

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE OBSOLETE AND INFORMATION MANAGERS RESPONSIVENESS**Gbafah, Beauty Lemabari and Dick, Aa-nu Sunday****Department of Office and Information Management, Faculty of Administration and Management Rivers State University***E-Mail: beautygbafah@ust.edu.ng***ABSTRACT**

The use of obsolete technological infrastructure in organizations has become a significant impediment of organizational efficiency (timely service delivery). This study surveyed the causes, effects, and potential strategies for addressing this technological gap in organizations such as technological deficit as a result some factors including limited budgetary allocation, inadequate policy frameworks, and insufficient capacity-building programs that supports information infrastructure innovation and implementation. The effects of the use of obsolete technological infrastructure are far-reaching, it negatively impacting administrative efficiency, decision-making processes, and citizens' access to essential public services. In response, the paper proposes a set of strategies for improving technology integration in organizations, including increased investment in ICT infrastructure, the establishment of dedicated ICT units, and the adoption of public-private partnerships (PPPs) for technology deployment. Additionally, the study emphasized on the importance of policy reform and the need for continuous staff training to ensure the sustainable use of technological tools. It concluded that organizations that deeply considered this gap and act accordingly will enhance service delivery, increase administrative efficiency, and contribute to broader socio-economic development goals. We therefore recommended that policymakers, and development partners seeking to overcome the technological challenges in their organizational should ensure compliance to technology information timely implementation of current technology that will supports efficient service delivery and high product quality by organizations.

Keywords: Technological infrastructure age, Responsiveness, Service Delivery, Product quality and Innovation

INTRODUCTION

In an era characterized by digital transformation and rapid technological advancement, the availability and accessibility of technological infrastructure have become crucial determinants of organizational efficiency and national development. Technological equipment—ranging from basic computing devices to sophisticated digital platforms and tools—serves as the bedrock for effective information management, communication, and decision-making. In developed countries, such technologies are readily available and are continuously upgraded to meet the dynamic needs of the global economy. However, in developing countries such as Nigeria, the story is significantly different. The chronic shortage or outdated technological equipment continues to impede organizational operations, particularly in the information management sector, where such tools are indispensable for job responsiveness, efficiency, and strategic relevance. The Nigerian economy, while rich in natural and human resources, has struggled with infrastructural deficits, particularly in the area of technological development. These challenges are compounded by weak policy implementation, budgetary constraints, corruption, and a general lack of political will to prioritize technological innovation (Eze et al., 2018). Despite global shifts towards a knowledge-based economy, Nigeria's investment in digital infrastructure and technological equipment remains inadequate. The National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), the primary regulatory body for IT development in Nigeria, has made significant efforts through policy frameworks and capacity-building programs. However, these initiatives have largely fallen short of bridging the vast digital divide between Nigeria and its counterparts in the global South and North (NITDA, 2020).

For information managers professionals tasked with the collection, processing, storage, and dissemination of information within organizations, this obsolete of technological tools has critical implications. Information managers play a pivotal role in ensuring that organizations are agile, data-driven, and responsive to internal and external stimuli. Their effectiveness is largely dependent on their ability to leverage advanced technologies, including Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems, document management software, cloud storage, and big data analytics tools (Okon & Edem, 2021). In the absence of these tools, the job responsiveness of information managers is significantly compromised, leading to inefficiencies, delayed decision-making, and poor organizational performance. The impact of inadequate technological infrastructure is not merely operational but also strategic. In today's digital age, organizations compete based on their information assets and how quickly and accurately they can interpret data to gain competitive advantage. The inability of information managers in Nigeria to access adequate technological tools restricts their capacity to analyze trends, anticipate risks, and make informed recommendations to management. This technological gap puts Nigerian institutions at a disadvantage in a global economy that increasingly rewards digital competence and innovation (Adeyeye & Alawode, 2019). The implications are profound, as poor information management affects not only private organizations but also public sector agencies that rely on timely and accurate data to formulate policies and deliver public services.

