



**NOVEMBER 2024**

# **A 6-MONTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT ON THE DIGITAL ECONOMY CENTRE AT SANCTA MARIA CATHOLIC COLLEGE OF NURSING SCIENCES UZAIRUE, AUCHI, EDO STATE,**

Presented By:

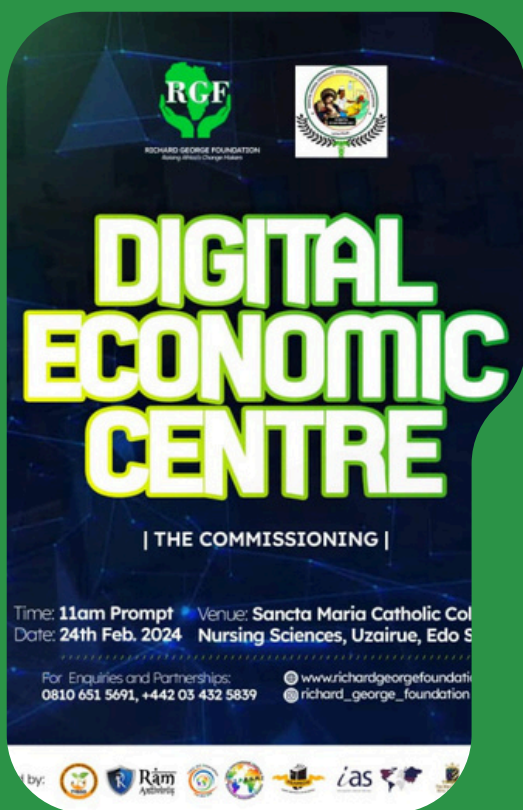


**RICHARD  
GEORGE FOUNDATION**  
Raising Africa's Change Makers



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### Our Vision

**To raise Africa's Change Makers with focus on young and talented African Graduates in Polytechnics and Universities**

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# Background

**Sancta Maria Catholic College of Nursing Science, located in Uzairue, Auchi, Edo State, received a Digital Economy Centre donated to them by the Richard George Foundation as a strategic asset to advance students' digital literacy, facilitate online learning, and support academic research. This facility was commissioned on the 24th of February 2024 by Abdullahi Kashifu the DG/CEO of NITDA to serve the students, with aim to bridge the digital gap within the institution and equip students with essential IT skills critical to their academic and professional growth.**

# Objective



The objective of this 6-month evaluation was to assess the Digital Economy Centre's impact on the students' academic experience, determine the effectiveness of the facility in improving digital literacy, and gather feedback on areas needing improvement. The assessment focused on identifying changes in students' IT proficiency, their ability to leverage digital tools for learning, and the overall enhancement of the school's academic environment.

# Methodology

## Data collection for the evaluation was conducted through:

<b>First</b>	Surveys targeting a representative sample of students, alongside teachers and school administrators, to gather both quantitative and qualitative data on the centre's usage and impact.
<b>Second</b>	Interviews with students, faculty members, IT, and school administrators to supplement survey findings and identify operational challenges.
<b>Third</b>	Observation of facility utilization patterns, including frequency and purpose of use, as well as any noted technical difficulties encountered by users.

# Key Findings

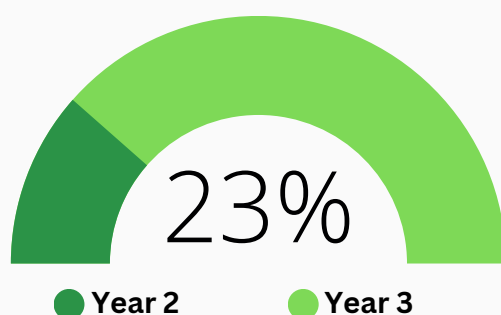
## IT Literacy Improvement:

Gender

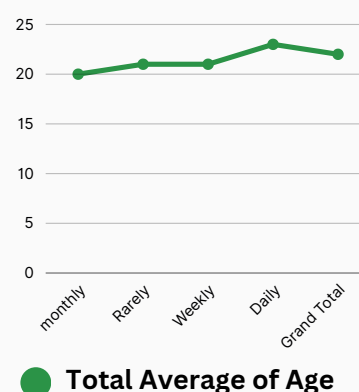
Female



### The Level of Midwifery



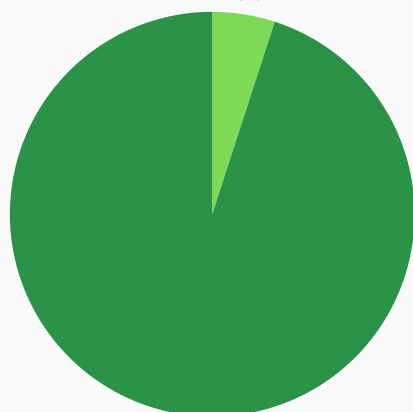
### How often they use IT facility



## The commissioning

Prior to the commissioning of the Digital Economy Centre, only 5% of students demonstrated basic IT literacy. Following its implementation, IT literacy among students increased substantially, with 95% of students now exhibiting competency in core digital skills.

Students who demonstrated basic IT literacy  
5%



students now exhibiting competency in core digital skills  
95%

## Students surveyed

95% of students surveyed indicated that they acquired new digital skills, including proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and internet navigation, which are essential for both academic and professional tasks.

