

**THE ROLE AND THE INFLUENCE OF INFORMATION
COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY (I.C.T) ON NEWS
REPORTING**

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**A PROJECT WORK SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
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AUCHI, EDO STATE.**

JANUARY, 2022.

DECLARATION

We hereby declare that this work entitled “The Role and The Influence of Information Communication and Technology (I.C.T) on News Reporting” was written by us and that it is the record of our research. To the best of our knowledge, it has not been presented in any previous application for any academic award. All sources of information have been acknowledged using references.

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APPROVAL

This is to certify that this project work was carried out by us in the Department of Mass Communication as adequate in scope and quality for the fulfilment for the requirement of the award of national diploma (ND) in Mass Communication.

MR. ANTHONY OFUNNE
Project Supervisor

DATE

MR. AFAM P. ANIKWE
Head of Department

DATE

DEDICATION

This project work is dedicated to God Almighty, for His provisions, protections and mercies towards the course of our studies and the completion of this research.

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ABSTRACT

This study uncovered some of the numerous benefits and challenges associated with the use of ICT in news processing in broadcast industry. This study concludes that ICT has created opportunities for widespread electronic and timely delivery of news. Furthermore, not only are there technology barriers that news organizations need to overcome to deliver news electronically, but there are also problems of employee attitudes toward new technologies and resistance to change. The implication of the use of ICTs in broadcast stations might lead to an overall shrink in the need for human correspondents. Before ICT could be more effective in enhancing news processes in Nigeria, the constraints to news processing should not be neglected if broadcast industry must thrive or perhaps compete with its international counterpart.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Information and Communication Technology is perceived to be a force to be reckoned with in the 21st century because it has caused and continues to cause major changes in the way we live. In the electronic media, ICT has ignited and provoked radical and drastic changes that has affected and revolutionized the broadcast industry, most especially in immediacy and timeliness of news. Information and Communication Technology not only facilitate and enhance the creation, processing, sharing and dissemination of information in the broadcast industry but the immediacy and timeliness of news is of a high priority.

Notwithstanding with ICT, information spread, infinitely becomes faster and cheaper and readily available. Before now, there was a significant time lag separating the point when an event took place, and the time when the news may be publicly made available. But, ICT has helped bridge the time lag between when an event took place and the time it is made available to the public. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is a generic term used to express the Convergence of telecommunications, information, broadcasting and communications.

According to Rodriguez and Wilson (2000) ICT is seen as a set of activities which facilitate and enhance the processing, transmission and dissemination of information by electronic means.

ESCAP (2000) also perceived ICT as techniques people use in order to share, distribute, and gather information for communicating through computers and computer networks. Promoting Information and Communication Technology as an integral part for enhancing timely news delivery in the broadcast industry was articulated by Samadar (1995) he submitted that ICT is a tool for facilitating the creation, storage, management and dissemination of information by electronic means.

Meanwhile, Marcelle (2000) did not only see ICT as a complex entity but an application and services used for the production, distribution, processing, transformation of information with the aid of ICT tools.

Nevertheless, Ogunsola and Aboyade (2005) are of the opinion that ICT came into being as a result of related technologies clearly stated by their functional usage in information access and communication is centralized through the Internet. As far as the digital age is concerned, the benefits accrue from ICT is enormous. One of the sectors that has benefited immensely from the use of ICT is the broadcast industry. With the use of ICT, news processing and news reporting is immediate, timely, and helps reduce the space constraints 'the death of distance'.

The use of ICT has revolutionized news processing, news packaging, and news reporting through the use of ICTs. There is no doubt that the employment of ICT in the broadcast industry is to enhance and improve news delivery as timely as possible.

To buttress this, Adigwe(2010) cited Soforowa (2009) when he noted that ICT is seen as the integration and utilization of computer technologies for the purpose of disseminating information to a target destination or consumer without the constraint of time and space. Information and Communication Technology in broadcast news gathering is on the increase by reporters and editors because of its benefits being recognized at every point of the entire supply chain of news.

Technology development and the use of ICTs in broadcast industry has improved news reportage. According to Wikipedia encyclopedia "Information technology (IT) or Information and communication(s) technology (ICT) is a broad subject concerned with technology and other aspects of managing and processing information, especially in large or enterprise organizations."This gave rise to the fact that ICT can be used not only to communicate but also to convey messages. To this end, ICT refers to as mechanisms or tools that are used to convey, distribute and manipulate information in order to improve its value.