Moreover, the digital inadequacy in Nigeria is further worsened by inconsistent power supply, inadequate internet connectivity, and limited access to training and technical support. Many organizations, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas, still rely on outdated computers and manual filing systems, which are not only time-consuming but also prone to errors and inefficiencies. Information managers operating under such constraints are forced to adopt manual processes that reduce responsiveness and effectiveness in service delivery (Nwosu & Osuagwu, 2020). Even in urban centers, where access to better infrastructure is assumed, technological obsolescence and poor maintenance culture remain significant challenges. Training and capacity building also constitute a major dimension of the problem. Even where technological equipment is available, there is often a lack of adequately trained personnel to operate and maintain them. The education system in Nigeria has not sufficiently aligned itself with the technological needs of the modern workplace. Curricula in many tertiary institutions are outdated and fail to equip graduates with the practical skills required in contemporary information management roles (Agboola & Oduwale, 2017). This skill deficit compounds the equipment shortage, creating a cycle of inefficiency that undermines job responsiveness and productivity.

Additionally, the policy environment in Nigeria has not been sufficiently robust to address the technological gap. While there are various ICT development strategies and digital economy roadmaps, implementation remains a key challenge. The budgetary allocation for technology development and acquisition is often minimal, and where funds are allocated, they are either mismanaged or diverted. Furthermore, public-private partnerships that could facilitate technology transfer and infrastructural development are underexplored due to bureaucratic bottlenecks and a lack of trust between the government and the private sector (Ojo & Bello, 2021). Against this backdrop, the need to address the dearth of technological equipment in Nigeria becomes not only an organizational concern but a national priority. The success of information managers and by extension, the institutions they serve is contingent upon their ability to adapt to the fast-paced, technology-driven global environment. To do this, they must be equipped with the necessary tools and resources to fulfill their roles effectively. Investment in modern technological equipment, coupled with training and capacity development, is essential to enhance the job responsiveness of information managers. It will enable them to function efficiently, support strategic decision-making, and contribute meaningfully to the achievement of organizational and national goals. Therefore, this

study examines the causes and effects of dearth of technological equipment also strategies for resolving dearth of technological equipment using local Government Area of Rivers State.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Technological infrastructure age

Technological equipment refers to the collection of physical tools, devices, machinery, and systems that are designed and utilized to perform specific tasks through the application of scientific and engineering principles. These tools range from simple mechanical devices to highly complex digital systems, including computers, servers, software applications, telecommunication tools, industrial machines, and information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure (Nwosu & Osuagwu, 2020). Technological equipment plays a crucial role in enhancing productivity, promoting innovation, and improving the efficiency of operations across different sectors of the economy. In the modern era, technological equipment forms the foundation for digital transformation, serving as the essential hardware required to support automation, data processing, communication, and decision-making processes. For instance, in workplaces and institutions, equipment such as computers, projectors, servers, scanners, and networking devices enable organizations to collect, analyze, and disseminate information efficiently (Eze et al., 2018). In the manufacturing sector, machines and robotics systems help streamline production processes and improve product quality. Similarly, in education, healthcare, agriculture, and governance, technological tools support service delivery and infrastructure management (Agboola & Oduwole, 2017). Technological equipment is also closely linked to a nation's level of development. Countries that have invested significantly in technological tools and infrastructure tend to have higher productivity, better quality of life, and enhanced economic competitiveness. According to Ajao and Onifade (2021), the availability and utilization of technological equipment are key indicators of a country's technological advancement and innovation capacity. Such tools not only facilitate economic growth but also support sustainable development through improved efficiency and environmental management.

Furthermore, the application of technological equipment is essential for effective information management. Information professionals and managers rely on a range of digital tools, including data storage systems, management software, and communication devices to carry out their duties. These tools help ensure data accuracy, accessibility, and security while enabling real-time communication and strategic planning (Okon & Edem, 2021). Without access to the necessary equipment, information managers and professionals face serious constraints in job responsiveness and performance. The term technological infrastructure age refers to the significant shortage or inadequacy of modern digital and mechanical tools necessary for efficient operations within an organization or a country. This concept encapsulates the limited availability, outdated nature, or complete absence of essential technologies such as computers, internet infrastructure, software applications, servers, automation tools, and other digital systems that support productivity, data processing, communication, and information management. In environments where such tools are scarce or obsolete, operational inefficiencies become inevitable. This scarcity often results from poor investment in technology, lack of government support, infrastructural decay, and limited capacity to maintain or upgrade existing systems (Eze et al., 2018).

