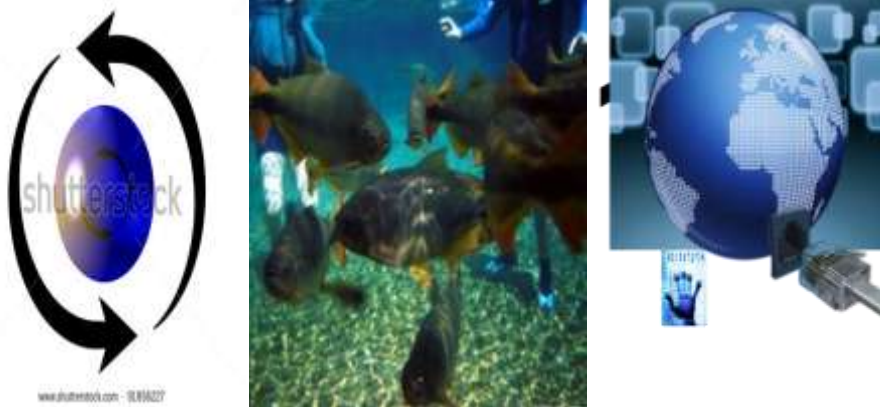
(l). ICT brings about an increased understanding of other people and their cultures



(m). Knowledge based: ICT brings about increase in access to Education



(n). ICT brings increase in opportunities for e-commerce (i.e. buying and selling goods on-line).



RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Questionnaires were distributed to 4 Local government areas that is, (Ife East, Ife South, Ife Central and Ife North). The results from the questionnaires however revealed that the importances of information and communication technology are manifold:

There was no significant difference on the people in all the local government areas visited,
 ($p < 0.01$).

Table 2:

Wards	Ife East		Ife South		Ife Central		Ife North	
People's Response	ICT is Important to our Society	I do not Know	ICT is Important to our Society	I do not Know	ICT is Important to our Society	I do not Know	ICT is Important to our Society	I do not Know
	611 68%	289 32%	628 70%	272 30%	582 65%	318 35%	585 65%	315 35%

From the above table 2, in Ife East, there are 611 people's response with 68%, Ife South, 628 with 70%, Ife Central, 582 with 65%, and Ife North, 585 with 65% , were those People who supported that ICT is Important to our society while in Ife East, 289 with 32%, Ife South, 272 with 30%, Ife Central, 318 with 35%, and Ife North, 315 with 35% respectively, could not even know its Importance.

Table 3

LOCAL GOVERNMENT	LOCATION	IFE EAST		IFE SOUTH		IFE CENTRAL		IFE NORTH	
Peoples Respondent	A	70	30	69	21	54	46	53	47
	B	68	32	67	23	58	42	67	33
	C	52	48	70	30	57	43	62	38
	D	74	26	68	32	65	35	64	36
	E	73	27	62	38	70	30	68	32
	F	72	28	65	35	73	27	72	28
	G	65	45	72	28	75	25	73	27
	H	64	36	79	21	68	32	66	34
	I	73	27	76	24	62	38	60	40
TOTAL =	9	611	289	628	272	582	318	585	315
Grand Total =	9	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	900

Table 3 above, showing the summary data collected, from the 4 Local Governments sampled, out of which 900 were used in each local government.

Table 4

CORRELATIONS

/VARIABLES=IFEEAST IFESOUTH IFECENTRAL IFENORTH

/PRINT=TWOTAIL NOSIG

/STATISTICS DESCRIPTIVES

/MISSING=PAIRWISE

Correlations

Descriptive Statistics

	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
IFEEAST	67.8889	6.95422	9
IFESOUTH	69.7778	5.28625	9
IFECENTRAL	64.6667	7.41620	9
IFENORTH	65.0000	6.18466	9

Table 5
Correlations

		IFEEAST	IFESOUTH	IFECENTRAL	IFENORTH
IFEEAST	Pearson Correlation	1	-.293	.256	.023
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.444	.506	.953
	N	9	9	9	9
IFESOUTH	Pearson Correlation	-.293	1	-.063	-.214
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.444		.873	.580
	N	9	9	9	9
IFECENTRAL	Pearson Correlation	.256	-.063	1	.848**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.506	.873		.004
	N	9	9	9	9
IFENORTH	Pearson Correlation	.023	-.214	.848**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.953	.580	.004	
	N	9	9	9	9

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

DATASET ACTIVATE DataSet0.

DATASET CLOSE DataSet1.

DATASET ACTIVATE DataSet2.

DATASET CLOSE DataSet0.

FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=IFEEAST IFESOUTH IFECENTRAL
IFENORTH

/NTILES=4

/NTILES=10

/STATISTICS=STDDEV VARIANCE RANGE MINIMUM MAXIMUM
SEMEAN MEAN MEDIAN MODE SUM SKEWNESS SESKEW

KURTOSIS SEKURT

/PIECHART FREQ

/ORDER=ANALYSIS.

