**INFORMATION COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY AS A TOOL FOR CREATING JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

**BY**

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**ABSTRACT**

*The start of information and communication technology towards the middle of 20th century and beyond has proven to be the driving force for globalization and therefore an effective tool for creating job opportunists. ICT has made a remarkable contribution in the distribution and access to knowledge. Using documentary (literature) as a source of Job strength, the paper concludes that ICT in management of Job provides platform for among other very important organizational activities, this paper recommends for adoption of ICT by Providing Job in the interest of improved production and achievement of overall development goals within global standards and best practices contexts.*

**INTRODUCTION**

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has become a major tool for gaining competitive advantage in the corporate world and as such has been integrated into the operations of highest performing organizations in every economy. A recent policy note released by the World Bank says that information and communication technologies (ICTs) are transforming the world of work, creating new job opportunities and making labour markets more innovative, inclusive, and global. ICTs are influencing employment both as an industry that creates jobs and as a tool that empowers workers to access new forms of work, in new and more flexible ways (Samuelson, 2008). The emerging ICT-enabled employment opportunities matter because countries around the world are looking to create more good jobs, which have positive economic and social implications for workers and for society. ICT is critical to Nigeria’s quest to becoming one of the leading economies in the next five years, as spelt out in the Vision 20:2020 agenda. The world is increasingly becoming technology-driven, and ICTs remain a key driver of any economy, as it has the potential to address the rising unemployment trend in the country.

In a recent report published by the National Information Technology Development Agency, NITDA, it revealed that the ICT sector had boosted the Federal Government’s job creation efforts by creating over 12 million jobs in the past two years. It described this current contribution as an improvement on the job opportunities created by the sector between 2002 and 2012. The ICT sector in Nigeria is currently boosting the federal government’s effort in job creation with the creation on an average of about 12 million jobs from 2012 to date, that is, a significant improvement on the 2.5 million jobs the sector created between 2002 and 2012. This is in addition to contributing about nine percent to the growth of Nigeria’s GDP.

The Ministry of Labor and Productivity in Nigeria says the Federal Government is set to declare total war on unemployment and joblessness in the country with the use of ICT systems and operations which is aimed at training unemployed Nigerians. Fakiyesi (2010), opine that despite the exploitation of negative aspect of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) by a few Nigerian youths, ICT has raised the economy of the nation, especially the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to 1.62 per cent (Oluleye, 2006).

Although he lamented that apart from the improvement on the economy, ICT has also enhanced falsehood, dissemination of harmful information as well as fraudulent activities in the transaction of businesses.

Being without a job is indeed an enforced idleness of wage earners who are able and enthusiastic to work but cannot find jobs. In societies in which most people can earn a living only by working for others, being unable to find a job is a serious problem. Because of its human costs in deprivation and a feeling of rejection and personal failure, the extent of unemployment is widely used as a measure of workers’ welfare. The proportion of workers unemployed also shows how well a nation’s human resources are used and serves as an index of economic movement (positive or negative) (Ramey, 2008).

**COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY**

Unemployment has call for a greater concern in the Nigeria economy. It has continued to be the major macroeconomic objectives of the government. Unemployment constitutes a series of serious developmental problems and is increasingly more serious all over Nigeria. The major policy of the government and the international agencies is targeted at reducing the rate of unemployment. ICT, or information and communications technology (or technologies), is the infrastructure and components that enable modern computing.

Although there is no single, universal definition of ICT, the term is generally accepted to mean all devices, networking components, applications and systems that combined allow people and organizations (i.e., businesses, nonprofit agencies, governments and criminal enterprises) to interact in the digital world.

**LITERATURE REVIEW**

Information and Communication Technology (I.C.T): A Support or an Independent Instrument? The successful importance of information and telecommunication technology in various spheres of human endeavor is glaring even to the casual observer. It connects the gathering, analyzing, summarizing and communicating raw data into scientific information that is reliable and retrievable on demand for timely decision making which is a pre- requisite for effective management. ICT involved the use of electro-magnetic waves using apparatus such as computers, video and audio facilities, remote sensors in processing and storage of information in such a reliable and true manner for managerial function of planning, directing controlling and coordination for greater productive and organizational effectiveness. According to Aminu and Kirfi (2010) “The key issue is not ICT itself, but rather the understanding of ICT and effectively employing it in the delivery of knowledge and reaching goals in less time. ICT is used as a means but not as an end”. Similarly, one of the key management function in educational institution is the use of non-programmed decisions which are unusual and novel, the need for such decisions may stem from policy changes, environmental influence, public perception and universal changes in socio-economic order, one effect of globalization is that changes due occur on hourly basis typical of which is the financial system and exchanged. Therefore, the use of decision support system of information technology will equip an educational manager with the required information as to advancement in technical knowhow and cost implication thereon.

