

Study of the Effects of ICT on News Processing in Borno Radio Television (BRTV) Maiduguri - Nigeria

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Abstract

As media industry especially in developing countries continue to work towards the digitization of its operations media organizations in Nigeria are not left out in this drive. ICT is now an indispensable part of everyday-existence of every radio/television station and newspaper/magazine outfits. This study explores the effect of ICT on news processing in Borno Radio Television (BRTV) with a focus on ICT effects on news processing. The study used the survey method and from a response rate of 88%. The findings indicates that ICT has positive effect on the computerization of news processing in BRTV Maiduguri, the findings also indicates that 75% think ICT is very relevant in the computerization of news processing, 22.7% believe that it is relevant, 2.3% said it is not relevant. The findings further indicates that the following were the constraints in the use of ICT in news processing: network failure, inadequate power supply, very complex and time consuming, limitation placed by NBC Act on the use of certain ICT, server problem, access charges, inadequate computer technology in newsroom. The study recommends that there is need to computerize the process of news processing in order to facilitate the processing of news in our broadcast stations.

Keywords: Effects, ICT, News, and Processing.

Introduction

The news processing in the media particularly the broadcast media seem to be witnessing a revolution that is changing the process of news collection, editing and dissemination. This change has been brought about by the advent of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). Meanwhile the last two decades or so witnessed tremendous advancement in the spread of the knowledge of information and communication technology. Virtually every segment of society, including the press, has been impacted by these developments. Even though the knowledge spread slowly to, or was latently embraced in Nigeria, its effects have been enormous. Not only has it quickened information dissemination, it has also revolutionized the conduct, method and quality of media practices generally. Adesoji (2006)

The computerization of editorial duties has caused a real upheaval in working habits but has also marked a genuine development in presswork. Computers fascinate some people and frighten others, and have fostered bitter resistance from print union representatives. The possibility for journalists everywhere to type their own articles, type copy and enter it directly into a computer system has completely transformed the profession. Keyboard operators previously responsible for inputting copy, and who themselves had replaced traditional typesetters, have already gone in some countries and will disappear in the medium-term elsewhere. Silverstone (2000) as he pointed out Media are changing, have changed, radically. Thus the process of writing stories appears to have change with the advent of ICT. First, a reporter writes a news story on the word processing system. The article is then stored in the central data file. An editor "calls up" the story. It is edited, polished and readied for print. Finally, the computer is directed to typeset the story in its expected form. In this way, a story that could have been typed three times (reporter's original, edited version, typeset version), is only typed once. Nworah (2008)

To underscore the relevance of ICT in newsrooms, Mwila a Zambian web developer said that once fully adopted and adapted, the ICT will transform the newsrooms into cabled and networked centres with all journalists discharging stories onto a network, editors picking them before sending them to the page designers or casters in the case of electronic media. Basically, the newsrooms will utilize all the available ICT to easily coordinate material for publication or broadcasting and also to communicate among staff.

He adds that with accurate deployment of ICT, newsrooms will be able to efficiently coordinate material, communicate easily with all members of the staff and easily send materials for publication or broadcasting. For instance, instead of individuals getting copy from one desk to another, the ICT will enable copy and articles to flow on a local area network (LAN), drastically reducing the time lag in passing materials.

Our century has seen the telephone, film, radio, television become both objects of mass consumption and essential tools for the conduct of everyday life. We are now confronted by the spectre of a further intensification of mediated culture, through the global growth of the Internet and the promise (some might say the threat) of an interactive world in which nothing and no one cannot be accessed, instantly. Much of contemporary debate draws on a sense of the speed of these various changes and developments, but mistakes the speed of technological change, or indeed of commodity change, for the speed of social and cultural change. There is a constant tension between the technological, the commercial and the social, a tension that must be addressed if we

are to recognize media as indeed a process of mediation. Silverstone (2000)

