

Communication Technologies and Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Local Government Administration in Akwa Ibom State

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Abstract

This study – Communication Technologies and Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Local Government Administration in Akwa Ibom State, aimed at ascertaining the communication technologies used in local government administration in Akwa Ibom State, find out existing indigenous knowledge systems, determine whether communication technologies are threatening the existence of indigenous knowledge systems, find out the interfaces between communication technologies and indigenous knowledge systems, and identify gaps that should be bridged between communication technologies and indigenous knowledge systems. To this end, the survey research method using the instrument of questionnaire was used to generate data from staff of local government areas in Akwa Ibom State. Findings of the study revealed that although there is the existence of skeletal use of communication technologies in the local government administration in Akwa State, indigenous knowledge systems have been in use over the years in the form of oral communication, non-verbal cues, among others. It was recommended that both systems should be effectively harnessed to bring about growth and development in the local government administration in Akwa Ibom State as well as stand at par with other administrations in civilized climes.

Keywords: Communication Technologies, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Local Government Administration, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria

Introduction

One remarkable feat that stands out organizations today from what was obtained in the past is the presence of communication technologies. Sadly, most organisations are yet to come to terms with this reality as they are still dragging the feet in embrace of technology. While some give excuses for their inability to come on board communication technologies, others are still holding fast to Abrahamic ways of executing tasks around the organisational environment. The difference between today's organisation and that of yesterday is communication technologies. While the public expects more from organisations, managers of these organisations must rise up to the tasks of meeting the goals of organisation through communication technologies.

According to Argenti (2007), technologies has strengthened communication channels around the globe, disintegrating national borders to produce what Canadian philosopher Marshall McLuhan foresaw decades ago – the creation of a world so interwoven by shared knowledge that it becomes a “Global Village”. Since the emergent of this prophesy, this trend has found fulfillment in and has greatly impacted the business world. With the continuous technological advances, information whether positive or negative has become common place; media reach expanded, leaving managers of organisation with the task of ensuring safe and productive information.

Within view of this huge responsibility, managers of organisation need to be constantly involved with the changing work environment. They need to ascertain how the evolving work space affects the image of the organisation as well as its constituents. Information and communication technologies have to a greater extent have unsettled

many organisations especially with its fast and innovative output. Argenti (2007, p. 10) emphasises that “while many agree that technology has helped business, it also has led to greater uncertainty for business leaders and consumers alike”. This is so because before a technological innovation is deployed by its manufacturers or mid-way through the deployment process, a new innovation, with an added advantage sweeps in and creates an interference with the initial one. With these advancements, leaders of organizations are always on their toes for the next big bang because of the swift and profound effects of technology. This is to keep with the ever-evolving change, consumer tastes and preferences as well as prepare for the future and other eventualities.

Consequently, organisations must embrace the changing work environment ignited by communication technologies without necessarily changing or interfering with their organisational principles. This brings to mind Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) which encompasses traditional practices in the workplace, beliefs that defines the organisation, as well as wisdom developed by the indigenous community overtime. With IKS, an organisation is tailored to its specific environments and cultural contexts while offering unique insights for sustainable living and resource management. It is enshrined in community practices and experiences shared among its members adapted and developed in response to social and environmental change.

Most organisations today have directions defined by their culture, communities and values which have become part of their activities over the years. These are IKS which their employees understand and it influences their environments, loyalty, preserves and promotes sustainable development and creative thinking among them and also increases environmentally friendly behaviours.

This marriage between ICTs and IKS has been of immense benefit to most organisations and has sustained their existence year in year out. For instance ICTs has helped in the preservation of Indigenous Knowledge through the process of digitisation for future generations and accessibility to a wider audience. It has further provided multiple tools to support storage, preservation of documents, digital archiving, sharing and collaboration of ideas on a wider range.

However, despite these outstanding benefits, there appears to be some challenges that could impede its success. For instance, ICTs must be designed and implemented with cultural sensitivity, respecting Indigenous protocols and values. Failure to do so may become detrimental to its success in an organisation. Also, with the digital divide commonly experienced in workplaces, ICTs can exacerbate existing disparities, limiting the benefits of technology for Indigenous communities. It can further challenge dominant Western epistemologies, requiring a shift towards recognising and valuing Indigenous knowledge frameworks.

