TERTIARY LEVEL E-GOVERNANCE AND STUDENTS' EMPOWERMENT FOR FUTURE LEADERSHIP ROLE PERFORMANCE: A CASE STUDY OF UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS

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Abstract

This paper seeks to examine the extent to which the exposure of tertiary students to e-governance on university campuses will enhance their future leadership role performance in the society. It focuses on the benefits and challenges of e-governance implementation in, all tertiary schools in Lagos State using University of Lagos as a case study. One research question and hypothesis guided the study. The study adopted survey research design method with a 20- item self-constructed questionnaire used to elicit relevant data. Mean and standard deviation were used to answer the research question, while the hypothesis was tested using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Statistical tool. The results obtained showed a significant relationship between tertiary students' knowledge of e-governance and future leadership role performance in the society after graduation. It was therefore recommended that students should be encouraged to vote electronically during students' election in preparation for future role performance. It also noted that school authorities should make available the needed gadgets that will provide an enabling environment for successful e-election in tertiary schools.

Key words: Election, E-Governance, E-Voting, Tertiary Institutions, Empowerment, Leadership.

INTRODUCTION

Education is inarguably the producer of man power in any nation. It is widely recognized as one indicator of development. It is also the tool used for the socio-economic development of a nation. This is because education trains and, develops skills, knowledge and abilities of individuals to behave as effective citizens in the society. This has been seen as a strategy for enhancing the growth and development of any nation. Therefore, for any nation to attain development, the stakeholders in the educational sector must unanimously harmonize the entire activities to ensure efficient and effective service delivery.

However, Tertiary education is generally perceived as the type of education that contributes to the

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nation's future development. It is the type of education that helps people improve their lives and the lives of those around them. Nonetheless, in Nigeria, it is conceived as an indispensable tool for the people's socio-economic advancement, their political survival, and for the fullest realization of their aspirations and potentialities. Also, Tertiary education in Nigeria is conceived as a form of investment in human capital development that yields economic benefits and contributes significantly to the nation's future wealth and development by increasing the productive and consumptive capacity of the citizens. Tertiary education is perceived in Nigeria differently by different people. Many individuals, groups and organizations see it as a device used to erase societal ills, woes that hinders development in a nation; ills such as political instability, corruption, unemployment, tribalism and nepotism etc. Similarly, the Federal and State Government perceive tertiary education recently as an investment that will in turn provide the manpower required in various aspects of the nation.

In all, the National Policy on Education of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN, 2013) defined Tertiary Education as the "education given after secondary education in universities, colleges of education, polytechnics, monotechnics including those institutions offering correspondence courses. Undoubtedly tertiary education in Nigeria today could be seen as a reliable instrument which assists the nation in meeting her social, political, moral, cultural, technological and economic aspirations by inculcating in the individuals knowledge, skills, dexterity, commendable demeanor and desirable attitudes and values that foster national development, self-actualization and national security.

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Tertiary education was established with a view to meet up with the needs of the country, this is the reason the Federal Republic of Nigeria in its National Policy on education (2013) list seven goals of higher education:

(a)   Contribute to national development through high level relevant manpower training.
(b)   Develop and inculcate proper values for the survival of the individual and society.
(c)   Develop the intellectual capability of individuals to understand and appreciate their local and external environments.
(d)   Acquire both physical and intellectual skills which will enable individuals to be self-reliant and useful members of the society.
(e)   Promote and encourage scholarship and community service,
(f)   Forge and cement national unity; and
(g)   Promote national and international understanding and interaction.

The introduction of E-governance in education is to enhance good education. E-governance in education provides new ways of communicating to the students, new ways of imparting education and new ways of organizing and delivering information and services. The advancements in information

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technologies, internet and mobile communication provide opportunities to transform the relationship between administration and students in a new way, thus contributing to the achievement of the good education goals. E-governance brings about empowerment of students towards good performance of their future leadership role.

Recent technological development has made e-governance attractive to several-nations of the earth. This is because e-government facilitates the access of the citizens to various services. Some developed countries have integrated e-governance into all that they do while other developing countries are making strong efforts directed at achieving success in that area. Primary reason for e-governance is to ensure that students have stress free access to vote. Thus, this paper intends to carefully examine the prescribed indices so as to ascertain the current status of e-governance in Lagos State tertiary Institutions.

