
The Importance of Internet to Our Society (A Case Study of 2,800 Business Centre, in Different Locations, of Osun State, Nigeria)

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Citation

Prince Awojoodu Soji. The Importance of Internet to Our Society (A Case Study of 2,800 Business Centre, in Different Locations, of Osun State, Nigeria). *International Journal of Information Engineering and Applications*. Vol. 2, No. 1, 2019, pp. 1-9.

Received: January 22, 2018; **Accepted:** March 1, 2018; **Published:** June 14, 2019

Abstract: This research work was carried out, to find the importance of Internet to our society, in the 4 Local governments visited and sampled, namely: (Ife East, Ife South, Ife Central and Ife North), local government areas, in Ile – Ife Kingdom of Osun State, Nigeria. 2,800 open questionnaires were distributed to 4 Local Governments, out of which 700 was used in each local government. A total of 28 different locations were visited and sampled in all the four Local Governments, out of which 100 questionnaires were used in each location. It was gathered that above 70% of the people from the four local governments, supported that Internet was important, to our society, while below 30% of the people could not even understand whether Internet, has importance or not. The results from the questionnaires when using Pearson two-tailed correlation coefficient revealed that there was a significant difference from the summary data collected within the four local government areas visited and sampled, ($p > 0.05$) table 4. It therefore showed clearly that the above 70% of the people who supported that, Internet was important to our society, has become a reality, ($p > 0.05$) table 4. The reasons may be due to the fact that, despite Internet, being the main medium for communication between computer users, it also provided a lot of latest informative information about businesses, education, e-commerce, etc. This has made Internet played a very important role to our society. Histogram with curve was used to depict the summary data of each of the local government areas sampled in Ile – Ife Kingdom, of Osun State Nigeria.

Keywords: Different Locations, Internet, 4 Local Governments, Pearson Correlation

1. Introduction

The internet has been called the most important business and social development since the telephone. The internet is a global network, connecting millions of computers and databases. It is a network of many computer networks. Internet plays a very important role to our society. It has become the main medium for communication between computer users. It provides a lot of latest informative information about businesses, education, e-commerce, research work, etc. Internet can be defined as a massive network of networks, a networking infrastructure. It is the largest network in the world. Internet connects millions of computers together globally, forming a network in which any computer can communicate with any other computer as long as they both connected to the Internet. According to Chaffey, it “refers to the physical network that links computers across the globe. It consists of the infrastructure of network servers (the computers that

managed the network) and communications links between them that are used to hold and transport information between the clients PCs and web servers. The Internet has opened up numerous possibilities for doing business at a local and global level. It enables a business organization to interact with other business organizations (business-to-business or B2B) and with customers (business-to-customer or B2C) more directly. Information on orders, invoices, approval of credit, shipping notices and confirmations sent between business partners can be exchanged directly through the internet. Because of continual developments and its diffusion into society at large, the internet is no longer just viewed as another technology amongst many. It has become an invaluable and integral part of business and personal life in the modern world. The main uses of the internet are: (i). Information dissemination and browsing. (b). E-mail. (c). Transaction processing including both B2B and B2C (d). The transfer. (e). newsgroups. (f). Marketing. (g). Entertainment including chat rooms, music,

games, etc. (h). Recruitment and job search. (i). Education and research activities. Although, much of the Internet used is for pleasure and private purposes, it is of increasing importance for business use, which in the widest sense, includes commercial, professional, government and educational purposes. The main services provided by Internet are: (a). WORLD WIDE WEB OR SIMPLY WEB: This is a way of accessing information over the medium of the Internet.

It provides the facility to publish information on Internet. The Web also utilizes browsers to access web documents called web pages. Web documents also contain graphics, sounds, text and video. A web browser is a software application used to locate and view web pages on the World Wide Web. Many web browsers are available but the most commonly used web browsers are: (i). Microsoft Internet explorer (ii). Mozilla Firefox (iii). Google Chrome. (iv). Apple Safari.

