# PDF - ASSESSMENT OF NEW COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN RADIO BROADCASTING A STUDY OF FRCN BAUCHI AND BRC BAUCHI - researchcub.infoCHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of Study

Human existence would have been meaningless withoutInformation and Communication. Ideas, values, policies and every aspect ofsocio-cultural, political and economic obligation within the human environments would have been difficult to achieve without adequate dose of information and communication, Daramola (2003). As a result, information acts as grease forlubricating the entire society. However, the invention of modern means of communication with the help of civilization made possible with the advancement of science and technology, the world has gradually become a 'global village'. Ekwelie and Okonkwo (1983) in Ukonu (2008) recorded that "atone time, man depended on iron and wooden gong, the town crier for the exchange, transmission and dissemination of information and vital news," butafter the second world war, a great leap was made from this tasking mode ofinformation dissemination to a more advanced, mechanized method of transmittingmessage or news. Broadcasting came to Nigeria in stages, one of which was theintroduction of wired broadcasting more popularly known as radio distributionor re-diffusion in 1939 by the colonial government of British BroadcastCo-operation (BBC) to redistribute its programme by means of wires connected toloudspeakers installed in various homes of subscribers, Ukonu (2008). It wasdeveloped in the United Kingdom (UK) in the 1920's and exported to theircolonies. However, its introduction to Nigeria was on the initiative of theengineers of the post of telegraph department in Lagos who had been involved inmonitoring the transmission of the BBC on short wave, Ukonu (2008). Since then, the Nigerian mass media industry has witnessed a phenomenal growth since theestablishment of Nigeria Broadcasting Service in 1957 and the country's firsttelevision station, set up by the then government of the former western regionin 1959, (Daramola, 2003). He explained further that the establishment ofwestern Nigerian Broadcasting Service combined Radio and African firstTelevision service triggered a race by the other two regions to setup theirs. The information and Communication as a loose term in describing ways in whichpeople, machines and communication system can work together to make jobsquicker, more efficient and more accurate, (Mbam: 2002).

Siegfried Mandel (1962) stated that the world crossed into "information superhighway", and it is this information superhighway that hastremendously changed the role of communication and information dissemination in the society. Today, with the help of great innovation and scientific inventions, mass communication has been revolutionized with the help of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), (Mbam: 2002). Now we talkabout satellite transmission and communication, computer communication, digitalbroadcasting system, computer, internet information and Communication, digitalcellular phones (like GSM), fibre optics, microwave technologies, radio visual systems, robots enterprise software among others.

When Marshal McLuhan talked about the global village manyyears ago, people at that time thought he was a joker. The new communicationtechnologies have made people become increasingly involved in one another'slife. As Baran, (2009) observes, technologies is not itself a medium but asocial force that brings changes to the media world. Therefore, communication isany artifacts manipulated by man to aid him communicate interpersonally ormassively, Baran (2009).

The impact of the information and communication technologyon media industry has improved as information can reach people around the worldwithin seconds, for instance, digital technology has placed us at a point of anew significant way of development in the history of human communication oftencalled "the Information society" and has transformed the way many men and womenwork in the media industry, Baran, (2009). Also, information can be sent allaround the world within seconds with the new technologies, and news can reachpeople when it happens.

Information and Communication Technologies have made itpossible for dissemination of information evenly and to a wide range ofaudience especially with the advent of GSM in Nigeria, both the literate, illiterate, urban and rural dwellers alike are kept abreast of vital issues, thereby closing up communication gap or information, (Mbam: 2002). Therefore, in realization of this view, it interests the researchers to assess the application of Information and Communication Technologies in the Globe FMBauchi Broadcasting Service (GFMB) station and Bauchi Radio Corporation (BRC).

#### 1.2. Statement of the Research Problem.

The new information and communication technologies have beenacknowledged by some scholars as the threshold of globalizing the world. Information Technology acts as a great facilitator in globalizing, uniting the disintegrated world and enabling people to gain access to knowledge and services, Baran, (2009). There is no doubt that the world is becominghomogenous and differences between people are distinguishing. So, there is needfor the Nigeria media to live up to the challenges.

There are many opinions that Globe FM Bauchi and BauchiRadio Corporation station cannot compete well with the rest of its counterpartsin Nigeria because of so many teething problems such as lack of facilities, obsolete equipment, inadequate training, poor finance and government interference. As a result, this research will investigate these assertions to ascertain the truth of the matter. Moreover, it will go further to find outwhether the application of information and communication technologies has impacted on or enhanced the operation of Broadcast media organizations in Nigeria with respect to Globe FM and Bauchi Radio Corporation.

#### 1.3. Objectives of Study

To ascertain the level of application of ICTs in FRCNBauchi and BRC Bauchi.

To identify the factors responsible for that level of ICTsapplication in FRCN and BRC Bauchi.

To assess the implication of the present level of ICTsapplication in FRCN and BRC Bauchi.

To recommend ways of improving the adoption and enhancedapplication of ICTs in FRCN and BRC Bauchi

#### 1.4 Research Questions

What is the level of application of ICTs in FRCN and BRCBauchi?

What are the factors responsible for FRCN and BRC Bauchilevel of ICTs application?

What is the implication of the present level of ICTsapplication on FRCN and BRC Bauchi?

What practical measures could be taken to enhance theapplication of ICTs in FRCN and BRC Bauchi?

#### 1.5 Significance of the Study

The findings of this study will be of benefit to mediaoutfits that adopt and make use of ICT in their operations. It is hoped thatthe findings of this work will not only add to the knowledge in the area ofhuman communication system, but also provoke further research in this veryinteresting area of ICT. The study will also solve the riddle of how far thetechnological knowhow has improved the power of communication in Bauchi andNigeria at large. The research work would also serve as a source of referencefor media

practitioner as it will help improve the standards of media housethrough new communication technology. The study will also be of benefits forscholars as it is a material for academic exercise. Also, to the information technologists by providing better ways of broadcasting through the available new media and to the researcher of mass communication as it will serve as reference material for them.

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