One of the major contributors to this dearth is poor infrastructure development, a large percentage of Nigerian institutions particularly those in rural and semi-urban areas struggle with inconsistent electricity supply, low bandwidth internet, and poor access to basic computing facilities (Adeyeye & Alawode, 2019). These infrastructural deficits make it difficult to acquire and utilize advanced technological equipment, leaving many organizations to rely on outdated machines and manual processes that are no longer viable in today's digital economy. Moreover, the financial constraints facing most institutions further compound the problem. High importation costs, foreign exchange instability, and competing budgetary needs mean that many organizations cannot afford to procure

the latest technologies. Even where technological equipment is donated or funded by foreign partners, the lack of adequate maintenance culture and technical expertise often leads to rapid deterioration and eventual redundancy of these tools (Agboola & Oduwale, 2017). Another dimension of the dearth of technological equipment is the disconnect between technological advancement and human capacity. In many Nigerian institutions, even where minimal technologies exist, a lack of skilled personnel to operate and maintain them renders such tools underutilized or mismanaged (Nwosu & Osuagwu, 2020). This skill gap stems from inadequate training, outdated curricula in educational institutions, and lack of continuous professional development programs for workers, especially in information management roles. Furthermore, policy inconsistencies and bureaucratic bottlenecks have also slowed down efforts to improve access to technological equipment in Nigeria. Despite numerous national ICT development strategies, implementation has been weak and fragmented. The National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), for instance, has made commendable efforts to promote digital infrastructure through its *Digital Economy Policy and Strategy*, yet many institutions remain untouched by these developments, largely due to governance challenges and corruption (NITDA, 2020).

The consequences of this dearth are far-reaching. For information managers—who rely heavily on technological tools for data collection, storage, analysis, and dissemination—the lack of adequate equipment compromises their job effectiveness and responsiveness. It hampers their ability to provide timely information, support decision-making, and contribute meaningfully to organizational goals. Over time, this leads to organizational stagnation, poor service delivery, and low public trust in institutions (Okon & Edem, 2021).

Information managers Responsiveness

In today's digital and knowledge-driven era, information managers play a strategic role in the storage, retrieval, protection, and dissemination of organizational information. In Nigeria, as in many developing countries, information managers are increasingly being recognized for their role in supporting decision-making, promoting efficiency, and maintaining organizational knowledge bases. However, job responsiveness among this category of professionals is often limited by a dearth of technological equipment and institutional inefficiencies (Akor & Udensi, 2013). Job responsiveness among information managers refers to their ability to promptly and effectively perform information-related functions such as cataloguing, archiving, retrieving, analyzing, and distributing data to support organizational goals. A responsive information manager must be proactive in identifying information needs, technologically competent, and capable of adapting to both internal and external changes in the information landscape (Iwhiwhu, Ruteyan, & Eghwubare, 2009).

In Nigeria, several challenges have impeded the responsiveness of information managers. Chief among these is the lack of adequate technological tools and infrastructure, including outdated computers, poor internet connectivity, and limited access to modern information management systems. As a result, these professionals are often forced to rely on manual or semi-automated processes, which are time-consuming, inefficient, and prone to errors (Eze & Uzoigwe, 2013). The absence of modern equipment inhibits their ability to respond swiftly to user demands and emerging information needs. Furthermore, the lack of regular training and capacity building in ICT usage compounds the problem. Many information managers in Nigeria have not received up-to-date training in the use of modern information systems, thereby limiting their responsiveness to dynamic information environments. According to Ani, Esin, and Edem (2005), the technological literacy of many Nigerian information professionals remains low, which significantly affects their ability to deliver timely and high-quality services. Organizational culture and government policies also play a role. Many Nigerian institutions have not prioritized digital transformation, leaving their information units underfunded and poorly integrated into broader strategic objectives. This lack of prioritization stifles innovation and reduces the motivation of managers to respond proactively to challenges

(Ugwu & Orsu, 2021). Additionally, bureaucracy and rigid administrative structures often delay decision-making, further impeding the responsiveness of information professionals.

Despite these challenges, the importance of responsive information managers cannot be overstated. As custodians of organizational knowledge and data, their ability to act promptly and effectively has far-reaching implications for productivity, strategic planning, and overall service delivery. Investment in technological infrastructure, regular professional development, and the integration of digital information systems are essential to improve responsiveness and service quality. Moreover, policies that promote digital literacy, open access, and real-time information management are necessary to build a robust information management culture in Nigeria. When empowered with the right tools and a supportive environment, information managers can become not only responsive but also innovative drivers of institutional development and transformation (Chisita & Chiparousha, 2019).