To a large extent, it is believed that Information is the primary input as well as the final output of a broadcast industry. It collects raw information and converts it into categorized, defined and useful pieces of information. Therefore, it appears the changes brought in the realm of information through Information and Communication Technology (ICT) revolution are bound to affect the broadcast industry more than any other industry. The adoption and absorption of Information and Communication Technology are being carried out in broadcast industry by bringing efficiencies in all the functional wings including production, editorial and marketing so as to gain competitive advantage. Gester (2003) points out that ICT facilitates the creation, storage, management and dissemination of information by electronic means. Operationally ICTs comprise digital devices either notifies the hard wares, or softwares for transferring information. It includes low cost means of communication like radio, GSM/mobile phones and digital television.

In the same vein, Adekomi in Soforowa (2009) see ICT as the integration and utilization of computer technologies for the purpose of disseminating information to a target destination or consumer without the constraint of time and space

Information and Communication technology in broadcast news gathering is on the increase by reporters and editors. Its benefits are being recognized at every point of the entire supply chain of news. Technology development and absorption in broadcast industry has improved the packaging of news. The profuse use of online content and facilities has led to high productivity and efficiency at a reduce cost. (Lapham, 1995) The wide range of recording of news with high sophistication, editing database, photo imaging, and mixing software provided cutting-edge facilities to broadcast industry. The use of telefax, websites, online database, and web based information sites, and online readers and newsmakers, made the cumbersome job of information collection and reporting easier than ever before. It would not be wrong to postulate that whole nature of editorial job has changed under the influence of IT.

Information and communication technologies (ICT) are an umbrella term that covers all technical means for processing and communicating information. The term has gained popularity partially due to the convergence of information technology (IT) and telecom technology. ICT defines a broad range of technologies, including methods for communication (communication protocols, transmission techniques, communications equipment, media communication), as well as techniques for storing and processing information (computing, data storage, etc.)

Also, Information and communication technologies (ICT) are often associated with high-tech devices, such as computers and software, but ICT also encompasses more “conventional” technologies such as radio, television and telephone technology. The term, information and communication technology (ICT) refers to forms of technology that are used to transmit, store, create, share or exchange information. This broad definition of ICT includes such technologies as: radio, television, video, DVD, telephone (both fixed line and mobile phones), satellite systems, computer and network hardware and software; as well as the equipment and services associated with these technologies, such as videoconferencing and electronic mail. (Wikipedia, 2009). Rogers in Berniger (2005), states that communication technology is the hardware equipment, organizational structures, and social values by which individuals collect, process, and exchange information with other individuals.

In the same way, high technology approaches to news processing have set in motion an evolution in strategies of news gathering in the first half of this decade. Central to these new approaches is the use of personal computer, Williams and Sawyer (2003) pointed out that a computer is “ a programmable, multiuse machine that accept data –raw fact and figures, manipulate and process it into information that we can use, such as summaries, totals or reports” its purpose is to speed up problem solving and increase productivity. Communication technologies are the nervous system of contemporary society, transmitting and distributing sensory and control information, and interconnectivity a myriad of interdependent units (Rogers cited Berniger 2005:4). One of the hallmarks of industrial revolution was the introduction of new communication technologies as mechanisms of control that played an important role in almost every area of the production and the distribution of manufactured goods. (Rogers cited Berniger 2005:4) Collins (2003: 65), argues that the number of transistors on a chip as crude measure of the computing power, doubles approximately every 18 months since 1967, because of this steady advancement in hardware, it is feasible for computers to solve very complex problems in a relative short time. In addition to this increase in processing, there has been an increase in the amount of storage available and the amount of information that can be transmitted over data communication network.