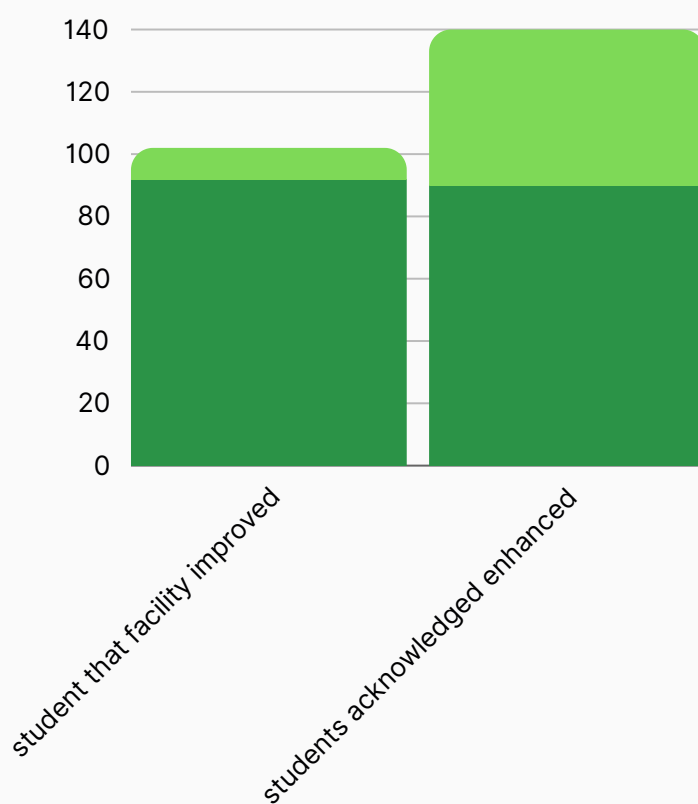


# Key Findings

## Enhanced Learning Experience:

### Improvement

A significant 92% of students reported that the facility has notably improved their learning experience and outcomes, making academic tasks more accessible and manageable.



### Acknowledged

90% of students acknowledged enhanced efficiency in conducting research, gathering information, completing assignments, and participating in online lectures, tests, exams, and registration through the centre's resources.





# Key Findings

## **Skills Acquisition and Practical Application:**

With access to digital tools and educational software, students now possess foundational IT skills that support both classroom learning and self-directed study.

Teachers noted that students were more inclined to explore digital resources independently, indicating a positive shift toward self-guided learning and practical application of digital skills in their coursework.





**To ensure the Digital Economy Centre remains functional and impactful for the long term, the school has implemented a comprehensive sustainability plan:**

## **Hosting External Examinations**

The school plans to leverage the facility to host external examinations, including JAMB, WAEC, NECO, and recruitment exams for organizations such as the Police, Navy, and NDLEA. These activities will serve a dual purpose:

- Generate revenue for the facility's operational costs, maintenance, and upgrades.
- Position the centre as a hub for national and regional examination needs, boosting its relevance and usage.

## **Community Digital Literacy Training**

The school will offer affordable digital literacy training to community members to bridge the digital divide and promote IT competency in the local area. This initiative will:

- Create an additional income stream for maintaining and improving the facility.
- Strengthen community relations by providing value-added services that address regional digital literacy gaps.

## **Regular Maintenance Schedule**

A dedicated team has been put in place to oversee routine maintenance and upgrades of the facility's equipment and software to ensure uninterrupted operations.



# Challenges Identified

Significant challenge observed

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## Challenges

One significant challenge observed during the evaluation is the insufficiency of computers provided in the Digital Economy Centre to meet the needs of the growing student population. With about 500 students relying on the facility for their digital literacy and academic needs, the available resources are over stretched, leading to students often faced with long wait times or overcrowding, particularly during peak usage periods such as exam preparations and research sessions.

Additionally, the lack of sufficient computers limits hands-on practice time for students, especially for those seeking to enhance their proficiency in essential IT skills like Microsoft Office tools, internet navigation, and research methodologies.

# Recommendation for Addressing Resource Constraints

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## Recommendations

- **Supply of Additional Computers:** Although, the school had supplied more computers to the facility, more is still needed to meet the growing students need.
- **Implement a Rotational Schedule:** Development of a structured timetable to optimize access for all students while ensuring equitable usage.

Addressing this challenge will enhance the facility's capacity to meet the growing needs of the student population, ensuring that its benefits remain impactful.



# Conclusion



**RGF**

**The Digital Economy Centre has played a pivotal role in advancing IT literacy and improving academic outcomes at Sancta Maria Catholic College of Nursing Science. With IT literacy increasing from 5% to 95% among students and a majority of students reporting enhanced learning experiences, the facility has successfully met its core objectives.**

**The recommendations above are aimed at further strengthening the centre's capacity to serve as a valuable educational resource, ultimately supporting the school's goal of preparing digitally literate, tech-savvy graduates for the healthcare field.**

**The Digital Economy Centre represents a sustainable investment in the academic and professional futures of the student body, with ongoing enhancements likely to yield even greater benefits for the school community.**





#### Our Mission

To Provide Social Educational and Economic Empowerment to such high flying students that will unleash their potentials.

# Contact us for further inquiries

