A REPORT ON

STUDENTS INDUSTRIAL WORK EXPERIENCE SCHEME (SIWES)

UNDERTAKEN AT

NATIONAL MOONLIGHT NEWSPAPER
ALIMI CLOSE, OFF AHMAN PATEGI ROAD, GRA, ILORIN, KWARA STATE

FROM
October, 2024 - DECEMBER, 2024

BY
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SUBMITTED TO
THE DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE, INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY, KWARA STATE POLYTECHNIC, ILORIN.

IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF NATIONAL DIPLOMA (ND) IN COMPUTER SCIENCE.

AUGUST, 2025

DEDICATION

I dedicate this Students Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) report to God almighty for his grace and mercy towards the completion of the SIWES programme.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My acknowledgement goes to God almighty, my parents, Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin, my supervisors at the National Moonlight Newspaper and to my friends.

REPORT OVERVIEW

This is an industrial attachment report for the Students' Industrial Work Experience (SIWES) programme carried out at National Moonlight Newspaper, Alimi Close, Off Ahman Pategi Road, GRA, Ilorin, Kwara State within the period of three months from October, 2024 to December, 2024.

The report comprises the background of SIWES, the description of the organization, its aims and objectives, the experiences gained as an industrial training student and the summary, conclusions and recommendations.

It has a total of 5 chapters with sub-chapters. It also has the preliminary pages, such as the title page, report overview and table of contents and recommendations on the improvement of scheme.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

The Students' Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) is a scheme established by the Industrial Training Fund (ITF) in 1973 to help students of tertiary institution in Nigeria acquire technical skills and practical exposure in an industrial environment based on various course of study.

Prior to the Establishment of SIWES, science and technology education in Nigeria was marred with the problem of lack of adequate practical and industrial skills and working experience that will prepare students of tertiary institution in Nigeria for employment opportunities in industries. It was in this view that the scheme was established and students in tertiary institution of Nigeria studying sciences and technology related courses were mandated to participate in the program to enable them have technical knowledge and working experience before graduating from their prospective institution and makes it a smooth transition from the lecture room to the world of work.

1.1   BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

SIWES was established by industrial training fund to solve the problem of lack of adequate practical skills in preparation for employment in industries by Nigerian graduates of tertiary institutions.

The Students' Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) was designed, established and implemented by the Industrial Training Fund (ITF) in 1974 to ensure acquisition of field practical knowledge and skills by students before graduation, mainly coordinated by the National University Commission (NUC). The NUC recognizing the importance of job specifications in the scheme did set the necessary machinery in motion soon after the resolution was taken in 1998. However, from 1989-1993, the drawing up of the minimum academic standards documents (a major statutory of commission) owe resultant accreditation exercise and the movement of the commission secretariat to Abuja did not leave sufficient time to actualize this goal.

It was not until January 1996 at a 3 days national workshop in Jos that specification was drawn for the entire program that had industrial attachment component in the minimum academic standard documents. Participants were drawn from senior academic from universities across the country, SIWES coordinators and officers in all nine panels, each headed by a senior academic officer were constituted for the entire forty-six program. Prior to drawing job specification, however, a one-day meeting was held at which a five-day meeting was presented and the procedure content and format for presentation of the specification documents were decided.

SIWES commenced in 1974 in the aim of making education more relevant to bridge the gap between the theory and the practice of agriculture, engineering, technology and

science related discipline in tertiary institutions in Nigeria.

For students in polytechnics and mono-technics and college of education, the duration of SIWES is for 4 months while university undergraduates go for a 6 months duration. Each institution is expected to have a SIWES coordinator who is in charge of all activities that pertains to students industrial training in the institution.

The production of SIWES job specification is without doubt a milestone in the development of academic activities in the national university system. The benefit derivable by the employer, universities and the students alike are immense and will go a long way to move the country forward technologically.

Operators: The ITF, the coordinating agencies (NUC, NCCE, NBTE), the employers of labor and institution.

Funding: The Federal Government of Nigeria.

Beneficiaries: Undergraduate students of the following; Agriculture, Engineering, Technology, Environmental, Sciences, Education, Medical sciences and Pure and applied sciences.