The adoption of personal computers as a news reporting tool is a two prong approach to news processing commonly known as computer assisted reporting. Computer-assisted reporting (CAR), includes both (a) online-based newsgathering that uses specialized commercial services and Internet-based services, such as the World Wide Web, and (b) database-oriented analysis using existing and originally created databases from both the public and private sectors (Garrison, 1995). As personal computers became less expensive in the past decade, the devices began to appear in newsrooms around the nation and their uses in newsgathering began to expand. At the same time, the computing power and speed of desktop computers have also increased, permitting reporters to

attempt many of the same tasks for which they would have used larger mainframe or mid-range computer systems just a few years earlier. Between 1994 and 1996, computer-assisted reporting has moved toward a second stage in its development. Instead of being limited to special investigative teams or to desks whose reporters work exclusively on such reporting, some newsrooms have begun to move toward total integration in newsrooms. This has been facilitated by the conversion in some newsrooms of dedicated word-processing computer systems devoted solely to production to PC-based local area networks capable of production and to enhance broadcast news, but also capable of all other.

PC-type functions, such as online connections and data processing or analysis (Garrison, 1996). In the past few decades information and communication technology has transformed the world in all spheres of life. It's potential for reducing manual operations and fostering growth in the media has increased rapidly. According to Okoye (2000:195), computer technology has enhanced news processing and news reporting. With the Internet, journalist can now click on relevant sites to source for foreign or even local news for subsequent broadcast news, this will likely lead to an overall shrink in the need for human correspondents. The importance of computer technology as a tool for news processing cannot be overemphasized. The adoption of computer technology in broadcast industry has revolutionized and enhanced news processing. Access to information is fundamental to empowerment, recognizing the impact of increasing adoption convergence on media has created an enabling environment to ensuring people's access to information through the adoption of this technology.

Statement of Problem

The challenge facing reporters and editors appears to be the effect of ICT on news processing. It could be argued that the employment of computer technology in the newsroom and in news processing will increase cost, as money would have to be invested into acquiring both hardware and software creating or building websites, include remunerations for personnel that would man and constantly maintain them.

However, going by global trends, which foretell an increase in the employment and the deployment of computer technology in news processing, in order to achieve better efficiency, accuracy, and speed up operations of news processing, Gester (2003) points out that ICT facilitates the creation, storage, management and dissemination of information by electronic means. Abiahenu (2006) pointed that ICT facilitates communication and processing of information, saves time and reduce cost. However, when information technology is discussed, it puts people out of jobs. The reverse is often the case. This technology takes over mechanical assignment and frees individuals for more intellectual productive work. Similarly, if this technology will achieve its overall objective, there is need for faster and more accurate means of solving manual operations of data processing and better storage devices for information and data as provided by the computer system, the complexities of modern technology have produced great mathematical, scientific, and engineering problem and hence, enhanced news processing. The Nigerian broadcast and print media like other facet of life and human endeavour in the country seem to have embraced information and communication technology to some extent.

The information era has seem to have taken the world by storm with the way it is affecting the society. Supported in its entirety by the communication technology, information spread vastly become faster and cheaper. The media through which information is disseminated also gets varied in types, further revolutionizing the information era. In the past, there is a significant time lag separating the point when an event took place and the time when the news may be publicly available. The advancement of radio and television allows for the real time coverage of an event. In its time, the existence of radio broadcasting audio-based news was considered revolutionary in information dissemination. The birth of television upgrades the information era to the level where visualization is part of the necessities. An now the convergence of computer and media technologies have compelled media organization to adopt ICT in their daily operations. Considering enormous discuss on digitization of the mass media in Nigeria by experts and scholars ,eg. Ichu & Uche,(2012) Olaya (2013), ellephree (2011), Garba, (2013) and the most recent declaration by the Borno State Government to of its willingness to ensure the full digitization of its media organization, the Borno Radio and Television Services (BRTV), before the 2015 deadline which goes to show that the Northeastern State of Borno is not left out in ICT adoption in its media outfits (Ndahi, 2013). It therefore makes it imperative to study the effect these technologies in the various aspect of its media operation. This study focuses on the effect of ICT on news processing in BRTV.

