**THE IMPACT OF COMPUTER STUDIES IN SECONDARY SCHOOL**

**BY**

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**ABSTRACT**

*The purpose of this research study is to examine the impact of Computer Studies among teachers and students of secondary schools, especially as it affects the teaching and learning process. The authors adopted a descriptive survey design for this study using four research questions which were formulated based on the purpose of the research. The results of the shows the advantage of computer studies in secondary school and how it improves the teachers and student academic life.*

**INTRODUCTION**

The twenty-first century is already turning out to be the century of the computer age. The computer revolution that started after the Second World War is now developing exponentially and computers are beginning to influence and take over nearly every aspect of our lives. In a rapidly changing world, basic education is essential for an individual to be able to access and apply information. The Economic Commission for Africa has indicated that the ability to access and use information is no longer a luxury, but a necessity for development. Unfortunately, many developing countries, especially in Africa, are still low in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) application and use (Aduwa & Iyamu, 2013). The ability to use computers effectively has become an essential part of everyone‘s education. Skills such as book keeping, clerical and administrative work, stocktaking, and so forth, now constitute a set of computerized practices that form the core IT skills package: spreadsheets word processors, and database (Adomi & Kpagbani, 2010).

Education has been defined as an act of imparting or acquiring particular knowledge or skills, as a profession. Another definition of education is that education is a field of study involved in the pedagogy of teaching and learning. It is a well-known fact that education is important to the society as no human being can survive without education. Also education can help anyone to develop his potential to a maximum extent. Computers have had a huge influence in the advance of the use of technology in education. There are many advantages and disadvantage using computers and technology to educate (Bass & Ritting, 2012). In education, the uses of computers are now integrated with the teaching and learning process. While some people agree that computers could enhance the teaching and learning process, others stress that the integration of the computers in the teaching and learning process might bring some disadvantages. It is on this background that the researcher aims at examining the issue of Computer Studies and in its impact in secondary schools. It is also aimed at determining the computer literacy level of the students and teachers of secondary schools and highlighting the positive and negative impacts of computer studies on the teaching and learning process and by extension the society at large (Bukaliya, 2012).

The demand for computer/ICT literacy is increasing in Nigeria, because employees realize that computers and other ICT facilities can enhance efficiency. On the other hand, employees have also become computer literate. The Federal Government of Nigeria introduced computer education into the nation‘s Secondary School system in 1988 through the policy enactment of the National Computer Policy. The Federal Government of Nigeria introduced computer education into the nation‘s Secondary School system in 1988 through the policy enactment of the National Computer Policy.

The general objectives of the policy include:

1. Bring about a computer literate society by the mid–1990s
2. Enable present school children to appreciate and use the life in future various aspects of life and in future employment.

According to the National Computer Policy, the first objective is to ensure that the general populace appreciates the impact of information and computer technology on packages, understand the structure and operation of computers and their history, and to appreciate the economic, social and psychological impact of the computer (Jegede & Owelabi, 2013). The modalities and the strategies for achieving the stated objectives include:

1. Training teachers and associated personnel.

2. Hardware facilities.

3. Curriculum development.

4. Maintenance of hardware and peripherals.

Computer education was initially limited to Federal Unity Secondary schools until few years ago when it was introduced to state’s government secondary school system.

The aim of this project work is thus to examine the impact of Computer Studies in secondary schools. This is because educational systems around the world are on increasing pressure to use the new information and communication technologies (ICTs).

**ADVANTAGES OF COMPUTERS IN EDUCATION**

According to Oak (2012), Computer technology has had a deep impact on the education sector. Thanks to computers, imparting education has become easier and much more interesting than before. Owing to memory capacities of computers, large chunks of data can be stored in them.