1.2   OBJECTIVES OF SIWES

1. It provides students the opportunity to test their interest in a particular career before permanent commitments are made.

2. It provides an avenue for students in tertiary institutions to acquire industrial skills and work experience in their course of study.

3. Makes the transition from school to the world of work easier and enhances students contacts for later job placement.

4. It helps students to develop skills and techniques directly applicable to their careers.

5. It provides students the opportunity to understand informal organizational interrelationships.

6. It helps students develop skills in the application of theory to practical work situations.

7. It increases a student's sense of responsibilities

8. It prepares students to enter into full time employment in their area of specialization upon graduation.

9. It provides students the opportunity to develop attitudes conducive to effective interpersonal relationships.

CHAPTER TWO

DESCRIPTION OF ESTABLISHMENT OF ATTACHMENT

2.1   LOCATION AND BRIEF HISTORY OF ESTABLISHMENT

National Moonlight Newspaper was established on 14th of March 2014, founded by Alhaji Sulyman Toyin Olokoba as Publisher/Editor-In-Chief. According to the edict, it shall be the duty of the corporation to disseminate the knowledge and to encourage interests in the state and to give guidance to the public upon any matter of public interest. By this singular directive and as spelt out in succeeding paragraphs of the edict, the corporation was to publish newspapers and periodicals, carryout all the function common to a newspaper organization, including the promotion, the encouragement and the stimulation in the study of journalism. One other thing the edict directed the corporation to do, which makes it clearly too similar in other states of the federation, was that it shall encourage, by competing or otherwise the composition of music and literature of all kinds and, alongside shall maintain depots for distribution of periods on the literature books.

Several years of experience had shown the need, the status to organize some form of publicity for its work and progress and it had become clear, for go to corporation was established, that no other could care for the business of spreading information and education in the state better than the state itself indeed, experience has shown that a great deal Is of the work of development, which had been carried out in the state and according to the tastes ,dictates and desires of the people, had been treated like a candle put under the bushel would give publicity to the art and culture of the people of Kwara state, and according to the edict, carry report of outstanding and general interest as well as informed criticism and features.

Saliu, suggesting that the standard of the maiden issues was maintained the newspaper would in no time establish itself as a leader among others. The effort continues to be made and the staff and management of the corporations have accepted the challenges in cheerful sprits which will people the establishment towards the ideal.

The brief story of the National Moonlight word on marble of course, be incomplete without mentioning on the platform of the noble man who sees reasons to establish a concrete and unbiased print house which serves the interest of the masses.

NOTE: The newspaper generally known as free tabloid, for this reason, it represents the interest of the masses and it now located at Alimi Close, Off Ahman Pategi Road, GRA, Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria as at (2021).

2.2 OBJECTIVES AND CORE VALUES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT

The core value of the newspapers' establishment is to give the news impartially, without fear or favor (Adolph Ochs, 1858-1935).

The objectives and core values of the National Moonlight is as follows:

- Impartiality means reporting, editing, and delivering the news honestly, fairly, objectively and without personal opinion or bias.

- Credibility is the greatest asset of any news medium, and impartiality is the greatest source of credibility.

- To provide the most complete report, a news organization must not just cover the news, but uncover it. It must follow the story wherever it leads, regardless of any preconceived ideas on what might be most newsworthy.

2.3 FUNCTIONS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT

The following are functions of the establishment:

1. To Present Information:

The chief and fundamental function of a newspaper is to provide information, guidance, help and entertainment to the general public. Newspapers make the common man aware of the happening of an event, even all around the world as an information. We know detail of any event through the Press, e.g., Hindu-Muslim riots in India, apartheid in South Africa, Communism degeneration in Russia, war between Arabs and Israel in Middle East, sports of Barcelona, Amsterdam or London, etc.

2. To give Comments on Daily Happenings:

In twenty-four hours, circumstances change in a short while and events happen every second after second. Newspapers present not only news regarding an event but views also. For that purpose, a special page is used in the form of editorial, column and feature. In these pages, newspaper presents different views about a news but this doesn't mean that newspaper agrees with their point of view. In this connection, only the editorial carries the responsibility of the newspaper as it also shows the policy of the newspaper.

