The Social and Economic Implications of Computers

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By

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The quality of your life preparation determines the quality of your performance. Understanding does not come by imagination, it comes by impartation. Computer literacy is a must in today's world.

INTRODUCTION

A computer is any device that can perform a sequence of operation. A computer is that machine that performs tasks, such as calculations or electronic communications, control of a set of instructions called a program. Programs usually reside within the computer and are retrieved and processed by the computer's electronics. The program results are stored or routed to output devices, such as video display monitors or printers. Computers perform a wide variety of activities reliably, accurately and quickly (Snyder, 2006). It is this world of computers, we want to welcome you to. Discussions on computer should follow the trend:

- Uses of Computers
- How Computer Work:
  (a) The Operating System
  (b) Computer Memory
  (c) The Bus
(d) Input Devices
(e) The Central Processing Unit (CPU)
(f) Output Devices

- Programming Languages:
  (a) Machine Language
  (b) Assembly Language
  (c) High-Level Languages

- Flow Matrix
- Fortran
- Basic
- Other High-Level Languages
  - Object-Oriented Programming Languages

- Types of Computers:
  (a) Digital and Analog
  (b) Range of Computer Ability

- Networks
- History:
  (a) Beginnings
  (b) First Punch Cards
  (c) Precursor to Modern Computers

- Development in the 20th Century:
  (a) Early Electronic Calculators
  (b) EDVAC, ENIAC, & UNIVAC

- The Transistor and Integrated Circuits Transform Computing
- The Future of Computers.

We shall however dwell on the social and economic implications of computers. One past president of Nigeria once said that “Education must be at the core of our nation’s development and poverty reduction strategy. The inescapable consequences of the
cost of lack of education. includes eternal poverty, unemployment and low income. Computer has come to our rescue.

Social Implications of Computer Literacy

Being a strategist

To be a corporate strategist, first of all, you have to be computer literate. You have to be a first class person. And to be a first class person, you need to be adequately skilled and schooled in various disciplines. You require human relation skills, and interpersonal skills because you teach, work and interact with human beings. You should therefore be able to manage human beings with computers.

The Computer and You

People use computers in many ways. In business, computers track inventories with codes and scanners, check the credit status of customers, and transfer funds electronically. In homes, tiny computers embedded in the electronic circuitry of most appliances control the indoor temperature, operate home security systems, tell the time, and turn video cassette recorders (VCRs) on and off.

Computers in automobiles regulate the flow of fuel, thereby increasing gas mileage. Computers also entertain, creating digitized sound on stereo system or computer-animated features from a digitally encoded laser disc. Computer programs or applications exist to aid every level of education, from programs that teach simple addition or sentence construction to programs that teach advanced calculus.
Educators use computers to track grades and communicate with students: with computer-controlled projection units, they can add graphics, sound, and animation to their communication. Computers are used extensively in scientific research to solve mathematical problems, investigate complicated data, or model systems that are too costly or impractical to build, such as testing the air flow around the next generation of aircraft, (Snyder, 2006). The military employs computers in sophisticated communications to encode and unscramble messages, and to keep track of personnel and supplies.

Computer provides an integrated communication and performance measurement, which provides parents access to their children’s data such as attendance, daily grades, progress reports, report cards, transcripts and lesson plans. It also provides access to the pupils’ home-work, assignments, discipline, staff and school directory, teachers e-mail address and websites and customized web survey and tests.

It integrates school data to reside in one database, eliminates the need to re-enter or synchronize data, enhances communication with parents and allows stronger parental involvement in the activities of their children and improved student participation in schools, (Amadi-Eric, 1996). The use of computer improves the entire performance of schools, in administrative, classroom processes and pupil’s performance and activities.
Renews School Management

The use of computers help schools operate more efficiently by automating process, streamlining redundant tasks, and eliminating unnecessary paper work. The software is in use in most schools as a web that connects parents to the schools with information about what goes on in the schools. The new technology would go a long way in assisting most parents who have no time to access their children’s performance in school on-line. Parents are just to keep a tab on their computers to know what goes on in their children’s schools. This is with regular electricity supply, computers and internet facilities, which are lacking in most schools, especially in public schools in the country.

Electronic Library

A lot of information is now available on-line while a lot of books have been published on-line. People are no longer contented with only the books they buy. Once an idea has been formed and the manuscript done, it stays for several months for the book to be able to get to your table. Whereas, on-line, it is available almost immediately. Computer brings the benefit of global resourcing to the Nigerian professionals and on-line is the best way to do that very quickly (Adefulu, 2007).

Telemmute

With the aid of computer, regular light and internet, one can telemmute. The word telemmute is “work away from the
office using a computer”. Computer literacy could aid communications and companies, schools, and individuals.

**Daily Movement and Appearance**

Computers have the capabilities of aiding in the news and weather information, education and forecast. This can be done in several ways including on-line chat. You need to know what time of the day would be good for out-door activities.

**Knowledge Spread**

Computers help in the performance of researches. These works are distributed on-line and knowledge is spread through all means including published papers. A knowledge of computer makes for an ideal teacher, (Amadi-Eric, 2003). The process of Information Technology has greatly expanded the scope of teaching and learning. There are software packages that enhance and make learning exciting and activity-packed, (Owate, 2007).

The use of computer in social parlance extend to receive, interpret, encode, store and retrieve information. As computer makes information available especially so through virtual library, the world is forever changing from print to on-line information.

**Economic Implications of Computer Knowledge**

Information Technology and the economy and or business are becoming inextricably interwoven. You get engaged with
something if you know the ground rules. The ground rules of computer is garbage-in garbage-out (gigo). Computer builds the future and delivers it with human effort.

Computer use is a source of labour supply. With the advent of several cell-phones, computer-aided-business centres, the appearance of computers have reduced unemployment in the society.

**A Clean Environment**

A computer environment is a clean environment. Several materials, papers and pieces of information that would littered within the environment are saved in the computer. Through the aid of computers, several garbage's and what was previously regarded as wastes are re-circled into use.

**Financial Freedom**

With the use of computer, internet and off-course, regular current supply, financial positions can be ascertained from any-where. Computer gives you financial freedom. It also helps your financial guidance.

**Business Transactions Using the Internet**

You can ensure positive management control discipline of your staff and students with the computers, (Amadi-Eric, 2006). Business transactions of commerce have recorded great successes through the aid of computers with the availability of the internet, e-commerce, e-advertising, e-selling, e-buying and distribution and provision of goods
and services to customers have been made easy in the society, (Comer, 2006).

**Computers and the Entertainment Industry**

Through the use of computers, the entertainment industries have brought the wonders of the world into our bedrooms. Animations of several types have been brought at our finger tips. Events that happen in far-away countries are revealed within moments of tabs on our televisions. These are made possible with the advent of several types of computers.

It is imperative to emphasis the need for every member of your family to be computer literate. That ensures the quality of your life and members of your house-hold. Your life could be a powerful possibility in the world of computer. Love it!, Covet it!!, Own it!!!
REFERENCE


