



BUSINESS EDUCATION STUDENTS' PERCEPTION OF COMPUTER APPLICATIONS NEEDED FOR SUCCESSFUL ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN ONDO STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to assess business education students' perception of computer applications needed for successful entrepreneurship in Ondo State. Four research questions were raised to guide the study while one null hypothesis was tested at 0.05 level of significance. Descriptive survey research design was adopted. A total of 110 students that have been taught computer applications (BED 226) in the business education programme in 2014/2015 academic session in Adeyemi College of Education, Ondo were used as respondents for the study. The instrument for data collection was a 24-item structured questionnaire validated by experts. The mean was used to analyze data in respect of the research questions while t-test was used to test the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance. The findings of the study revealed that word processing applications, spread sheet applications, electronic data application systems and electronic communication systems are needed for successful entrepreneurship. It was therefore recommended among others that business educators should be trained and retrained on how to effectively use and teach computer applications to business education students.

Keywords: Business education students, computer applications, successful entrepreneurship.

Introduction

In the world of business today, entrepreneurship and information and communication technology (ICT) revolution have taken hold across the globe. Entrepreneurship is a dynamic process of vision, change, and creation. It requires the application of energy and passion towards the creation and implementation of new ideas and creative solutions. Essential ingredients include the willingness to take calculated risks-in terms of time, equity, or career; the ability to formulate an effective venture team; the creative skill to marshal needed resources; fundamental skill of building solid business plan; and finally, the vision to recognize opportunities where others see chaos, contradiction, and confusion (Kuratko and Hodgetts, 2004). Entrepreneurship is the willingness and ability of an individual to seek out investment opportunities in an environment, take the risk, establish and run an enterprise successfully based on the identified opportunities. Entrepreneurship is increasingly being accepted as an important and innovative strategy for improving the livelihood and economic independence of young people. Information and communication technology (ICT) is believed to help the



youths develop varied skills including entrepreneurial skills (Ukommi and Okeagu, 2015).

Due to globalization, the computer has become a very important tool in almost every work place, economy, education system, and in the lives of individuals. In recognition of this necessity, the Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN) in 1998 set up the National Committee on Computer Education. The Committee later established a policy in computer education which stated that Nigerians at various levels of education should be brought into contact with this modern tool, so that they can use it, appreciate its potentials, understand how it works, and learn how to apply it to solve every day problems (Agbatogun, 2006). Similarly, in its mission statement, the National Policy for Information technology (2001) stated that Information technology would be used for the creation of wealth, poverty alleviation, job creation and global competitiveness.

Business education is a programme geared towards the acquisition of knowledge and skills needed in the work place and for entrepreneurship. One vital need in the present business environment is the ability to use computer applications for different purposes. The effective teaching of computer applications by lecturers in tertiary institutions will lay the foundation for computer and software utilization in the business environment by business education students. The philosophy of business education, is to make the business educators understand the concept and philosophy of the National Policy on Education as regards business education in national development and one of its objectives is to equip graduates with the right skills that will enable them to engage in a life of work in the office as well as for self-employment (entrepreneurship).

After the students have been taught computer appreciation which involves an overview of computer hard-and soft-wares and their characteristics, historical evolution of computers, the political, economic and social impact of computers, introduction to computer techniques – beginning from the flow Chart, programming languages – BASIC (Beginners All-Purpose Symbolic Instruction Code) and COBOL (Common Business Oriented Language) only (NCCE, 2008; 2012), The students are expected to complement their learning with computer application also known as information technology in order to be relevant in this era of information and communication technology.

According to the NCCE minimum standard for vocational and technical education (NCCE, 2008; 2012) the course outline for computer application/information technology is as follows:

Information Technology (IT): Concept and definition,
Role of computer in Information Technology,
Computer application systems with emphasis on:



1. **Word Processing:** Concept, application areas e.g using micro-soft word, word star, etc; data processing with lotus/excel (spread sheet), application systems, desk-top publishing.
2. **Electronic Data Application Systems:** Batch processing; on-line processing and real-time processing systems. Record keeping systems; decision making systems; problem solving systems; etc.
3. **Electronic communication systems:** Electronic mail systems; Facsimile communication systems; Internet; Local Area Networking (LAN); Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM); Computer Assisted Learning; etc.

