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ICTS: Global Tool for Banishing Poverty and Improving Opportunity

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Abstract- ICTs are tools for transforming lives, banishing poverty and improving opportunities. In societies where unemployment has afflicted millions of people, ICTs becomes the most effective and positive focus in the reduction of poverty. Information and communication Technology (ICT) is suggested as an effective way to improve the population's life and well-being in particular, ICTs application might change the future of the world through the connections to the flat world '. There are some challenges are limitations on cost, internet access, trained staff and adequate policy. This paper is a survey of computer/computer-oriented businesses of men and women carried out on internet to affirm the power of ICTs in the alleviation of poverty. The internet users by level of development and the trends of the Digital divide was considered to analyses. To this end the researchers recommend that: ICTs be given more priorities in every facets of Education in Colleges and Universities to facilitate and to create avenue for effective services that enhances total eradication and banishing of poverty.

INTRODUCTION

Information is an organized, meaningful and useful interpretation of data. The foundation of Information and Communication Technology course attempts to provide you with the basic tools, a wide variety of items and abilities used in the creation, storage and dispersal of data and information as well as the creation of knowledge. This research explores the roles of ICT in today's world. Today whether you start, sell, buy, invent build, manage, or finance companies, products, or services, you will find that a working knowledge of ICT is essential with no expectations. Using ICT capabilities effectively and creatively can be a key to your success and a total eradications of poverty in ones generation, whether you are focusing on a professional, academic, healthcare, entrepreneurial, manufacturing, or service career.

This research will answer basic questions such as: what is Information and Communication Technology (ICT)? How are ICT applications and infrastructure managed in the Enterprise? What are the importance of ICT in business and other field?

Apart from the academic benefit of studying ICTs, you will find the principles taught in ICTs quite helpful in your everyday life. It is also hoped that this research will improve your quality of decision; enable you acquire ICT skills and know how to apply it to your environment in order ti alleviate poverty in totality.

Oyedemi (2009) noted the role of computers as essential component of development that has been strongly promoted by international development agencies which have accepted whole heartedly the premise that information must be applied and developed in third World ecountries if they are not to be left behind. Jenipher (2007) believes that a computer is an achievement of high technology. It is one of the possible wayward devices of which we speak. In just few decades, it has moved from a mysterious electronic marvel in science and Engineering laboratories, to a workday machine which simply cannot be avoided by anyone having even casusal contact with the major institutions of our society. "Computers have come to be the standard tools of the exact sciences".

Over the years, program evaluations have found that industrial workers across a variety of countries value thjeir experiences in the Essential Computer Course and report using ICTs and/ or making changes in their places of work. However, the evaluations have also suggested that the ways in which industrial workers in different countries follow up vary, depending largely on factors in their componies contexts. For Oyedemi (2011), Computer is an electronic device capable of following an intellectual map by which it can perform arithmentic and logical operations. To Bamidele (2004), Education give s adequate solution to all the problems in every aspect to life and the negligence of education by any community will lead to an automatic and social paralysis of such a community.

Statement of Problems

Considering yhe enormous benefits that there are experienced through the imp[act of ICTs Worldwide, developing societies still experience Hardship and poverty.

Objective of the Study

To ascertain the level of computerization/automation is a nation.

To provide that ICTs can improve a nation's economy and national integration.

To determine the usefulness of ICT resources in national integration.

RERSEARCGH QUESTIONS:

To what extent has resources been employed in our society for national integration?

To what extent will ICT reduce poverty and improve opportunities for national integration?

What is the usefulness of ICT resources in national economic growth?

Purpose of study: to ascertain the impact of ICT resources in the nations industry and to improve opportunities for integration in the global world.

Significance of the study: this study will introduce nations to use a better approach of computer science for integration in global world.

Discussion

Key words: Information Technology, ICT, Digital divides, Internet, Statistics, Internet World statics, Economics growth and development, E-Commerce, Poverty alleviation,

Definition of Terms

IT terms is a broad subject concerned with technology and other aspects of managing and processing information and that it deals with the use of electronic computers and computer software to convert, store, protect, process, transmit, and retrieve information.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) was coined to reflect the seamless convergence of digital processing and telecommunications. As commonly perceived it is not limited to the modern hi-tech gadget or networks. In fact, the ICTs have in use since long for instance postal services and redio as communication mediums to transmit information even to very remote places. For ease of use, we can divide these into old and new ICTs wherein the former one includes Radio. Television, Telephone, Fax, Telegram, etc while the later consprises of data networks, e-mail, World Wide Web (or Internet) and cutting-edge wireless & wired lines technologies.

Digital divide is the uneven diffusion of technology and in access to technologies with significant social, economic and political consequences.

Internet is a global computer network providing a variety of information and communication facilities, considering of interconnected network using standardized communication protocols.