They enable quick processing of data with very less or no chances of errors in processing. Networked computers aid quick communication and enable web access. Storing documents on computers in the form of soft copies instead of hard ones, helps save paper. The advantages of computers in education primarily include:

1. **Storage Of Information:**

Computers enable storage of data in the electronic format, thereby saving paper. Memory capacities of computer storage devices are in gigabytes. This enables them to store huge chunks of data. Moreover, these devices are compact. They occupy very less space, yet store large amounts of data. Both teachers and students benefit from the use of computer technology. Presentations, notes and test papers can be stored and transferred easily over computer storage devices. Similarly, students can submit homework and assignments as soft copies. The process becomes paperless, thus saving paper. Plus, the electronic format makes data storage more durable. Electronically erasable memory devices can be used repeatedly. They offer robust storage of data and reliable data retrieval.

1. **Audio-visual aids in teaching:**

Computers are a brilliant aid in teaching online education has revolutionized the education industry. Computer technology has made the dream of distance learning, a reality. Education is no longer limited to classrooms. It has reached far and wide, thanks to computers. Physically distant locations have come closer due to Internet accessibility. So, even if students and teachers are not in the same premises, they can very well communicate with one another. There are many online educational courses, whereby students are not required to attend classes or be physically present for lectures. They can learn from the comfort of their homes.

1. **Better presentation of information**

Computer software help better presentation of information. Internet can play an important role in education. As it is an enormous information base, it can be harnessed for retrieval of information on a variety of subjects. The Internet can be used to refer to information on different subjects. Both teachers and students benefit from the Internet. Teachers can refer to it for additional information and references on the topics to be taught. Students can refer to web sources for additional information on subjects of their interest. The Internet helps teachers set test papers, frame questions for home assignments and decide project topics. And not just academics, teachers can use web sources for ideas on sports competitions, extracurricular activities, picnics, parties and more.

1. **Quick communication between:**

Students, teachers and parents computer teaching plays a key role in the modern education system. Students find it easier to refer to the internet than searching for information in fat books. The process of learning has gone beyond learning from prescribed textbooks. Internet is a much larger and easier to access storehouse of information. When it comes to storing retrieved information, it is easier done on computers than maintaining hand-written notes.

1. **Computers facilitate effective presentation of information:**

Presentation software like PowerPoint and animation software like Flash among others can be of great help to teachers. Computers facilitate audio-visual representation of information, thus making the process of learning interactive and interesting. Computer aided teaching adds a fun element to education. The otherwise not so interesting lessons become interesting due to audio-visual effects. Due to the visual aid, difficult subjects can be explained in better ways.

**CONCLUSION**

This study focused on the impact of Computer Studies in Secondary Schools in Nigeria. The major areas covered in the study included to determine the computer literacy level of teachers and students, the reasons why the teachers use computers and the positive and negative impacts of computer studies in secondary schools.

The results of the research indicate that the inclusion of Computer Studies in secondary schools has positive impact in the teaching and learning process in secondary schools in Nigeria. Despite the roles Computer Studies can play in education, many secondary schools in Nigeria are yet to include it in their teaching and learning process. Hence Computer Studies should be sustained in secondary schools and basic infrastructure provided to ensure that teachers and students maximize the benefits of the positive impact of Computer Studies.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the results and findings of the research study, the following recommendations are hereby made:

1. Basic equipment and infrastructure such as computers and other information and communication technology (ICT) facilities should be put in place in schools to facilitate the acquisition of basic computer skills among teachers and students in secondary schools. This assertion agrees with who purposed equipping of computer classrooms for improved effective understanding and achievement of learning goals.
2. Teachers should be encouraged to utilize computers in their teaching and learning process because goes a long way to enhance the process and enable teachers to perform their duties effectively, and efficiently.
3. Considering the fact that Computer Studies have been found to impact positively in most secondary shows in Nigeria computer education should be sustain in all the secondary schools in Nigeria, more qualified computer teachers should be employed to quicker the dissemination of computer knowledge among the teachers and students in secondary schools.
4. Students and teachers should be discouraged from using computers and computer knowledge to commit various cyber crimes which do not portray the nation in good light, but rather should use the computers and their knowledge for only good purposes which will impact positively in their lives and in the lives of the entire society.

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