A collection of related Web pages is called website, and each website has a unique address. The address of a website is called URL (Universal Resources Location). Domain names are used in URLs to identify particular Web pages and every domain name has a suffix that indicates which Top Level Domain (TLD) it belongs to. For example in the URL <http://www.calpsoworld.com/nigeria/state.html>, the domain name is "calpsoworld" and the suffix "com" is the TLD. (b). E-MAIL (ELECTRONIC MAIL: This is one of the biggest phenomenon happening on the Internet. E-mail comprises of a process of receiving and sending mails over the electronic medium of the Internet. It is a fast and efficient method of communication. E-Mail, like the manual postal service mail, functions through an address. Each Internet user must have a unique e-mail address, for example:(i). vero@hotmail.com (ii). soji@yahoo.com (iii). Ronke@gmail.com (iv). bisola@computer.com. You must type the correct e-mail address to send an e-mail, otherwise it is returned back.(c). CHATTING: Online chat can refer to any kind of communication over the Internet, but is primarily meant to refer to direct one-to-one chat or text-based group chat using tools such as: (i). Instant Messengers. (ii). Internet Relay Chat. (iii). Talkers. The expression online chat comes from the word chat which means "informal conversation". (i). INSTANT MESSAGING: Instant messaging or (IM), consists of sending real time messages to another Internet user. Instant messaging is comparable to chatting in your own private chat room, with only those people you choose to invite. You can create a list to keep track of welcome guests and alert you when one of them sends you a message.

More advanced instant messaging software clients also allow enhanced modes of communication, such as live voice or video calling. An instant messaging system is all the hardware and software provided by the online service providers, (AOL, MSN, Yahoo, etc.), including the actual interface used once you are connected.

(ii-iii). TALKERS, INTERNET RELAY CHAT/FILE SHARING/ SEARCH ENGINE: File sharing is the practice of distributing or providing access to digitally stored information, such as computer programs, multi-media (audio,

video), documents, or electronic books. Common methods of file sharing incorporate manual sharing using removable media, and the use of distributed peer-to-peer (P2P) networking. A peer-to-peer (P2P) network allows computer hardware and software to function without the need for special server devices. P2P is a popular technology for file sharing software applications like: Lime-Wire, Bit-Torrent, Gnutella 2. Shareaza, and kazaa networks. SEARCH ENGINES: A search engine is a website designed to search for information on the World Wide Web. The information may consists of web pages, images, information and other types of files. A search engine keeps record of website addresses along with important words for description of each web page. For example, if you want to get information about "AID" or "HIV Prevention", give these words to any search engine. The search engine will search the given information "AID Prevention" or "HIV Prevention" using each word as a keyword and will provide a list of links of websites along with brief description about each website. Some examples of search engines among many others include: (i). Yahoo www.yahoo.com (ii). Google www.google.com (iii). Bing www.bing.com (iv). Ask www.ask.com.

2. Study Area

The study area is Ife. Ife (popularly known as Ile-Ife) is the 2nd largest city in Osun State and has been selected for the proposed research work. Ife is an ancient Yoruba city in South Western Nigeria. The city is located in present day of Osun State. Ile – Ife is famous Worldwide for its ancient and naturalistic bronze, stone and terracotta sculptures dating back to between 1200 and 1400. It has a population of 262,000 (1991 population estimate). The city is the oldest Yoruba city in South Western Nigeria and evidence of habitation at the site has been discovered to date-back to as early as 600 BCE. The city was the most powerful Yoruba Kingdom until the late 17th century when Oyo surpassed it. (*Encyclopedia Britannica*).

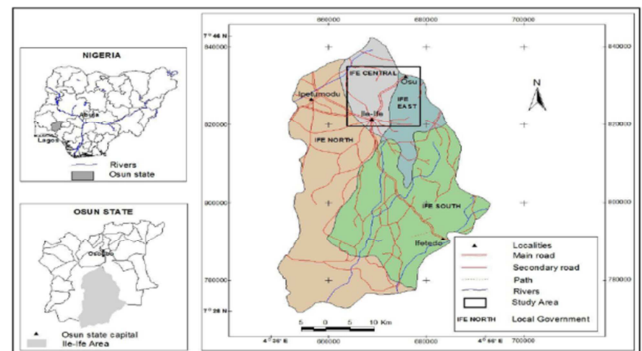


Figure 1. Study Area Map of Ife (Known as Ile-Ife).