According to Geetika et al (2008) Information is perceived to be the primary input as well as the final output of a broadcast industry, because it converts raw information into categorized, defined and useful pieces of information.

Similarly, for timely dissemination and easy access to information, Samah et al (2009) cited Noor (2006) that Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is that components that aid the accessing, recording, arranging, manipulating and presenting data or information using tools and software. More importantly, in terms of cost of

production Adigwe (2010) pointed that ICT facilitates news processing and reporting thereby ensuring immediacy and timeliness of news content to its audience.

The term Information and Communication Technology (ICT) refers to forms of technology that are used to transmit, store, create, share or exchange information. This broad definition of ICT includes such technologies as: radio, television, video, DVD, telephone (both fixed line and mobile phones), satellite systems, computer and network hardware and software; as well as the equipment and services associated with these technologies, such as videoconferencing and electronic mail.(Wikipedia,2009).

In the same way, high technology approaches to news processing have set in motion an evolution in strategies of news gathering in the first half of this decade. Central to these new approaches is the use of Computer, Williams and Sawyer (2003:3) pointed out that a computer is “a programmable, multiuse machine that accept data –raw fact and figures, manipulate and process it into information that we can use, such as summaries, totals or reports” its purpose is to speedup problem solving and increase productivity.

This study focuses mainly on broadcast stations in Nigeria. One federal, one State-owned and one Private broadcast station were adopted to investigate the impact of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in news processing and news reporting. Since there is only one Federal broadcast station, Nigeria television Authority, (NTA), the largest television networking Africa, also one state-owned broadcast station, Lagos television (LTV) and Africa Independent Television (AIT) which has a high influx of ICTs in its news operations.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

Concept of ICT

Laurantine (2011) cited Bermiger (2005:4) viewed Information and Communication Technologies as the nervous system of contemporary society, transmitting and distributing seasons and control information and interconnectivity, a myriad of independent units”.

History of ICT and Broadcasting in Nigeria

The advancement in internet connection, supported by wide spreading telephone lines (both fixed and wireless), have opened up further the new information era and redefined the necessity in information. Various kinds of information exist out there and the limit to the amount of information one can get is determined more by the person rather than by the publicly available sources.

The development and use of information and communication technology (hereafter, ICT) differ in many dimensions: between countries (developed vs. Developing) and within countries (high vs. low socioeconomic status, etc.). Such differences are mainly due to differences in the quality of human resources –especially in skills, knowledge and education. ICT application depends on several factors. Firstly, it depends on the existence of ICT infrastructure.

For example, internet technology would first require good telephone infrastructure, before later one may start considering wireless Internet connection. Secondly, the ICT application also depends on the people's skill and knowledge.

The application is not a matter of being imported and used. Instead, it requires a specific level of knowledge and skills before one would be able to operate the equipment properly.

The proliferation of technology especially that of the ICT seemed to have changed the social order and interpersonal relationship. Yet, the flexibility and advance of this technology has proved its role as the supportive measures in human's life activities in the quest to promote productivity.

Mugo (2006) The Oxford Advanced Learners' Dictionary of Current English defines technology as the "systematic application of knowledge to practical tasks in industry". And through this application therefore, technology improves the quality of life. Therefore, it will not be an overstatement to say that the far-reaching changes brought in the realm of information through Information and Communication Technology (ICT) revolution are bound to affect broadcast industry more than any other industry because of the timeliness and immediacy of information.

The computer system is unique in that writers, editors, and others with a news background designed it and are now responsible for its management and development. The successful integration of electronic technology into the manual world of the newsroom cannot be over-emphasized.

It could be argued that the media are changing, seemed to have changed. Our century has seen the telephone, film, radio, television become both object of mass consumption and essential tools for the conduct of everyday life.

This changing, or reality, to some extent, is enabled and equipped by the development of information communication technology (ICT), which is operationalized by a variety of medium formats, from mass communication facilities, such as radio and TV stations, to personal communication devices, such as personal computers, personal data assistant, and mobile phones. The adoption of computer technology in broadcast industry could be said to have revolutionized and enhanced news processing.

Access to information is fundamental to empowerment, recognizing the impact of increasing digital convergence on media has created an enabling environment to ensuring people's access to information through the adoption of this technology.

ICT is an acronym that stands for Information communication and Technology. It refers to technologies that provide access to information through telecommunication. It is similar to information technology but focuses primarily a communication technology, Information and Communication Technologies can be defined as the set of activities which are facilitated by electronic means, the processing, transmission and distribution of information.

