

ADOPTION OF MIGRATION INFORMATION AND DATA ANALYSIS SYSTEM FOR BORDER CONTROL AND SECURITY BY THE NIGERIAN IMMIGRATION SERVICE OF NIGERIA.

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Abstract

This research investigated adoption of migration information and data analysis system for border control and security (MIDAS) by the Nigerian Immigration Service of Nigeria. The objectives of the study were to determine extent to which the Nigeria Immigration Service adopt Migration Information and Data Analysis System activities/operations for boarder security and control and find out type of technological skills do Nigeria Immigration Service staff possess for the adoption of Migration Information and Data Analysis System. The study adopted quantitative research methods and cross-sectional, survey research design. The population of the study comprised of the entire one hundred and ninety-nine (199) Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) staff working at the Nigerian borders (Lands, Airports and Seas). Total enumeration was used selecting 199 staff as sample. Questionnaire was used as instrument for data collection. Descriptive statistic was used for data analysis. Findings revealed that, the major reason for using MIDAS by the Nigeria Immigration Service was to facilitates boarder security and control in the country and Ability to scan a document happens to be the most common technological skills possessed by Nigeria Immigration Service for the adoption of MIDAS. The study recommends that the Federal Government of Nigeria and Ministry of Communication and Digital Economy in collaboration with Nigeria Immigration Service Commission should provide a sensitization program (training) for the personnel using the MIDAS on exploring all the potentials of MIDAS to better border security and control in the country among others.

Keywords: Adoption, Information Technology, Migration Information and Data Analysis System, Border control, Security control, Nigerian Immigration Service

Introduction

Use of information technology for controlling the movement of migrants in the borders of Nigeria is very important. Information technology such as Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS) is a specialised technology that is used in Border Management. It has the function to facilitates capture, store and dissemination of the data of migrants. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) (2019) stressed that Migration Information and Data Analysis System is a high-quality as well as affordable system that can collect, process and record information for the purpose of identification of travelers, data collection and analysis,

usually used by government agencies to track identification of travelers coming in to a particular country.

The Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) is a paramilitary outfit and a major stake holder in ensuring internal security of the nation. It discharges its functions in a manner that promotes the corporate image of the nation. The NIS by design, is an international gate keeper for the Nation and the first security check at any point of entry (Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council, 2018). Since its extraction from the Nigeria Police Force in 1958, the NIS has witnessed series of changes in terms of organization, functions and innovations, particularly the automation of the system (Isiyaku, 2018;Jibrin, 2019). Automation of the NIS process has significantly impacted its performance positively to the extent that governance is going online because of the ease and efficiency it has brought through the deployment of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). The deployment of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is aimed at enhancing productivity of organisations. This involves technological innovations that enhance processing of big data to enable better planning (Global Migration Data Analysis Centre, 2020). The innovations in ICT have imposed positive consequences on the theoretical view that modern societies are evolving as global informatics or a knowledge society characterised by an abundance of information and network model for organizations.

Statement of the Problem

Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS) is a specialised technology support for the provision of security at the points of entry. This is to ensure that national security is maintained and enhanced as well as prevents illegal movement across all borders of the country. Moreover, the MIDAS has a crucial role in organisational progress, the application of digital technologies in sectors such as governments, non-governmental organizations, organic social movements have the potential to improve participation, transparency and accountability (Global Migration Data Analysis Centre, 2016).

However, despite the highlighted relevance of MIDAS, the researcher observed that, Nigeria and its neighbouring countries faced serious security challenges (proliferation of arms, prostitution and child trafficking, smuggling, banditry, kidnapping, boko haram among others) as a result of cross border activities of terrorists who transverse the border without being identified and brought to book. In addition to the complexity of the border control challenges, the flow of regular migration is on the increasing. This is coupled with high transit rates of individuals in and out of Nigeria which expected to reach up to 10 million by the year 2025. It is in the light of this, that the study investigated the adoption of Migration Information and Data Analysis System for border control and security by the Nigerian Immigration Service of Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study were to;

1. Determine extent to which the Nigeria Immigration Service adopt Migration Information and Data Analysis System activities/operations for boarder security and control.
2. State the technological skills staff possess for the adoption of Migration Information and Data Analysis System in Nigeria Immigration Service for boarder security and control.

