

Computer Use Skills of Undergraduate Students in Bells University of Technology, OTA

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ABSTRACT

The continuous adoption and use of technology in education has necessitated the need for computer use skills to all stakeholders in the educational sector. Apparently, education in the present age is characterized by the adoption and use of technology. Bells University of Technology, Ota, is a private institution that have demonstrated the use of technology in teaching, learning and research processes. This work is thereby aimed at determining students' ability to use educational technologies using Bells University of Technology as a case study. A structured questionnaire was adopted and used to generate inferences from 300 students that served as the population of the study. Findings revealed that the computer ability of a significant number (75%) of the newly admitted students is low and that will have an adverse effect on their ability to cope with a computerized educational system. The study thereby recommends the need for hands-on computer training sessions to students gaining admission into the institution.

KEYWORDS

Computer Literacy, Computer Skills, Computer Use, Computer Use Skills, Students

INTRODUCTION

Possessing the right set of skills to execute a definite project is a good way of boasting the confident level of the project executor and vice versa. Skills and ability required for effectiveness of operation is germane to the completion of each assignment. Apparently, Computer use skills play vital role in the determination of the success level of every individual or group that have adopted it use for one purpose or another. Possession of required computer use skills is a confident booster that is capable of making computer users feel at home whenever the use of the computer is concern.

Computer could be use in lot of ways by different set of people. A computer that has been designed for use in the manufacturing sector, could still be adopted for use in the educational section. Gilakjani (2013) posited that the computers can be applied to many different tasks via the use of software which is the main ingredient that allows the computer to perform different tasks. Computer as an electronic device could serve lot of purpose provided it is structured to serve the purpose. Arora (2009) also said that the use of computer is basically a conscious step that is meant to be purpose driven. The basic knowledge of using the computer is that of understanding the purpose of use even before it is been deployed for use.

The adoption and use of the computer and other technological innovations in the educational sector has indeed brought lot of development to every aspect of the later. Zamfir (2008) reported that the educational sector did not have a choice that to adopt the use of technological innovations. With the aid of the computer, educational processes such as admission processes, registration processes, administrative processes, assessment processes (examination), and result computation has been simplified. Computer use in educational processes has indeed helped in saving lot of time, efforts and energy.

As it is tough to separate knowledge from wisdom, the duo of computer and education are tough to separate. Computer adds value to education as education adds value to computer. In fact, they are both means to an end but not an end in individual selves. Computers are used in schools for many educational applications. School activities like learning, teaching and research are made easier with the use of computers. The contributions of computer to education are so visible.

The government of most nations (Nigeria inclusive) could not but mandates their educational boards to include computer education into school syllabus right from crèche / nursery education. On the other hand, education has played lots of significant impacts on the growth and development of computer. Based on that, one can categorically state that the computer and her packages are developing on daily basis due to the influence of education. The duo of computer and education work together for the good of each other. Computer develops education as education develops computer.

Students of present age are therefore required to use the computer for lot of educational activities. Classroom, registration and even lectures are now taken online. This work is thereby aimed at determining the computer use ability of newly admitted students into a Nigerian university to be able to determine the ability of the students to cope with the institution that has adopted the use of computer and other components of technology massively.

COMPUTER LITERACY / SKILLS

Graduates without computer skills are obviously not ready for the labour market of present age and time. Being a university graduate does not guarantee jobs nowadays. The industrial world now requires graduates to possess additional skills (computer skills highly rated) to be able to deliver effectively on the job. Coupled with few others, lack / inadequate computer skills contribute to the increasing number of unemployed graduate that roam streets in countries like Nigeria.

Graduates with computer skills gain employment faster than their counterparts without the necessary computer skills. Dana (2009) reported that indigenious companies will not mind going outside the bounder of their base country to bring in expatriate to get jobs done if needed. To be

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