



A STUDY INTO THE EFFECTIVE USE OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGY (ICT) BY PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS FOR DOING PROJECTS AND
HOMEWORK: A CASE OF THREE PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THE BULAWAYO
METROPOLITAN PROVINCE

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SUBMITTED TO THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION) IN PARTIAL FULLFILMENT OF
THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION
HONOURS IN (COMPUTER SCIENCE)

SUPERVISOR:

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BULAWAYO: ZIMBABWE

YEAR: 2014

Abstract

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has become the pillar and accepted part of daily life for many people in such a way that technological literacy is inevitably becoming a functional requirement for people's work, social, and personal lives. This project sought to study the effective use of ICT by primary school pupils for doing homework and projects, with particular emphasis of 3 primary schools in the Bulawayo Metropolitan Province. This was, in the main a qualitative study in which the knowledge and practices of school heads, teachers, pupils and parents were sought so as to establish their opinions, beliefs and ideas towards the effective use of ICT by primary school pupils for doing homework and projects at three schools in the Bulawayo Metropolitan Province. It is from a target population of 102 subjects who are classroom practitioners, school heads, deputy school heads, pupils and the parents that a sample size of 102 was extracted. The response rate was a surprising 96.1%. The specific objectives which this study sought to ascertain were; what is the nature of the ICT programmes in the primary schools? How does the use of ICT impact on the quality of projects and homework done by learners in primary schools? How does learner disposition affect the effective use of ICTs when doing homework and projects in primary schools? What challenges are being encountered by teachers and learners towards ensuring effective use of ICT to do home-work and projects in primary schools? What are the possible solutions to the challenges encountered by teachers and learners towards ensuring effective use of ICT in doing homework and projects? The main research instruments used in this study were the questionnaire and the face to face method. Three sets of questionnaires were constructed for the 3 categories of respondents. A pilot study was undertaken to check on the non-ambiguity of the questionnaire. The findings were as follows:- that learners enjoyed doing homework using ICT gadgets and this made them do well, because it made reading exciting and enjoyable, secondly the research noted the following challenges highlighted by the learners which included having too much to get through that the learner had to ask his or her parents for assistance, Internet speed was too slow and there was no computer lab and a special teacher to teach subjects and not enough time to go the lab and do computer lessons. Challenges from the parents point of view included failure to install education software at home, slow internet, not connecting to internet. The teachers' challenges were that there were no enough facilities, nor workshops to enlighten teachers on the curriculum issues, there were no ICT class subject's integration procedures on the ground and there was no direct link for monitoring learners' use of ICT at home. The following recommendations were made:-

- There is need for teachers to get proper ICT training as there is lack of skills by Classroom teachers
- There should be some form of coordination between school and home in this of ICT use so that the learner is always learning via learning management systems on school websites instead of just playing games.
- There should be children's educational software on the machine
- There was need to build bigger computers labs.
- There was need for more equipment like making sure all learners have laptops/tablets.

- Only qualified teachers should be made to take charge of ICT related subjects, hence learners need to be taught by teachers who know how to apply educational technology
- There was need to integrate ICT into proper classroom learning with a proper examinable curriculum.
- Encourage learners to devote more time to computers at school during afternoons when they have no activities.

For purposes of future research it was recommended that a similar study be undertaken in other provinces so that the results of only one are generalized to cover the whole country.