Word processing can be likened to a typewriter inside a computer in that it incorporates all the duties of a typewriter which basically are: the ability to type and produce text on paper, store and manipulate text in documents and get printed copies (Agomuo, 2005). There are a number of different word processing applications. One of the most widely used ones is Word, which is part of Microsoft Office. Others include WordPerfect by the Corel Corporation, Writer, which is part of Open Office by Apache. While the first two are commercial software, Open Office is open source and can be downloaded and used free of charge. Also, there is Pages, which is part of iWork by Apple. While there are many differences between the various word processing applications, they all accomplish pretty much the same thing. Whichever one used is partly a matter of personal preference. It is also important to consider which software is being used by the people one normally collaborates with. In many cases, people within the same organization will use the same software to make it easier to share documents or to work on the same document together (Zandbergen, 2016).

A spreadsheet is an interactive computer application for the organization, analysis and storage of data in tabular form. Spreadsheets are developed as computerized simulations of paper accounting worksheets. Okeke and Ezenwafor (2012) defined electronic spreadsheet as a computer application that stimulates paper accounting worksheet, which displays multiple cells usually in a two-dimensional matrix or grid consisting of rows and columns. Spreadsheet applications include Microsoft Excel, Lotus 1-2-3, Kspread, VisiCalc, iWork Numbers, Open Office Calc, and so on.

Electronic Data Application System is an infrequently used term for what is usually called information services or systems or management information services or systems. It is the processing of data by a computer and its programs in an environment involving electronic communication (Rouse, 2005). It is any process that a computer program does to enter data and summarise, analyse or otherwise convert data into usable information. It involves batch processing, on-line processing and real-time processing



systems, record keeping systems, decision making systems, problem solving systems and so on (NCCE, 2008; 2012).

Electronic communications is the transmission, reception, and processing of information between two or more locations with the use of electronic circuits. Electronic communication means a communication transmitted by means of an electronic device including, but not limited to, a telephone, cellular telephone, computer, computer network, personal data assistant, or pager, e-mails, text messages, instant messages, and communications made by means of an Internet website, including social media and social networking websites (Jemuel, 2016 & Hennesey, 2015).

Statement of the Problem

The importance of computer applications in business education cannot be overemphasized. The computer and information technology has revolutionized the world. ICT offers socially and economically excluded groups the chance to enter the knowledge-based economy. ICT also promises to equip the youths with the competencies needed to explore entrepreneurial opportunities, develop latent entrepreneurial talents and contribute to the economy through entrepreneurial activities. ICTs are transforming the global economy and creating new opportunities for advancement. Those who cannot access the ICT services become increasingly marginalized within the modern world (Najam, 2012). In order to make business education graduates more relevant in the Nigerian economy and the world over in terms of job creation, information technology/computer application has been introduced into the business education curriculum. Today a number of youths are taking up the challenge by starting up businesses but how successful are these businesses. Having been successfully equipped with entrepreneurial skills through computer applications, the students ought to contribute positively in reducing unemployment by being self-employed and utilizing computer applications to run businesses successfully. Despite these, unemployment especially among the youths is still a major problem. This problem may be attributed to the fact that most of the graduates do not acquire the needed skills and competence needed for self-employment. Furthermore, research findings by Nwaiwu (2009) reveals that business education students perform poorly in computer courses and most business education graduates are not competent in computer skills. This can negatively affect entrepreneurial ventures since they lack computer skills to run businesses successfully. The problem this study addressed therefore was the determination of computer applications needed for successful entrepreneurship.



Purpose of the study

The main purpose of this study was to determine business education students' perceptions of computer applications needed for successful entrepreneurship. Specifically, the study aimed at determining:

1. the word processing applications needed for successful entrepreneurship.
2. the spread sheet applications needed for successful entrepreneurship.
3. the electronic data application systems needed for successful entrepreneurship.
4. the electronic communication systems needed for successful entrepreneurship.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study.

1. What are the word processing applications needed for successful entrepreneurship in Ondo State?
2. What are the spreadsheet applications needed for successful entrepreneurship in Ondo State?
3. What are the electronic data application systems needed for successful entrepreneurship in Ondo State?
4. What are the electronic communication systems needed for successful entrepreneurship in Ondo State?

