

Perceptions and Attitude of Students toward E-Learning in Kwara State University, Malete, Kwara State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The study examined the perceptions and attitude of students toward e-learning in Kwara State University, Malete, Kwara State, Nigeria. The objectives of the study were to: examine the perceptions of undergraduates on the adoption of e-learning by Kwara State University; examine the attitude of students towards e-learning in Kwara State University, Malete; and investigate the constraints affecting e-learning by students of Kwara State University. The study adopted the survey design. The population of the study comprised the entire undergraduate students in Kwara State University, Malete. 240 students participated in the online survey. A self-designed questionnaire was used for the collection of data. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics of frequency counts and percentage. Findings of the study revealed that students have positive perceptions and attitude toward e-learning. The study also revealed the constraints affecting the use of e-learning tools by students of Kwara State University, Malete. The study recommended that the management of Kwara State University should embraced e-learning as a way of overcoming the covid-19 challenges in the university and expanding learning.

Keywords: Attitude, E-learning, Kwara State, Perceptions, Undergraduate students

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1. Introduction

In Nigeria, like many developing countries, electronic learning (e-learning) and Information Communication Technology (ICT) have become an important part of a national effort to improve education. On one hand, Nigerian educators hope that e-learning will provide a pathway to education for students whose school were closed in year 2020 due to the ravaging Covid-19 pandemic.

According to Adeoye, Adanikin and Adanikin (2020), the COVID-19 pandemic ravaging the world have taken its effects on many sectors of the economy especially in Nigeria. These effects are also evident in the Nigeria educational sector as the academic session was halted by the Federal Ministry of Education in order to curtail the spread of this virus in educational institutions. Although, this decision came as a shock to many educational institutions as many of these institutions were not prepared for the sudden disruption, others have seen it as a step in the right direction. The challenge then remains the effects of the pandemic on students and academic calendars hence, the use of e-learning as an alternative learning method.

Students learning in tertiary institutions all over the world have undergone tremendous transformation, especially since the advent of information and communication technology (ICT) (Bassey, Umoren, Akuegwu, Udida, Ntukidem & Ekabua, 2007). There is a shift from traditional approach of teacher directed to modern methods where computer technology plays a significant role. ICT has promoted learning and made it more meaningful, where students can stay even in their homes or classrooms and receive lectures without seeing the lecturer. The aspect of ICT that has brought about this revolution in students' learning is e-learning (Bassey et al, 2007). E-learning in its broadest sense refers to any learning that is electronically enabled (Adewole-Odeshi, 2014).

The application of e-learning in developing countries has gradually advanced in recent years with an improved availability of Internet connections, local area networks, and IT support (Omidinia, Masrom, & Selamat, 2011; Williams, Mayer, & Minges, 2011; Rhema & Miliszewska, 2014). However, other challenges still prevail. In developing countries, the active, participative students who are required for interactive learning are rare, and the traditional methods are widely used in teaching and learning (Evans, 2005; Andersson & Grönlund, 2009). In addition, the developing countries often lack the ability to implement advanced educational practices on their own (Andersson & Grönlund, 2009).

Lecturers and university management need more understanding of how students perceive and react to elements of e-learning along with how to most effectively apply an e-learning approach to enhance teaching (Park, 2009). In addition, knowing students attitude and understanding the barriers affecting the use e-learning can help academic administrators and lecturers to create mechanisms for attracting more students to adopt this learning environment (Park, 2009). Hence the need for this study.

1.1. Objectives of the Study

The specific objectives of this study are to:

i. examine the perceptions of undergraduates on the adoption of e-learning by Kwara State University;



- ii. examine the attitude of students towards e-learning in Kwara State University, Malete; and
- iii. investigate the constraints affecting e-learning by students of Kwara State University.

1.2. Research Questions

- What are the perceptions of undergraduates on the adoption of e-learning by Kwara State University?
- ii. What is the attitude of students towards e-learning?
- iii. What are the constraints affecting e-learning by students?