Frequencies

Table 6

Statistics

		IFEEAST	IFESOUTH	IFECENTRAL	IFENORTH
N	Valid	9	9	9	9
	Missing	0	0	0	0
Mean		67.8889	69.7778	64.6667	65.0000
Std. Error of Mean		2.31807	1.76208	2.47207	2.06155
Median		70.0000	69.0000	65.0000	66.0000
Mode		73.00	62.00 ^a	54.00 ^a	53.00 ^a

The Importance of Information and Communication Technology in our Society (A Case Study of 3,600 Business Centre, in Different Locations, of Osun State, Nigeria)

Std. Deviation	6.95422	5.28625	7.41620	6.18466
Variance	48.361	27.944	55.000	38.250
Skewness	-1.682	.467	-.043	-.673
Std. Error of Skewness	.717	.717	.717	.717
Kurtosis	3.113	-.110	-1.421	.562
Std. Error of Kurtosis	1.400	1.400	1.400	1.400
Range	22.00	17.00	21.00	20.00
Minimum	52.00	62.00	54.00	53.00
Maximum	74.00	79.00	75.00	73.00
Sum	611.00	628.00	582.00	585.00
Percentiles				
10	52.0000	62.0000	54.0000	53.0000
20	64.0000	65.0000	57.0000	60.0000
25	64.5000	66.0000	57.5000	61.0000
30	65.0000	67.0000	58.0000	62.0000
40	68.0000	68.0000	62.0000	64.0000
50	70.0000	69.0000	65.0000	66.0000
60	72.0000	70.0000	68.0000	67.0000
70	73.0000	72.0000	70.0000	68.0000
75	73.0000	74.0000	71.5000	70.0000
80	73.0000	76.0000	73.0000	72.0000
90

a. Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

Frequency Table

Tables (7, 8, 9, 10) showing the frequency Tables of all the 4 (four) Local Government Areas sampled.

Table 7

IFEEAST

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	52.00	1	11.1	11.1	11.1
	64.00	1	11.1	11.1	22.2
	65.00	1	11.1	11.1	33.3
	68.00	1	11.1	11.1	44.4
	70.00	1	11.1	11.1	55.6
	72.00	1	11.1	11.1	66.7
	73.00	2	22.2	22.2	88.9
	74.00	1	11.1	11.1	100.0
Total		9	100.0	100.0	

Table 8
IFESOUTH

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	62.00	1	11.1	11.1	11.1
	65.00	1	11.1	11.1	22.2
	67.00	1	11.1	11.1	33.3
	68.00	1	11.1	11.1	44.4
	69.00	1	11.1	11.1	55.6
	70.00	1	11.1	11.1	66.7
	72.00	1	11.1	11.1	77.8
	76.00	1	11.1	11.1	88.9
	79.00	1	11.1	11.1	100.0
	Total	9	100.0	100.0	

Table 9
IFECENTRAL

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	54.00	1	11.1	11.1	11.1
	57.00	1	11.1	11.1	22.2
	58.00	1	11.1	11.1	33.3
	62.00	1	11.1	11.1	44.4
	65.00	1	11.1	11.1	55.6
	68.00	1	11.1	11.1	66.7
	70.00	1	11.1	11.1	77.8
	73.00	1	11.1	11.1	88.9
	75.00	1	11.1	11.1	100.0
	Total	9	100.0	100.0	

Table 10
IFENORTH

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	53.00	1	11.1	11.1	11.1
	60.00	1	11.1	11.1	22.2
	62.00	1	11.1	11.1	33.3
	64.00	1	11.1	11.1	44.4
	66.00	1	11.1	11.1	55.6
	67.00	1	11.1	11.1	66.7
	68.00	1	11.1	11.1	77.8

The Importance of Information and Communication Technology in our Society (A Case Study of 3,600 Business Centre, in Different Locations, of Osun State, Nigeria)

72.00	1	11.1	11.1	88.9
73.00	1	11.1	11.1	100.0
Total	9	100.0	100.0	

Fig. (1, 2, 3, 4) showing the Pie Chart, of all the (4) four Local Government sampled

