



Computer Literacy Level AMONG Primary School Teachers in BIDA: Implications for E-Governance Deployment

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ABSTRACT

The adoption of electronic government (or e-government) by any country is a direct implication that the majority of its citizens; if not all must possess high level of computer literacy. This paper therefore investigates the computer literacy levels of primary school teachers in Bida with a view to find out their degree of acceptance of e-governance as a system. The study uses descriptive survey of a hundred (100) teachers who were randomly selected from 10 schools in Bida as respondents. The research instrument used was a self-reporting questionnaire titled: Teachers Computer Literacy Questionnaire (TCLQ) with internal consistency of 0.65. The result, which was presented using group percentages and bar-charts, shows that there is high level of computer literacy among the teachers as well as revealing highest percentage of respondents with positive feelings for e-products - a factor of acceptance of e-governance.

General Terms

Information Systems

Keywords

Computer Literacy Level, E-governance, Primary School Teachers, Bida.

1. INTRODUCTION

The digital era is strongly pushing all governments of the world towards electronic government, the principle of which is simply called e-governance. One important demand of e-governance is e-citizen involvement in governance through e-participation [1]. The e-participation of citizens implied that citizens must be highly computer literate. Computer literacy had been defined in various ways and for the fact that there is no consensus in the definition of computer literacy [2] every researcher gives his/her own definition as condition demands. Some of these definitions are as follows.

“Computer literacy refers to competence with a few of today’s computer applications such as word processing and e-mails, ...” [3].

In the opinion of Lynch in [4] computer literacy is the knowledge and ability to use computers and related technology efficiently with a range of skills covering levels from elementary use to programming and advanced problem solving.

Computer literacy as a matter of context can be defined as the knowledge and ability to use computer application packages effectively as well as efficiency use of internet technology most especially for communication purpose.

It is believed that the most important technological knowledge required by the citizens in an e-governance system is the use of computer application packages and the appropriate use of internet for communication. This is enough to enhance good communication from the government to citizen (i.e G2C) and citizen to government (C2G).

Several studies had been carried out to measure the levels of computer literacy of teachers of different groups at different levels of education. These includes the works of [5], [6], [7], [8], [9] and [10].

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research instrument used in this study is a self-reporting questionnaire titled: “Teachers Computer Literacy Questionnaire (TCLQ). One hundred (100) copies of the questionnaire were administered to primary school teachers in 10 randomly selected primary schools in Bida, Niger State from which 86 were filled and returned.

The internal consistency reliability test value for the instrument used was observed to be 0.65. The data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics of group percentages and bar charts.

3. RESULTS AND FINDINGS

3.1 Presentation of Results

The results of our investigation in this study are presented in tables below.

Table 1. Response on the question of whether the respondent has any knowledge of computer at all.

Response	Population	%
Yes	61	70.9
No	25	29.1

That is to say that 61 (70.9%) of the respondents have knowledge of computer while 25 (29.1%) had no knowledge of computer at all.

Table 2. Aspect of computer knowledge worked on by those who had knowledge of computer.

Computer Literacy Indicators	Population	%
Engineering	2	3.3
Application Packages	34	55.7



Internet	20	32.8
Others	5	8.2

The bar chart representation of table 2 above is as shown in Fig 1.

Table 3. Respondents’ feelings about e-products.

Perception	Population	%
Positive	55	76.4
Negative	1	2.4
Mixed	16	22.2

Note: 14 respondents did not fill this part of the questionnaire

The bar chart representation in Fig. 2 depicts the information in table 3 above.

3.2 Findings

The major findings from this study are as follows.

- The large percentage of the total sampled population 61 (i.e. 70.9%) had knowledge of computer and had used computer for one thing or the other before.
- The percentages of those who had used computer application packages and internet before are 55.7% and 20% respectively which happen to be the high values in the group table 2 is a pre-requisite for the desired computer literacy level.
- The percentage of those who had positive feelings about e-products (i.e. 76.4%) also shows high acceptance level of e-governance system by the respondents.