To reap the benefits derivable from this union, organisations must connect communication in a strategy that gives structure to IKS. In this kind of relationship, those at the upper rung of the organization pass down values that promote the organisation to those at the horizontal and lower cadre in the organisation. When this chain continues, IKS will gain prominent place within and without the organisation with a more strategic and focused engagement. There should also be in place a clearly defined corporate mission stipulating the goals of the organisation as well as align the employees with the organisational policies and practices. This will act as a source of stability to the employees and attune them to the constantly changing world of ICTs.

Statement of the Problem

Information and communication technology has brought with it an avalanche of innovation that has swiftly moved organisations forward. Its impact is unprecedented for both the users and the organisation at large as it can be felt, seen and utilised in several forms. However, one wonders if these impacts erode on the existence of Indigenous Knowledge System in local government administrations in Akwa Ibom State.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are to:

1. ascertaining the communication technologies used in local government administration in Akwa Ibom State;
2. find out existing indigenous knowledge systems used in local government administration in Akwa Ibom State;
3. determine whether communication technologies are threatening the existence of indigenous knowledge systems used in local government administration in Akwa Ibom State;
4. find out interfaces between communication technologies and indigenous knowledge systems used in local government administration in Akwa Ibom State; and
5. identify gaps that should be bridged between communication technologies and indigenous knowledge systems.

Research Questions

The following are the research questions derived from the objectives above:-

1. What is the communication technologies used in local government administration in Akwa Ibom State?
2. What are the existing indigenous knowledge systems used in local government administration in Akwa Ibom State?
3. Are the communication technologies used in local government administration in Akwa Ibom State; threatening the existence of indigenous knowledge systems?
4. What are the interfaces between communication technologies and indigenous knowledge systems used in local government administration in Akwa Ibom State?
5. What gaps exist that should be bridged between communication technologies and indigenous knowledge systems?

Literature Review

Local Government Administration in Akwa Ibom State

Akwa Ibom State is one of the 36 States in Nigeria. It is located in the coastal southern part of the country, lying between latitudes $4^{\circ}32'$ and $5^{\circ}33'$ and longitudes $7^{\circ}25'$ E. The State has 31 Local Government Areas with Uyo as the State capital. The State has a projected population of 2016 estimated at 5,451,277 people which was made up of 2,770,590 males and 2,680,687 females. According to ICT for Local Government Handbook (2007), there are several benefits that implementing the e-government provides:

- a) E-government helps improve efficiency in government. ICTs are a necessary enabler of reforms to the ways in which public administrations work. Improving internal operating systems – financial systems, purchasing and payment arrangements, internal communications and sharing of information – and programme processing and delivery arrangements can generate operating efficiencies and improve performance.
- b) Enhanced quality of service has been a major component of public administration reform over the past two decades, and the use of ICTs to generate improvements in services has been a primary driver for e-government activity. In particular, the use of the Internet has given a major boost to customer focused, seamless services, which aim to transcend the structure of public administrations.
- c) ICTs can support more effective outcomes in key policy areas such as health, welfare services, security and education. Ultimately, governments and public administrations exist to deliver policy outcomes, and ICTs are a major enabler across all major policy areas. The use of the Internet to deliver value in these areas is a major preoccupation in member countries.
- d) Better governance arrangements in themselves will promote economic policy objectives. More specific effects may range from impacts on ICT production, e-commerce diffusion and business productivity to indirect effects such as reduced fiscal requirements owing to more effective programmes and efficiencies flowing through to the broader economy.
- e) E-government can help forward the reform agenda. When aligned with modernisation goals, implementing e-government can help administrations focus on the additional changes needed to meet service delivery and good governance concerns. At the same time, it provides some valuable reform tools and builds support from high-level leaders and government employees for achieving those objectives.
- f) Through citizen engagement, e-government can improve the overall trust relationship between government and public administrations. E-government, by Handbook “ICT for Local Government” improving information flows and encouraging active participation by citizens is increasingly seen as a valuable tool for building trust between governments and citizens.

Indigenous Knowledge Systems

The historical and cultural context of our environment influences workplace activities. In a rapidly changing world, IKS are key drivers and catalyst for a developing community. Indigenous knowledge (IK) is often used synonymously with traditional and local knowledge to differentiate the knowledge developed by a people within distinctive indigenous communities. Indigenous knowledge can also be referred to the thoughts, skills, beliefs, and values created by members of a particular community from their history and interaction with their environment which includes a rich body of observations from the environment, oral and written knowledge, innovative practices, and beliefs that have been with the people since their existence and is shared from generation to generation. Such knowledge evolves in the local environment and is specifically adapted to the requirements of the local people and conditions.

