

THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT IN
THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO
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THE NIGERIAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, OGBOMOSO,
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ABSTRACT

This essay sought to discuss the role of Technological Advancement in Theological Education with reference to the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary, Ogbomoso. The study focused on the role of Technological Advancement in Theological education, and how ICTs can be integrated into theological institutions. In order to achieve this, samples consisting of one hundred responders from students, faculty and staff of Nigerian Baptist Seminary, Ogbomoso. The total number of questionnaire distributed was one hundred, and the total number that was returned was ninety seven. The data were analyzed using simple descriptive statistic involving variables, frequencies, average, and percentage. Furthermore, interviews were conducted for four senior staffs, both from Faculty, Admin, and Account sections. The findings from the survey and interview showed that technological advancement has significant role to play in theological education. This role was categorized into three; firstly, it serves as course context, secondly, it serves as teaching tools, and lastly, as management tool. The responses also revealed some problems like; problem of adapting to changes with minimum physical and mental stress, lack of competent and professional personnel, bad policy, absence of good internet facilities, and inadequate funding. The following solutions were proffered: The management should improve on the quality of internet facilities; there should be an alternative electricity power supply; policy that will encourage the use of ICTs should be put in place; ICTs related courses should be included in school curricula; basic knowledge of ICTs should be part of requirement into theological institutions and lastly fund should be made available. The research also identified some benefits and benefactors which include the visitors and outsiders, students, faculty, Management and Account/Bursary. In view of these findings, the followings were recommended: ICTs related courses should be included in the school curricula, and should be taken as core courses; the management should deploy ICTs related teaching aids into the classes; the faculty members should be encouraged to improve their knowledge on ICTs; the management should improve on their online admission processing and financial transactions.

5.2. CONCLUSION

This study has looked into the role of Technological advancement in Theological Education with reference to the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary, Ogbomosho. The researcher discovered that ICTs could be applied in the following areas: as course context, teaching tools, and management and administrative tools. Also, the extent of its application is not limited to any areas of theological institution. Some likely obstacle was discovered which include hostility from students and lectures, poor internet facilities, lack of professional personnel, lack of ICTs friendly policy, and above all, lack of adequate funding. Still, the benefactors of ICTs in Seminary include students, lecturers, administrators, workers, security, visitors/outside, and organizational bodies.

Finally, it is the opinion of the researcher that ICTs played an important role in theological education; knowing full well that, absence of ICTs in any theological institution may affect the quality and quantity of training given to people, and there may not be any meaningful development in such an institution.

5.3 RECOMMENDATION

In the light of the above discussion concerning the role of technological advancement in theological education in reverence to the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary, the research made the following recommendations.

- Seminary management should include basic knowledge of ICTs as part of requirement for admission into institution; however, this may not be part of subjects required for admission.
- ICTs related courses should be included in the school curricula, and should be taken as core courses.
- The management should deploy ICTs related teaching aids into the classes.

- The faculty members should be encouraged to improve their knowledge on ICTs and on how to use it as teaching aids.
- The school management should improve on their online admission processing and financial transactions.
- The Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary should plan and put policy in place that will encourage online classes.
- Seminary website and some social networking site should be fully utilized to enhance her image and public relations.
- ICTs should be deployed to enhance security within and outside the seminary.
- The school management should improve on the quality of internet facilities and should be extended to students' resident area.
- The management should plan on alternative electricity power supply.