

ICT AS STRATEGY FOR FACILITATING SECURITY MANAGEMENT AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) have become efficient tools for the management of virtually all facets of the national economy, transcending every industry and service. The purpose of this study is to determine how ICT can enhance Nigerian Security Management and National Development. The study adopted the survey research design of the ex-post '*facto type*'. The Proportional stratified and simple random sampling techniques were utilized to select 300 participants from three States - Ogun, Ondo and Lagos States in Nigeria. One standardized self-developed questionnaire was used for data generation. Two hypotheses were raised and tested using multiple regression and t-test statistics. Findings revealed among others that the ICT predicted the criterion variables (security management and national development). Based on the findings of this study, it was concluded that if ICT is used appropriately, it has the potential to vastly improve Nigeria security management and national development.

Keywords: ICT; Security Management; National Development

Introduction

Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) are rapidly changing the world by the way citizens communicate, interact not only with one another but also with private businesses, public service utilities and government institutions. It is believed that information technology relieves many parts of our life by playing significant role (Nunn & Quinet, 2002). In the past, people go about to perform different forms of businesses such, apply/renewal of a passport/driving license, acquiring more knowledge that is schooling, school fee, certificate, transcript, registration, payment of utility bills e.t.c. traditionally and manually. Today with the use of ICTs it is possible for the same interaction to take place without going out, at our various offices or in a service centre close to the citizen with Internet facilities. Bryan, Tsagarousianou & Tambini. (1998) affirm that these technologies have brought a significant change in the perceptions, attitudes and ways of thinking of its

users. It is believed that information technology relieves many parts of our life by playing significant role (Nunn & Quinet, 2002).

Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) is critical for any country's international competitiveness and transition to a knowledge economy, particularly for African countries as they endeavour to achieve the MDGs and close the knowledge divide with developed countries in the increasingly globalized world (Guvheya & Léautier, 2011). ICTs have shown potential for transforming businesses, markets and organisations; security management, transforming the provision of healthcare, learning and knowledge-sharing; fostering greater citizen participation in the political and development process through information provision; in short, ICTs have shown potential for enhancing human capabilities.

All the aforementioned review is a pointer to the fact ICT plays a major role in helping nations to go through economic, political, social, security, cultural and national development. Yet, there is a serious dearth in research in Nigeria to establish the extent at which ICT could be seen as strategy for enhancing security management and national development. Also, examine if any relationship will be established among the variables under study.

For a nation to be in a phase of development there must be some pre-requisites, which include socio-political, economic stability and the security of the lives of citizen is equally very important. Security is evidently the pillar upon which every meaningful development could be achieved and sustained. The development strides in most Western Capitalist States that place premium on security lend credence to this assertion. Whilst Nigeria is endowed with abundant resources, negligence to numerous challenges of insecurity of the environment appears to have created porous security condition that engendered violence and retards development (Nwanegbo and Odigbo, 2013)

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) have dramatically changed the way Information is collected, stored, processed disseminated and used, thus making it the most powerful tool for modernization and national development. Nigeria's return to civil rule was accompanied with fresh hopes and latent optimism. This optimism is predicated on the fact that democracy would guarantee freedom, liberty, and equity and enhances security of lives and property, which would indeed repositions development trajectories to sustainability. Regrettably this optimism seems to be a mirage. Nigeria is presently rated as one of the poorest Nations in the world with debilitating youths unemployment. For instance, Aganga (2009) observed that

over ten million Nigerians were unemployed by March 2009 and unemployment is running at around 19.7 percent on average (see National Bureau of Statistics Report 2009). This figure geometrically increases yearly with less realistic efforts by the managers of the state to abate the rampaging unemployment problem. In Nigeria, like many other developing countries, about 70% of the population live in poverty (Otto and Ukpere 2012). Majority of the population seem to lack access to pipe borne water, health care facilities, electricity and affordable quality education. Amidst these development challenges, the security situation in the country deteriorated drastically. Nigeria's return to democratic rule is threatened by security disaster. Arguably, considerable progress has been achieved in the areas of freedom of speech and liberty, but series of resource based conflict (Niger Delta), the kidnapers, the avengers, rape, ethno-religious crisis (Jos crisis), and communal conflicts persisted. The climax of these security threats is the insurgence of a group called Boko Haram in the Northern Nigeria. Thus, a considerable effort to end the violence and build a sustainable peace to steer the economy to sustainability seems far from realization. (Nwanegbo and Odigbo, 2013)

According to Olawepo, and Joseph (2014) Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has now been accepted as one of the main driving force behind organizational competitiveness in the present day business environment. Presently, ICT is having dramatic influence on almost all areas of human activities and one of the areas of economic activities in which this influence is most manifest is the banking sector. The banking industry is one of the critical sectors of the economy which makes invaluable contributions to the pace of economic growth and development of nations (Ajayi, 2003; Madueme, 2010 and Iro-Idoro, Ayodele & Iro-Idoro, 2015).