According to Chikaire, Osuagwu, Ihenacho, Oguegbuchulam, Ejiogu-Okereke, and Obi, (2012), indigenous knowledge is local knowledge that is unique to a given culture acquired by local people through the accumulation of experiences, informal experiments, and intimate understanding of the environment in a given culture. It is the actual knowledge of a given population that reflects the experiences based on traditions and includes more recent experiences with modern technologies. These scholars reiterate that indigenous knowledge encompasses spiritual relationships, relationships with the natural environment and the use of natural resources, relationships between people, and is reflected in language, social organization, values, institutions and laws.

As the custodians of Indigenous Knowledge Systems, the local people bond by the social, economic and political experiences over the years, sustain these traditions from one generation to another. This knowledge are valued by the people and transmitted in their culture from one generation to another. IKS has enabled people across geographical boundaries to adapt to what makes them a people. It has further helped them to integrate with environmental and societal changes, understand what makes them a people and manage their resources.

Also, Ikechukwu & Ejikemeuwa (2020) stress that indigenous peoples' cultures and their respective knowledge systems have been largely misunderstood or even dismissed by development planning experts in the past. They are regarded sometimes as irrelevant, fetish and nonsensical. However, many scientific and social researchers associated with the formulation of development assistance policies are now beginning to recognise the positive role that indigenous peoples and their knowledge of the ecosystem, can play in the success of development projects and policies. It is reasonable to assume, that important global development assistance activities including; local participation, capacity-building and sustainable resource management - can be enhanced in cost-effective programs and strategies which understand and work with indigenous knowledge and indigenous decision-making systems.

Threats to Indigenous Knowledge Systems

With the advent of modern technology, Indigenous Knowledge Systems come face to face with certain inventions that threaten its existence. Consequently, the impact of modernisation has eroded some ingredients in indigenous knowledge coupled with the globalization processes. As good as technological advances are, they are a two-edged sword – doing good and evil. There is, therefore the need to protect indigenous knowledge through sustainable policies that can make it stand the test of time and further strengthen local knowledge generated and perpetuated by local communities.

As is observed, the change in the socio-economic landscape and the political environments we find ourselves can be linked to frequent relationships by the indigenous people with other local and international knowledge systems, which robe off the culture and uniqueness that differentiates a people. Sadly, the supposed younger generations who are the next in line as custodian of culture and heritage of a people, have abandoned their role in search of greener pastures.

Another threat to Indigenous Knowledge Systems is the undocumented nature of the specialized knowledge. With the exit of the elderly who were custodians of our culture and tradition, the stage is without a successor as the youths have found faith in foreign cultures at the expense of the traditional assets of the people.

According to Magoro (2024) observed that despite some initial lack of trust in using digital solutions to manage communal processes the community understands the importance of digitalisation and acquiring digital skills to enhance communal processes. He further noted that there is significant potential to enhance e-governance participation by anchoring digital transformation narratives in existing communal innovations. This approach can lay a strong foundation for the adoption of government-led initiatives. Also, integrating IKS, cultural heritage, and identity into digital skills interventions is essential for developing the capabilities and competencies needed to support inclusive e-government. Furthermore, understanding communal values, aspirations, fears, and decision-making processes is crucial for ensuring that these interventions are culturally relevant and contextually appropriate.

Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Local Government Administration in Akwa Ibom State

Local government system exists in every country of the world but with variations in its structures and functions. As a concept, local government means different things to different scholars, but in context, there is an unanimity of views as to the fact that local government is a system of government that exist within a larger governmental setting. Also, no matter how differently the concept is defined, it focuses on the transfer of political powers to local areas by involving the inhabitants in the provision of the basic needs in their respective communities, (Asoya, & Obi, 2021).