Hypothesis

One null hypothesis was formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance

Ho: There is no significant difference between male and female business education students' perception on computer applications needed for successful entrepreneurship.

Method

Descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. A total of 110 students that have been taught computer applications (BED 226) in the business education programme in 2014/2015 academic session in Adeyemi College of Education, Ondo were used as respondents for the study. The instrument for data collection was a 24-item structured questionnaire. The instrument was structured on a 4 point rating scale of Highly Needed (HN), Needed (N), Fairly Needed (FN) and Not Needed (NN) with assigned weighted values of 4, 3, 2 and 1 respectively. The mean was used to analyze data related to the research questions. A criterion mean of 2.5 was used while t-test statistic was used to test the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance.

Results

Research Question 1: What are the word processing applications needed for successful entrepreneurship in Ondo State?

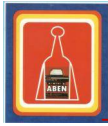


Table 1: Business Education Students' Perception of Word Processing applications Needed for Successful Entrepreneurship.

S/N	ITEMS	MEAN	REMARK
1.	Microsoft word	3.82	Needed
2.	Word star	3.45	Needed
3.	Word perfect	3.59	Needed
4.	Lotus Word Pro	3.44	Needed
5.	iWork Pages	3.55	Needed
6.	Open office Writer	3.21	Needed
	Cluster Mean	3.51	Needed

Source: (Field survey, 2016)

The data presented in Table 1 simply reveals that respondents agreed with all the six items as word processing applications needed for successful entrepreneurship, since the cluster mean of 3.51 is greater than the criterion mean of 2.50.

Research Question 2: What are the spread sheet applications needed for successful entrepreneurship in Ondo State?

Table 2: Business Education Students' Perceptions of Spread Sheet Applications Needed for Successful Entrepreneurship.

S/N	ITEMS	MEAN	REMARK
7.	Microsoft Excel	2.95	Needed
8.	Lotus 1-2-3	2.66	Needed
9.	Kspread	2.69	Needed
10.	Open Office Calc	2.50	Needed
11.	iWork Numbers	2.63	Needed
12.	VisiCalc	2.35	Not Needed
	Cluster Mean	2.63	Needed

Source: (Field survey, 2016)

The data analyzed in the Table 2 shows that respondents agreed that items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 with mean ranges of 2.50 - 2.95 which is greater than the cut-off mean of 2.5 are needed for successful entrepreneurship while item 6 with a mean of 2.35 is not needed. However, since the cluster mean of 2.63 is greater than the criterion mean of 2.50 Spreadsheet application is needed for successful entrepreneurship.

Research Question 3: What are the electronic data applications needed for successful entrepreneurship in Ondo State?



Table 3: Business Education Students' Perception of Electronic Data Application System Needed for Successful Entrepreneurship.

S/N	ITEMS	MEAN	REMARK
13.	Batch processing system	3.02	Needed
14.	Online system	3.15	Needed
15.	Real time operating system	3.02	Needed
16.	Record keeping system	3.09	Needed
17.	Problem solving system	3.05	Needed
18.	Decision-making system	2.80	Needed
	Cluster Mean	3.02	Needed

Source: (Field survey, 2016)

The data presented in Table 3 simply reveals that respondents agreed with all the six items as electronic data application system needed for successful entrepreneurship, since the cluster mean of 3.02 is greater than the criterion mean of 2.50.

Research Question 4: What are the electronic communication systems needed for successful entrepreneurship in Ondo State?

Table 4: Business Education Students' Perception of Electronic Communication Systems Needed for Successful Entrepreneurship.

S/N	ITEMS	MEAN	REMARK
19.	Electronic mail systems	3.26	Needed
20.	Facsimile Communication Systems	3.15	Needed
21.	Internet	3.30	Needed
22.	Local Area Networking (LAN)	3.19	Needed
23.	Global System For Mobile Communication (GSM)	3.51	Needed
24.	Computer Assisted Learning (CAL)	3.12	Needed
	Cluster Mean	3.26	Needed

Source: (Field survey, 2016)

The data presented in Table 4 simply reveals that respondents agreed with all the six items as electronic communication systems needed for successful entrepreneurship, since the cluster mean of 3.26 is greater than the criterion mean of 2.50.