2. Review of Related Literature

Electronic learning is learning that is not limited within the walls of a classroom, but that, which grows the prospect of using internet facilities, platforms, satellite links, and related system to access, analyse, create, exchange, and use data, information, and knowledge in ways which until recently, were almost unimaginable (Lokie, 2011). Elearning involves learning acquired through interaction with digitally delivered content, network-based services and tutoring support often with any type of on-line tool and media including the Internet, intranets, extranets, simulations and games, virtual worlds, clouds, satellite broadcasts, and web platforms (Jarmin, 2010; Pelet & Lecarte, 2012; Schutt & Linegar, 2013). E-learning is carried out through the use and integration of electronic medium, such as email, portal, downloadable-executable-file, social networking sites, web platforms, electronic dissertations and e-portfolios, among others (Wells, de Lange & Fieger, 2008; Weller, 2010; Bouchard, 2011). Mobile learning which is the ability to obtain or provide educational content on personal pocket devices such as PDAs, smart phones and mobile phones, is also a form of e-learning (Kharbach, 2013).

ICT is generally believed to support cooperative learning, provide more information and, through simulation, make difficult learning experiences easier to understand. Therefore, the use of ICT cannot be overlooked either by teachers or by students. This assertion is emphasized by Van der Westhuizen (2004) who stated that, in relation to the use of ICT for learning, technology holds a promise of enhanced access to information and increased interactivity and communication between teachers and their students. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) encompasses the effective use of equipment and programmes to access, retrieve, convert, store, organize, manipulate and present data and information (Gay & Blads, 2005). E-learning, which is described as the use of ICT to enhance or support learning and teaching in education, has become increasingly important in tertiary education (Adedeji, 2010).

For many developing countries, e-learning is considered a solution to the increasing demand for higher education. For instance, in Pakistan, online education is promoted as "education for all" as it aims to reach out to students living too far from the cities and unable to afford the cost of conventional higher education (Iqbal & Ahmad, 2010). In Botswana, e-learning solves the problems of large classrooms, increasing enrollment, and limited staff (Ikpe, 2011). The author stated that the decision to integrate e-learning "was not borne out of a desire to join an elite club of technologically savvy universities but was out of the need to solve practical problems related to access and the quality of learning experiences". E-learning is also expected to help improve students' computer literacy (Addah, 2012). Numerous challenges were discussed with regard to promoting online education in developing countries. A survey to staff and students from three Nigerian universities revealed that the low acceptance of e-learning was due to the low awareness level, low computer literacy level, unreliable platform and Internet services, and the high cost of implementation (Folorunso, Ogunseye, & Sharma, 2006).

E-learning is an important tool for tertiary institutions' lecturers and students (Ezenwafor & Ementa, 2016). Ekesionye and Okolo (2011) outlined the benefits of e-learning for tertiary institutions to include enabling students to have equal access to quality education with the rest of the world, developing interesting and variety of instructional materials like lecture notes, diagrams, pictures and textbooks, entrenching lecturers and students to the global village, exposing them to international best practices in information technology, inculcating skills for on-line information sourcing for effective teaching, learning and research as well as facilitating knowledge creation and dissemination of information to a wider community. Nwokike (2011) affirmed that e-learning facilitates the task of the teacher by promoting performance, enables teachers and students to study at their own pace, reduces the stress inherent in the conventional classroom work for both teachers and students, facilitates access to existing knowledge and skills and saves teachers and learners time and energy. In agreement to the foregoing, Olojo, Adewumi and Ajisola (2012) enumerated the benefits of e-learning to tertiary institution lecturers and students to include:

- i. Improving the quality of learning experiences and extends the reach of every lecturer.
- ii. Helping to remove barriers to achievement by providing new and creative ways of motivating, inspiring and engaging learners of different ability levels to attain their potential.
- iii. Differentiating learning to assist those with special needs the areas of literacy, numeracy and ICT.
- iv. Providing a wide range of tools to enable lecturers become innovative, creative and resourceful in their activities.
- v. Creating online communities of specialists, experts, practitioners, teachers, learners and interest



- groups together to share ideas and good practice.
- vi. Individualizing learning to cater for all types of learners irrespective of their locations.
- vii. Providing online contents to help learners locate courses of their interest and register for them.
- viii. Creating a virtual learning world where learners can creatively and actively participate through simulations, role play, remote control of real world tools and devices as well as online master classes or collaboration with education providers.