3. Material and Methods

The responses of the people indifferent selected (7) locations, in each of the four local government areas can be seen from the decision table below:

Table 1. Decision Table.

Sub	Above 70%	Below 30%	Open headed Questionnaires
Internet is important to our society	X		
I do not know		X	
State open questionnaires			X

The below are the points ticked by the majority of the people (above 70% table 1, above), from the questionnaires who understood that Internet is important to our society:

- (a) COLLECTION OF INFORMATION: A lot of information of different types is stored on the web server on the internet. It means that billion websites contain different information in the form of text and pictures. You can easily collect information on any topic you want. For this purpose, special websites called search engines are available on the internet to search information of every topic of the world.
- (b) THE USES OF INTERNET: Internet causes a giant step forward in man's utilization of science and knowledge.
- (c) WITH THE HELP OF INTERNET, there was an increase in governmental activity with new challenges each day.
- (d) COMMUNICATION: You can communicate with each others around the world through the Internet. You can talk and watch each another just like you are talking with your friends in your living room. Different services are provided for this purpose on the Internet such as chatting, video conferencing, e-mail and Internet technology.
- (e) ONLINE MEDICAL ADVICE: Many websites are also available on the Internet to get information about different diseases. You can consult a panel of online doctors to get advice about any medical problem. In addition, a lot of material is also available on the Internet for research in the medical field.
- (f) INTERNET BRINGS ABOUT INCREASE IN CORPORATE GROWTH.
- (g) [g] ONLINE RESULTS: Today, most of the universities and education boards, provide results on the internet. The students results is seen from any part of the world.
- (h) ONLINE EDUCATION: Internet provides the facility to get online education. Many websites of different universities provides lectures and tutorials on different

subjects or topics. You can also download these lectures or tutorials into your own computer, listen to these lectures respectively and get a lot of knowledge. It is a very cheap and easy way to get education.

- (i) SHARING INFORMATION: You can share information with other people around the world. The scientist or researchers can interact with each other to share knowledge and to get guidance. Sharing information through Internet is a very easy, cheap and fast method.
- (j) NEWS: You can get the latest news of the world on the Internet. Most of the newspapers are also available on the Internet. They have their websites from where you can get the latest news about the events happening on the world. These web sides are updated with the latest news when any events happens around the world.
- (k) ADVERTISEMENT: Today, most of the commercial organizations advertise their products through the Internet. It is very cheap and efficient way for advertising products. The products can be presented in an attractive and beautiful way to the people around the world.
- (l) ONLINE AIRLINES SCHEDULES: Many airlines companies provide their schedules of flight over the Internet. You can also book Airline tickets online.
- (m) WITH THE HELP OF THE INTERNET, Knowledge based was achieved.
- (n) INTERNETBRINGS INCREASE in opportunities for e-commerce (i.e. buying and selling goods on-line).

4. Results and Discussion

Questionnaires were distributed to 4 Local government areas that is, (Ife East, Ife South, Ife Central and Ife North). The results from the questionnaires however revealed that the importance of Internet are manifold:

There was a significant difference on the people in all the local government areas visited, ($p > 0.05$).

Table 2. Percentages of respondents.

Wards	Ife East		Ife South		Ife Central		Ife North	
	Internet is Important to our Society	I do not Know	Internet is Important to our Society	I do not Know	Internet is Important to our Society	I do not Know	Internet is Important to our Society	I do not Know
People's Response	488	212	485	215	481	219	480	220
	69.7%	39.3%	69.3%	30.7%	68.7%	31.3%	68.6%	31.4%

From the above table 2, in Ife East, there are 488 people's response with 69.7%, Ife South, 485 with 69.3%, Ife Central, 481 with 68.7%, and Ife North, 480 with 68.6%, were those People who supported that Internet is Important to our society while in Ife East, 212 with 39.3%, Ife South, 215 with 30.7%, Ife Central, 219 with 31.3%, and Ife North, 220 with 31.4% respectively,

could not even know its Importance.

