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## Utilization of the Internet for Entrepreneurial and Life- Long Learning for University Graduates in South- South Zone of Nigeria

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### Abstract

*This study examined the utilization of the internet as a base for entrepreneurial and life- long learning: a way forward towards employability of University graduates in South- South zone of Nigeria. Two research questions and two hypotheses guided the study. Descriptive survey design was adopted and the population comprised university graduates in study area. A sample of 1025 University graduates were randomly selected using multi-stage random sampling. Three researcher-developed instruments tagged, "Internet Utilization Questionnaire (IUQ), Entrepreneurial and Life-Long Learning Questionnaire (ELLQ) and Employability Questionnaire (EQ) were used for data collection, which were established using Cronbach Alpha Statistic with reliability coefficients of 0.79, 0.82 and 0.76 for IUQ, ELLQ and EQ respectively. Pearson's Product Moment correlation was used to test hypotheses at .05 significant levels. Result indicate significant relationship between internet utilization and University graduate preparedness for entrepreneurial and life-long learning. The result established significant relationship between utilization of the internet and the employability of University graduates in the study area. One of the recommendations was that both federal and state government, individuals and other organizations should make adequate provision for internet facilities for the University education in the study area.*

**Keywords:** Internet, Life- Long Learning, Employability, University graduates.

Beyond reasonable doubt, it is very obvious that we are in the jet age where all human activities whether directly or indirectly are carried out by the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). The use of ICT resources such as the internet has gained ground virtually in all sphere of life in the field of business, education, politics, and administration among others. In this present age, it is almost impossible for anybody who is not ICT compliant to be gainfully employed in whether private or public establishment.

This development has made it compulsory for anyone who wants to be gainfully employed to be ICT literate. One of such ICT resources which has been so useful and has made the world a global village is the internet. This notion is also supported by Udi and Ogbinnaya (2016). Udi and Ogbonnaya (2016) observed that the world is in the age of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and there is growing concern for the use of ICT resources such as the computer, Internet, e-mail, videophone systems, teleconferencing devices, wireless application protocols (WAP), radio and microwaves, television and satellites, multimedia computer and multimedia projector. According to Greenfield (1999), the word internet is derived from “Internet Connection Network”.

In the similar vein, Okwuanaso and Obayi (2003) view internet as the interconnection of large and small network around the globe. The internet is an international network which provides a platform for users all over the world who can communicate effectively and exchange information. Agomuo (2005) describe the internet as an interconnected worldwide system in which user of one computer can get information from many other computer operators. Internet in the word of Onojaife (2006) has facilitated effective communication among people of the world. Onojaife (2006) stated further that we live in the information age, where knowledge is power and that some of these knowledge or skills can be accessed through the use of the internet. Utilization of the internet provides user in three basic ways: to get information; to provide information; and to compile information. Leon (2003) opines that the internet offers the best opportunity of getting specialized information from the webs. Chime (2004) noted that one of the major innovations is introduction of the internet.

Chime (2004) added that the internet is the biggest computer network in the world. From these definitions of the internet, it is clear that through the use of the internet university graduate can share and exchange information among themselves. The advent of the internet has brought about positive revolution to the entire educational system in recent times. The Internet which is abbreviated as the International Communication Network is a network of computers linked to big central processing unit in the same way telephone lines in homes are linked to one central communication equipment in NITEL (Nweke, Umezurike and Nnamdi, 2006). The advantages of using internet are enormous most especially for university graduates. The internet offers them the opportunity to learn new skills, ideas and also get access to information which could enhance their employability. Also, for the fact that learning is a continuous process, the use of the internet gives opportunity to university graduates to learn continuously and update their skills in their chosen profession. Etim (2006 ) asserts that an internet user has access to enormous services ranging from interactive

collaboration, file transfer, multimedia displays, broadcasting, email, global and other information resources, breaking news to cooperate membership and many others. Etim (2006 ) further adds that internet components provide resources which are vital for research purposes such as World Wide Web, Email, Telnet, File Transfer Protocol, E-mail Discussion Groups, Usenet News and Chat and Instant Messaging. This therefore means that the role of the utilization of internet as a base for entrepreneurial and life-long learning and employability of university graduates cannot be over emphasized.

This issue of employability of university graduates in South- South zone of Nigeria has gained the attention of researchers such as Asuquo and Agboola (2014) who assessed the Nigerian universities' outputs and their employability in the labour market in South-South, Nigeria. The study adopted the descriptive survey design of ex post facto type. The population of the study consisted Nigerian universities graduates in both private and public establishments in South-South, Nigeria. Universities Outputs and their Employability Questionnaire (UOEQ) was used in data collection. A sample of 1200 (600 from private and 600 from public), were selected using multi-stage sampling. Data obtained were analyzed using frequency count, percentages, one sample t-test and independent t-test were used to test research hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS version 20.0) was used to enhance data analysis. Findings revealed that the employability of Nigerian Universities outputs based on the responses of their employers who rated them was significantly below average.

### **Statement of the Problem**

In the world today, the utilization of the internet has brought major changes to every area of life. In fact, in most organizations one of the prerequisite for employment is that applicant should be ICT compliant of which the utilization of the internet is one. Personal experiences have shown that many university graduates in South- South zone are not ICT complaint especially in the use of the internet. Some are computer illiterate to the extent that they could not even identify parts of a computer set, not to talk about their utilization of internet for entrepreneurial and life-long learning and employability. This may be one of the factors responsible for high rate of unemployment in the area. Therefore, it is very imperative to examine utilization of the internet as a base for entrepreneurial and life-long learning as a way forward towards employability of university graduates in south- south zone of Nigeria.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The primary objective of this study was to examine utilization of the internet as a base for entrepreneurial and life-long learning: a way forward towards employability of university graduates in south- south zone of Nigeria. The specific objectives of this study were to:

1. determine the nature of the relationship between utilization of the internet and entrepreneurial and life-long learning among university graduates in south- south, Nigeria.