This concept also refers to technologies people use to share, distribute, and gather information and to communicate through computer networks. ESCAP (2000) perceive ICT as techniques people use in order to share, distribute and gather information for communicating through computers and computer network.

Samadar (1995) submitted that ICT is a tool for facilitating the creation, storage, management and dissemination of information by electronic means.

Meanwhile Marcelle (2000) did not see ICT as a complex entity, but an application and services used for the production, distribution, processing and transformation of information with the aid of ICT tools.

However, Ogunsola and Aboyade (2005) are of the view that “ICT came into being as a result of related technologies clearly stated by their functional usage in information access and communication is centralized through the internet. As far as the digital age is concerned, the benefit that accrues from ICT is enormous.

One of the sectors that has benefited immensely from ICT is the broadcast industry. With the use of ICT, news gathering and reporting is immediate, timely and helps reduce the space constraints. The use of ICT has revolutionized news gathering and news dissemination through the use of ICTs.

There is no doubt that the employment of ICT in the broadcast industry has enhances improved news delivery as timely as possible to buttress this, Adigwe (2010) cited So forowa(2009), when he noted that ICT is seen as the integration and utilization of computer technologies for the purpose of disseminating information to a target destination.

Consumer without the constraint of time and space. Information and Communication Technology in broadcast news gathering is on the increase by reporters and editors because of its benefits being recognized at every point of the entire supply chain of news. Technology development and the use of ICTs in broadcast industry have improved news reportage. ICT can be used to not only to communication also to convey messages. To this end ICT is referred to as tools that are used to convey, distribute and manipulate informational order to improve its value.

Samah et al (2009) cited Noor (2006), when he said ICTs are those components of that aid the accessing, recording, arranging, manipulating and presenting data or information, using tools and software. In terms of cost production Adigwe (2010), pointed out that ICT facilitates news processing and reporting thereby ensuring immediacy and timeliness of news content to its audience. ICT has indeed transformed the world in all spheres of life. It's potential for reducing manual operations and fostering growth has increased rapidly.

Information gathering is the act of conveying or relaying or communicating the message to the audience, it refers to the activity of researching news items for the purpose of broadcast or publication, this activity is commonly done by journalist/reporter. ICT is a useful tool in information gathering.

A news media that is using the ICTs in news gathering may not survive the current revolutionary trend in the mass media industry. It is used in different aspects of news gathering such as interview, investigation, provision of background information and monitoring of news from other media houses, news agencies and social media sites. These could be through e-mail or internet phone etc.

News sources also tip television reporters on news stories through e-mail, internet phone calls and the social media. The social media also serve as good source of breaking news stories to the news media. Eyewitnesses immediately post news stories and pictures of events on their pages such as twitter, Facebook, YouTube etc.

It is a process whereby reporters go into the field with the aim of getting information, which would indeed be used to keep the society informed on the happenings around them, and these processes could be done through different means which includes interview, opinion polls etc.

Initially, reporters travel far and near with the aim of collecting information for their news stories. Then, a reporter is faced with several challenges and tasks in order to bring the duty of information/news gathering to perfection.

But today, the emergence of Information Communication and Technologies has simplified the information/news gathering process, making reportorial duties easy for reporters and their organizations since Television news has to do with pictures and words of the newsmakers and of the places where the information were collected from, Information Communication and Technologies has given reporters of today flexibility.

Television news reporting demands that the reporter uses all of his or her abilities in the gathering of the news facts and story backgrounds, and organizing them in a coherent fashion and then telling the viewers these stories in a clear and logical manner that they would understand. The aim of the television broadcast station which is to tell its viewers what is happening in a way that the story would be as complete as possible.

The role of Information Communication and Technologies in television news gathering cannot be overemphasized, since it is crystal clear that the emergence of ICT has made the burden of news/information gathering for television reporters and news reporters in general.

Meaning of Broadcasting

Broadcasting is a method of transmitting radio, internet or television signals to a number of recipients (listeners or viewers) that belong to a large heterogeneous group. This group may be the public in general or a relatively large audience within the public in general. The broadcast medium is an aspect of mass communication which is used mainly to send message to a large heterogeneous and scattered audience through electronic instrument.

Folarin (2000) quoted in Akindele and Durojaiye (2003) writes that broadcasting is: “The planned provision of information, education and entertainment to large heterogeneous audience through the medium of radio and television”.