Fig. 1

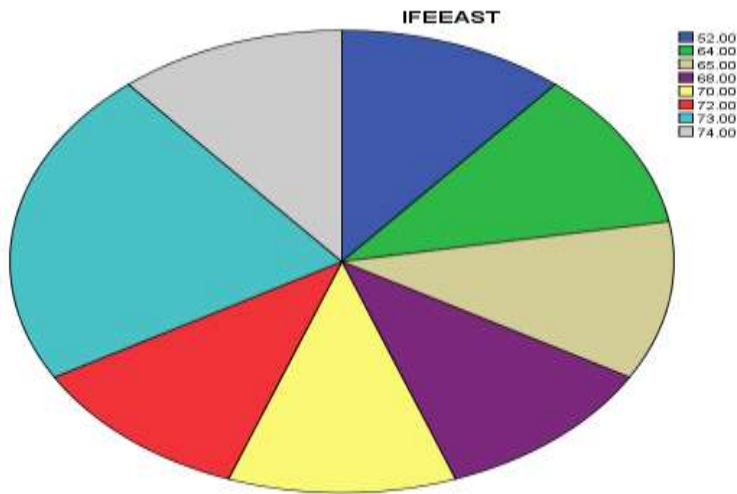


Fig. 2

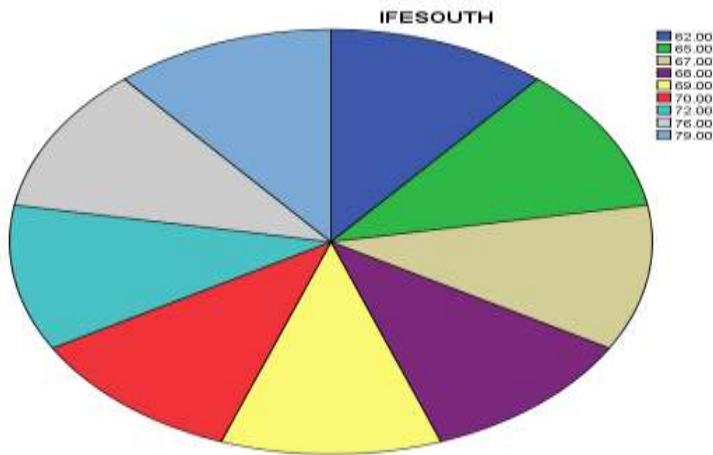


Fig 3

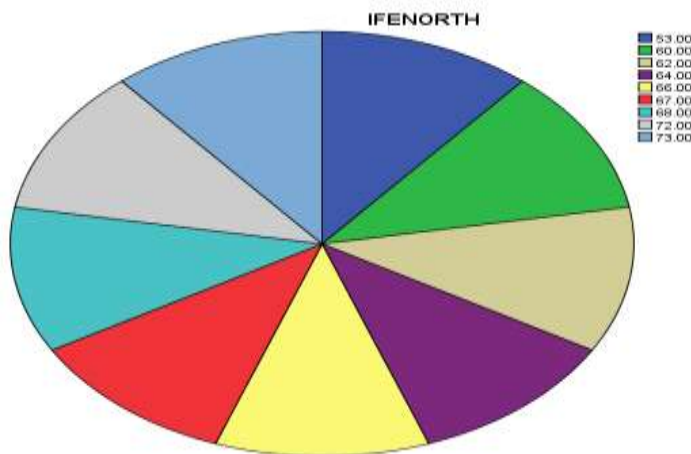
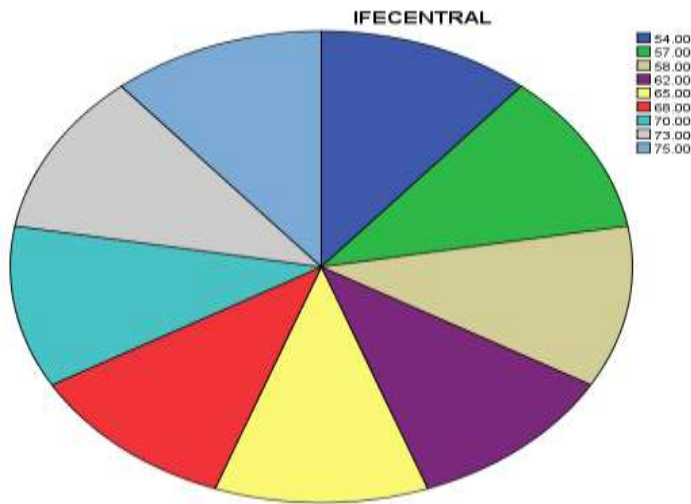


Fig 4

RECOMMENDATION

1. The environment of the users should always be clean, neat and free from dust.
2. All users should always use current anti-virus version so as to have current update.
3. All users should make sure that external disks are not allowed on the computer systems without first scanning them.
4. Adult computer awareness training should be made possible and effective in all the local governments, in both rural and urban areas of Osun State, Nigeria.

5. Computer workshops should be encouraged in Osun State, to enable computer users be knowledgeable and current in computer maintenance and operations.
6. All computers should be anti-virus protected (by installing the latest anti-virus) so as to be free from frequent damages.
7. All sources of viruses, example: infected diskettes, e-mail, internet downloads, illegal duplication of software etc., should be avoided by all users.
8. All users must make sure that their floppy disks are checked before use on a machine, to prevent virus propagation, as long they can be detected with an anti-virus package.
9. All users should be extremely cautious while opening emails with attachments because the most common source of symptoms of computer virus is the attachments that accompany emails.
10. All users, should make sure that the computer systems essential files should always be turned to read only, and remember to change the write protect of the disk after use.

CONCLUSION

The following conclusions are made based on the findings of this study. Since ICT is the study or business of developing and using technology to process information and aid communication, and also an umbrella term that includes any communication device or application such as radio, television, cellular phones, computer and network, hardware and software, satellite systems and so on as well as the various services and applications associated with them, such as videoconferencing and distance learning; the results of this study provide the empirical evidence that the importance of ICT in our society enhance people's achievement in Osun State in general and Nigeria societies at large. The society therefore should use the ICT technologies to argument their business techniques and decision aids, in order to attain minimum goal needed for everybody in the society.

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