Statistics is defined as the collection, organization and interpretation of numerical data.

e-commerce or Mobile Commerce is the ability to conduct commerce using an Electronic and mobile device, such as a mobile phone, a personal digital assistant PDA, a Smartphone, or other emerging mobile equipment such as dash top devices. Mobile Commerce has been defined as follows: "Mobile Commerce is any transaction, involving the transfer of ownership or rights to use goods and services, which is initiated and/ or completed by using mobile access to computer-mediated networks with the help of an electronic devices. "(Tiwari, R.:; S.; 2007). Using Bluetooth technology, smart phones offer fax, e-mail, and nphone capabilities all in one, paving the way for m-commerce to be accepted by an increasingly mobile workforce. As content delivery over wireless devices becomes faster, more secure, and scalable, there is wide speculation that m-commerce will surpass wire line e-commerce as the method of choice for digital commerce transactions. Through the use of ICTs such as the GSM telephone, transaction costs of many developiong society who are poor have drastically been reduced, people make called before travelling and for business transaction. The technology has led to increase service innovation, efficiency and productivity. The industries affected by m-commerce include: Financial services, which includes mobile banking (when customers uuse their handheld devices to access their accounts and pay their bills) as well brokerage services, in which stock quotes can be displayed and trading conducted from the same handheld devices.

Telecommunications, in which service changes, bill payment and account reviews can all be conducted from the same handheld device service/rental, as consumes are given the ability to place and pay for orders on-the-fly information services, which include the delivery of financial news, sport figures and traffic updates to single mobile device.

Designing posters: unemployed youths can be trained on the use of computer for destop publishing in which they can design posters and invitation cards for events like wedding, burial ceremony, naming graduation, and so on.

In fact, printers nowadays first of all do their design ion the computer and then use the computer prints out to do mass print. Getting information: information about job search and applying for jobs online can be facilitated through the internet thereby reducing the number of unemployed youth and thus reducing poverty.

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Service/retails, as consumers are gien the ability to place and pay for orders on-the-fly information services, which include the delivery of financiall newa, sports figures and traffic updates to a single mobile device designing posters: unemployed youths can be trained on the use computer for desktop pushing in which they can design posters and

invitation cards for events like wedding, burial ceremony, naming ceremony, graduation, and so on. Infact, printers nowadays first of all do their design on the computer and then use the computer print out to do mass printing. Getting information: information about job search and applying for jobs can be facilitated through the internet thereby reducing the number of unemployed youth and thus reducing poverty.

Television viewing centers: unemployed youth can tap opportunity offered by ICT through cable television channels like Dstv, hitv, mytv, and so on. This can be tap by opening television viewing centre where viewers can watch five European matches, international football matches, and other sporting activities. The rush for such centre has now made them a very lucrative business in Nigeria and has made it a poverty alleviation medium. Cyber café: the importance of the internet cannot be over emphasized.

Cyber café is another important medium through which ICT can be used to alleviate poverty. Application for jobs, school registrations, submission of articles, completion of forms for JAMB, NECO, WAEC, and so on are now done on the internet. This has made the cyber café business a lucrative one, and a means of alleviating poverty.

BULK SMS: using a mobile phone, bulk sms can be sent to many people at a lower rate on GSM rphoner. This is another way which ICT can help reduce poverty.

What is required to make ICTs effective anti-poverty tools? These are presented in two categories: those that relate to (i) government and (ii) programmed implementation could also efinclude government interventions (UNDP, 2005). Associated conditions that make ICTs effective Anti-poverty Tools Conditions for Governmenty Intervention Conditions for Programmed Implementation (Could also include government intervention)

- Pro-poor policies for perform
- Reform of public services for e-Government
- Conducive telecommunications regulations an environment
- Decentralized decision-making
- Complementary infrastructure, e.g roads
- Education
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Advocacy
- Clearly identified goals and benefits
- Mainstreaming/embedding
- Creativity and innovation in programmed design
- Partnerships
- Skills in information management
- Local entrepreneurship
- Content development
- Participation and ownership by poor
- Evaluation

Internet users (per 100 people) for some selected countries including Nigeria.

Internet users are people with access to the worldwide network. International Telecommunication Union, World Telecommunication/ICT Development Report and database, and World Bank estimate.