Literature Review

Migration Information and Data Analysis System, MIDAS is a technology used to manage the borders. It allows countries to effectively monitor those entering and exiting their

territory by land, air and sea, while providing a sound statistical basis for migration policy-related planning (All Africa, 2019). However, International Organization for Migration (2019) indicated that Nigeria, like many countries, recognizes the economic, social and political benefits of international mobility. Sparked in part by mass migration events, researchers, policy-makers, analysts and law enforcement agencies have invested time and energy in understanding how ICT is being used to facilitate migration, most especially irregular migration involving smugglers. The use of apps to share information in real-time, including to support clandestine border crossings, together with the consolidation of social media platforms to connect geographically dispersed groups with common interests, has raised valid questions concerning the extent to which technology has been used to support irregular migration, as well as to enable migrants to avoid abusive and exploitative migrant smugglers.

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) skills and competencies are necessary for the adoption and management of any technology, which MIDAS is inclusive. Dirk, Kurt and Jef (2016) maintained that the skills and competencies needed for the adoption of technology include maintenance of personal computer, word processing skill, spreadsheet skill, database skill, presentation software skill, Internet browsing skill and electronic communication skill. From another angle, Montoya (2018) had a belief that the skills and competencies needed for the adoption of technology included the ability to copy or move a file or folder from one place to another, ability to connect and install new devices, ability to find, download, install and configure software, ability to transfer a file or folder from one computer to another device, ability to write a computer program using a specialized programming language, ability to create electronic presentations with text, image, sound, video etc., ability to use basic arithmetic formulae in spreadsheet, ability to send electronic mail with attached files and ability to use copy and paste tools to move information from one place to another.

Methodology

Quantitative research methodology and cross-sectional survey research design was adopted for the study. Aina (2004) asserted that survey research is a systematic and comprehensive collection of information that reflects the opinions, attitudes, feelings, beliefs and behaviors of people on an issue. The population of this study comprised of the entire Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) staff working at the Nigerian borders (Lands, Airports and Seas) where Migration Information and Data Analysis System, MIDAS was deployed for the purpose of border control and security totaling one hundred and ninety-nine (199). Because the population was not large, the entire was used, this is in line with Barnard (2012) who stated that a researcher could use the entire population if its less than 200. The research instrument used for collecting data was questionnaire. It was used due to its advantages as recommended by Aina (2004) that, questionnaire as an instrument for data collection was used in descriptive or survey research as it is more economical in terms of time, effort and money.

Result and Discussion

The Objective sought to know reasons for the adoption of MIDAS by Nigeria Immigration Service

Table 1: Reasons for the adoption of MIDAS by Nigeria Immigration Service

S/N	Reasons for the adoption of MIDAS	Land boarder		Airport boarder		Sea boarder		Total	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1.	It is used because of its high-quality function	93	53	19	11	12	7	124	71
2.	To achieve easy collection of data	104	60	21	12	14	8	139	80
3.	To achieve easy processing of data	74	43	15	9	10	6	99	57
4.	To achieve easy recording of information for identification of travelers	94	54	19	11	13	8	126	72
5.	saves time of officers in their boarder operations	103	59	21	12	14	8	138	79
6.	Easy in storage of information	119	68	24	14	16	9	159	91
7.	Facilitates dissemination of information	74	43	15	9	10	6	99	57
8.	Facilitates migrants' physical investigation	93	53	19	11	12	7	124	71
9.	Facilitates boarder security and control	123	71	25	14	16	9	164	94

Table 1 depicts the reasons for the adoption of MIDAS by Nigeria Immigration Service and the Table revealed that MIDAS facilitates boarder security and control had the highest frequency and percentage of 164(94%), followed by it is easy in storage of information with 159(91%), followed by it facilitates migrants' physical investigation and its high quality function with a frequency and percentage of 124(71%) each, and then it is used to achieve easy collection of data with 139(80%), then closely followed by it saves time of the officers in their boarder operations with 138(79%), followed by it is use to achieve easy recording of information for identification of travelers with 126(72%), closely followed by it is used to achieve easy processing of data and it facilitates dissemination of information with 99(57%) each.

Arising from the presentation of data above, it can be deduced that, the major reasons for using MIDAS by Nigeria Immigration Service was to facilitates boarder security and control, because of its high frequency and percentage amongst all the reasons mentioned, whilst the least or less common amongst the reasons were to achieve easy processing of data and to facilitates dissemination of information.

This finding affirmed the study of Keick (2011), who said that the platform for sharing information among border regulatory agencies is characterized by definitional inconsistencies, fragmentation and lack of well-structured template for data sharing. By and large, this implied that, proper adoption of MIDAS by Nigeria Immigration Service will guaranteed boarder security and control which is number one objective of Nigeria Immigration Service that is to ensure proper security and management of Nigerian boarders, so adoption of MIDAS will go a long way in helping the Nigeria Immigration Service to achieve this.