Research undertaken in the area of attitude and attitude formation shows that attitudes and perceptions are interconnected, moreover, attitudes are essentially divided into likes and dislikes (Siragusa & Dixon, 2008). University students in developing countries have varying attitudes towards e-learning but generally their attitudes are positive (El-Gamal & El-Aziz, 2011). This was emphasised by Nassoura (2012) who revealed that many students had positive attitudes towards e-learning because it had a positive impact on their motivation as well as self-esteem.

Student attitudes towards e-learning have been identified as critical to the success of e-learning (Zhang & Bhattacharyya, 2008). Bhuasiri, Xaymoungkhoun, Zo, Rho and Ciganek (2012) found that in developing countries the most significant factors were related to increasing technology awareness and improving attitude toward e-learning, enhancing basic technology knowledge and skills, improving learning content, requiring computer training, motivating users to utilise e-learning systems, and requiring a high level of support from the university. In addition, attributes used to assess the attitudes towards ICT of students, teachers and principals have been categorised in two groups: demographics (age and gender) and computer experience (training, years of using computer, ownership of computer, access to a computer, intensity of computer use) (Jimoy-iannis & Komis, 2007; Wen & Shih, 2008; Papaioannou & Charalambous, 2011).

Student levels of access to technologies represent an initial factor that would shape their attitudes towards e-learning, and their willingness to use it; the availability of reliable ICTs and the convenience of accessing these technologies reflect student attitudes toward e-learning. Access to the necessary ICT infrastructure is one of the most important issues that come into focus in the assessment of how developing countries have progressed in e-learning.

Despite the numerous benefits of e-learning in education, its adoption in Nigerian tertiary institutions is faced with several setbacks Ekundayo and Ekundayo (2009) identified the constraints to e-learning adoption in Nigerian tertiary institutions to include inadequate human resources, brain drain, staff-student ratio, lack of finance, poor infrastructural provision, electricity challenge, ICT and bandwidth constraints, highly bureaucratic management systems, digital divide and political instability.

The traditional means of learning, which are paper-based, are still the most commonly used in contrast to the web-based and online learning methods. According to Gulati (2008), the developing nations find the traditional means of learning more reliable and sustainable.

3. Methodology

This study adopted a pure quantitative method. Survey research design was adopted for the study. The design was considered suitable as recommended by Maduekwe (2011) and Uzoagulu (2011) for studies that use questionnaire to explore the opinions of a given population or its representative sample on existing phenomena. The data in this study was gathered via an online survey completed by students from seven faculties. A total of 240 students participated in the survey.

A test –re-test reliability of the questionnaire method of two weeks interval was used and responses collected were subjected to Cronbach alpha. The overall reliability of the questionnaire returned an r = 0.87 which exceed the minimum standard of 0.80 suggested for basic research (Wang and Tang, 2003). Descriptive statistics which include percentage and frequency count were used for the analysis of the data.

4. Results Gender Distribution of the Respondents

Table 1: Gender

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	113	47.1
Female	127	52.9
Total	240	100

Table 1 reveals that majority of the respondents 127(52.9%) were female students.



Distribution of the Respondents by Age

Table 2: Age Range

Age Range	Frequency	Percentage (%)	
15-20 years	100	41.7	
21-25 years	119	49.6	
26-30 years	18	7.5	
31 years and above	3	1.27	
Total	240	100	

Table 2 reveals that majority of the respondents 119(49.6%) were between the age bracket of 21 to 25 years. **Distribution of the Respondents by Level of Study**

Table 3: Level of study

Level of Study	Frequency	Percentage (%)	
100 level	61	25.4	
200 level	79	32.9	
300 level	60	25	
400 level	40	16.7	
Total	240	100	

Table 3 reveals that majority of the respondents 79(32.9) were 200 level students.

