Skill Acquisition and ICT for Primary Education in Nigeria

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Abstract

The use of ICT to acquire skills for various educational purposes in Nigeria is very prevalent. Consequently, this study identified the problem of reading among primary schools in Nigeria as a major educational problem. Accordingly, the study set out to search for the necessary ICT skills for proffering solution to the problem in the future. Primary school pupils were trained to use computer software known as Microsoft Encarta Kids to improve on their reading ability. Four primary schools in Nigeria, specifically two schools in Cross River State and two schools in Imo State constituted the study area, producing a population of 2100 primary six pupils of which 250 pupils made up the sample. Questionnaire was constructed and administered on respondents. Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient was used to measure the strength of the relationship between the ICT skills and pupils' reading ability, having formulated and considered two null hypotheses that (1) there is no significant relationship between acquisition of ICT skills by pupils and their reading ability (2) there is no significant relationship between availability of Microsoft Encarta kids and pupils' reading ability. The hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance leading to the following findings: (1) The pupils excitedly acquired the skill of using Microsoft Encarta Kids (ICT) for reading. (2) With the excitement and the acquired skill, 65% of the pupils showed improvement in their reading ability. (3) 35% of the pupils hesitated to acquire the ICT skills because the Microsoft Encarta Kids looked strange. (4) Persistent and continuous use of Microsoft Encarta Kids in reading practice showed great improvement in the pupils' reading ability. Conclusion was drawn and recommendations were made that pupils should be exposed to more Microsoft computer softwares to enable them acquire more skills in the use of ICT for reading. It will help pupils read more and faster. The schools should procure more ICT softwares to afford pupils more accessibility and opportunity for practicing reading.