One thing that stands out any society or organisation is its unique ways of acquiring knowledge and transmitting that knowledge from one generation to another. No matter the tribe, culture, race, or religion, each people have

certain knowledge which is original to them. This explains why culture is a way of life of a people. Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) in local government administrations can be categorized into several types:

- i. Sustainable practises: These are traditional practices that promotes sustainable use of resources
- ii. Cultural knowledge: The use of indigenous languages, dialects and traditions of the people strengthen communality among employees in the organisation.
- iii. Traditional arts and crafts: Local government administrations in AKS have through Indigenous Knowledge Systems, used their different forms, music, dance, craft-making techniques to discharge organisational tasks and directives for community well-being.
- iv. Community Life: In the local government administrations in AKS, community life is encouraged as the employees are bond by their root which governs their existence. These promote sustainable development and in turn preserve the existing culture for generations to come.
- v. System of governance: The local government administration is influenced by the existing traditional system of government which is seen in decision-making, conflict resolution, among others.
- vi. Socialisation: Indigenous practices in the local government administration also promoted unity, togetherness, love, values, belief systems, principles, cooperation, and mutual support for one another as a one united entity.

Information and Communication Technologies in Organisations

Every organisation is borne with the desire to satisfy a need. To do so, service delivery is very vital. Government and other institutions especially in present times have come to terms with the need to adopt technologies that will create that shift from manual ways of delivering tasks to digital technologies. While organisations are trying to adjust to new technologies in the workplace such as virtual meetings, local government administrations are not left out. They also require tools and resources used to connect, communicate, disseminate, and manage loads of information in different forms. With the use of computers, internet connectivity, broadband facilities for television and radio transmission including telecommunication devices, communication is transmitted easily.

According to [Asoya](#) and Obi (2021) ICT has proven to be an important support tool for government agencies and institutions in their quest to deliver public goods and services in an efficient, convenient, timely and user friendly manner. The above assertion is evident with the experiences of the gains of ICT in developed societies and its potentials to enthrone transparency, accountability and reduce the incidents of corrupt practices as well as ensuring that the communication gap between the people and the government is effectively reduced or bridged, thus, enhancing governance inclusiveness.

According to Abubakar, Lawal, & Mohammed (2025) Information and Communication Technology (ICT) refers to different things for different people depending on their disciplines, orientations, and needs. Some view it as a technique for processing information, including deploying computers and software for creating, storing, and protecting, processing, transporting, selecting, changing, receiving, and displaying data. In contrast, others view it as a tool for developing, acquiring, testing, implementing and maintaining electronic systems as a source of information.

Changes occur in organisation for several reasons and in several forms. While some changes are welcome with open arms, others are seen as threats. One of such is the emergence of communication technologies in the workplace. Though communication technologies can be beneficial to organisations, some employees are reluctant to accepting it or express complete rejection of it usage.

Communication is the main tool in use in organisations. In fact, it is a critical management tool needed to guide and direct the affairs of any organisation. This is why managers of organisation strive to identify appropriate communication channel as well as the strategy to do so. Before the coming in of communication technology, organisations were dependent on their Indigenous Knowledge Systems to communicate. IKS became a defining force guiding operations within organisations that defines its identity, image and values. It influences message type, structure, channel, and audience. Each organisation has its distinct values and needs that distinguish one from another. The workplace of today is equally different from the workplace of the past. While this is true, the prevailing IKS influences staffing, duration to work, performance, among others.

The coming in of communication technology within the workplace has helped in cushioning previously herculean tasks. It has helped organisations to strategically deliver messages, adopt an appropriate strategy, and choose a channel most appropriate. The choice of a communication channel is important for any organisation. In the twenty-first century organisation, various communication channels such as E-mail, fax, video conferencing, web conferencing, intranets, weblogs, external web sites, computerisation, use of social media platforms for information dissemination among others, are used to ease communication flow as well as sharing vital information for members of the organisation. That notwithstanding, press releases, memos, bulletin boards, among other traditional communication channels, are still in use in organisation.

Carnall (2008) suggests that employees typically go through five stages during major organisational changes. They are:

- a) Denial: Here, employees at the initial stage deny that any changes will actually take place. They try to convince themselves that the old way is working and create reasons why the proposed changes will never work.
- b) Defense: When employees believe that change will actually occur, they become defensive and try to justify their positions and ways of doing things. The idea here is that if an organisation is changing the way in which employees perform, there is an inherent criticism that these employees must have previously been doing things wrong.
- c) Discarding: Here, employees begin to realize not only that the organization is going to change but that the employees are going to have to change as well. This means that change is inevitable and it is in the best interest of the employee to discard the old ways and start to accept the change as the new reality.
- d) Adaptation: At this stage, employees test the new system, learn how it functions, and begin to make adjustments in the way they perform. At this stage, employees spend tremendous energy and often become angry and frustrated.
- e) Internalisation: In this final stage, employees have been immersed in the new culture, become comfortable with the new system, and accepted their new coworkers and work environment.