Table 3. The summary data collected, from the 4 Local Governments sampled out of which 700 were used in each local government.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT	LOCATION	IFE EAST	IFE SOUTH	IFE CENTRAL	IFE NORTH				
Peoples Respondent	A	70	30	69	31	58	42	57	43
	B	76	24	64	36	68	32	69	31
	C	63	37	78	22	59	41	66	34
	D	65	35	68	32	67	33	67	33
	E	74	26	67	33	76	24	64	36
	F	76	24	65	35	77	23	78	22
	G	64	36	74	26	76	24	79	21
TOTAL=	7	488	212	485	215	481	219	480	220
Grand Total =	7	700	700	700	700	700	700	700	700

Table 4. The 2 tailed Pearson Correlation Coefficient of the 4 local governments.

Correlations		IFEEAST	IFESOUTH	IFECENTRAL	IFENORTH
IFEEAST	Pearson Correlation	1	-.864*	.388	.016
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.012	.389	.974
	N	7	7	7	7
IFESOUTH	Pearson Correlation	-.864*	1	-.386	-.001
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.012	.393	.999
	N	7	7	7	7
IFECENTRAL	Pearson Correlation	.388	-.386	1	.727
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.389	.393	.064
	N	7	7	7	7
IFENORTH	Pearson Correlation	.016	-.001	.727	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.974	.064	
	N	7	7	7	7

