

ADOPTION FRAMEWORK OF SOFTWARE AS A SERVICE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

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Abstract

The purpose of the study was to investigate the importance of institutional networking. The research objective one sought to examine the importance of education networking and objective two sought to assess the impact of education institution networking on performance.

Key words: Information technology, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SME), Business, IS Innovations, Software as a Service (SAAS), Cloud Computing, Diffusion, Information and Communications Technology (ICT), ICT Adoption.

TASK: A study of the importance of Education Institutional Networking

1.1 Introduction

Networking is defined as sharing and acquiring information and reaching out to other people within and without your institution to identify yourself with other people and get to know and learn more about them and borrow a leaf from their good deeds and apply them in your institution depending on the required information (Torkkelil, 2010). The term has been defined differently by different people.

(Zain, 2006) Defines network as the relationship between an institution's management team and employees with the customers who are the learners in an educational institution, competitors, government agencies, families, friends and any other parties that enables the daily activities in an institution. It can also consist of a connection of computers, printers and other equipment's that is connected together so that they can communicate to each other and maintain professional contacts that can be used as references for future by the institution. (Freed 1996)

Many institutions of learning in Kenya face various challenges on how to offer institutional networking experiences that provide teachers and learners with the opportunities to develop the understandings, skills and attitudes necessary to become long –life teachers and learners who are capable of identifying , problem solving and dealing and embracing change in order to communicate more clearly , more competent and confident from a broader perspective to make thoughtful and responsible decisions .This will help the teachers and learners to make connections between them and their colleagues in other institutions through networking.(Public School Programs 2000-2001).

An institution can also be defined as a large organization that has a particular kind of work or purpose which could be financial.

Educational connections with other institutions and expressing your interest , conveying relevant information and developing good relationship with them which means enlarging the institutions territory to compete with the outside world who have common goals.

Institutions can also connect with each other depending on the expected interest that the two institutions have in common or what they can emulate from each other. This means they can borrow a leaf and put in place what they have not been doing right to improve their performance. (Coviello, N& Munro,1997)

1.1 Background of the study

Networking is very crucial and key in our day to day life. This is a matter of engaging different people with common interest and keeping them updated and informed. This is done to ensure continuity and bilateral success that yield profit for the institution and all the stakeholder. (Faibel, w, 1996).

Institution connections need to pay keen interest on building and developing itself. This kind of communication is beneficial to both parties who are involved. As a matter of fact, they stand a better chance to learn and get a lot more from each other (Derfler& Freed, 1996).This encourages teamwork.

The study examines why institution networking is important. This means the systematic establishment and use or the management of internal and external links. Networking can be through benchmarking either visiting physically other institutions or through internet. The world has become a global village and this has made it very easy for people network more often. (O' Leary, & Stott, 2006). This helps the teachers to gain more knowledge by learning from each other. They

become more creative and innovative which impacts the institutions performance positively for performance purposes. Institution connection is about engaging each other in terms of creating a platform to share relevant information that benefits them as far as performance is concerned.

The world has become a global village where any new programmed being implemented in for example schools in America, the information finds its way to other countries just by a click of a button. This has made it easy for students not to fully rely on the information given to them by the teachers. They get the opportunity to read a head of the teachers and this has made education interesting and learning so interactive and less boredom (Coviella& Munro, 1997).

Connecting to each other is way to sharing concept, opinion that is of great concern the stakeholders. By doing this it brings on table where the institution is and where it wants to go. Evaluation can be done to know what has been done right and what has not been done. The result can be used to plan the way forward and then communicated to the rest of the stakeholders. Institution can then evaluate their work which will make adjustment accordingly and look at things in a wider aspect. The Institutions learn from their experiences and also avoid some mistakes they may have made in the past. Networking results in opportunities.

This leads to faster knowhow and competence for the students, disclosure of different opinions from different groups of people. Students may also get to know some likeness by giving out their best towards their institution (Whitley, R. 2000). It is a cheap way of relaying information to parents who are unable to come to school and get out word about school events. It also help the institution to partner with others, teachers collude wit and team up with other teachers and even exchange notes. (Yin, 1989).

This includes communication, interaction and coordination between people within and outside the institution and teams to improve the performance of the institution, (L in N. 1999) Having good connection with institution has become part of the global village This has brought the rest of the world closer to us and that is how technology has improved people's lives including the lives of our learners.. There are many forms of networks that can take place in an educational institution. These may include: mentorships, joint seminars, e-mails and electronic conferencing among others (Torkkeli, L 2010). It also takes into account a mixture of government support programs and policies.