Effects of Technological infrastructure age on managers responsiveness

The absence or insufficiency of technological equipment in local government areas has profound implications on the efficiency, productivity, and overall development performance of public institutions. In Rivers State, Nigeria, where local governments play a pivotal role in grassroots governance and service delivery, the dearth of technological infrastructure significantly hinders administrative functions, data management, and the responsiveness of information managers. These effects manifest across several dimensions, including delayed service delivery, poor decision-making, lack of transparency, and reduced public trust.

- i. **Inefficiency in Service Delivery:** The lack of adequate technological tools directly results in slow, inefficient, and often manual administrative processes. Public servants at the local government level are unable to execute routine tasks such as data entry, record-keeping, and correspondence efficiently due to the absence of computers, internet access, and digital management systems (Ogunsola & Aboyade, 2005). This inefficiency not only affects the speed of service delivery but also impedes the capacity to scale services to meet increasing public demand (Adeyemo & Oyediran, 2015). In Rivers State, local government offices often rely on outdated filing systems and paper-based processes, which are time-consuming and prone to errors.
- ii. **Impaired Information Management:** Effective governance and planning rely heavily on accurate, timely, and well-managed information. The dearth of technological equipment impedes the collection, storage, and retrieval of data, thereby hampering information management and analysis (Ile & Chukwu, 2016). For instance, without computerized systems, staff cannot easily access historical records or track performance indicators, leading to inefficient monitoring and evaluation of government programs. This limits the ability of policymakers in Rivers State's local governments to make informed decisions or allocate resources effectively.
- iii. **Poor Responsiveness of Information Managers:** Information managers are tasked with overseeing the processing and dissemination of information within government institutions. However, their job responsiveness is heavily dependent on the availability and functionality of technological tools (Chukwuemeka & Aghara, 2010). In Rivers State, the unavailability of modern ICT tools constrains the ability of information managers to carry out their roles, leading to delays in information flow, poor communication channels, and sluggish administrative responses to emerging issues. This affects public satisfaction and weakens the image of local governance.
- iv. **Lack of Transparency and Accountability:** Technology plays a critical role in promoting transparency and accountability in public administration. Digital tools such as databases, electronic tracking systems, and automated audit trails can help detect fraud, monitor budgets, and track public expenditure. The absence of these tools in Rivers State's local

governments creates opportunities for financial mismanagement and corruption, as transactions and operations are difficult to monitor manually (Okoli & Onah, 2017). This lack of transparency erodes public trust and compromises the legitimacy of local institutions.

- v. **Hindered Staff Performance and Motivation:** Technological equipment facilitates easier and more productive working conditions. When such tools are lacking, staff morale tends to decline due to the cumbersome nature of manual processes and the frustration associated with inefficient systems (Bako, 2014). Employees in local governments in Rivers State may feel undervalued and unmotivated when compared to their counterparts in better-equipped institutions, resulting in lower job performance and higher staff turnover rates (Ndume, 2020).
- vi. **Limited Access to E-Government Services:** The shift towards digital governance or e-government requires a foundational investment in technology. Without sufficient technological infrastructure, local governments in Rivers State are unable to offer online services such as tax payment, birth registration, permit applications, or public complaints systems (Odukoya, 2020). This digital gap excludes a large portion of the population from efficient, real-time access to essential services, especially in rural areas where physical distance from government offices further complicates matters.
- vii. **Reduced Capacity for Development Planning:** Modern development planning depends on data analytics, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and digital forecasting tools. The lack of such equipment restricts local governments' ability to plan infrastructure projects, allocate resources equitably, or assess the impact of past initiatives (Agbo, 2015). Consequently, Rivers State's local governments are often reactive rather than proactive in addressing developmental challenges, which perpetuates underdevelopment in the state's rural and peri-urban communities.
- viii. **Inhibited Training and Capacity Building:** Technological equipment is essential for training and capacity building through e-learning platforms, webinars, and access to updated resources. In its absence, local government workers in Rivers State miss out on continuous professional development opportunities (Ajayi, 2014). The inability to integrate ICT into training limits the development of new skills and the adoption of innovative practices necessary for modern public administration.
- ix. **Economic and Social Implications:** At a broader level, the dearth of technological infrastructure limits the capacity of local governments to support local economic development initiatives. For example, they cannot provide digital platforms for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), facilitate ICT-driven agricultural practices, or promote digital literacy programs for youth (Ayo, 2010). This not only widens the digital divide but also perpetuates poverty, unemployment, and social inequality in Rivers State's rural areas.
- x. **Stifled Innovation and Reform:** Finally, the lack of technology stifles institutional innovation and reform. Without modern equipment, local governments cannot pilot new administrative models, automate repetitive tasks, or introduce citizen engagement platforms (Nnadozie, 2019). This makes them resistant to change and unable to keep pace with global trends in public sector reform and smart governance.