Objectives of the Study

The aim of this study is to study the effect of ICT on news processing in BRTV Maiduguri. Specifically the objectives of this study is to :

- i find out the effect of ICT on news processing.
- i determine the relevance of ICT in news processing.
- ii find out the constraints in the use of ICT in news processing
- iii find out the type of ICT used in news processing

Research Questions

- i what is the effect of ICT on news processing?
- ii what is the relevance of ICT in of news processing?
- iii what are the constraints in the use of ICT in news processing?
- iv what are the types of ICT used in news processing.

Brief History of Maiduguri

Maiduguri was home to Kanem-Bornu Empire for centuries. Maiduguri consists of two cities: Yerwa to the West and Old Maiduwuri to the East. It Was the Old Maiduwuri that was selected by the British as their military headquarters while Yerwa was selected at approximately the same time by Shehu Bukar Garbai to replace Kukawa as the new traditional capital of the Kanuri people.

Maiduguri is estimated to have a population of 1,197,497 by 2009 as of 2007. It is the principal trading hub for northeastern Nigeria. Its economy is largely based on services and trade with a small share of manufacturing.

Mass media industry in Maiduguri is not any different from what obtains in other parts of the of Nigeria. Like most state capitals in Nigeria. It has Nigeria Television Authority, Federal Radio Coporation of Nigeria (Peace FM), African Independent Television/Ray Power FM. It hosts correspondents of Media organisations from all over the country ;Punch Newspaper, The Sun, Trust Media , The Nation, National Daily, BBC, VOA etc. Maiduguri like most state capital cities in Nigeria plays host to nearly all the media organizations in the state who from time to time go out to cover event in other parts of the state as situation may demand. Maiduguri also has its own feel of ICTs penetration. It has internet Cafes spread in various part of the city. It has the presence of most of the major telecommunication companies: Globacom, MTN,Airtel, Starcomms, Visaphone. Etisalat, Globalcom etc. BRTV is owned by the Borno State Government . Successive government have made their contribution to enhancing the status of the station to meet global standard. The most recent is the present government declaration to degitize the station before 2015.

Literature Review

The advancement in internet connection, supported by wide spreading telephone lines (both fixed and wireless), have opened up further the new information era and redefined the necessity in information. Various kinds of information exist out there and the limit to the amount of information one can get is determined more by the person rather than by the publicly available sources. The development and use of information and communication technology (hereafter, ICT) differ in many dimensions: between countries (developed vs. Developing) and within countries (high vs. low socioeconomic status, etc). Such differences are mainly due to differences in the quality of human resources –especially in skills, knowledge and education. ICT application depends on several factors. Firstly, it depends on the existence of ICT infrastructure. For example, internet technology would first require good telephone infrastructure, before later one may start considering wireless Internet connection. Secondly, the ICT application also depends on the people’s skill and knowledge. The application is not a matter of being imported and used. Instead, it requires a specific level of knowledge and skills before one would be able to operate the equipment properly.

The proliferation of technology especially that of the ICT seemed to have changed the social order and interpersonal relationship. Yet, the flexibility and advance of this technology has proved its role as the supportive measures in human’s life activities in the quest to promote productivity. Mugo (2006) The Oxford Advanced Learners’ Dictionary of Current English defines technology as the “systematic application of knowledge to practical tasks in industry”. And through this application therefore, technology improves the quality of life. Therefore it will not be an overstatement to say that the far-reaching changes brought in the realm of information through Information and Communication Technology (ICT) revolution are bound to affect broadcast industry more than any other industry because of the timeliness and immediacy of information. The computer system is unique in that writers, editors, and others with a news background designed it and are now responsible for its management and development. The successful integration of electronic technology into the manual world of the newsroom cannot be over-emphasized It could be argued that the media are changing, seemed to have changed. Our century has seen the telephone, film, radio, television become both object of mass consumption and essential tools for the conduct of everyday life.