The broad objective of this study is to examine E-Governance and students empowerment for future leadership role performance. Specifically, this study sought to:
1. Determine the extent to which the exposure of tertiary students to e-governance will enhance their future leadership role performance in the society;
2. Identify the challenges of e-governance implementation in tertiary schools in Lagos State.

LITERATURE REVIEW
There has been increasing concerns about good governance and development in Nigeria in the last few decades. This has been evident in major initiatives on good governance implemented with a focus on sound and responsive system of public administration that will aid all facets of the economy. National development depends almost entirely on the quality of governance that the country possesses. Nigeria is greatly endowed with both human and material resources in abundance. With over approximately 180 million population; comprising an active labour force, 923,768 square kilometer land;' 910,668 square kilometers water, known oil-reserve of about 35.88 billion barrels; and over 21.48 billion cubic metres of natural gas (Federal Government of Nigeria, 2013). One would have concluded that we have what it takes to sustain a rapid development; if we cannot rule the world, since resources are available to facilitate Nigeria's rapid economic growth. Yet, a lot still has to be done for us to move out of our current situation.

Governance refers to the exercise of political, economic and administrative authority in the management of a country's affairs, including citizens' articulation of their interests and exercise of their legal rights and obligations. Governance refers to the use of Institution, structures of authority and collaboration to allocate resources and coordinate activity in society or economy. It ensures sustainable development brought about by visionary leadership and a very solid resource base. Governance refers to a manner in which power is exercised in the

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management of a country considering its rules of the political system to solve conflicts for the betterment of the nation. Good governance is a product of good Institutions and highly developed human capital. It must include strong constitution within an efficiently operated government bureaucracy (Kapur, 2000).

E-governance or electronic governance is the application of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for delivering government services, exchange of information, communication, transactions, integration of various stand-alone systems and services between government – to – customer, government-to-business, etc.
E-governance is seen as the application of electronic means in
  (1)   The interaction between government and citizens and government and businesses as well as
  (2)   In internal government operations to simplify and improve democratic, government and business aspects of governance.

Sunday (2014) described e-government as a set of technology – mediated processes that are changing both the delivery of public services and the broader interactions between citizens and government. In his opinion, e-governance involves new styles of leadership, new ways of debating and deciding policy and investment, new ways of accessing education, new ways of listening to citizens and new ways of organizing and delivering information and services.
It aids facilitation of efficient, speedy and transparent process of disseminating information to the public and other agencies, and for performing government administrative activities. E-government implies greater and more active citizen participation and involvement enabled by ICTs in the decision-making process.

At the most general level, E-governance may be understood as the performance use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) at all levels of the Government in order to provide services to the citizens, interaction with business enterprises and communication and exchange of information between different agencies of the government in a speedy, convenient, efficient and transparent manner. UNESCO defines e-government as the performance of this governance via the electronic medium-in order to facilitate an efficient, speedy and transparent process of disseminating information to the public and other agencies, and for performing government administration activities.

In this study, E-governance is seen as the application of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for e-voting in tertiary Institutions and strengthening administration and management in tertiary schools in Lagos State using the University of Lagos as a case study. Its effectiveness in educational sector can. Greatly enhance efficiency of the existing system, decrease the costs, and increase transparency in the functioning of various departments. E-governance process brings transparency in electoral processes.

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Furthermore, E-administration is the practice of e-governance improvement in the University Management system. The word administration is an authoritatively coordinated process for the achievement of group objectives (Obasi, 2007). Authoritative, because there must be some form of legal or social parameters indicating the structural and other relationship of persons engaged in administration. In the same vein, Horny, (2012) perceived administration as activity done in order to plan, organize and successfully run a business, school or other institution, a process or act of organizing the way that something is done. Similarly, Edem (2006) opined that administration involves planning activities which aim at the fulfillment of the goals of a particular organization or institution. Therefore, electronic administration (E-administration) is integrating electronic based system into educational activities; such as students' admission and. tracking, financial management, data distribution, teaching, learning and research, staff appraisals, security and general administration.

E-Voting is a system of voting where the recording, casting or counting of votes in political elections and referendums involves information and communication technologies. E-Voting system is often seen as a tool for advancing democracy, building trust in electoral management, adding credibility to election results and increasing the overall efficiency of the electoral process. Internet voting also carries the potential to reduce information costs by making relevant information available to voters on the internet voting platform. For instance, information on candidates, parties and their platforms, or issues at stake in a referendum can be an effective mechanism for informing voters without much additional costs.

