



FACILITY CONSTRAINTS IN THE UTILIZATION OF COMPUTERS FOR PROCESSING GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS' INTERNAL RESULTS IN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING IN SOUTH-EAST, NIGERIA.

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ABSTRACT

The rationale of this study was to examine the facility constraints in the utilization of computers for processing Guidance and Counselling undergraduate students' internal results in institutions of higher learning in South-East, Nigeria. A descriptive survey was adopted for the study. The study was carried out in all federal universities in South-East, Nigeria. In order to gain meaningful responses from the study respondents, the research employed a structured questionnaire. 1558 was the study population while 105 were sampled, comprising 48 female lecturers and 56 male lecturers in federal institutions of higher learning in Eastern, Nigeria. 15 item questionnaires were used as the instrument for data collection. The tool was face-validated by experts. Cronbach Alpha reliability test was used to determine the internal consistency of the instrument. The subjects' responses were used to determine the reliability coefficient which suggests that the internal consistency of the instrument is acceptable. Mean and standard deviation was used to answer the research question. The finding showed that facility unavailability is one of the major constraints in the utilization of computers for processing Guidance and Counselling undergraduate students' internal results in institutions of higher learning.

KEYWORDS: Facility Constraints, Utilization of Computer, Guidance and Counselling Undergraduate Students, Internal Results, Institutions of Higher Learning, South-East, and Nigeria.

INTRODUCTION

The introduction of computer education into institutions of learning in Nigeria surfaced in 1988 and was enacted through National Computer Policy in order to bring about a computer-literate society by the mid-1990s and enable present school children to appreciate and use their life in future various aspects of employment. According to the National Policy on Computer Education, the first objective is to ensure that the general populace appreciates the impact of Information and Computer Technology understands the structure and operation of computers and their history, and appreciates the economic, social, and psychological impact of the computer (FRN, 2013). FRN further outlined the following modalities and the strategies for achieving the stated objectives to include: training teachers and associated personnel, hardware facilities, curriculum development, and maintenance of hardware and peripherals.

Thus, the introduction and use of computers in schools including institutions of higher learning has made processing students' internal results easier. The processing of students' results that was manually done can now be easily calculated electronically with the use of a

computer. This is because a computer is a machine that reads, stores, manipulates, perform calculation, and displays data. A computer as a mathematical tool is a programmed electronic device for the storage and retrieval of data (Ohiwerei, Azih & Okoli, 2013). Furthermore, a computer is a machine that had been designed to carry out numerical and mathematical operations at a much greater speed (Ezinwa, 2005). The most common examples are the various personal computers. Other examples include mobile phones, mp3 players, and video game consoles. Computers can be used in processing students' internal results using various computer software tools.

Students of all learning institutions need their results to be calculated and transmitted to their access point where can always lay their hands on them for personal use. It is vital to note that the computer serves as a tool to solve such students' needs. According to Eze and Mutelo (2001), a computer can serve as a tool that can capture, compute, store documents, and secure students' academic records. It, therefore, reduces most of the problems such as delay/missing results files at the personnel. The authors further stressed that computers will enable the personnel

at the administration to organize, store and retrieve students' results in a much easier way. Instead of gathering students' results manually through human efforts, capturing student results electronically using a computer can help to minimize the problems of missing results and manipulation of grades during processing. Buttressing further, Eze and Mutelo (2001) defined computing as a study of how the computer and computer system works and how the computer system is constructed and programmed. Deducing scholarly positions, a computer is the activity of using and improving computer hardware and software to make processing and retrieval of students' results easier if properly managed.

Currently, students of higher learning view their results fewer hours after their class examination as a result of the computer processing accessibility in their schools. Processing of results according to Micheal (2006) is the use of computer technology in processing or tabulating students' learning outcomes. Computing according to Computing Curricula (2005) is any type of calculation following a well-defined model, understood and expressed in an algorithm, protocol, and network topology. It is a major subject matter of computer science that investigates what can or cannot be done in a processing manner. As a matter of fact, the use of computers in processing students' academic records has become very important and needed in our institutions of higher learning for easy retrieval of students' results. The transferring of students' academic records from manual files to computer files would reduce the pains most lecturers undergo in their bid to get students' results ready at the end of every academic session. Lecturers are in pain when their students' results files are missing and are unable to obtain such results ready at the end of every academic session (Reed, 2005). Therefore, the use of computers if effectively utilized in computing student results will reduce the pain because of the fact that computers operate at a high speed and also have a kind of memory where data can be stored permanently and can be retrieved any time it is needed. Using computers in processing students' internal results take little time; thereby saving us the stress associated with the above-mentioned pains lecturers and administrators has to pass through before getting the student's result done.