**ADVANTAGES**

1. **Communication**: Speed / time – money can be saved because it’s much quicker to move information around. With the help of ICT, it has become quicker and more efficient.
2. **Globalization**: Video conferencing saves money on flights and accommodation. ICT has not only brought the countries and people closer together, but it has allowed the world's economy to become a single interdependent system to contact either a business or family member.
3. **Cost effectiveness**: It feels free to send an email (although it isn’t); it’s without doubt cheaper than phone calls. ICT has also helped to automate business practices, thus restructuring businesses to make them exceptionally cost effective.
4. **Greater Availability:** ICT has made it possible for businesses to be automated giving clients access to a website or voicemail 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
5. **Linking the cultural gap:** Greater access to technology has helped to bridge the cultural gap by helping people from different cultures to communicate with one another, and allow for the exchange of views and ideas, thus increasing awareness and reducing prejudice.
6. **Creation of new jobs:** Probably, the best advantage of ICT has been the creation of new and interesting jobs.
7. **Education**: Computer’s along with their programs and the Internet have created educational opportunities not available to previous generations.
8. Through ICT, images can easily be used in teaching and improving the retentive memory of student.
9. **Complex structure:** through ICT, teachers can easily explain complex structure, instruction and ensure students comprehension.
10. Through ICT, teachers are able to create interactive classrooms and make the lesson more enjoyable.

**DISADVANTAGES**

1. **Education**: Computer’s along with their programs and the Internet have created educational opportunities not available to previous generations.
2. **Lack of job security**: Experts in a wide variety of fields believe that ICT has made job security a big issue, since technology keeps on changing nearly every day. This means that individuals need to be constantly studying or at least keeping up with changes in their profession, if they want to feel secure in their jobs to be secure.
3. **Overriding Cultures:** While ICT may have made the world a global village, it has also contributed to one culture consuming another weaker one. For example, it is now argued that teenagers in the US influence how youngest teenagers all over the world now act, dress, and behave
4. **Privacy**: Though information technology may have made communication quicker, easier, and more convenient, it has also brought along privacy issues. From cell phone signal interceptions to e-mail hacking, people are now worried about their once private information becoming public knowledge.
5. **Reliance on Technology**: Professor Ian Robertson, a neuropsychology expert based at Trinity College Dublin who carried out the study, said: “People have more to remember these days, and they are relying on technology for their memory but the less you use of your memory, the poorer it becomes, people don’t bother learning to spell because they use spell-checker, or need a calculator do perform minor addition or subtraction.
6. **Reliability of Information:** Anyone with access to a computer and an internet connection internet can start a blog or post something up on a website, so just because something’s on the web doesn't mean it’s reliable. A prime example of this is the open source encyclopedia, Wikipedia, although considered a good source of information it is not recognized by academic institutions as a trustworthy reference.
7. Computer viruses, worms, Trojans, malware, spam, phishing- any or all can cause chaos and disrupt our daily lives.
8. **Setting**: setting up the device can be very troublesome.
9. **Expansive**: too expansive to afford.
10. **Lack of experience:** hard for teachers to use with a lack of experience using ICT tools.

**HOW CAN ICT SKILLS HELP YOU GET A JOB?**

Having even a basic understanding of ICT-Information and Communications Technology can open up a lot more opportunities in the workplace, whether you’re working in a shop, an office or elsewhere in industry.

Most employers today expect their staff to be able to use a computer and, used well, technology is a tool that can empower you and help you succeed.

Along with English and maths, ICT qualifications are arguably the most important to be able to offer an employer.

**WHERE ARE ICT SYSTEMS COMMONLY USED?**

A large number of sectors rely on ICT systems, which is why having ITC skills on your CV can help you find a job.

To take a couple of examples:

**Selling environment**: a shop will use an ICT system to monitor the amount of stock that is brought in and also what gets sold. This makes it less likely that the shop will run out of an item as it can be reordered when stocks are shown to be low.

**Food sector:** a warehouse will use an ICT system to check on stock levels and movement; a factory will use it to regulate machinery; a haulier will use it to check on the status of deliveries.

Etc.

**JOBS IN ICT**

While computers can now do some jobs that used to be carried out by people, the rise of the digital age has led to new careers that didn’t exist 30 years ago. These include:

1. Computer programmers
2. Web designers and developers
3. Computer systems analysts
4. Mobile phone designers and salespeople
5. Apps designers

**CONCLUSION**

While an employer may not expect you to have past experience of the specific hardware and software used in their business, having even basic ICT skills can help you win a job offer over another candidate who is not computer literate

**RECOMMENDATION**

* 1. The Nigerian political authority as a matter of urgency need to formulate and implement a standard I.C.T policy in line with international law, convention and best practices.
  2. Massive development and maintenance of basic infrastructures in all nook and crannies of Nigerian state, especially those that are closely related to the emergence and development of I.C.T.
  3. Sound economic policies and programmes geared towards poverty reduction must be pursued vigorously. Similarly, non-politicization of such programmes by instituting a variable strategy should be ensured.
  4. The state machinery should consider the security of life and property as non-negotiable priority, as no meaningful development can be achieved without a secured environment.

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