1.2 What is the problem

At any given time in this century, every educational institution has various challenges depending on the environment. In some institutions there are resource scarcities while others have all the required resources. Despite all these, researchers have identified that there is still resistance to change. Researchers' have reported that there is "comfort in the status quo". According to researchers, most teachers especially those who have been in the field for some time and the school administrators, who often see experiments and change as outside the scope of their job description and therefore an extra work load and not willing to change.

1.3 Researcher objectives

1. To examine the importance of education institution networking
2. To assess the impact of education institution networking on performance.

1.4 Research questions

1. What is the importance of education institution networking?
2. What is the impact of education institutions networking on performance?

2.0 Literature review

Networking is sharing and acquiring message from other people and their institutions to gain knowledge and bilateral accord and contact themselves on issues which are of great importance to them. This can be shared though personal laptop. The people concerned must be people who have interest in similar areas. This means connecting an institution internal network to the internet network to the external partners. (Whitely, R 2000)

Institutional network perspective according to researchers have identified that Institutions connection gets in business as they tend to receive supplies from the government curriculum and guidelines, global and foreign centers, probe and analysis of reports that are in place and professional agencies which may increase the institutions wellbeing, ability and judgement for prosperity. (Seror, 1998) other authors refer to institutional networks as the mix of networks relationship of two institutions working together for a common purpose for at least some improvement those benefits the institution. This can be more prevalent and widely used in both public and private institutions.

This happens locally and nationally with variety and stimulated cooperative arrangements from groups of schools that have volunteered to work together (Lin in N 1999). The importance of educational institution network according to Feibel W (1996) is to share information. The researcher identifies that sharing information brings in the intensity of familiarity of issues to individuals who could have been struggling with the issue of technology as this will give them the updates that they require from other ends. Researchers have also found out that if schools network, this will help them in advancing their delivery through computerized gadgets such as emails and accessible sources. Cellular networking which also reduces the manual communications assorted to computer handling within the institutions.

Networking also help reach out to apparatus and assets which have big impact on the institution positively and finally enhance performance. (Lin, N 1999).

I concur with the researcher because not all institutions are at par in terms of technology therefore some could be wobbling and connections will provide many windows to find out more about others and get reactions and sentiments.

As institutions exchange ideas on issues affecting them, they get to know more about what is expected of them. This gives them the power to look at things from a different point of view and get good and

“Best practices “that will reduce the constrain and overstretch. According to Nooteboom, B (2004) As chance avails itself “knocks” one wants positions him or herself to grab It before it slips off the hand. In most cases, it is good for institutions to connect in endeavor to the companies and sharing their commitment and obligation. With variety of communication networks for institutions to choose from, one may require to exhaust all the avenues than missing it completely. Technology tends to help institutions ensure sustainable jobs in and outside Kenya. There is so much to learn a lot of value change. We need to embrace technology during this era to connect individuals and collective information to aid our institutions.

3.0 Methodology

The method to be used in this research would be qualitative research design. This handles complex issues as educational institutional networking. It analyses the context and it analyses the context and puts variables in the context and puts variables in the context and it analyses human social properties of entities that have studied. It is a more flexible method as it analyses the actors involved and the process.

4.0 Research output/implication in education Management

The researcher's perspective on educational institutional connections. Currently, reaching out to others is very key and necessary and relevant to the present society. Despite your institution being fully fledged, individuals also need to develop themselves to spearhead the performance and maintain what has already been achieved. Well established institution also needs to remain connected to sustain their dignity and develop their individual talents to help the institution grow.

5.0 Recommendation and conclusion

Conclusion

Education institutional networking is very important and therefore the key stakeholders need to create awareness and training and support for network users. The network users that are the teachers and learners need to be computer literate in order to make their work easier. This can be sending and receiving information. The ministry of education therefore needs to create awareness among the stakeholders regarding why there is need for educational institutions to network and keep updated to what goes on in other institutions of learning. This is necessary as it will enable teachers and other stakeholders to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to embrace networking in their institutions. Competencies should be developed through a process of building of consensus by all stakeholders who are affected so that they are involved in the development of their institution.

The ministry of education should carry out need assessment so as to get good and sufficient information on the type, depth and scope of the issues teachers are facing when it comes to networking together with all the other stakeholders as very little can be achieved without the acquisition of knowledge.

Recommendations

Institutions need to put in place a clear link between an institutional networking policy and resource availability to deliver its objectives. Despite limited resources for actually building information infrastructure, institutions need to put in place mechanisms for influencing information.

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