An addition to be made here is that broadcasting makes use of the radio spectrum. That explains why experts in the technical aspect of radio broadcasting believe that the radio spectrum services both the radio and television. The only difference here is that while radio is purely an audio medium, television is an audio plus visual medium.

Broadcasting Systems in Nigeria

There are basically two types of broadcasting systems in Nigeria. These are: individual broadcasting system and network broadcasting system.

Individual Broadcasting System

Individual broadcasting consists of broadcasting stations that have no subsidiary or affiliation. In other words, such stations do not have a branch somewhere else. Most state and private owned broadcasting stations fall under this category. Example of this is Grace 95.5 FM Lokoja

Network Broadcasting System

Network broadcasting is several broadcasting stations owned and probably operated by one individual or corporate body. These stations could be sited in different town locations yet they link one another when important programmes are being aired.

The Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) and Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) which are found almost everywhere are examples of network broadcasting systems.

BROADCASTING COMMUNICATION CHAIN

Like any other communication exercise, the broadcasting message involves a process. This process can be quickly understood when analyzed against the background of the existing models of communication.

The broadcasting communication chain includes:

THE SOURCE

This is anybody, anything, ideas or events which are worth reporting to the audience through the broadcast medium. The word “reporting” does not only mean news reporting, it also means story, ideas, documentary ideas etc. Professional encoders (journalists, producers, directors etc.) get their messages from the source.

The Encoder

This consists of professional senders of any broadcast message viz: journalists, newscasters, presenters, producers, and editors’ etc. they can be described as the microcosm of station from where the messages are emanating. The encoding however must be carried out with due cognizance of the eventual destination-the audience. Such messages too must be professionally handled or packaged to prevent a situation where destination or audience is unnecessarily bored.

The Signal

The signal is the conversion of human voice (the encoder's voice) to electrical signal or impulse sent to the space through the radio spectrum. The encoder signal consists of acoustic and visual signals. This signal is later reconverted to audible form inside the receiving sets. It is at this signal level that electrical electronic engineers and physicals have relevance to the field of broadcasting technology. This signal, it must be stated travels wide and far to the extent that those in the farms or at home receive it. In short, it services the large but scattered audience.

The Decoder

This is the hardware mechanism that reconverts the electrical signal back to a form that will be understandable to human beings. This can be called the receiving sets viz: car radio, television sets transistor radio etc. so basically, it is the decoder which turns the acoustic and visual signals to an audible and visual form.

Destination

This is the ultimate receiver of the broadcast message. The destination consists of human beings who are the primary target of the message. The destination can use the message derived for a number of purposes. These include education, entertainment, and information etc.

Importance of ICT in Information Gathering and Dissemination

Information dissemination is the act of conveying or relaying or communicating the message to the audience. It is the distribution of information to the general public by a news reporter it is the process of making information available to the public, and these

are made possible through television reporters and correspondences that gather and report their account of the news stories back to their media organizations.

Before the emergence of Information Communication and Technologies, news/information dissemination was never being an easy task for reporters who must get back to their media organizations before the day's deadline, and when such reporters got back, they would start battling with the information gathered, in order to put them together to enable him/her get his audience informed on the happenings in their surrounding sat that particular periods of time.

But with the advent of Information Communication and Technologies reporters have been relieved of the stress of moving from one location to another, in order to submit their news stories because Information Communication and Technologies has aided them the ability to send their reports through technological means.

The emergence of Information Communication and Technologies has as well made the dissemination of information and to a very large number of people scattered in so many places.

Impact of ICT on Information Gathering and Dissemination

Information Communication and Technologies have transformed the world in all aspects of life; its potential for reducing manual operations in fostering the growth in the media has increased rapidly Dugo (2008).

Therefore, Information Communication and Technologies have made it easier for reporters to gather and disseminate information with sophisticated equipment, which enables information to go viral immediately they are reported.

Information Communication and Technologies have so many impacts on the gathering and dissemination of information by television reporters. One of the impacts of ICT on information gathering is that it has reduced cost of gathering news drastically. The cost of gathering news has reduced significantly, thanks to the emerging communication technologies.

Before now, reporters had to travel long distances together with other logistics to gather news, all these entail cost. But now with the Information Communication and Technologies on ground reporters can carry out their functions of reporting an event by sending messages through phone calls, fax, instant messaging, twitter, face book etc. therefore with this, one can comfortably say that Information Communication and Technologies have facilitated news gathering and reduced cost.

In electronic media, Information Communication and Technologies has ignited and provoked radical and drastic changes that have affected the broadcast industry especially in immediacy and timeliness of news. Telephone has shortened the time between the news reporter and the source, the news reporter and his editor.