3. Platform for People Discussion:

Newspapers form the public opinion, on the other hand, provide a comprehensive platform for people discussion. Newspaper is an open invitation to all to unite for or against any problem, event or policy. Hence, by providing such facility, newspaper enables the society to see the lighter and darker part of the picture.

4. Truth and Reality:

Newspapers have to produce news-cause or any kind of information based on truth and reality as the foremost function of newspaper is to bring out truth and reality before the people. By inducing these universals, newspaper has solved many tangible problems.

5. Spokesman of Society:

Apart from other functions, newspaper plays a positive role to promote the thoughts, customs and traditions of the society. But it does not affect impartiality. She has to promote only the good and the most flourish-able additions of the society, which really needs wide projection for the progress and prosperity.
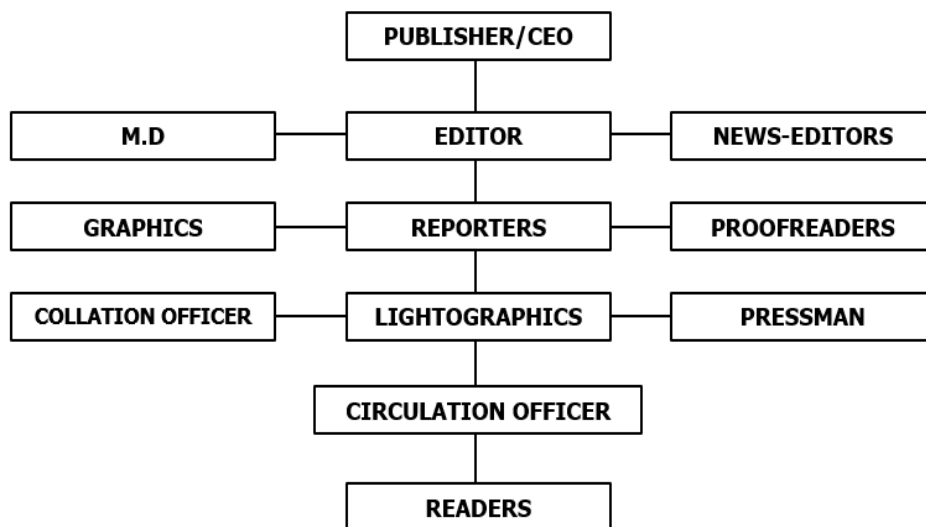
6. Information:

This is obviously the most important function but the other ones must be paid equal attention if a newspaper is to make a lasting appeal to the public. The first channel of information is the leading article or what is called, the editorial which is the best medium at the newspaper's disposal for the interpretation of the news of the moment. The leader writer today may not have quite the same influence on the reader that he had when there were few newspapers but, nonetheless, a popular newspaper even today guides the public opinion by interpreting the news and elaborating the opinions for creating an impact on the readers.

7. Entertainment:

Modern newspapers tend to carry many light materials including articles written in light vein. These features not only indirectly influence the opinions of the readers but also fulfill the entertainment function.

Every paper by a process of trial and error must discover what form of entertainment pleases most of its readers for the greater part of the time. The tastes of the readers of different journals vary considerably. Even serious newspapers and magazines nowadays are expected to carry strip cartoons or topical comics here and there.

2.4 ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF ESTABLISHMENT

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

OF

National Moonlight
THE NEWS AS IT IS
First Published March, 14, 2014
www.nationalmoonlightng.com

PUBLISHER/CEO

M.D — EDITOR — NEWS-EDITORS

GRAPHICS — REPORTERS — PROOFREADERS

COLLATION OFFICER — LIGHTOGRAPHICS — PRESSMAN

CIRCULATION OFFICER

READERS

OTHERS: Secretary | Accountant | Receptionist | Drivers | Cleaners | Gateman

2.5 THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS AND UNITS

2.5.1 EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

Publisher: The publisher is responsible for all of the operations of the newspaper, both editorial and business. The main job of the publisher is to see that the newspaper remains financially healthy.

Editor: The editor is responsible for all of the editorial content of the newspaper and for the budgets and money spent by the editorial side of the newspaper. Often in smaller papers, the publisher and editor is the same person.