This changing, or reality, to some extent, is enabled and equipped by the development of information communication technology (ICT), which is operationalized by a variety of medium formats, from mass communication facilities, such as radio and TV stations, to personal communication devices, such as personal computers, personal data assistant, and mobile phones. The adoption of computer technology in broadcast industry could be said to have revolutionized and enhanced news processing. Access to information is fundamental to empowerment, recognizing the impact of increasing digital convergence on media has created an enabling environment to ensuring people’s access to information through the adoption of this technology. More recently, there has been the addition of communications of computers or other information device, connected

through a network, to access information and services from another computer or information device (Williams and Sawyer, (2003:3). Information and communication technology also involves other equipment and information transmission system such as electronic mails, facsimile, cable television, teletext, electronic telephone exchange, satellite communication. Adigun (2005:15) described information and communication technology “as the electronic acquisition, storage and dissemination of vocal, pictorial, textual and numerical information” The most obvious aspect of communication technology is the hardware in the physical equipment related to the technology. The hardware is the most tangible part of a technology system, and new technologies typically spring from development in hardware. It is just as important to understand the messages communicated through the technology system. These messages will be referred to in this study as the “Software” According to Rogers, computer software includes information manipulated by the computer (such as text, a spreadsheet, or any other stream of data manipulated or stored by the computer) as well as the instruction used by the computer to manipulate the data. In the same way, Olamilokun (1999) in Amamize (2003:37) observed that the computer would not be able to function without the software, and the software is the written instruction that powers on the computer, and assist the computer in carrying out its operations, manipulate stream of data and support the computer in understanding the various complex tasks that it performs.

Gester in Mugo (2006) remarked that ICTs may be looked at as technologies that “facilitate the creation, storage, management and dissemination (communication) of information by electronic means.” In terms of improvement of life, these technologies achieve this by facilitating communication and processing of information through their interactivity, permanent availability and reduced costs. Mugo (2006) Abiahenu in While journalism is the art of writing, recording, editing news, events, various accounts, their transmission among others, ICT has greatly influenced Broadcast industry and may be thought of from two perspectives. First, as the utilization of various ICT tools like the radio, fixed telephone, computers, the internet, mobile phones and others and secondly, as the kind of journalism in which the journalist has ICTs as the subject for his or her trade, that is generates stories on and about ICTs.

One of the challenging features of ICT in news processing is that news is timely and immediate since the emergent of computer technology. It is evident that ICTs have had a tremendous impact on how fast content reaches the target. Unlike in the past when audience would largely rely on newspapers and broadcasters to present information or news the following day and through special editions (in newspapers) and at the slotted “news hour”, ICT has made it even easier to publish information in real time, updating breaking news and events as they happen (Muga,2006).

Muga (2006) observed that the telephone has shorten the time between the reporter and the source, reporter and editor, saving costs such as travel logistics. Now with the advent of the mobile telephone, The Standard as well as other media groups have ensured that reporters on the ground, correspondents, stringers are only a call away and they took a similarly close to sources who are physically miles away.

Therefore, editors can call report writers direct on their mobiles for clarification. Further, reporters do not necessarily have to carry the stories to the newsrooms. They may as well prepare their stories in cybercafés

One of the immediate effects of the evolution of ICT is the cost element. Technology comes with an economic cost attached to it. More importantly, the investment in new technology costs money. This is one of the decisions that organizations have had to make. Despite the eventual returns- in terms of more wealth generation, time saved and 2overall profits on investment,- there is the challenge of the cost element for implementation of any new technology. For example, installing computers, faxes, internet is a monumental cost for all media outlets. Funds have had to be set aside for installations and subsequent networking. The same with the rising telephone costs whether fixed lines or mobile lines, companies had to funds these new initiatives which was quite an uphill tasks. Though the final returns are there to be seen, there was this important financial hurdle to jump. Still the organizations have to keep budgeting for the cost of using the new technology especially more so in Africa where such communication infrastructure (ICTs) is prohibitive. In addition to improving the delivery of news, computer and telecommunications technology can improve the research and news gathering processes of broadcast industry.