Also, Students' empowerment is conceived as a multidimensional social learning process that helps people gain control over their lives (Page & Czuba, 1999). Empowerment in its broadest sense is the expansion of freedom of choice and action. It means increasing one's authority and control over the resources and decisions that affect one's life. Student empowerment is related to leadership which is considered as a process of influence by individuals for the accomplishment of both individual and collective goals.

Yet, many problems have been perceived, which have hindered e-governance in bringing about empowerment to the students and education at large. It appears that problems such as poor administration of students, low quality of e-services, communication gap, inadequate e-learning facilities, and electricity, etc. E-administration involves the use of ICT in order to improve administration processes and in the internal working of the departments within an educational organization. Poor e-administration has come about as a result of poor planning, in adequate funding of the programme, no adequate ICT facilities, unskilled personnel etc. These problems appear to be a contributing factor which makes the governing of students electronically towards their empowerment for future leadership role performance to be handicapped. Similarly, another major challenge of e - administration is cyber security and data protection. At the moment, there is lack of appropriate legal framework to provide comprehensive cyber security and data protection in Nigeria (Arowosaye, 2006).

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Also, the provision of e-services in our educational sector will help in developing and empowering students for future leadership role, however, it seems that cost is also a challenge in providing E-services in educational system. These costs include maintenance costs, license fee, cost of hiring experts etc. Also, over dependence on IT[1] vendors who develop computer programmes, software, installation etc. are yet other limiting factors.

In the same vein, it appears that e - voting which is a means of empowering students poses some challenges in our educational system, such as Network traffic which is as a result of too many users (voters) on the internet willing to cast their votes. Electricity supply is another challenge of e - voting. The time frame to conduct the election is usually very short which results into poor participation of students in the voting processes.

Research Question
One research question and one hypothesis guided the study.
1. What are the challenges of implementing e-governance in tertiary schools in Lagos State?

Hypothesis
1. There is no significant relationship between tertiary students' exposure to e-governance and their future leadership role performance in Lagos State.

METHODOLOGY
The study adopted survey research design and students from three Faculties – Education, Science and Social Science were involved in the study. The choice of these faculties was based on the fact that they are representative of the student body in other faculties; due to their quality representation in previous executive cabinets and comprise the few individuals with firsthand experience.

Judgement random sampling was used in selecting these three Faculties that were judged eligible to participate in this study. Simple random sampling was used to select 100 students from each of the faculties. Executive members of students union were all included. In all, the sample comprised 300 students drawn from the three faculties. The age range of the students was between 18 and 22 years. The issue of gender was not considered. The instrument for data collection was a questionnaire titled Student Empowerment for Future Leadership e-governance (SEFL- e-governance). This instrument was designed by the researchers with the aim of matching e-governance with future leadership role performance. It was an open ended questionnaire that demanded participants to list their opinion on e-governance and future role performance. Face validity of the instrument was ensured through expert assessment. Reliability was done using split half reliability method and a coefficient of 0.72 was obtained

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using Cronbach Alpha statistical tool. The questionnaires were personally administered by the researchers and data collected were analysed using mean and standard deviation to answer the research question, while the hypothesis was tested using Pearson Product Moment Correlation at 0.05 level of significance.

Research Question

Research Question One: What are the challenges of implementing e-governance in tertiary schools in Lagos State?

Table 1: Challenges of implementing e-governance in tertiary schools in Lagos State

S/N	ITEMS	X	SD
1.	Tertiary students are exposed to e-voting	5.05	34.80
2.	E-voting without electricity is reliable.	5.02	42.62
3.	Technical skills required by students is not important.	2.13	26.74
4.	On-line traffic due to increased number of students using e-voting reduces the number of students who vote.	1.76	25.17
5.	Provision for free access to internet and web will enable more students to vote.	4.92	34.61

Hypothesis

Hypothesis One: There is no significant relationship between tertiary students' exposure to e-governance and their future leadership role performance in University of Lagos.

Table 2: Exposure to e-governance and future leadership role performance.

Variables	N	X	SD	DF	r-cal	r-critical
Exposure to e-governance	300	32.61	9.01			
				468	0.241	0.194
Future leadership role performance	300	24.04	7.52			

As presented on Table 2, the calculated value (r-cal) of 0.241 is greater than the table value (r-critical) of 0.194 at 0.05 level of significance. Therefore, the hypothesis was rejected.