The objectives sought to know the technological skills possessed for the adoption of MIDAS by Nigeria Immigration Service personnel

Table 2: Technological skills possessed by Nigeria Immigration Service for the adoption of MIDAS

S/N	Technological skills	Land boarder		Airport boarder		Sea boarder		Total	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1.	Ability to copy or move file or folder from one place to another	118	68	19	11	16	9	153	88
2.	Ability to connect and install new devices	93	53	17	10	12	7	122	70
3.	Ability to find, download, install and configure software	83	48	10	6	11	6	104	60
4.	Ability to transfer a file or folder from one computer to another device	50	29	10	6	7	4	67	39
5.	Ability to write computer program using a specialized programming language	20	11	4	2	3	2	27	16
6.	Ability to create electronic presentations with text, image, sound, video etc	34	20	7	4	5	3	46	26
7.	Ability to use basic arithmetic formulae in spreadsheet	23	13	5	3	3	2	31	18
8.	Ability to send electronic mail with attached files	68	39	14	8	9	5	91	52
9.	Ability to use copy and paste tools to move information from one place to another	81	47	16	9	11	6	108	62
10.	Ability to create word documents	110	63	22	13	15	9	147	85
11.	Ability to print documents	101	58	20	12	13	8	134	77
12.	Ability to scan documents	119	68	22	13	14	8	155	89

Source: Field survey, 2022

Table 2 displayed the technological skills possessed by Nigeria Immigration Service for the adoption of MIDAS. Table showed that, ability to scan documents had the highest frequency and percentage of 155(89%), then closely followed by ability to copy/move file or folder from one place to another with 153(88%), then ability to create word document with 147(85%), followed by ability to print document with 134(77%), then followed by ability to connect and install new devices 122(70%), ability to use copy and paste tools to move information from one place to another with 108(62%), ability to find, download, install and configure software with 104(60%), followed by ability to send electronic mail with attached files with frequency and percentage of 91(52%), ability to transfer a file or folder from one computer to another device with 67(39%), ability to create electronic presentations with text, image, sound, video etc with 46(26%), ability to use basic arithmetic formulae in spreadsheet with 31(18%) and lastly, ability to write computer program using a specialized programming language with 27(16%).

By and large, it can be inferred that, ability to scan a document happen to be the most common technological skills possessed by Nigeria Immigration Service for the adoption of MIDAS, because it had the highest frequency and percentage from the result presented whilst the least possessed technological skills was ability to write computer program using a specialized programming language because it had the lowest frequency and percentage.

This finding aligns that of Dirk, Kurt and Jef (2016), whom said that, scanning and authenticating of documents were the competencies and skills that are of high value for adoption of MIDAS by Nigeria Immigration Service. More often than not, this finding implied that Nigeria Immigration Service will easily detect fake travelling documents using their smart scanner of MIDAS which will ensure boarder security and control, because when documents are scanned the MIDAS will authenticate them to ensure their genuineness or otherwise and this only happen when the officers in-charge knows how to scan and authenticate with they do.

Summary of the Findings

The followings were the findings of the study:

1. The study discovered that, the major reasons for using MIDAS by the Nigeria Immigration Service was ease in storage of information and facilitation of boarder security and control in the country.
2. Ability to scan and copy or move file or folder from one place to another document happens to be the most common technological skills possessed by Nigeria Immigration Service for the adoption of MIDAS.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The study examined the adoption of Migration Information and Data Analysis System for border security and control by the Nigeria Immigration Service, hence, based on the findings of this study, it was concluded that the Nigeria Immigration Service are managing vital information of the travelers that will ensure border security and control of the country. Thus, the adoption of MIDAS by Nigeria Immigration Service had really changed and shaped the conduct of the activities and operation of the commission in the country for a better. The study therefore recommends that the Federal Government of Nigeria and Ministry of Communication and Digital Economy in collaboration with Nigeria Immigration Service Commission should provide a sensitization program (training) for the personnel using the MIDAS on exploring all the potentials of MIDAS to better border security and control in the country. Also, the Federal Government of Nigeria and Ministry of Communication and Digital Economy in collaboration with Nigeria Immigration Service Commission should organize workshops, seminars, symposium, conferences on regular interval to train the Nigeria Immigration Service using the MIDAS on other technological skills and competencies for better operation of the technology.

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