Lapham (1995) established that "The computer is a perfect complement to the broadcast industry It enables the existing news industry to deliver its product in real time. It hugely increases the quantity of information that can be made available, including archives, maps, charts and other supporting material. It opens the way to upgrading the news with full screen photography and videos, while hugely enhancing the richness and timeliness of the news.

Theoretical Framework

This study investigates use of ICTs in news processing in BRTV Maiduguri, from the theoretical perspective of the social shaping of technology (SST). In their book about the social shaping of ICTs, Lievrouw and Livingstone (2002:7) propose the social shaping of technology approach as a framework for ICT studies in media. They derive the theory itself from the definition of ‘new media’. The term ‘new media’ is often used

interchangeably with 'ICT' (Lievrouw & Livingstone, 2002; Williams & Edge, 2001). Lievrouw and Livingstone points out that if new media is fully defined, it will lead to 'a framework that fully captures the rich interweaving of media technology, human, action, and social structure' (2002:7). Their definition of ICTs, which encompasses technology, practices, and social organisation, runs as follows: By new media we mean information and communication technologies and their associated social context incorporating: the artefacts or devices that enable and extend our abilities to communicate; the communication activities or practices we engage in to develop and use these devices; and the social arrangements or organisations that form around the devices and practices (Lievrouw & Livingstone, 2002: 7).

They note that this framework goes beyond simple classifications of systems and features of ICTs. The broader model of SST was developed to overcome the weaknesses in the linear technological determinism tradition. The main weakness of the linear approach was its treatment of invention and diffusion of technologies separately from their social and organisational contexts (Williams & Edge, 2001:160). Unlike the linear model, this study proposes the SST as an alternative, two-way, interactive approach to researching the use of ICTs. It assumes that neither technologies nor societies can alter the other. The SST model considers it worthwhile to subject ICTs to social and organisational analysis as they are being used. The essence of doing this is to open up the 'black-box' of ICTs to understand them in the social and institutional dynamics in which they are embedded (Williams & Edge, 2001:60).

This marked a shift of attention away from technological determinism. In support of this, Williams and Edge (2001:53) write that SST researchers problematise technological change by showing that it is patterned by conditions of its creation and use, rather than developing exclusively according to 'inner technological logic'. Further, the critical approach to technology studies, which was championed by scholars like Raymond Williams, emphasises the examination of three important aspects: (a) the reasons for which technologies are developed; (b) the complexity of social, cultural and economic factors which shape them; and (c) that technologies have come to be used for certain ends rather than the characteristics of themselves (Williams, 1974 in Lister et al, 2003:81). Williams developed this theory as a response to technological determinism propounded by McLuhan in about the same period. McLuhan points out that technology has a revolutionary impact on all aspects of social and organisational life (1967: 26).

SST has developed well since its emergence in the 1980s. Therefore, paper follows the line of the type of SST provided above by Lievrouw and Livingstone (2002) because the theory is specific, current, and more relevant to understanding of new media studies. The theory helps to put in context ICTs such as the Internet, email and mobile telephony and related computer applications.

Method

This study is based on a survey in Borno Radio Television in March 2013. The sampling frame of the study is the entire staff of BRTV. A total staff strength of 360. Because the News and current Affairs Department is the most desirable for this study, Purposive sampling technique was adopted to ensure that only the most relevant staff members are selected for the study as noted by Babbie (1998) that the purposive revolves round researcher's knowledge of the population, its elements and nature of research aims. A total of 100 Questionnaires were administered to the selected respondents out of which only 88 were returned usable. Respondent were asked to indicate Age, sex, educational status, their perception of the effect of ICT on their news operations, the relevance of computerization of news process. The type of ICTs they use and the challenges in applying them in news process.