2. determine the relationship between utilization of the internet and employability of university graduates in south- south, Nigeria.

### **Research Questions**

This study was guided by the following research questions.

1. What relationship exists between utilization of the internet and entrepreneurial and life-long learning among university graduates in south- south, Nigeria?
2. What relationship exists between utilization of the internet and employability of university graduates in south- south, Nigeria?

### **Research Hypotheses**

The following hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance

1. There is no significant relationship between utilization of the internet and entrepreneurial and life-long learning among university graduates in south- south, Nigeria.
2. There is no significant relationship between utilization of the internet and employability of university graduates in south- south, Nigeria.

### **Methodology**

This study adopted the correlational research design. The target population of this study comprised University graduates in South- South zone of Nigeria. A sample of 1025 University graduates were selected. At the first stage of sampling, random sample of five states out of the six states that made up the study area was selected. At the second stage of sampling, a sample of 205 University graduates were also randomly selected from each of the selected five states to make up the required sample size of 1025. Three research instruments namely: Internet Utilization Questionnaire (IUQ), Entrepreneurial and Life-Long Learning Questionnaire (ELLLQ) and Employability Questionnaire (EQ) developed by the researchers were used in data collection. Each of the instruments used for data collection is made up of eight items. All items on the instruments were rated on four point scale of strongly disagree, disagree, agree and strongly agree. These instruments were validated by experts and the reliability established using Cronbach alpha reliability methods and reliability coefficients of 0.79, 0.82 and 0.76 were obtained respectively. Data obtained was analysed using Pearson's Product Moment correlation and the hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences version 20.0(SPSS version 20.0) was used to enhance data analysis.

### **Results**

#### **Hypothesis 1**

There is no significant relationship between internet utilization and University graduates preparedness for entrepreneurial and life-long learning in South- South zone.

**Table 1: Relationship Between Internet Utilization and University Graduates Preparedness for Entrepreneurial and Life-Long Learning**

Variables	$\Sigma X$	$\Sigma X^2$	$\Sigma XY$	r-cal.	r-crit.	Decision at p<0.05
Internet utilization (X)	17786	318188	317455	0.869	0.087	Ho is rejected
University graduates preparedness for entrepreneurial and life-long learning(Y)	17864	318842				

$n=1025$ , \* = significant at  $p<.05$ .

Result presented in Table 4.9 reveal r-calculated of 0.869 which is greater than the r-critical of 0.087 at 0.05 level of significance. The null hypothesis is rejected therefore; there is a significant relationship between internet utilization and University graduates preparedness for life- long learning in South- South of Nigeria. The result implies that the more university graduates in the study area utilize the internet, the more they will be prepared for entrepreneurial and long-life learning.

### Hypothesis 2

There is no significant relationship between internet utilization and employability of university graduates in South- South zone.

**Table 2: Relationship between Internet Utilization and Employability of University Graduates in South- South Zone**

Variables	$\Sigma X$	$\Sigma X^2$	$\Sigma XY$	r-cal.	r-crit.	Decision at p<0.05
Internet utilization (X)	17786	318188	307153	0.684	0.087	Ho is rejected
Employability of university graduates(Y)	17334	302198				

$n=1025$ , \* = significant at  $p<.05$ .

Result presented in Table 4.9 shows that the r-calculated (0.684) is greater than the r-critical of 0.087 at 0.05 level of significance. The null hypothesis is rejected. It means therefore that, there is a significant relationship between internet utilization and employability of university graduates in South- South zone. . The result indicates that when there is an improvement in internet utilization by university graduates in South-South zone, there will be a corresponding improvement in their employability. The result also means that the use of internet enhances the employability of university graduates in the study area.

### **Discussion of the Findings**

This study showed significant relationship between internet utilization and university graduates preparedness for life- long learning in South- South of Nigeria. This finding showed that when there is an improvement in internet utilization among university graduates in South- South geo-political zone, there will be a corresponding improvement in university graduates preparedness for life- long learning in South-South zone of Nigeria. This result could be so because when the graduate makes use of the internet often, they learn new things and hence they are more likely to be motivated to learn. From this result, it can be deduced that utilization of the internet enhances entrepreneurial and life-long learning.

The result also revealed a significant relationship between internet utilization and employability of university graduates in South- South zone. This means that utilization of the internet enhances the employability of university graduates in South-South zone of Nigeria. This result indicates that the more university graduates utilize the internet, the more employable these university graduates will be. This finding agrees with that of Asuquo and Agboola (2014) that the utilization of internet enhances the employability of university graduates in South- South, Nigeria.

### **Conclusion**

This study found significant positive relationship between utilization of internet and entrepreneurial and life-long learning among university graduates in South- South zone. This study also established that utilization of internet enhances the employability of university graduates in the study area. This study therefore concludes that utilization of the internet enhances entrepreneurial and life-long learning as well as the employability of university graduates in this study area.

### **Recommendations**

To enhance the utilization of the internet for entrepreneurial and life-long learning and employability of university graduate in South- South zone, the following are recommended:

1. There is need for federal, state government, individuals and other organizations to make adequate provision for internet facilities for university education in south-south zone of Nigeria.
2. Government and other individual involved in the university business in south-south zone of Nigeria should ensure that workshop is organized for both students and lecturers on utilization of the internet.
3. Government should provide adequate funding to ensure availability, accessibility and utilization of internet among university students in the study area.

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