Strategies for Resolving the Technological infrastructure obsolete

Addressing the problem of inadequate technological equipment in local government areas (LGAs) of Rivers State requires a multi-pronged strategy involving investment, policy reform, stakeholder engagement, and capacity building. These strategies must aim not only to provide modern tools and infrastructure but also to ensure that the technology is effectively integrated into administrative and operational workflows. Below are key strategies for resolving the dearth of technological equipment in Rivers State LGAs:

- i. **Increased Budgetary Allocation and Investment in ICT Infrastructure:** One of the most critical steps toward resolving technological deficits is the deliberate increase in

budgetary allocations for ICT at the local government level. Most LGAs in Rivers State suffer from underfunding, which directly affects their ability to acquire and maintain modern equipment (Obara et al., 2022). The state government should create a dedicated ICT development fund for LGAs, earmarking resources for computers, internet connectivity, backup systems, and software tools essential for administrative tasks (Ndukwe, 2005). Public-private partnerships (PPPs) could also be explored to leverage private sector investment in technology deployment (Etim et al., 2020).

- ii. **Implementation of Digital Transformation Policies:** LGAs in Rivers State need clearly defined ICT policies that guide the integration of technology into governance. Such policies should articulate a vision for e-governance, specify technology standards, and establish digital performance indicators. A well-articulated ICT policy would also help ensure sustainability, continuity, and accountability in technology investments (Olagunji, 2020). Moreover, these policies must be integrated into broader state development plans to ensure coherence and alignment with national digital economy strategies (DCO, 2022).
- iii. **Training and Capacity Building for Information Managers and Staff:** Equipping LGAs with technological tools without corresponding staff training will not yield desired outcomes. Continuous professional development through digital literacy programs, hands-on workshops, and certifications is crucial to empower staff to use ICT tools effectively (Ajayi, 2014). Collaborations with institutions of higher learning, such as the Rivers State University, can be fostered to provide technical support and periodic training for local government personnel (Ayo, 2010).
- iv. **Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and Donor Engagement:** Establishing partnerships with private tech companies and international development agencies can help to fill technological gaps. Global and local tech firms can be engaged to support the setup of digital systems in exchange for tax incentives or branding opportunities (IGI Global, 2020). Additionally, international organizations such as the World Bank, UNDP, and the African Development Bank often provide grants and technical assistance to support e-governance initiatives in developing countries (Oduro-Afriyie, 2012).
- v. **Adoption of Cloud-Based and Open-Source Technologies:** Given the high costs of maintaining physical data centers and purchasing licensed software, local governments can adopt cloud computing and open-source alternatives. Cloud-based services reduce infrastructure costs and provide scalable data storage, real-time access, and disaster recovery capabilities (Mousa, 2021). Open-source platforms such as LibreOffice and Odoo ERP are cost-effective and customizable to suit local administrative needs.
- vi. **Establishment of ICT Units in Local Government Secretariats:** Many LGAs in Rivers State lack dedicated ICT departments or units. Setting up ICT units headed by qualified professionals can drive the deployment, maintenance, and strategic use of technological equipment (Chukwuemeka & Aghara, 2010). These units would serve as the internal champions of technology and would also coordinate with external ICT consultants and stakeholders to ensure efficient usage of the equipment.
- vii. **Legislative Backing and Policy Enforcement:** The state House of Assembly should pass laws mandating the integration of technology in all LGAs. Legal backing ensures compliance, sustainability, and protection of digital systems from abrupt changes in political leadership. Moreover, regulatory frameworks can define minimum standards for ICT infrastructure, cybersecurity measures, and digital record-keeping (Onodugo, 2012).
- viii. **Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks:** To ensure transparency and effectiveness, there must be a robust monitoring and evaluation system in place to track the deployment and usage of technological equipment. Performance indicators such as system uptime, data accuracy, staff usage rates, and public service delivery timelines should be periodically assessed (Ile & Chukwu, 2016). Feedback mechanisms should also be established for citizens to report issues or suggest improvements in service delivery.