Hypothesis There is no significant difference between male and female business education students' perception on computer applications needed for successful entrepreneurship.

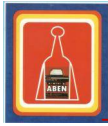


Table 5: t-test summary for significant difference between male and female business education students' perception on computer applications needed for successful entrepreneurship

Variables	N	Mean	SD	Df	t-cal	t-table	Decision
Male	45	27.83	3.15				
				108	-1.10	-1.96	Not Sig.
Female	65	21.00	4.83				

P>0.05

Table 5 shows that t-cal (-1.10) is less than t-table (± 1.96) at 0.05 level of significance. Therefore the null hypothesis is accepted. Therefore, there is no significant difference between male and female business education students' perception on computer applications needed for successful entrepreneurship

Discussion of Findings

From the findings of the study, it was found out that the twenty four applications and systems listed are needed for successful entrepreneurship. The data presented in Table 1 simply revealed that respondents agreed with all the six items as word processing applications needed for successful entrepreneurship, since the cluster of mean 3.51 is greater than the criterion mean of 2.50. This is in agreement with Okoro and Ndinechi (2013) that OTM lecturers are competent in word processing applications.

The data analyzed in the table 2 showed that respondents agreed that spreadsheet application is needed for successful entrepreneurship, since the cluster mean of 2.63 is greater than the criterion mean of 2.50. This finding agrees with Ementa and Ndinechi (2013) who maintained that spreadsheet are well taught by business educators and that the knowledge of electronic spreadsheet is required to perform simple calculations, data entry, detailed analysis and data importation. The finding of the study is also in agreement with Okeke and Ezenwafor (2012) who saw electronic spreadsheet as a computer application that stimulates paper accounting worksheet, which displays multiple cells usually in a two-dimensional matrix or grid consisting of rows and columns. The data presented in Table 3 simply revealed that batch processing, on-line processing and real-time processing systems, record keeping systems, decision making systems and problem solving systems are electronic data application systems needed for successful entrepreneurship, since the cluster mean of 3.02 is greater than the criterion mean of 2.50. The data presented in table 4 revealed that respondents agreed that electronic mail systems, facsimile Communication Systems, Internet, Local Area Networking (LAN), Global System For Mobile Communication (GSM) and Computer Assisted Learning (CAL) are electronic communication systems needed for successful entrepreneurship,



since the cluster mean of 3.26 is greater than the criterion mean of 2.50. Table 5 showed that there is no significant difference between male and female business education students' perception on computer applications needed for successful entrepreneurship since $t\text{-cal} (-1.10)$ is less than $t\text{-table} (\pm 1.96)$ at 0.05 level of significance. Therefore the null hypothesis is accepted. This agrees with Eze and Okorafor (2013) who established that sex is not a significant factor for computer operation and disagrees with the opinion and findings of some researchers who maintained that females are technophobia and men technophilic (Samak, 2006; Sadik, 2005).

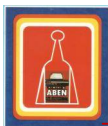
Conclusion

It is concluded that business education students saw word processing applications, spread sheet applications, electronic data application systems and electronic communication systems as needed for successful entrepreneurship. There is no significant difference between the perception of male and female business education students regarding computer applications needed for successful entrepreneurship.

Recommendations

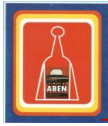
Consequent upon the findings and conclusion reached, the study recommends that:

- 1) Business educators should be trained and retrained through seminars, conferences and workshops on how to effectively use and teach computer applications to business education students so that they can be successful entrepreneurs upon graduation
- 2) There should be provision of ICT facilities/equipment and applications by the Government, School management and Non Governmental Organisations to enhance individual participation in developing their intellectual skills.
- 3) The business education curriculum should be reviewed from time to time. The review should take cognizance of the findings of this study, relating to ICT skills as required in Word Processing applications, Spread Sheet Applications, Electronic Data Application systems and Electronic Communication Systems.
- 4) Business education students should make adequate use of computer applications needed for successful entrepreneurship upon graduation in order to be self-reliant and employers of labour.



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