Utilization is the primary method by which asset performance is measured and business success determined. In basic terms, it is a measure of the actual revenue earned by assets against the potential revenue they could have earned (Amusa & Atinmo, 2016). According to Agboola, Okorie, Omotoso, Bamigboye & Bello (2018), utilization is divided into a number of different calculations, and not all companies work precisely the same way. In general terms however, there are 2 key calculations: the physical utilization of the asset, which is measured based on the number of available days for rental against the number of days actually rented while

the financial utilization of the asset is measured as the rental revenue achieved over a period of time against the potential revenue that could have been achieved based on a target or standard, non-discounted rate.

It suffices to say that proper utilization of computers will help to facilitate the smooth processing of students' results in higher learning especially those in Guidance and Counselling (National Policy on Education) (FRN, 2013). Deducing from author's perspective on utilization, utilization is the act of using a school's computing resources such as computers for the purpose of the school's educational, research, and administrative activities unless otherwise authorized. All access to facilities and departmental computers must be approved by the school management. Users may not use computing resources for any commercial purpose or any non-school-related activities without prior written authorization from the respective person. Users may not attempt to tamper with school computers, computer systems, networks, facilities, equipment, software, files, documentation, accounts, or information associated with any of them. Users should report any damage to the computer resources to departmental heads. This will increase the efficient utilization of computers for processing students' internal results in institutions of higher learning.

Therefore, an important class of computer operations on computing platforms is the accepting of input from human operators and the output of results formatted for human consumption (Hein, 1999). A computer according to Simpser (2010) is in fact a machine that had been designed by people to carry out some numerical and mathematical operations. Its numerical ability enables the computer to provide the solution to people at a much greater speed. At a single time computers can solve many problems thereby reducing the laborious exercise of manual processing of students' results and making computing and processing of students' academic transfer easy in institutions of higher learning.

Furthermore, there is a need to ensure that students' results are processed or computed using a computer. The history of computing is longer than the history of computing hardware and modern computing technology and includes the history of methods intended for pen and paper or for chalk and slate, with or without the aid of tables. Computing is intimately tied to the representation of numbers. But long before abstractions like the number, arose, there were mathematical concepts to serve the purposes of civilization. These concepts include one-to-one correspondence (the basis of counting), comparison to a standard (used for measurement), and the 3-4-5 right triangle (a device for assuring a right angle). Eventually, the concept of numbers became concrete and familiar enough for counting to arise, at times with sing-song mnemonics to teach sequences to others. All the known languages have words for at least "one" and "two" and even some animals like the blackbird can distinguish a

surprising number of items (Agboola, Okorie, Omotoso, Bamigboye & Bello, 2018).

The earliest known tool for use in processing was the abacus, and it was thought to have been invented in Babylon circa around 2400 BC. Its original style of usage was by lines drawn in sand with pebbles. Abaci, of a more modern design, are still used as calculation tools today. This was the first known computer and the most advanced system of calculation known to date -preceding Greek methods by 2,000 years. In a general way, we can define computing to mean any goal-oriented activity requiring, benefiting from, or creating computers. More so, computing includes designing and building hardware and software systems for a wide range of purposes; processing, structuring, and managing various kinds of information; doing scientific studies using computers; making computer systems behave intelligently; creating and using communications and entertainment media; finding and gathering information relevant to any particular purpose, and so on. The list is virtually endless, and the possibilities are vast (Computing Curricula, 2005).

Thus, the memory unit stores both the instruction and data. The control unit interprets the instructions and ensures that they are performed in the correct sequence. The arithmetic-logic unit executes instructions. It is so called because the instructions either involve numeric operations (arithmetic) or no numerical or logical operations. The program control and arithmetic-logic units together form the central processing unit (CPU) where the computational processes are taking place. In modern computer processing machines, information is stored and processed in binary form, i.e. using two symbols conveniently denoted by 0 and 1 and called bits (binary digits). To provide for communication between the machine and its users, a method of converting information from machine language to human language is required. This is the major function of the box labeled input-output (I/O) equipment in the figure above (Ben & Mutelo, 2001). The use of computers for processing students' results should be effective in all institutions of higher learning in Nigeria and the South-East in particular.

Computers and other facilities such as network-based Management Information Systems (MIS) should also be available in every institution of higher learning properly utilization of computers in processing students' result

authentic, accurate and up-to-date results. Undergraduate student especially those in Guidance and Counselling unit' should not wait too long before gaining access to their results while the issue of missing results and files, and manipulation of grades, among others, can be a thing of past.