Catalog Sources World Development Indicators

Country name	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**
Bahram	53.0	55.0	77.0	88.0	90.0
Bangladesh	3.1	3.7	5.0	5.8	6.5
Cabo Verde	21.0	30.0	32.0	34.7	37.5
Cambodia	0.5	1.3	3.1	4.9	6.0
Cameroon	3.8	4.3	5.0	5.7	6.4
Canada	80.3	80.3	83.0	830.	85.8
Cyprus	49.8	53.0	56.9	60.7	65.5
Czech Republic	64.4	68.8	70.5	73.4	74.1
Denmark	86.8	88.7	89.8	92.3	94.6
Djibouti	4.0	6.5	7.0	8.3	9.5
Dominica	42.0	47.5	51.3	55.2	59.0
Dominican Republic	27.7	31.4	38.0	41.2	45.9
Ecuador	24.6	29.0	31.4	35.1	40.4
Egypt, Arab Rep.	25.7	31.4	39.8	44.0	49.6
El Salvador	12.1	15.9	18.9	20.3	23.1
Equatorial Guinea	2.1	6.0	11.5	13.9	16.4
Eritrea	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9
Estonia	72.5	74.1	76.5	78.5	80.0
Ethiopia	0.5	0.8	1.1	1.5	1.9
Faeroe Islands	75.2	75.2	80.7	85.3	90.0
Fiji	17.0	20.0	28.0	33.7	37.1
Finland	82.5	86.9	88.7	89.9	91.5
France	71.6	77.3	77.8	81.4	81.9

Country name	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
France Polynesia	44.6	49.0	49.0	52.9	56.8
Gabon	6.7	7.2	8.0	8.6	9.2
Gambia, the	7.6	9.2	10.9	12.4	14.0
Georgia	20.1	26.9	31.5	36.9	43.1
Germany	79.0	82.0	81.3	82.3	84.0
Ghana	5.4	7.8	14.1	12.3	12.3
Jamaica	24.3	27.7	37.4	33.8	37.8
Japan	78.0	78.2	79.1	86.3	86.3
Jordan	26.0	27.2	34.9	41.0	44.2
Kazakhstan	18.2	31.6	50.6	53.3	54.0
Kenya	10.0	10.0	28.0	32.1	39.0
Kiribati	9.0	9.1	10.0	10.7	11.5
Lebanon	30.1	43.7	52.0	61.2	70.5
Lesotho	3.7	3.9	4.2	4.6	5.0
Liberia	0.5	2.3	3.0	3.8	4.6
Libya	10.8	14.0	14.0		16.5
Myanmar	0.2	0.3	1.0	1.1	1.2
Namibia	6.5	11.6	12.0	12.9	13.9
Nepal	2.0	7.9	9.0	11.1	13.3
Netherlands	89.6	90.7	91.4	92.9	94.0
New Caledonia	34.0	42.0	50.0	58.0	66.0
New Zealand	79.7	80.5	81.2	82.0	82.8
Nicaragua	7.3	10.0	10.6	13.5	15.5
Niger	0.8	0.8	1.3	1.4	1.7
Nigeria	20.0	24.0	28.4	32.8	38.0

Above are the relationships that exist in 2009-2013 between rich and poor countries, rural and urban area, men and women, skilled and unskilled citizens and large and small enterprises. These are many resons for the creation of these divides but this is certain if these are not taken care of immediately, the situation for some will keep on worsening till the economies collapse. A snapshot of the digital divids is provided in figure 1 (a) and (b) for ready reference.

Digital opportunity initiatives on the contrary are the efforts to bridge the digital divide. The paper primarily focuses on importance of international cooperation in ICT to bridge these digital divide at country, regitional and global level. This is utmost essential for an overall suitable socio-economic development process and for total poverty eradiocation in the global world.

The topic is very broad and the complete picture requires many aspects to be reviewed. As much work has already been done in these direction I have only focused on the international cooperation on ICT for development and poverty eradication referring necessary literature in other related areas for readers interest. ICTs for Development and Inyernational Cooperation are summarized seeking references from the contemporary research and findings. Second section targets at explaining the country situation of Nigeria delineating itys IT & Telecom industry status as well as e-Readiness status. This may serve as a brief reference for the current country position on IT & Telecom industry. Using this case, I have tried to raise some questions reinforcing the need for applying an overall long-term cross-cutting approach.

CONCLUSIONS

Information and knowledge are critical components of poverty alleviation strategies, and ICTs offer the promise of easy access to huge amounts of information useful for the poor. However, the digital divide is argued to be result rather than the cause of poverty, and efforts to bridge it must be ``1embeded within effective strategies that taddress the causes of poverty. Moreover, earlier patterns of adoption and diffusion of technology suggest that ICTs will not achieve their full potentials without suitable attention being paid to the wider processes that they are intended to assist and to the context within which they are being implemented. There are many examples of successful implementation that allow for a synthesis of experience that can lead to an understanding of how to approach the use of ICTs for widespread alleviation of poverty.

ICTs are usually understood to refer to computers and the internet, but many consider this view to be limited , as it excludes the more common technologies of radios, television, telephones, public address systems, and even newspapers, which carry information in particular, the rpublic value of radio as a purveyor of development inform ation should fnot be overlooked, especially in view of its almost ubiquitous presence in developing countries, including the rural locations in which the vast majority of the poor live.

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