Research Question 1: What are the perceptions of undergraduates on the adoption of e-learning by Kwara State University?

Table 4: Perceptions about the Adoption of E-Learning by Kwara State University

	Perception About E-Learning		SA		A		D		SD
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1	E-learning offers the possibility to efficiently	71	29.6	119	49.6	37	15.4	13	5.4
	manage my time.								
2	E-learning is not efficient teaching method	54	22.5	75	31.2	99	41.2	12	5
3	E-learning is a learning environment which needs	125	52	97	40.4	16	6.6	2	0.8
	advanced technical knowledge to use.								
4	E-learning guarantees learning flexibility	83	34.6	111	46	40	16.7	6	2.5
5	E-learning reduces students' educational cost	47	19.6	77	32	90	37.5	26	10.8
6	Students need to be trained before they undergo any e-learning activity	104	43	101	42	29	12	6	2.5
7	E-learning is a waste of student's precious time and energy	29	12	35	14.6	135	56	41	17
8	Students who use e-learning materials need to be updated with the latest trends in technology	134	55.8	90	37.5	14	5.8	2	0.8
9	E-learning is as an assisted learning tool.	114	47.5	112	46.7	12	5	2	0.8
10	Use of online learning methods makes learning easier to students.	74	30.8	93	38.8	62	25.8	11	4.6
11	There is effective communication between the lecturer and the students with the help of elearning	54	22.5	72	30	93	38.8	21	8.8
12		76	31.7	103	42.9	51	21	10	4.2
13	E-learning is seen as a self-paced learning environment	72	30	131	54.6	34	14.2	3	1.3
14	The e-learning environment improves my thinking skills	74	30.8	112	46.7	45	18.8	9	3.8
15	The e-learning environment enhances my	47	19.6	107	44.6	74	30.8	12	5
16	I like the instructor's help and suggestions in the e-	55	22.9	109	45.4	63	26	13	5.4
17		56	23	45	18.8	102	42.5	37	15.4
11 12 13 14 15 16	easier to students. There is effective communication between the lecturer and the students with the help of elearning Use of e-learning increases students' creativity E-learning is seen as a self-paced learning environment The e-learning environment improves my thinking skills The e-learning environment enhances my problem-solving skills	 54 76 72 74 47 55 56 	22.5 31.7 30 30.8 19.6 22.9 23	72 103 131 112 107 109 45	30 42.9 54.6 46.7 44.6 45.4 18.8	93 51 34 45 74 63 102	38.8 21 14.2 18.8 30.8 26 42.5	21 10 3 9 12 13 37	8.8 4.2 1.3 3.8 5 5.4 15.4

Table 4 shows the result of analysis on students' perceptions toward e-learning. The result shows that majority of the students 119(49%) agreed that e-learning offers the possibility to efficiently manage their time, 125 (52%) of the respondents strongly agreed that e-learning is a learning environment which needs advanced technical knowledge to use, 111(46%) of the respondents agreed that e-learning guarantees learning flexibility, 104(43%) strongly agreed that students need to be trained before they can undergo any e-learning activity, 134 (55.8%) strongly agreed that students who use e-learning materials need to be updated with the latest trends in technology,



114(47.5%) strongly agreed that e-learning is as an assisted learning tool, 93(38.8%) agreed that use of online learning methods makes learning easier for students, 103(42.9%) agreed that the use of e-learning increases students' creativity, 112 (46.7%) of the respondents agreed that use of e-learning increases students' creativity, 131(54.6%) agreed that e-learning is a self-paced learning environment, 112(46.7%) agreed that e-learning environment improves their thinking skills, 107(44.6%) agreed that e-learning environment enhances their problem-solving skills and 109(45.4%) of the respondents agreed that they like the instructor's help and suggestions in the e-learning environment

Research Ouestion 2: What is the attitude of students towards e-learning?