Threats to Information and Communication Technologies

According to ICT for Local Government (2007), the digital divide is a barrier to e-government in that people who do not have access to the Internet will be unable to benefit from online services. While e-government can also improve services to citizens through other channels (notably by improving back office procedures), the inability to provide online services to all citizens can hold back e-government projects.

Another aspect of threat in Local Government Administration is in the aspect of funding. For the organisation to provide immediate results, create enabling environment for faster workflow, better data, better information and transparent, adequate funding must be provided. Most ICT projects are capital intensive hence the need for adequate funds to put in place a vibrant ICT

Teryima & Sunday (2020) quoting Oladejo and Adere (2010) identified several problems militating against the adoption of ICT in local government administration to include:

- i. Inadequate awareness about Information Communication Technology (ICT) and ineffective technical knowledge in manning ICT gadgets.
- ii. Negative attitude of the government through inadequate funding.
- iii. Inadequate power supply: Government inability to provide a stable power supply has hindered the effective functioning of ICT system.
- iv. Ineffective regulatory mechanism by the Nigeria Communication Commission (NCC) by not adopting to established benchmarks resulting to epileptic symptoms and frustration in communication Networks.
- v. Unreliable telecommunication facilities. This is because of poor telecommunication networks in Nigeria. As a result of this transactions in information technology are greatly limited as compared to what exists in other countries.
- vi. Internet fraud and other cyber-crimes may discourage the full adoption of information communication technology concept by the society.
- vii. Lack of technical competence – One area that some work needs to be done in the country if we are to properly embrace information and communication technology is by training of competent professional in the various domains of technology. There is an acute dearth of specialists in LAN, WAN, internet, connectivity, VSAT, Radio, fibre-optics, package switching and wireless telephony technologist in the country.
- viii. Acquisition of obsolete equipment – purchase of wrong and obsolete equipment has also been identified as another factor constraining the rapid development of Information Communication Technology (ICT). Consequently, well skilled professional be trained to man computerization as well as detect defective parts/installations that are no longer relevant in the system in order to enhance productivity.

Theoretical Framework

The theories that added credence to this study include: Diffusion of Innovation Theory and Technology Determinism theory. The Diffusion of innovation theory propounded by Everett Rogers in 1962 explains how new ideas, technologies, and practices spread through a social system. He further identified the factors that influence the adoption and diffusion of innovations as well as its categories which includes innovators (early adopters of new ideas), early adopters (opinion leaders), early majority (pragmatic adopters), late majority

(skeptical adopters), and laggards (last to adopt and have the tendency to resist change). In the Local Government Administration in Akwa Ibom State, the employees are spread across these categories and are influenced in their adoption of technology.

The technology determinism theory was propounded by Thorstein Veblen, an American sociologist and economist, in the late 19th century. The theory suggests that technological advancements are the primary drivers of social, cultural, and economic changes. He posited that new technology can lead to significant changes in the society as well as influence the way it is organized, interactions among its members and overall communication. In the light of this study, the technology determinism theory emphasizes the importance of embracing technology for the growth and development of any organisation. In this regards, the Local Government Administration in Akwa Ibom State.

Research Methodology

The research method used in this study was the survey research method using the questionnaire instrument. According to the Local Government Service Commission 2024 Annual Report, the Local Government Councils has a total of 10,451 employees which formed the population for this study, of which 4,683 were males while 5,858 were females. Since this population was ultimately too large for the study, the Taro Yamane (1967) sampling formula was used to draw the sample for the study. The study adopted a multi-stage technique involving the division of the study population into smaller groups or clusters for the study.

Name of Senatorial District Headquarters	Male	Female	Total
Eket	130	227	357
Ikot Ekpene	152	286	438
Uyo	170	307	477
Total	452	820	1,272

Source: Field Survey, 2026.

Consequently, 400 respondents were drawn from the population to form the sample for this study. Out of 400 copies of questionnaire send out to respondents, 382 returned and were adjudged good for the study. The data were presented using frequency scores and percentages.