Most developing nations have embarked on various reforms that foster the use of ICTs in their economies. These reforms tend to yield little or minimal benefits to national growth and development, especially when compared with the developed countries of the world. Technological advancement is known to impact fast rate of economic development. In Nigeria, policy on adoption of Information and Communication Technologies was initiated in 1999, when the civilian regime came into power of government. The operations of the licensed telecommunication service providers in the country has created some well-felt macroeconomic effects in terms of job creation, faster delivery services, reduced transport costs, greater security and higher national output (Emmanuel and Adebayo, 2011).

Attempts to ensure sustainable economic development and poverty reduction of most nations usually involve the development of agriculture, mining, industrial as well as the service sectors. The Industrial Revolutions in Europe and America, generally and specifically, have been premised on technological breakthroughs. During the late 1990s, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) was the largest contributor to growth within capital services for both Canada and the United States (Harchaoui, Tarkhani, Jackson & Armstrong (2002). 2002). Similar trend has been observed with the economic development of China, Korea, Taiwan, India, South Africa, and other emerging economic powers (Fuss and Waverman, 2005).

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to empirically investigate the impact ICT as strategy for facilitating security management and national development in South-West, Nigeria. This will help to give direction for further study and enhance security management and national development in South-West, Nigeria. There is dearth of research on the subject matter. I have not been able to find studies in which ICT has been used as strategy for facilitating securing management and national development. Therefore, this study is crucial to the understanding of ICT as tool for security management and national development.

Statement of the Problem

One of the prides of any nation is the level of development in terms of security of lives and properties of her citizens. Security should be seen as the pillar upon which every meaningful development could be achieved and sustained. The problem of insecurity continues to face less developed countries, which Nigeria belongs and despite her huge resources endowment, security has made development to be slow and this has greatly affected her quest to improved quality of life of her citizens. National security is seen as not only an issue that attracts and concern government but the concern of all Nigerians. Negligence to numerous challenges of insecurity of the environment appears to have created porous security condition that engendered violence and retards development in Nigeria. Therefore, there is need to develop a considerable effort to end the violence and build a sustainable peace to steer the economy to sustainability. Hence, the study investigated the use of ICT as a strategy to facilitate security management and National Development in South-West, Nigeria.

Research Hypotheses

In order to achieve the purpose of this study, the following hypotheses were tested at the .05 level of significance.

Two hypotheses were raised and tested using multiple regression and t-test statistics. Findings revealed among others that the ICT predicted the criterion variables (political stability and economic development)

1. There is no significant influence of ICT on security management and national development as perceived by the public.
2. There is no significant relationship between ICT, security management and national development.
3. There is no significant moderating influence of demographic factors (education, age, and gender) to the contribution of ICT on security management and national development as perceived by the public.

Methodology

This study adopted an ex-post-facto survey research design where questionnaire were used to collect data from the respondents on the studied variables. A total of three hundred (300) participants from three States in Ogun, and Lagos, State, Nigeria. The Proportional stratified and simple random sampling techniques were utilized. The age range of the respondents is between 19- 59 years with mean age of 26.4 and standard deviation of 18.91. One standardized self-report questionnaire was used for data generation. The self-report questionnaire was tagged ICT, Security Management and Economic Development Questionnaire (ICTSMNDQ). The instrument has 20 items that adopt a four-point Likert type format ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 4 (strongly agree). The internal consistency reliability of ICTSMNDQ in this study yielded a Cronbach's alpha = .77. The biographical data information sheet was used to collect information on the participants' gender (male or female), age in years, and educational status.

ICTSMNDQ was administered on the sample through the assistance of four (4) other research assistants. Multiple Regression Analyses and Product Moment Correlation were used to run the analysis of the data collected.

Results

Table 1: *Model Summary of the multiple Regression Analysis of the significant influence of ICT on security management and national development as perceived by the public*

Model	R	R ²	Adj. R ²	SE	Change Statistics				
					R ² Change	F Change	d f 1	d f 2	Sig. F Change
Security Management	.223	.049	.049	8.122	.049	11.214	1	298	.116
National Development	.413	.171	.108	13.041	.108	6.803	1	298	.098

a. Predictions: (Constant), ICT

b. Dependant Variable: Security management, national development

The results in Table 1 indicated that ICT will significantly influence ICT on security management and national development as perceived by the public. As shown on the Table 1 above, it was observed that ICT accounted for 4.9% variability of the security management as perceived by the public ($R = .223$; $R^2 = .049$; $\text{Adj. } R^2 = .049$; $F_{(1,298)} = 11.214$; $p < .05$). Also, the predictor variable accounted for 10.8% variability of national development as perceived by the public ($R = .223$; $R^2 = .171$; $\text{Adj. } R^2 = .108$; $F_{(1,298)} = 6.803$; $p < .05$).