Educational systems of today are digitalized education and therefore, the utilization of computers in processing students' internal results is very vital. Thus, transferring relevant information, values, skills, attitudes, beliefs, and morals for the collective well-being of the individual and their society requires proper and effective utilization of computers (Husain, 2010). Onuma (2007) pointed out that in the school situation; a computer helps to process students' results at a very fast line. But this cannot happen if the available computers are not utilized. Utilization is the action of making practical use of something workable to achieve an organizational goal. The essence of computer utilization is to ensure that individuals result are been processed as when due for effective accomplishment of modern educational goals (Ayeni, 2010). The unavailability of computers and lack of computer skills among staff/lecturers seem to hinder the effective utilization of computers in processing students' results. To establish and achieve an easy and error-free processing of students' results in institutions of higher learning, there is a need for proper utilization of computers in capturing students' scores, processing and storing students' results in institutions of higher learning especially in South-East federal universities. The opinions of school administrators and lecturers will be required to enable the researchers to determine the extent computer has been utilized in processing Guidance and Counselling undergraduate students' internal results in institutions of higher learning in South-East Federal Universities.

RESULT

The data collected with items 1-5 of the instrument which dwelt on the facility constraints in utilization of computers for processing Guidance and Counselling undergraduate students' internal results in institutions of higher learning in South-East Federal Universities were used to answer questions raised for the study. Data were also analyzed using mean and standard deviation. A summary of the results is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Mean Ratings of facility constraints in utilization of computers for processing Guidance and Counselling undergraduate students' internal results in institutions of higher learning in South-East Federal Universities.

S/N	Item statement	N	$\bar{X}$	SD	Dec.
1	Lack of inadequate computers is a facility constraints in my school	105	3.64	0.55	SA
2	Facilities such as handset, computer or desktop are not use in my school	105	3.43	0.65	A
3	Lack of genuine software is a facility constraints in my school	105	3.44	0.65	A
4	Poor power supply is a facility constraints in my school	105	2.62	1.17	A
5	Unavailability of latest ICT equipment in schools is a facility constraints in my school	105	3.43	0.71	A
	Grand Mean		3.31	0.64	A

Key: Strongly Agree (SA)= 4.00-3.50, Agree (A) = 3.49-2.50, Disagree (D) = 2.49-1.50 and Strongly Disagree (SD)= 1.49-0.50

The above table showed the overall mean of each of the items from 1-5 to be 3.64, 3.43, 3.44, 2.62, and 3.42 while the standard deviation is 0.55, 0.64, 0.65, 1.17, and 0.71. Therefore, the respondents strongly agreed that lack of inadequate computers is a facility constraint in the school result processing while they also agreed that the other four items on the above table were facility constraints in the utilization of computers to process Guidance and Counselling undergraduate students' internal results in institutions of higher learning in South-East Federal Universities. The overall or cluster mean is 3.31. This affirmed that the respondents accepted that facility is a major constraint in the utilization of computers for processing Guidance and Counselling undergraduate students' internal results in institutions of higher learning in South-East Federal Universities.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The facility constraints in utilization of computers for processing Guidance and Counselling undergraduate students' internal results in institutions of higher learning in South-East Federal Universities

From the responses made by the respondents, they agreed that the facility constraints in utilization of computers for processing Guidance and Counselling undergraduate students' internal results in institutions of higher learning in South-East Federal Universities. The findings are in agreement with that of Oboegbulem (2013) who reported that inadequate funds to procure facilities and equipment, inadequate funds for organizing seminars and workshops, poor condition of service for teachers, insufficient vehicles for supervisory, duties and other administrative duties, poor teacher development plan and no criteria for positing newly recruited teachers, are constraints to the administrative leadership roles of institutions of higher learning.

The findings of this study further give credence to that of Mbachu (2004) which revealed that basic ICT facilities like computers are unavailable, and students are unable to afford a personal laptop, this has grossly affected e-learning and e-communication channels like email, e-board, and internet and organized networking system between staff and students.

CONCLUSION

From the findings obtained from this study and observations of the researchers, the following conclusions can be deduced.

This study indicated that facility unavailability will hamper the processing and transmission of Guidance and Counselling of undergraduate students' internal results in institutions of higher learning in South-East Federal Universities while computer availability will enhance the processing of undergraduate students' results and maintenance of the facility will also enhance processing of undergraduate students' results.

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