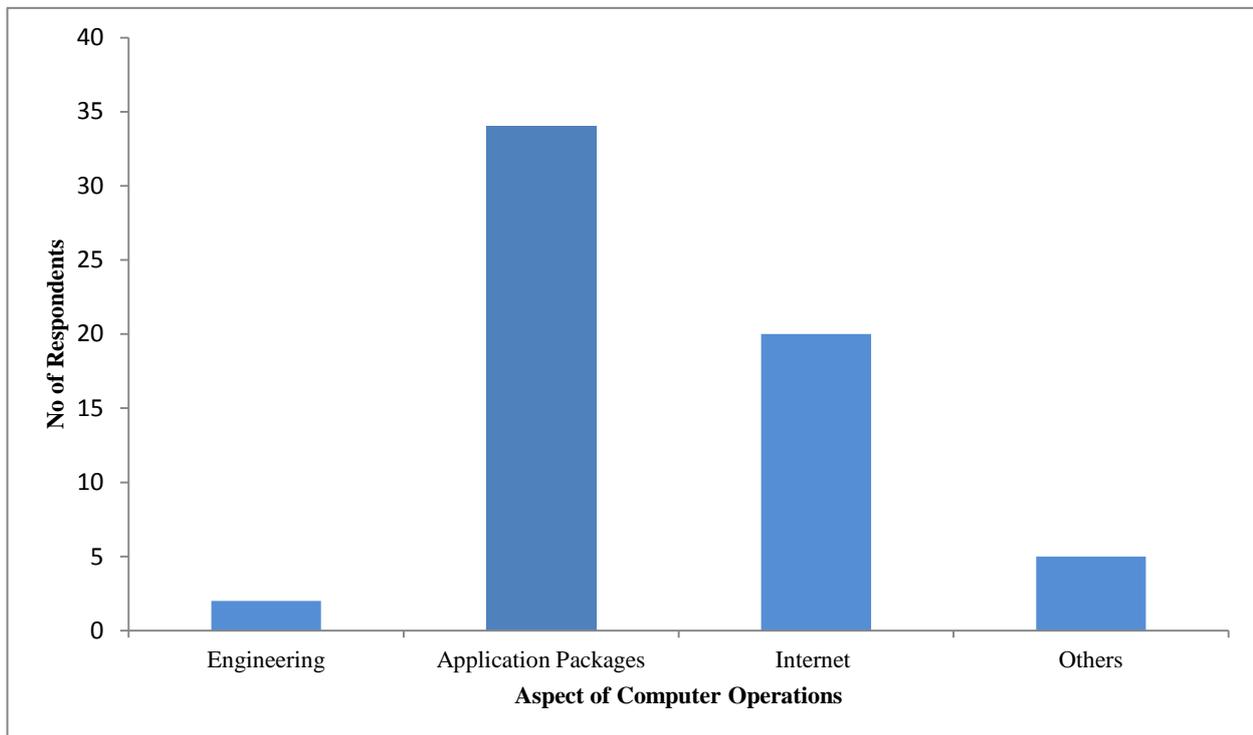


Fig 1. Chart showing the different aspect of Computer Operations Used

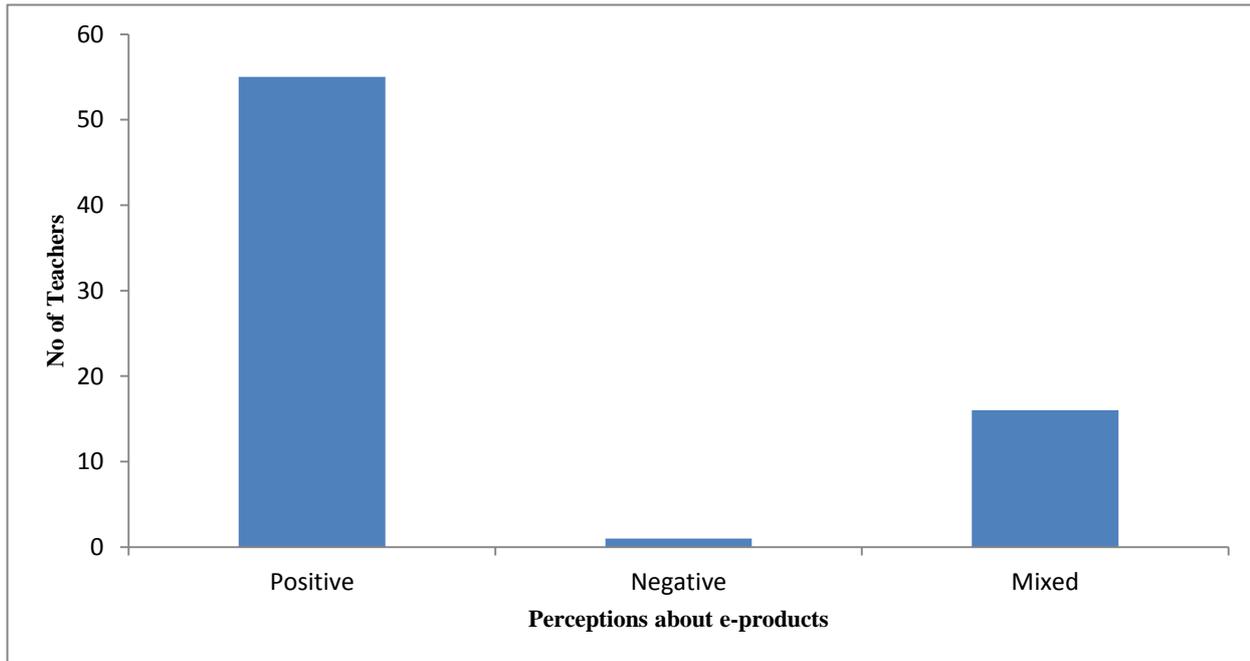


Fig 2. Chart showing the perceptions about e-products

4. DISCUSSION

The major pre-requisites of an e-governance system as explained in e-governance literature are all encompassing internet connectivity and high computer literacy level of both the citizens and the government officials [11, 1, 12].

The research result presented above revealed a relatively high computer literacy level among the primary school teachers in Bida and when combined with the high population of respondents with positive feelings about e-products, it is an indication of easy adoption or deployment of e-governance system. This will facilitate or enable Nigerians to benefit from the system as discussed in the literature [13,14].

5. CONCLUSION

The research study reported here has practically shown that Nigerians are getting closer to the total adoption of e-governance system with some of its populace highly computer literates.

The study did not however dig into the level of computer skills (or competence) possessed by the respondents.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following suggestions will be useful for the utilization of the findings in this study and to further improve on the computer literacy levels of teachers.

- Computer literacy course should form an integral part of the curricular of the teachers training in any of the National Teachers Training Institute.
- Government should provide enabling environment for primary school teachers to improve on their computer literacy level through increase accessibility to computer system.
- In line with the previous recommendation, all the primary schools should be provided with adequate

number of computer systems and internet facilities to enhance pupils and teachers involvement.

- Government can as well reduce or even remove the custom duties on all IT facilities to make them affordable to the primary school teachers.
- The on-going training activities by the Digital Bridge Institute (DBI) should be made to include the primary school teachers too.

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