Table 2: Communication technologies used in local government administration in Akwa Ibom State

Responses	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Internet	80	21
Computers	75	20
E-Mails	43	11
Phones	120	31
Telecommuting	24	6
Video conferencing	18	5
Electronic networking	22	6
Total	382	100

Source: Field Survey, 2026.

Data in Table 2 reveals that majority of the respondents (31%) admit that they commonly use phones in Local Government Administration in Akwa Ibom State.

TABLE 3: Existing indigenous knowledge systems used in local government administration in Akwa Ibom State

Responses	Number of Respondents	Percentage%
Respect	37	10
Human dignity	23	6
Cultural values	30	8
Rules/Facts	34	9
Resource management	25	7
Sacred beliefs	32	8
Communality	39	10
Practices and techniques	22	6
Equality	18	5
Corrective measures	24	6
Problem solving strategies	34	9
Action-oriented Knowledge	32	8
Tribal knowledge	32	8
Total	382	100

Source: Field Survey, 2026.

Table 3 shows Existing indigenous knowledge systems used in local government administration in Akwa Ibom State.

TABLE 4: Responses to whether ICTs are threatening the existence of indigenous knowledge systems

Responses	Number of Respondents	Percentage%
The use of ICT is a threat to IKS	120	31
The use of ICT is not a threat to IKS	183	48
The use of ICT is a threat to IKS to some extent	79	21
Total	382	100

Source: Field Survey, 2026.

Table 4 shows that 183(48%) of the respondents stated that the use of ICT is not a threat to IKS in Local Government Administration.

TABLE 5: Interfaces between communication technologies and indigenous knowledge systems used in local government administration in Akwa Ibom State

Responses	Number of Respondents	Percentage%
Connection of the past with the present	77	20
Problem solving mechanism	82	21
Preservation of culture	90	24
Increasing knowledge	65	17
Information storage system	68	18
Total	382	100

Source: Field Survey, 2026.

In Table 5, 90(24%) of the respondents maintain that the interfaces between communication technologies and indigenous knowledge systems used in local government administration in Akwa Ibom State

TABLE 6: Gaps that should be bridged between communication technologies and indigenous knowledge systems

Responses	Number of Respondents	Percentage
IKS is underutilized	72	19
Lack of skills in ICTs	120	31
Lack of documentation of IKS	83	22
Lack of adequate power supply	51	13
Ownership	56	15
Total	382	100

Source: Field Survey, 2026.

Table 6 indicates that 120 (31%) of the respondents identify the lack of skills in ICTs as a major gaps that be bridge between communication technologies and indigenous knowledge systems.

Discussion of Findings

Research Question 1: What is the communication technologies used in local government administration in Akwa Ibom State?

Observably, communities and organisations around the world are realising the importance, value and significance of indigenous knowledge hence the need to preserve it for future generations. The reason for this is to revitalise endangered cultures, improve citizens' economic independence and sustainability of indigenous communities in order to increase community-based involvement in planning and development. Data from Table one indicates that video conferencing, electronic

networking, telecommuting, internet, E-Mail services, use of phones, among others are the communication technologies used in Local Government Administration in Akwa Ibom State. All these and more are reliable tools used to promote and impact job delivery in the Local Government Administrations. .

Research Question 2: What is the existing indigenous knowledge systems used in local government administration in Akwa Ibom State?

Tacit indigenous knowledge is traditional knowledge which cannot be easily expressed or articulated by people outside the existing community of operation. It is largely based on one's emotions, experiences, insights, observations and perceptions over a period of time. According to Smith (2001), tacit knowledge refers to the "practical, action-oriented knowledge or "know-how" based on practice, acquired by personal experience, seldom expressed openly [and] often resembles intuition". Tacit knowledge is often difficult to express openly with words because it encompasses carrying out something without having to think about, like riding a bicycle for example. The very nature of tacit knowledge is that it is difficult to extract from the heads of individuals. It is very seldom found in books, manuals, databases or files as it is developed from mental models, values, beliefs, perceptions, insights, experiences and assumptions.

Indigenous knowledge (IKS) is categorised among the knowledge used by the locals of any particular area or community to make a living in a particular environment such as knowledge of herbs used in healing a particular ailment, beliefs, innovative practices, acts, other forms of cultural experience and expression that are commonly known to a particular group of people. It could also include indigenous technical knowledge, traditional environmental knowledge, rural knowledge, local knowledge and farmer's or pastoralist's knowledge. These are knowledge that an indigenous (local) community accumulates over generations of living in a particular environment.

