Computers-Based Information Systems and How Well They Are Strategically Serving Pioneer Universities of Ethiopia

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Abstract
ICT utilization in higher education institutions has been key concern to help them manage information resources and their day-to-day activities. This study which employed survey method has an objective of identifying the situation of pioneer universities of Ethiopia in making ICTs support their strategic objectives. Among the pioneer universities, four of them (40%) are chosen based on judgment sampling method. Directors or managers of the universities as well as ICT staffs of those institutions that are either directly or indirectly involving in ICT/IS planning activities and those that are necessarily involving in the production and generation of computer-based information systems are selected accidentally. Two sets of different items of questionnaires were distributed to ninety informants and sixty (65.2%) of the respondents have returned back. According to the analysis, ICT offices of all universities are currently giving service efficiently not further than surfing, and minor hardware maintenance but where they are expected to do more on application software development, research, and resources sharing to support institutional duties. The research concluded that there is no well formulated policy and strategic plan in almost all surveyed universities that will guide the ICT activities and as result institutions are facing problems of getting effective backing from ICTs.

Key Words: Information Systems, Strategic Plan, Information Resources, IT alignment, Higher education