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

```

FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=IFEEAST IFESOUTH IFECENTRAL IFENORTH
/NTILES=4/NTILES=10
/STATISTICS=STDDEV VARIANCE RANGE MINIMUM MAXIMUM SEMEAN MEAN MEDIAN MODE
SUM SKEWNESS SESKEWKURTOSIS SEKURT
/GROUPED=IFEEAST IFESOUTH IFECENTRAL IFENORTH/PIECHART PERCENT/ORDER=ANALYSIS.
    
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Table 5. Frequency Statistics on percentiles mean mode std. deviation etc. of the 4 local governments.

Statistics		IFEEAST	IFESOUTH	IFECENTRAL	IFENORTH
N	Valid	7	7	7	7
	Missing	0	0	0	0
Mean		69.7143	69.2857	68.7143	68.5714
Std. Error of Mean		2.16811	1.89880	3.03718	2.93466
Median		70.0000 ^a	68.0000 ^a	68.0000 ^a	67.0000 ^a
Mode		76.00	64.00 ^c	76.00	57.00 ^c
Std. Deviation		5.73627	5.02375	8.03563	7.76439
Variance		32.905	25.238	64.571	60.286
Skewness		-.023	.968	-.364	.153
Std. Error of Skewness		.794	.794	.794	.794
Kurtosis		-2.361	.028	-1.769	-.502
Std. Error of Kurtosis		1.587	1.587	1.587	1.587
Range		13.00	14.00	19.00	22.00
Minimum		63.00	64.00	58.00	57.00
Maximum		76.00	78.00	77.00	79.00
Sum		488.00	485.00	481.00	480.00
Percentiles	10	63.2000 ^b	64.2000 ^b	58.2000 ^b	58.4000 ^b
	20	63.9000	64.9000	58.9000	63.3000
	25	64.2500	65.5000	61.0000	64.5000

Statistics	IFEEAST	IFESOUTH	IFECENTRAL	IFENORTH
30	64.6000	66.2000	63.8000	65.2000
40	66.5000	67.3000	67.3000	66.3000
50	70.0000	68.0000	68.0000	67.0000
60	72.8000	68.7000	71.7333	68.4000
70	74.5333	71.0000	75.4667	72.6000
75	75.0000	72.7500	76.1667	75.7500
80	75.4667	74.4000	76.4000	78.1000
90	.	77.2000	76.8667	78.8000

a. Calculated from grouped data. b. Percentiles are calculated from grouped data.
c. Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

Tables (6, 7, 8, and 9). The frequency Tables of all the 4 (four) Local Government Areas sampled.

Table 6. Ife East% cumulative frequency.

IFEEAST	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
63.00	1	14.3	14.3	14.3
64.00	1	14.3	14.3	28.6
65.00	1	14.3	14.3	42.9
Valid 70.00	1	14.3	14.3	57.1
74.00	1	14.3	14.3	71.4
76.00	2	28.6	28.6	100.0
Total	7	100.0	100.0	

Table 7. Ife South% cumulative frequency.

IFESOUTH	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
64.00	1	14.3	14.3	14.3
65.00	1	14.3	14.3	28.6