Now with the advent of mobile phones media organizations have ensured that reporters on ground, correspondents and stringers are only a call away, and with that editors can as well call writers and direct them on what to do through their mobile phones, thereby shortening the time frame, that would have been used to travel across for that same purpose/for such clarifications.

The Information Communication and Technologies have impacted positively in the news process of television hence, the editing flexibility. With the new Information Communication and Technologies on ground, quick construction and reconstruction of a basic news story is enhanced. Audio and visual effects can be added for emphasis, because some models of the basic equipment have editing units attached to them, thereby making it easy for the news reporter to edit his news stories right there at locations even before getting to the studio.

Before now, there was significant time-lag separating the point when an event took place and the time when then news may be publicly made available. But Information Communication and Technologies has helped to bridge the time-lag between when event is covered and when it is disseminated.

The Information Communication and Technologies equipment as well, speeds up the news gathering process, helps in manipulation of information for improvement and distribution of such information, and with good speed Information Communication and Technologies enhances and aids the accessing recording, arranging, manipulating and

presentation of data or information using technological tools and software with the internet, the reporter can easily click, on relevant sites to source for foreign or local news for subsequent broadcast news. Such reporters can as well monitor events through other technological tools such as the satellite, to monitor information from other news organizations such as CNN, BBC world etc.

Information Communication and Technologies have improved the quality and quantity of information in radio broadcast reporting; with the use of Information Communication and Technologies equipment, pictures and sounds have been improved while the quality of such stories are obtained Information Communication and Technologies have helped to build professionalism among reporter.

Information Communication and Technologies have provided job opportunities to news crew in diverse areas in the media organization, since some of the Information Communication and Technologies equipment are handled by people with expertise, thereby creating job opportunities for such people.

The Information Communication and Technologies has opened up access to vast information resources available on the internet, and we are better empowered now because Information Communication and Technologies has given us better opportunity now than before, to get ourselves updated in various areas of endeavour, especially through the internet.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study is based upon extensive review of books, journals, articles, as well as results from many researches on environmental coverage in media.

This chapter deals with the procedures, which are adopted in the course of gathering data and information for this study. It covers myriad of sources, which includes literary, researches, journals, textbooks, interviews, internet, etc.

The primary source involves interviewing and seeking personal experience, geared towards gathering firsthand information from lecturers and other knowledgeable individuals on their views about this subject.

The secondary source made it possible for the use of various textbooks from the library, reading of newspapers, journals and magazines as well as surf the internet for the gathering of relevant information for the study.

CHAPTER FOUR

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Summary

This study uncovered some of the numerous benefits and challenges associated with the use of ICT in news processing in broadcast industry. This study concludes that ICT has created opportunities for widespread electronic and timely delivery of news.

Furthermore, not only are there technology barriers that news organizations need to overcome to deliver news electronically, but there are also problems of employee attitudes toward new technologies and resistance to change. The implication of the use of ICTs in broadcast stations might lead to an overall shrink in the need for human correspondents.

Before ICT could be more effective in enhancing news processes in Nigeria, the constraints to news processing should not be neglected if broadcast industry must thrive or perhaps compete with its international counterpart.

Conclusion

ICT is certainly an indispensable factor in realizing effective news processing this digital age. The perception or views of the respondents in respect of the effect of ICT in news proceeding is another interesting pattern in the study as majority are of the view that ICT have positive effect on news processing.

It is obvious from this study that even with the high level staff without the degree academic training they still find ICT very relevant to news processing. Despite the problems embedded in the contexts in which they operate, they appreciate the benefits associated with the use of ICT in their professional functions.

This goes to strengthen the position of Nyamnjoh (2006) who notes that, Africa media workforce are determined to be part of the technological revolutions of the modern media industry. Enjoying the full potentials of ICT in news processing and the issue of digitalization would remain a mirage if the identified problems are not addressed.

Recommendation

Before ICT could be more effective in enhancing news processes in Nigeria, we therefore make the following recommendations:

1. The constraints as highlighted in this study to news processing should not be neglected if broadcast industry must thrive or perhaps compete with its international counterpart.
2. Broadcast industry should help train their IT personnel in order to compete, and catch up with the rapidly and swiftly changes in new technologies and resistance to change.
3. Nigerian government need to help stabilize power because it is a key factor in actualizing the impact of ICT in news processing in Nigeria AIT, LTV and NTA in particular.

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