Results

The findings show that the respondents who are between the ages of 51 and above were 6, 41 to 50 were 16, 31-40 -28, 20-30 26, however 6 did not indicate any age group. On the respondent's qualification, 32 are NCE and OND holders, 28 had first degree, while 28 had SSCE and GCE. Out of 88 respondents who filled the questionnaire 48 were male, while 40 were females.

The first research question **RQ 1** asked what is the effect of ICT on news processing? As shown in table 1, indeed ICT has a positive effect on news processing in BRTV. 50(56.8%) noted that it has positive effect on news processing, 28(31%) noted that it has negative effect, 10(11.3%) adopted a neutral position. Respondent who noted that it has positive effect identified its advantages such as it is fast, makes work easy especially when compared to the old manual ways of news processing. They also identified an improvement in quality of production, ranging from video and audio quality. Other advantages identified are reduction of errors and easy correction of error, it ensures accuracy, it allows greater access to information and saves time. This corroborates Garrison (2000) position that ICT development and adoption in broadcast industry has enhanced the packaging of news. It is also in line with consistent Lapham, (1995) argument that the wide range of recording of news with high sophistication, editing database, photo imaging, and mixing software provided cutting-edge facilities to broadcast industry. The use of telefax, websites, online database, and web based information sites, and online

readers and newsmakers, made the cumbersome job of information collection and reporting easier than ever before. It would not be wrong to postulate that whole nature of editorial job has changed under the influence of IT

Table 1. Effect of ICT on News Processing

Effect	Respondent	Percentage
Positive	50	56.8%
Negative	28	31.8%
Neutral	10	11.3%
Total	88	100

RQ2 asked what is the relevance of ICT in news processing? As shown in table 2, The finding indicates that 75% noted that ICT is very relevant in news processing, 22.7% was of the view that it is relevant, 2.3% notes it is not relevant. This may be informed by the inherent advantage of speed which save time that should have been spent especially considering the manual ways in news processing which has now chnges as a result of new technology. This corroborates Okoye (2000:195), who notes that computer technology has enhanced news processing and news reporting. With the Internet, journalist can now click on relevant sites to source for foreign or even local news for subsequent broadcast news bulletin. The adoption of computer technology in broadcast industry has revolutionized and enhanced news processing. Access to information is fundamental to empowerment, recognizing the impact of increasing adoption convergence on media has created an enabling environment to ensuring people's access to information through the adoption of this technology.

Table 2. Relevance of ICT in the of News Processing.

Relevance	Frequency	Percentage
Very relevant	66	75%
Relevant	20	22.7%
Not relevant	2	2.3%
Total	88	100

RQ3 asked what are the constraints in the use of ICT in news processing? This study identified the following constraints in the use of ICT in news processing: Infrastructural challenge which is synonymous to most ICT studies conducted in most developing countries. These infrastructural constraint in this case centres on issues of inadequate computers for staff of news department, delay in acquiring latest software for news processing, delay in replacing faulty ICT facilities such as computers, editing suites and buracratic challenge of acquiring latest ICT facilities such as camera, recorders, softwares. There is also the problem complexities involved in effectively using the ICT facilities and computer applications for news processing which in some instances result to delay in processing news materials. Bureaucratic challenge of approving training for staff. It takes a lot of effort and sometimes impossible for staff to get approval for refresher courses or training on effective use of especially modern news processing facilities. There are also challenges such as epileptic telecommunication network, internet server problem which sometimes frustrate staff effort to work online without physically being in the station. Power supply was also identifies as a major challenge. It was found that the station runs its operation most of the times on diesel powered generator and not operational 24 hours. Thus staff duties are tied to when the generator is running.

RQ3 asked what are the types of ICT used in news processing? The finding indicates that computer and software, digital camera, internet, and mobile phones are the types of ICT used by the staff for news process. Some of the ICT such as computer, mobile are readily available in the broadcast stations, Internet service is hardly ever functional. The mobile phones indicated were not supplied by the stations but bought by individual reporters for personal use but they also extend it for official duties.