- ix. **Incentivizing Innovation at the Local Government Level:** The state government should provide rewards and recognition for LGAs that adopt and successfully implement technological innovations. Competitions, grants, and awards can be used to motivate local councils to find innovative ways to use ICT in areas such as tax collection, birth registration, and public feedback systems (Bako, 2014). This will create healthy competition and a culture of innovation among the LGAs.
- x. **Community Engagement and Awareness Campaigns:** Finally, the general public should be sensitized about the importance of digital governance and their role in it. Awareness campaigns can encourage citizens to embrace e-government services, demand accountability, and contribute to safeguarding technological investments at the local level (Omesi et al., 2020). Such community involvement enhances the sustainability of ICT initiatives and strengthens the state-citizen relationship.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The study identified several key findings regarding the dearth of technological equipment in local government areas (LGAs) in Rivers State, Nigeria:

- i. **Limited Budgetary Allocation:** A significant cause of the technological deficit in LGAs is the inadequate allocation of funds towards acquiring and maintaining necessary technological equipment. This has hindered the development of robust ICT infrastructures within local governments (Adewale, 2019).
- ii. **Lack of Proper Policy Frameworks:** There is a lack of clear and comprehensive policies guiding the acquisition, maintenance, and use of technological equipment at the local government level. Many LGAs operate without a strategic plan for technology integration in their administrative processes (Olanrewaju, 2021).
- iii. **Inadequate Capacity-Building for Information Managers:** Information managers and other staff members in LGAs are often not equipped with the necessary skills to operate or maintain modern technological tools. Training programs are either non-existent or insufficient, contributing to underutilization of available technology (Sani & Mohammed, 2020).
- iv. **Effects on Service Delivery:** The absence of technological tools has significantly impacted service delivery within LGAs, leading to inefficiencies in data management, poor decision-making, and delays in the execution of public projects (Bello, 2020). This has resulted in reduced citizens' access to essential services, particularly in areas such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure development.
- v. **Challenges in Communication and Information Flow:** The dearth of technological equipment has hampered effective communication between various government departments and between local governments and their constituencies. This has led to a breakdown in the timely dissemination of critical information (Mbah, 2019).
- vi. **Increased Corruption and Lack of Transparency:** With limited technological tools, the monitoring and evaluation of local government projects have been cumbersome, creating room for corruption. The lack of transparency in administrative processes has diminished the trust citizens have in their local government systems (Adeyemi & Ogundipe, 2021).

RECOMMENDATIONS

Addressing this gap is not only necessary for improved governance but also crucial for achieving sustainable socio-economic development in Rivers State. Based on this, the following recommendation were made;

- i. **Increased Investment in ICT Infrastructure:** Local governments must prioritize the allocation of sufficient funds for the procurement and maintenance of modern technological equipment. Adequate budgetary provisions should be made to ensure that the technological needs of the LGAs are met, and infrastructure is upgraded regularly (Mbah, 2019).

- ii. **Development and Implementation of a Comprehensive ICT Policy:** There is an urgent need for the formulation and implementation of a clear ICT policy framework that outlines the strategic goals for integrating technology into the daily operations of local government areas. This policy should focus on procurement, maintenance, and training of staff (Olanrewaju, 2021).
- iii. **Training and Capacity-Building for Information Managers:** Information managers and relevant personnel in LGAs should be provided with continuous professional development opportunities. Regular training on the use of technological tools, data management, and security should be integrated into local government staff development programs (Sani & Mohammed, 2020).
- iv. **Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for Technology Deployment:** To overcome the financial constraints faced by local governments, partnerships with private sector players should be encouraged. Through PPPs, local governments can leverage private sector expertise, technology, and funding to improve their ICT infrastructure and service delivery (Adewale, 2019).
- v. **Promotion of E-Governance Initiatives:** Local governments in Rivers State should embrace e-governance initiatives to streamline administrative processes, improve transparency, and reduce inefficiencies. E-government services such as online tax payment systems, e-health records, and digital citizen engagement platforms can significantly enhance governance at the grassroots level (Bello, 2020).
- vi. **Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms:** Establishing robust monitoring and evaluation systems that utilize technological tools will help in tracking the progress of local government projects and ensuring accountability. This can also reduce corruption and improve the overall transparency of government operations (Adeyemi & Ogundipe, 2021).
- vii. **Collaboration with Development Partners:** Local governments should collaborate with international development organizations and NGOs to access funding and technical support for technological projects. These partnerships can play a crucial role in bridging the technology gap and enhancing local governance (Ordu, 2021).

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