67.00	1	14.3	14.3	42.9
Valid 68.00	1	14.3	14.3	57.1
69.00	1	14.3	14.3	71.4
74.00	1	14.3	14.3	85.7
78.00	1	14.3	14.3	100.0
Total	7	100.0	100.0	

Table 8. Ife Central% frequency.

IFECENTRAL	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
58.00	1	14.3	14.3	14.3
59.00	1	14.3	14.3	28.6
67.00	1	14.3	14.3	42.9
Valid 68.00	1	14.3	14.3	57.1
76.00	2	28.6	28.6	85.7
77.00	1	14.3	14.3	100.0
Total	7	100.0	100.0	

Table 9. Ife North% frequency.

IFENORTH	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
57.00	1	14.3	14.3	14.3
64.00	1	14.3	14.3	28.6
66.00	1	14.3	14.3	42.9
Valid 67.00	1	14.3	14.3	57.1
69.00	1	14.3	14.3	71.4
78.00	1	14.3	14.3	85.7
79.00	1	14.3	14.3	100.0
Total	7	100.0	100.0	

Histogram

Figures (2, 3, 4, and 5). The Histogram with curve, of all the (4) four Local Government sampled.

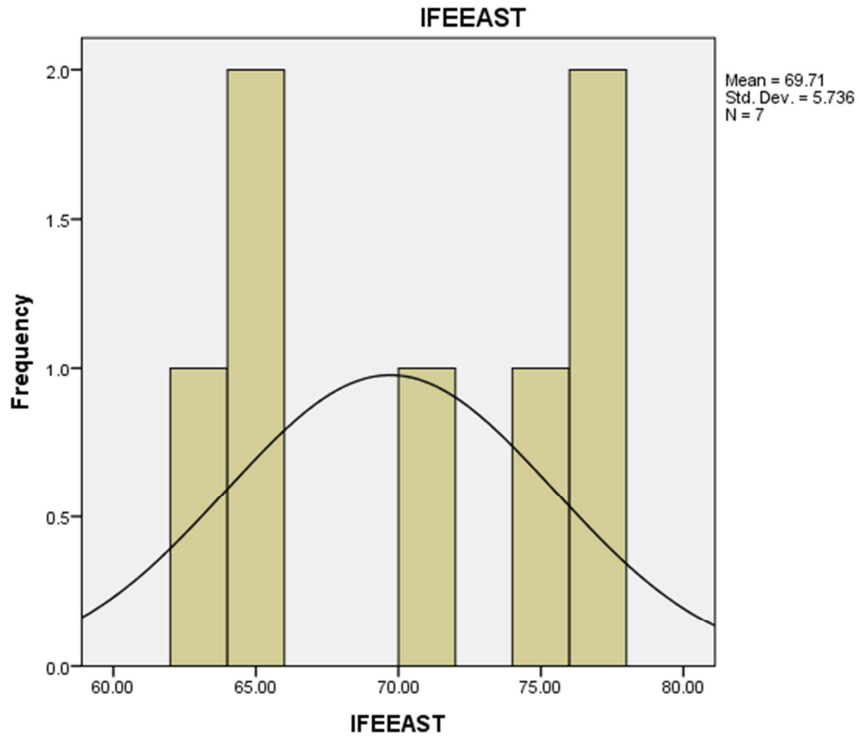


Figure 2. Histogram with Curve of Ife East.

The vertical coordinates represent the frequency (that is, the rate of observations or occurrences) from the data analysis while the horizontal coordinates represent the range from the valid data in Table 6, (that is, based on 1 unit interval as [60, 65, 70, 75, and 80], respectively).

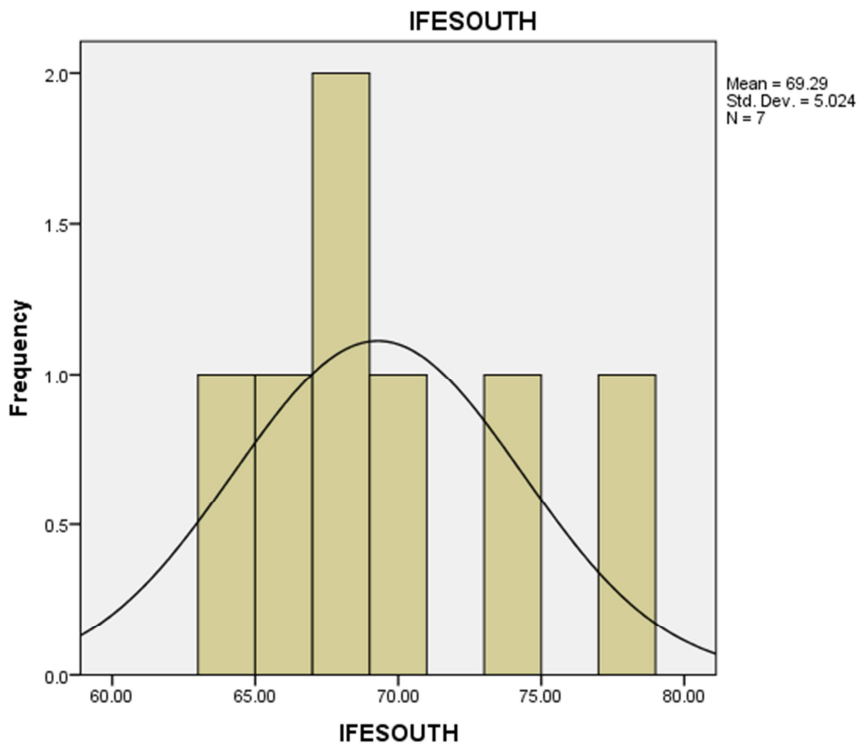


Figure 3. Histogram with Curve of Ife South.

The vertical coordinates represent the frequency (that is, the rate of observations or occurrences) from the data analysis while the horizontal coordinates represent the range from the valid data in Table 7, (that is, based on 1 unit interval as [60, 65,

70, 75, and 80], respectively.

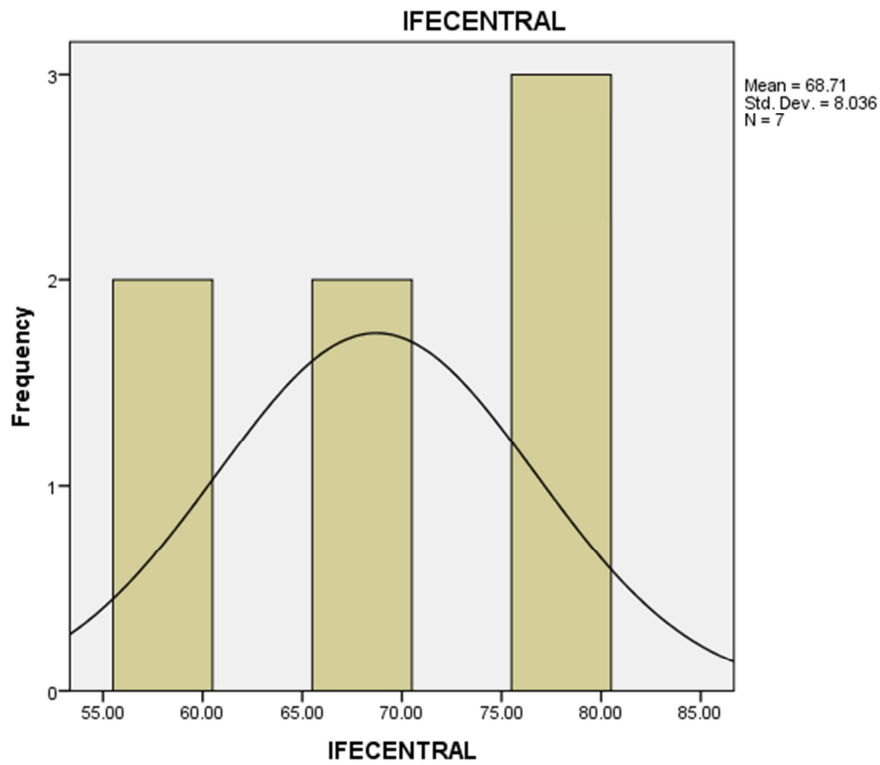


Figure 4. Histogram with Curve of Ije Central.

The vertical coordinates represent the frequency (that is, the rate of observations or occurrences) from the data analysis while the horizontal coordinates represent the range from the valid data in Table 9, (that is, based on 1 unit interval as [55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, and 85], respectively).

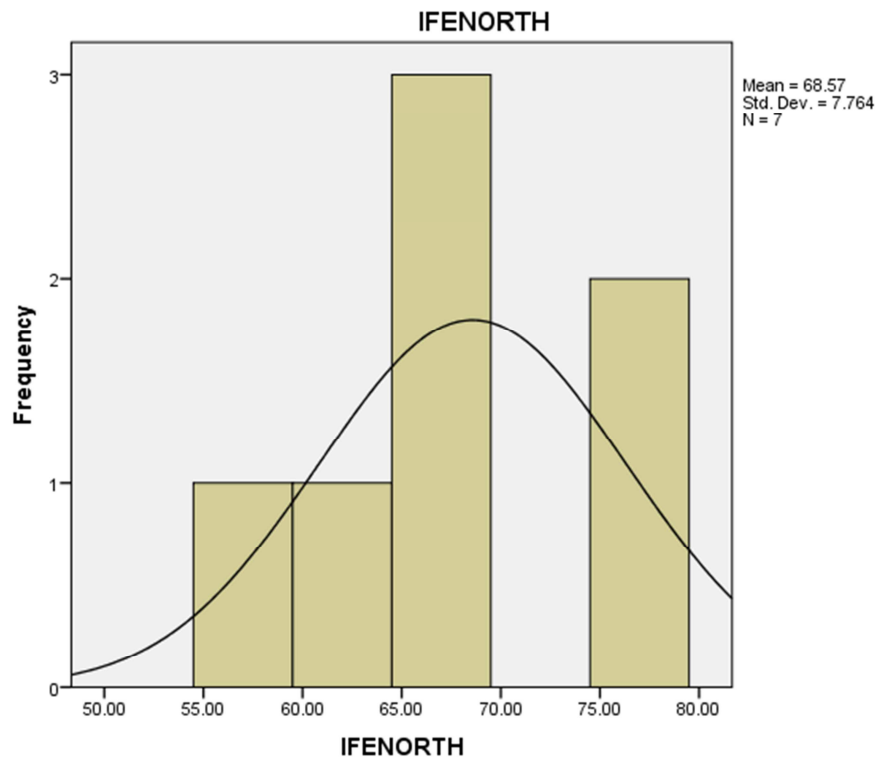


Figure 5. Histogram with Curve of Ije East.

The vertical coordinates represent the frequency (that is, the rate of observations or occurrences) from the data analysis while the horizontal coordinates represent the range from the valid data in Table 9, (that is, based on 1 unit interval as [50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, and 80], respectively.