Discussion

The result shows an interesting educational level of the respondent. Most of the respondent had National Certificate of Education and Ordinary National Diploma, while those with Secondary school result were at par with those with degree. A professional academic training is a significant variable understanding an effective adoption of modern technology in any profession. Although their fields of academic qualification were not identified but it shows that the News and Current Affairs Department is dominated by staff that have not acquired professional academic training at degree level. Although success in Journalism and news processing in the digital age is not totally about a professional academic degree but it is important since most Mass Communication training at degree level ensures that the trainee gets the basic and even much more on the modern day Journalism practice. Aiden (2013) notes that Academic knowledge is important for journalism, Not saying have a "Degree" just in Journalism studies, but any kind of academic knowledge in any field of studies

related to journalism like: communication, broadcasting, film & television, political science and or any social science degree, may being helpful to continue in the field of journalism. Specialization is essential in all areas of knowledge. Indeed, this is already one key premise of the United Nations. Otherwise, it would be sufficient to have merely curious people in all professional areas (International Journalists Network, 2013).

The perception or views of the respondents in respect of the effect of ICT in news processing is another interesting pattern in the study as majority are of the view that ICT have positive effect on news processing. The issue speed and improved quality of production, and reduction of error and allows greater access to information and saves time shows that despite the constraint and difficulties involved in introducing change and shift from the manual process, the benefits and advantages obvious. It is therefore not surprising from this finding that majority of the respondents find ICT very relevant in news processing in line with Okoye (2000), Garrison (2000) and Adegwe (2012) that the obvious enhancement in news processing and news reporting is directly tied to the adoption and use of new media technology by Journalism practitioners. That the, abundance of online content and facilities in news reporting has resulted in productivity and efficiency at a reduced cost. Therefore, the high sophisticated equipment used in recording, editing and transmission of news provides cutting edge facilities to media industry.

Another important finding is the issue of constraints. Studies in Nigeria on ICT usage in any establishment or even individual have often showcased nearly same kinds of constraints reoccurring. For example Abdulsalam et al (2008) Wilson and Gapsiso (2012), Wilson (2011), Haliso (2011), Wilson and Gapsiso (2009), Gapsiso and Wilson (2009), Wilson and Wilson (2009), Gapsiso and Wilson (2010), Compuworld (2013) etc all found issues of infrastructure, inadequate skills and knowledge, high cost of ICT facilities (Access), poor level of power supply among others as constraints to adopting ICT for various purposes in Nigeria, However this study found a slightly new dimension from other studies in the sense that respondents all identifies bureaucratic challenge as one constraint which prevents a hitch-free deployment of ICT facilities in the station for news processing. That it take ages and sometimes impossible to get approval for replacement of faulty facilities, procurement of software and even training. The issue of training now brings to the fore the issue of academic professional training. Perhaps that could be the reason for a high number of non-degree staff of Department.

The Bureaucratic challenge could also be linked to epileptic internet service and staff resorting to using their personal ICT facilities for official duties because if they wait for government approval to provide all the ICT needed which is full of uncertainty the job may not be carried out.

Conclusion

ICT is certainly an indispensable factor in realising effective news processing this digital age. The perception or views of the respondents in respect of the effect of ICT in news processing is another interesting pattern in the study as majority are of the view that ICT have positive effect on news processing It is obvious from this study that even with the high level staff without the degree academic training they still find ICT very relevant to news processing. Despite the problems embedded in the contexts in which they operate, they appreciate the benefits associated with the use of ICT in their professional functions. This goes to strengthen the position of Nyamnjoh (2006) who notes that, Africa media workforce are determined to be part of the technological revolutions of the modern media industry. As the nation moves towards realising its digitization drive come 2015, it is expected that the BRTV management would understand and address the challenges associated with bureaucracy in ICT deployment. Enjoying the full potentials of ICT in news processing and the issue of digitization would remain a mirage if the identified problems are not addressed.

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