Therefore, the null hypothesis which stated no significant influence of ICT on security management and national development as perceived by the public was rejected by this finding. This implies that ICT will influence the security management and national development. It should be noted, however, that the influence if ICT is higher on the national development compared to that of security management.

Table 2: *Correlation matrix of the relationship between the independent and dependent variables*

Variables	ICT	Security Management	National Development
ICT	1.000		
Security Management	.309*	1.000	
National Development	.449**	.411**	1.000

** Correlation is significant at the .05 level (2-tailed)

* Correlation is significant at the .01 level (2-tailed)

The results in Table 2 revealed that there is a significant inter-relationship among the variables of the study. A significant high convergent relationship was observed between ICT and national development ($r = .449$) as well as security management ($r = .309$). Also, positive relationship was observed between security management and national development (.411).

The findings imply that ICT, security management and national development are positively related.

Table 3: *Model summary of the multiple regression analysis showing the significant moderating influence of demographic factors to the contribution of ICT on security management and national development*

Model	R	R ²	Adj. R ²	SE	Change Statistics				
					R ² Change	F Change	d f 1	d f 2	Sig. F Change
Predictor Variables	.205	.189	.177	15.072	.177	16.040	5	294	.000

Significant at 0.05 alpha level

The results in Table 3 indicated significant moderating influence of demographic factors (education, age, and gender) to the contribution of ICT on security management and national development as perceived by the public ($R = .205$; $\text{adj. } R^2 = .189$; $F_{(5, 294)} = 16.040$; $p < .05$). The total variance accounted for by the moderating influence of demographic factors (education, age, and gender) to the contribution of ICT on security management and national development as perceived by the public is 17.7% ($R^2 = .177$). Analysis of variance shows that this value is significant ($f = 16.040$, $P > .05$). Therefore, 17.7% of the total variability in security management ability and national development is accounted for by the prediction variables (ICT, education, age, and gender). Therefore, the null hypothesis which stated that there is no significant moderating influence of demographic factors (education, age, and gender) to the contribution of ICT on security management and national development as perceived by the public was rejected by this finding. This implies that there was a significant moderating influence of demographic factors (education, age, and gender) to the contribution of ICT on security management and national development as perceived by the public.

Discussion of Findings

The outcome of the first hypothesis revealed a significant influence of ICT on security management and national development. The implication of this finding is that ICT to a great extent if properly utilized could help to enhance security management and national development. This result is in tandem with the report of Guvheya, and Léautier (2011) that ICT can afford politicians and public-sector officials a better idea of what the public wants (demand) and how to provide it (supply), and that embracing e-government can fundamentally transform the way government works. Therefore, Information and

Communication Technologies (ICT) have become the keys to the efficient running of virtually all facets of the national economy, transcending every industry and service

Findings of the second hypothesis revealed that ICT, security management and national development are positively related. It can be deduced that individual belief about themselves to achieve educational goals and appropriate use of technology can enhance their academic success or career. This finding corroborates the earlier findings of UNDP (2003) and Guvheya, and Léautier (2011) who have reported that ICTs have shown potential for transforming businesses, markets and organisations; transforming the provision of healthcare, learning and knowledge-sharing; fostering greater citizen participation in the political and development process through information provision; in short, ICTs have shown potential for enhancing human capabilities. Also, Eckardt (2014) noted that the revolutionary advances in Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) are ushering in change in every aspect of life. Everything from business to governance is undergoing change.

Demographic factors (education, age, and gender) moderate the contribution of ICT on security management and national development as perceived by the public by 17.7%.

Conclusion

African nations are moving rapidly therefore ICTs should not be seen as a mere information and communication tool but rather as a vehicle for enhancing all aspects of life – economics, education, security, medical, improve service delivery, refine policy formulation, politics and so on, and be more competitive in the global market by increasing business opportunities of the populace. It should be noted, however, that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are shaping our everyday lives both as consumers as well as in the work place. But it is of a rather recent date that ICT also show a more than trivial impact on the security and economic sphere, which is characterized by collective decision-making. Thus, this paper empirically assessed the perceived potential influence of ICT on security management and national development.

Recommendations:

1. Therefore the uses of ICT in providing public goods and services reduces production and transaction costs, implying efficiency gains. Moreover, ICT also influence the national development transaction costs of public policy making.

2. There should be a central authentication system such as usernames and password for the network to parastatals's clients to information system and information should be restricted based on functional need of the individuals or organisations.
2. The security of the economy's development information systems and resources should be periodically audited and reported to the appropriate bodies and citizen participation in policy making can be improved on through ICT.
3. Security Software developed should be equipped with adequate security features to meet the needs of location and it must be implemented to the satisfaction of any internal and external audit review through organisational re-engineering as this would lead to increased efficiency and improve public perception in crime management.
4. ICT could also result in changing the underlying institutions by shaping the security management so as to make further improvements possible".

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