5. Recommendations

1. Adult computer awareness training should be made possible and effective in all the local governments, in both rural and urban areas of Osun State, Nigeria, to enable internet users have good knowledge on Internet technology.
2. The environment of the business centers users should always be clean, neat and free from dust.
3. Computer workshops should be encouraged in Osun State, to enable business centers users, attain its utmost standard.
4. All computer users should be extremely cautious while opening emails with attachments because the most common source of symptoms of computer virus is the attachments that accompany emails.
5. All Business centers users, should make sure that the computer systems essential files, should always be turned to read only, and remember to change the write protect of the disk after use.
6. All computer users should endeavor to undergo computer training in order to enable him / her man any computer system.

6. Conclusion

The following conclusions are made based on the findings of this study. Since Internet plays very important role in our society, and as the main medium for communication between computer users that provided a lot of latest informative information about businesses, education, e-commerce, etc. The results of this study provide the empirical evidence that the importance of Internet to our society has enhanced people's achievement in Osun State in general and Nigeria societies at large. The society, therefore should use the Internet techniques to argument their greater business productivity and increased governmental activity couple with corporate growth, in order to attain minimum goal needed for everybody in the society.

Acknowledgements

The Author wishes to express his appreciations to all especially those whose papers that are shown in my references to provide the premise for this study, and Dr. / Chief Ramond Adedoyin, (The ATOBATELE, MAYE of Yoruba Kingdom), The Chancellor and Founder of Oduduwa University for providing the fund and space to carry out this research work/ study.

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