Research Questions 3: Are the communication technologies used in local government administration in Akwa Ibom State; threatening the existence of indigenous knowledge systems?

Table three indicates that ICT is not a threat to IKS. Information and Communications Technology (ICT) plays major roles in improving the availability of indigenous knowledge systems in organizations by enhancing a blend with the modern scientific and technical knowledge. According to Adam (2012), ICT can be used to:

- i. Capture, store and disseminate indigenous knowledge so that traditional knowledge is preserved for the future generation
- ii. Promote cost-effective dissemination of indigenous knowledge
- iii. Create easily accessible indigenous knowledge information systems
- iv. Promote integration of indigenous knowledge into formal and non-formal training and education
- v. Provide a platform for advocating for improved benefit from IK systems of the poor.

From the foregoing, ICTs are not a threat to the application of IKS in Local Government Administration in Akwa Ibom State. It rather provides an enabling force for the exchange of IKS across communities and geographic boundaries. With its connectivity advantage, IKS are promoted and preserve for generations yet unborn.

ICTs include telecommunications technologies such as telephony, cable, satellite and radio, as well as digital technologies, such as computers, information networks and software, Personal Computers, Digital camera, Scanner, Smartphone, Calculator, Smartphone, CD, DVD, Pen drive, Microchip, Cloud, Internet, Teleconference, Video conferencing, Mobile technology, e-mail, Cellphone, among others, enhances work in Local Government Administration in Akwa Ibom State. They also help ease previously herculean jobs, build bridges between governments and citizens, forge relationships among employees in an organisations and communities, and also improve the delivery of essential services to the people.

Research Questions 4: What are the interfaces between communication technologies and indigenous knowledge systems used in local government administration in Akwa Ibom State?

The call for the interfacing of IKS with ICT is based on tenets that it can contribute to humanising the Local Government Administration and will be a major contribution to its survival. Nkondo (2012) argues that all knowledge is local but becomes universal through processes of conquest and colonialism. Some knowledge systems due to historical power relations have become more dominant than others hence perceived to be universal. Therefore, Africans need to acknowledge that their indigenous processes of knowing and knowledge production may not only enhance and sustain them as a people, but could also contribute to global pool of knowledge in the search for sustainable solutions to global challenges.

Research Questions 5: What gaps exist that should be bridged between communication technologies and indigenous knowledge systems?

It is an undisputed fact that information is an indispensably ingredient needed for social, economic, industrial, political and technological advancement in any society. According to Opeke (2000), “the world has entered an era where the source of wealth and power is increasing from information and human mental creativity as compared with physical resources”. This brings to mind the need to bridge the existing gaps between ICTs and IKS.

According to Democratic Alliance (2011), “indigenous knowledge seldom has an identifiable author; it is passed down from generation to generation. It is often not recorded, or even impossible to record, existing in the minds of a community. It needs to be protected in perpetuity: protections should exist as long as the community exists.” This is why Simeone (2004) suggested that “indigenous knowledge needs to be protected because the creators or possessors have the right to receive a fair return on what the communities have developed”. Protecting indigenous knowledge will also foster continuity so that such knowledge could be preserved and passed from generation to generation.

Conclusion

Communication is critical to the success of any organisation. It is the live wire of every organisation that cannot be ignored. In the local government administration in AKS, the need to communicate strategically is paramount. For an organisation to survive in an ever-changing world, it should adapt and modify its behavior to align with its IKS. Information and Communication Technology are put in place to strengthen the existing ICTs. Although it has the ability to erode them, it can however be utilized to create a synergy between the two and not allow one to suffer on account of the other. This places a huge responsibility on administrators of Local Government Areas in AKS to ensure there is a connection between the two.

Recommendations

1. Indigenous Knowledge Systems should be incorporated in the design and implementation of ICTs to ensure cultural relevance, effectiveness and uniqueness to the organisation.
2. Regular training and capacity-building programmes for employees of local government administration in AKS
3. Keep corporate communicated connected to the Indigenous Knowledge Systems strategy. Managers of organisation who recognise the importance of communication function should put a square peg in a square hold for optimal understanding of IKS and marry same to ICTs.
4. Local Government administrators should make investment in Information and Communication Technology a top priority. This will serve as a catalyst for development.
5. Threats to the survival of ICT such as power outage should be checked for optimal utilisation of ICTs.

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