RESEARCH PROPOSAL ON
THE USE OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS TO TRANSFORM SMALL BUSINESSES IN NIGERIA

BY

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INTRODUCTION

SCOPE

1. Significance/Contribution to the discipline.

2. Research Question.

3. Aim and Objectives.

4. Key literature related to the project.

5. Research Methodology.

6. Ethical Considerations and Risk Assessment.

7. Description of artefacts.

8. Timeline of proposed activities.

SIGNIFICANCE/CONTRIBUTION TO THE DISCIPLINE

➢ **Academic Contribution**

➢ **Policy Development**

➢ **Empowering Small Businesses**

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

a. What are the issues associated with the adoption and use of information systems in small businesses in Nigeria?

b. How do information systems impact the operational efficiency, financial performance, and market competition of small businesses in Nigeria?

c. What are the main barriers and constraints hindering the effective adoption of information systems in Nigerian small businesses, and how can these obstacles be overcome?

d. What are the best practices and strategies for small businesses in Nigeria to maximize the potential of information systems in their operations?

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

To comprehensively understand the role of information systems in small businesses in Nigeria and how their adoption impacts various aspects of these businesses. Specifically, the objectives are as follows:

a.   To identify and analyse the issues associated with the adoption and use of information systems in small businesses in Nigeria, including the specific challenges and concerns faced by these businesses.

b.   To evaluate how information systems impact the operational efficiency of small businesses in Nigeria, including the streamlining of processes and resource utilization.

c.   To assess the influence of information systems on the financial performance of small businesses in Nigeria, including aspects such as revenue growth, cost reduction, and profitability.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

d.   To investigate how the adoption of information systems affects the competitive positioning of small businesses in the Nigerian market, including market share, customer reach, and market expansion.

e.   To identify the main barriers and constraints that hinder the effective adoption of information systems in Nigerian small businesses, exploring both internal and external factors.

f.   To suggest strategies and solutions for overcoming the identified barriers to information systems adoption in small businesses in Nigeria, fostering a more conducive environment for implementation.

g.   To formulate best practices and strategies tailored to the unique needs and challenges of small businesses in Nigeria, with a focus on maximizing the potential of information systems in their daily operations.
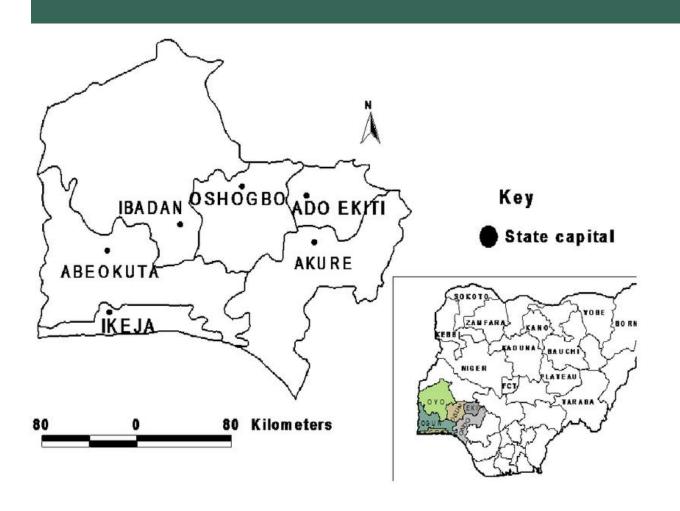
KEY LITERATURE RELATED TO THE PROJECT

a.   Olayinka, O., (2020). The Adoption of e-business Technologies and Processes in Nigerian Small Business Enterprises. Business Economics, 1(1).

b.   Sadiq, O., Hack-Polay, D., Fuller, T. & Rahman, M., (2022). Barriers to the Effective Integration of Developed ICT for SMEs in Rural Nigeria. Businesses, 2(4), pp. 501-526.

c.   Gbadegeshin, S. et al. (2019). Application of information and communication technology for internationalization of Nigerian small- and medium-sized enterprises. The Electronic Journal of Information Systems in Developing Countries, 85(1).

d.   Gumel, B. (2019). Mitigating the Challenges of Small and Medium Enterprises in Nigeria. SEISENSE Journal of Management, 2(3), pp. 82-99.

e.   Igudia, P. (2017). A Qualitative Evaluation of the Factors Influencing the Adoption of Electronic Payment Systems by SMEs in Nigeria. European Scientific Journal, 13(10), pp. 122-136.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

➢ **A mixed-methods approach.**

➢ **Combines quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis methods.**

STUDY SITES

Lagos (Ikeja)

Abeokuta

Ado-Ekiti

Oshogbo

Ibadan

Akure   .

POPULATION TARGETS

a. Small Business Owners

b. Business Managers

c. Small Business Employees

SAMPLING AND SAMPLE

Sampling Approach - multi-stage stratified sampling

a. City Stratification: 6 specified cities: Lagos, Abeokuta, Ado-Ekiti, Oshogbo, Ibadan, and Akure. A sample size of approximately 60 small businesses per city.

b. Sector Stratification: Within each city stratum (retail, manufacturing, services, and more). 20 to 30 small businesses from each sector in each city

DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENTS

a. **Surveys and Questionnaires**

b. **Interviews**

c. **Case Studies**

d. **Document Analysis**

e. **Policy Analysis**

f. **Focus Group Discussions**

DATA ANALYSIS

Quantitative Data Analysis

    a.   **Descriptive Statistics**

    b.   **Inferential Statistics**

    c.   **Data Visualization**

Qualitative Data Analysis

    a.   **Content Analysis**

    b.   **Thematic Analysis**

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

a. Informed Consent

b. Anonymity and Confidentiality

c. Avoiding Harm

d. Beneficence

e. Debriefing

RISK ASSESSMENT

a. Data Security

b. Participant Stress

c. Policy Implications

d. Validity of Data

DESCRIPTION OF ARTEFACTS

a. Survey Questionnaires

b. Interview Guides

c. Data Entry Templates

c. Research Report

d. Presentation Materials

MONTH 1: PROJECT INITIATION AND PLANNING

Week 1-2:   Finalize Research Proposal

Week 3-4:   Literature Review

Week 4:   Ethical Approval Application

MONTH 2: PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES

Week 1: **Refine Data Collection Instruments**

Week 2-4: **Pilot Testing of Instruments**

Week 4: **Data Collection Training**

MONTH 3: DATA COLLECTION

Week 1-4:   Data Collection in Lagos and Akure

Week 4:   Begin Data Entry

MONTH 4: DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

Week 1-4:   **Data Collection in Abeokuta and Ado-Ekiti**

Week 4:   **Continue Data Entry**

MONTH 5: DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

Week 1-4:   Data Collection in Oshogbo and Ibadan

Week 4:   Data Analysis (Preliminary)

MONTH 6: DATA ANALYSIS, REPORTING, AND DISSEMINATION

Week 1-3: **Data Analysis (Advanced)**

Week 4: **Report Writing**

Week 5: **Finalize Research Report**

Week 6: **Presentation and Dissemination**

CONCLUSION

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