Table 5: Attitude of Students towards E-Learning

S/No	Attitude of Students Towards E-Learning		SA		A		D		SD	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	
1	I dislike the idea of using e-learning tools	43	17.9	56	23	117	48.8	24	10	
2	I have a generally favourable attitude towards using e-learning tools	57	23.8	123	51	50	20.8	10	4.2	
3	I believe it will be a good idea to use e-learning tools	78	32.5	106	44.2	47	19.6	10	4.2	
4	Using e-learning tools is a foolish idea	25	10.4	50	20.8	117	48.8	49	20.4	
5	If available, I intend to use e- learning tools during the semester	66	27.5	94	39.2	64	26.7	17	7	
6	If available, I intend to use e-learning tools as frequently as possible	59	24.6	91	37.9	77	32	14	5.8	
7	If available, I intend to use e-learning tools whenever possible for my coursework.	68	28	119	49.6	14	5.8	14	5.8	
8	I feel confident in using e-learning tools	60	25	110	45.8	55	22.9	16	6.7	
9	I enjoy using ICT for my studies	75	31.3	108	45	51	21.3	7	2.9	
10	I believe that e-learning gives me the opportunity to acquire new knowledge	84	35	111	46.3	37	15.4	9	3.8	
11	I believe that convenience is an important feature of e-learning	85	35.4	120	50	31	12.9	5	2.1	
12	E-learning increases the quality of learning because it integrates all forms of media	75	31.3	127	52.9	31	12.9	8	3.3	
13	I would be interested in studying courses that use e- learning	52	21.7	121	50.4	53	22	15	6.3	
14	Adopting ICT and e-learning allows for increased student satisfaction	58	24.2	115	47.9	53	22	15	6.3	
15	I will never participate in e-learning	24	10	38	15.8	120	50	59	24.6	

Table 5 shows the result of analysis on students' attitude towards e-learning. Majority of the respondents 123(51%) agreed that they have generally favourable attitude towards using e-learning tools, 106(44.2%) agreed that it will be a good idea to use e-learning tools, 94(39.2%) agreed that if available, they intend to use e-learning tools during the semester, 119(49.6%) agreed that if available, they intend to use e-learning tools whenever possible for their coursework, 110(45.8%) agreed that they feel confident in using e-learning tools, 108(45%) of the respondents agreed that they enjoy using ICT for their studies, 111(46.3%) agreed that e-learning gives them the opportunity to acquire new knowledge, 120(50%) of the respondents agreed that convenience is an important feature of e-learning, 127(52.9%) agreed that E-learning increases the quality of learning because it integrates all forms of media, and 115(47.9%) agreed that adopting ICT and e-learning allows for increased student satisfaction. Research Question 3: What are the constraints affecting e-learning by students?



Table 6: Constraints Affecting E-Learning by Students of Kwara State University

S/No	Constraints Affecting E-Learning by Students of			A		D		SD	
	Kwara State University	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1	Lack computer literacy skills	108	45	103	42.9	24	10	5	2.1
2	Lack of internet skills	91	37.9	112	46.7	30	12.5	7	2.9
3	Ignorance of ways of utilizing e-learning for	82	34.2	128	53.3	28	11.7	2	0.8
	receiving lectures								
4	Lack of interest in learning new skills	69	28.8	109	45.4	55	22.9	7	2.9
5	Lack of training on the use of e-learning tools	88	36.7	123	51.3	26	10.8	3	1.3
6	Lack of confidence for utilizing e-learning	63	26.3	125	52	48	20	4	1.7
7	Inability to understand contents delivered online	95	39.6	111	46.3	32	13.3	2	0.8
8	Ignorance of the benefits of e-learning	68	28.3	114	47.5	51	21.3	7	2.9
9	Inability to procure computer	70	29.2	118	49.2	43	17.9	9	3.8
10	lack of skills to take online continuous assessment	85	35.4	96	40	53	22	6	2.5
11	Inability to procure smart phones	78	32.5	99	41.3	51	21.3	12	5
12	Inability to subscribe to data	116	48.3	88	36.7	29	12	7	2.9
13	Constant power failure	134	55.8	87	36.3	17	7	2	0.8