This implies that there is a significant relationship between students' exposure to e-governance and future leadership role performance in University of Lagos.

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DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The results show that there is a significant relationship between present exposure to e-governance and future leadership performance of the students. In other words, exposure of students to e-governance will enhance to a great extent their future role performance as leaders. In support of this finding, Sunday (2014) reported that e-government as a set of technology – mediated processes, are changing both the delivery of public services and the broader interactions between citizens and government. In the same vein, Page and Zuba (1999) saw students' empowerment as the expansion of freedom of choice and action which will increase one's authority and control over the decisions that affect one's life. Blaschke (2012) affirmed that e-governance will bring about self-directed and self determined learners who can acquire competencies and capabilities.

As the findings show, the greatest challenge facing the utilization of e-governance in tertiary schools in the University of Lagos is electricity to power gadgets such as phones, laptop, tablets etc. Unstable power supply turned out as the biggest hindrance in the achievement of the desired goal. On-line traffic due to the number of people attempting to cast their votes at the same time was another major challenge. Therefore, on-line traffic and interrupted power supply led to a reduced participation of intending voters.

Some other challenges observed was the fact that about 45(15%) of the students owned up that they didn't have the technical skills needed to participate in e-voting. Another 30(10%) opined that the participation of students will be higher if provision is made to access the web for free; arguing that it was expensive as a method. An average 150(50%) number of the students identified some good characteristics of e-governance to include: transparency of the voting process, easy participation of voters without stress, equality and accountability that involves all citizens in governance.

Other advantages enumerated by 60(20%) of the voters include the fact that the method is fast, accurate, easier to use, impartial and there is no rowdiness due to the limited number of voters who come to the polling booth. Another 30(10%) identified that e-tools are cheaper to use for campaigning. Concluding that it helps people learn faster what the government is doing. Again, 15(5%) of the participants observed that with e-voting, minimal rigging of election is noticed.

Looking at the benefits of e-voting to the government which include better services in terms of time, and efficiency of governance, involvement of citizens in governance at all level, helping people to learn faster what the government is doing, minimal rigging of election, and fast, accurate and efficient election without queues, 6(2%) of the participant wondered why e-voting was not adopted by the Nigeri. Senate instead of the voice vote; insisting that since e-governance is related to carrying out the functions and achieving the results of government through the utilization of ICT, i.e., governance in an electronic enabled environment; Nigerian

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politicians ought to comply with current global trends.

Pointing out the goals of e-governance which include: better service delivery to citizens, transparency and accountability, empowering people through information, improved efficiency within governments, improved interface with business and industry, transparency of the admission process and electronic governance as opposed to paper, the researcher concludes that the introduction of e-voting and e-administration to the students will certainly prepare them for their future role performance in governance; knowing the usefulness and relevance of encouraging the future leaders to imbibe such habits. This is because of the hope that students who are properly trained will become skillful future leaders.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are hereby made:

- Tertiary institution students should be encouraged to keep abreast with new innovations which would aid in the speedy growth of e-governance in Nigeria.
- Acquainting future leaders with e-governance skills will ensure a two-way communication pattern in the governing process.
- Government should as a matter of policy encourage strong effort in this direction.
- Students should be encouraged to vote electronically during students' election in preparation for future role performance.
- School authorities should make available the needed gadgets that will provide an enabling environment for successful e-election in tertiary schools.

CONCLUSION

The study has identified the goals and benefits of e-governance and how tertiary students in Lagos State can benefit from learning how to use such skills for future leadership role performance. This is to encourage Nigeria as a developing country to focus on details that will provide an enabling environment to harness her human resources for future goal achievement. Exposing students to the application of e-governance and the use of ICT solutions in a school system which range from University matriculation, payments, completion of forms, uploading of results, e-voting, and even convocation will enable the universities to render services with greater efficiency and less cost to the university.

This study is considered significant to the society in general that will benefit from good governance that emanates from empowering the youths and cultivating future leaders through strengthening institutions and encouraging usage of digital skills by students.

The tertiary Institutions in Lagos State are University of Lagos, Yaba College of Technology, Federal

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College of Education. St. Augustine College of Education. Lagos State Polytechnic, Lagos State University and Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education. Only the University of Lagos was used as a case study, where e-Governance was measured by e-Administration and e-voting to determine their relationship with students' empowerment for future leadership performance.

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