Table 6 shows the result of analysis on constraints affecting e-learning by Kwara State university students. Majority of the respondents 108(45%) strongly agreed to lack computer literacy skills, 112(46.7%) agreed to lack of internet skills, 128(53.3%) agreed to ignorance of ways of utilizing e-learning for receiving lectures, 109(45.4%) agreed to lack of interest in learning new skills, 123(51.3%) agreed to lack of training on the use of e-learning tools, 125(52%) agreed to lack of confidence for utilizing e-learning, 111(46.3%) agreed to inability to understand contents delivered online, 114(47.5%) agreed to ignorance of the benefits of e-learning, 118(49.2%) agreed to inability to procure computer, 96(40%) agreed to lack of skills to take online continuous assessment, 99(41.3%) agreed to inability to procure smart phones, 116(48.3%) strongly agreed to inability to subscribe to data, and 134(55.8%) agreed to constant power failure.

4.1. Discussion of Findings

The findings of this study have revealed that students have positive perceptions towards e-learning. They believe that e-learning help them to efficiently manage their time, that e-learning guarantees learning flexibility, that students who use e-learning materials need to be updated with the latest trends in technology, that e-learning is as an assisted learning tool, that use of online learning methods makes learning easier for students and that e-learning increases students' creativity. The results also disagreed with the perception that e-learning is a waste of students' time and the perception that e-learning cannot work in Nigeria. This finding agrees with that of Akpan and Tralagba (2019) which reported that students are favorably disposed to the adoption of mobile technologies for learning and that undergraduates also showed their willingness to procure their own mobile technology devices if they are introduced for learning. This finding is also in alignment with that of Ihechukwu and Chima (2016) which revealed that students have positive perceptions towards use of e-learning in science education.

The study also revealed the attitude of students toward e-learning. The results revealed positive attitude of students towards e-learning. They have generally favourable attitude towards using e-learning tools and they agreed that they will use e-learning tools if made available. This finding is in agreement with that of Adewole-Odeshi (2014) which reported that students have a positive attitude towards e-learning because they find the system easy to use and useful for their course work. This finding is also emphasised by that of Nassoura (2012) which pointed out that many students had positive attitudes towards e-learning because it had a positive impact on their motivation as well as self-esteem.

The study further identified the constraints affecting the use of e-learning tools by students. These constrains include lack computer literacy skills, lack of internet skills, ignorance of ways of utilizing e-learning for receiving lectures, lack of interest in learning new skills, lack of training on the use of e-learning tools, lack of confidence for utilizing e-learning, inability to understand contents delivered online, ignorance of the benefits of e-learning, inability to procure computer, lack of skills to take online continuous assessment, inability to procure smart phones, inability to subscribe to data, and constant power failure. This finding is supported by that of Ezenwafor and Ementa (2016) which reported that despite the numerous benefits of e-learning in education, its adoption in Nigerian tertiary institutions is faced with several setbacks. The finding is also buttressed by that of Ekundayo and Ekundayo (2009) which outlined the constraints to e-learning adoption in Nigerian tertiary institutions to include inadequate human resources, brain drain, staff-student ratio, lack of finance, poor infrastructural provision, electricity challenge, ICT and bandwidth constraints, highly bureaucratic management systems, digital divide and political instability.



5. Conclusion

The study examined the perceptions and attitude of students toward e-learning in Kwara State University, Malete, Nigeria. The findings of the study have far reaching implications for e-learning in tertiary institutions in Nigeria. The COVID-19 pandemic is making the educational sector to look inward. Institutions are now embracing e-learning which serves as alternative to the face-to-face contact learning thereby helping the institutions cover gaps the pandemic have on the institutions academic calendar. The study revealed that though the students have positive attitude towards e-learning, e-learning in Nigeria is bedeviled with numerous challenges.

5.1. Recommendations

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

- i. The Federal Government of Nigeria through the Ministry of Education should mandate the National University Commission to urgently develop an e-learning policy for Nigerian universities.
- ii. The management of Kwara State University should embraced e-learning as a way of overcoming the covid-19 challenges in the university.
- iii. E-learning tools should be made available in schools by the three tiers of government

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