Editorial Page Editor: The editorial page editor is responsible for the editorial page and the "op-ed" page of the newspaper. These pages are where the newspaper's editorials are printed as well as letters to the editor, columns by syndicated columnists and guest

columns by local people.

Managing Editor: This is the person who is in charge of the day-to-day production of the newspaper.

A Beat Reporter: covers the same subject or location all the time. The subject is generally of interest to the reporter. Various beats include legal reporting, parliamentary reporting, political reporting, etc. A general assignment reporter, on the other hand, covers any story assigned by the city editor or assistant city editor.

Copy Editor: A copy editor is specially trained to read the stories that others have written and make sure they conform with the rules of grammar and style. A copy editor also writes headlines and performs other duties that help produce the newspaper every day.

Photo Editor: A photo editor is not a photographer, although it is often the case that the photo editor is a former photographer. This editor assigns photographers and helps select the photos that the newspaper prints.

Graphics Editor: The graphics editor is the head of the graphics department, sometimes called the "art department." This editor is in charge of all of the graphics and illustrations produced for the newspaper.

2.5.2 ADVERTISEMENT DEPARTMENT

As an integral mass media vehicle, newspapers are vehicles of advertising meant to appeal to their readers. As such, the advertising department is the one which is critical because it gets in the revenue necessary to sustain the newspaper. Getting in revenue through advertising for the newspaper happens through various means. There can be several sections in this department one to look after local advertising, one for classified ads, one for general/national advertising, one for legal advertising and yet another one for preparing copy and so on. For example, there is a complete sales team in place, whose job it is to push the newspaper as an advertising vehicle of choice to advertising and media buying agencies acting on behalf of clients, as well as clients.

2.5.3 CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT

The circulation manager may have any or all of the following subdivisions under his supervision:

a) **City Circulation:** It involves the maintenance of circulation records for the city of publication; the recruitment, supervision and reimbursement of carrier boys; the: supervision of district men who oversee circulation by subdivisions of the city, taking responsibility for moving papers to the news-stands, relations with news-stand operators, etc.

b) **Area Circulation:** Responsibilities here include getting papers destined for the

surrounding area into the mail and operation of a fleet of tempos/taxis to carry the papers into surrounding areas where mail service is not rapid enough. The circulation manager is also in charge of moving the papers into the appropriate distribution channels as they move into the mailing room from the press room.

c) **Sales Promotion:** It involves the direction of an office staff to keep records, notifying subscribers when their subscriptions need renewing, the handling of complaints, new subscriptions and renewals over the counter, by mail, etc.

2.5.4   PRINTING/PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT

This is another department in a newspaper establishment whose name simply tells people the job that they perform. This department is responsible for the printing of the newspapers. The department is in charge of everything that has to do with the production and printing of the papers, which includes, transforming journalists' stories into type and maintaining the printing machines.

2.5.5   ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT

This department is responsible for the general administration of the entire establishment. The department is in charge of certain very important duties such as planning, organizing and staffing. Thus, the department basically looks after the general administrative work pertaining to personnel their selection, training, promotion, allotment of work, maintaining leave record, liaison with government departments, general facilities and all such work that facilitates working of other departments.

2.5.6   STORES DEPARTMENT

This is a department that has one sole responsibility which is to properly store newsprint and all the raw materials used for printing. They also store all other materials that are used in the establishment.

2.5.7   INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

This department is in charge of protecting, maintaining, and improving the technical equipment associated with running a media outlet.

This department is mostly headed by the Chief Engineer. He/she is responsible for all operations and maintenance that has to do with any and all engineering equipment used throughout the organization. Chief engineer has to manage and maintain complex integrated systems with minimum supervision and maintain and repair of all technical equipment in the organization.

CHAPTER THREE

ACTUAL WORK DONE WITH EXPERIENCE GAINED

The Student Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) is designed to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical experience in Information Communication Technology (ICT). During my stay at the National Moonlight Newspaper, in the ICT Department, we were able to learn and gain a lot of industrial and organizational experience as goes:

3.1   COMPUTER SYSTEM MAINTENANCE AND TROUBLESHOOTING

One of my primary responsibilities was assisting in maintaining computer systems to ensure smooth operation. This included:

- **Installing and Configuring Operating Systems & Software:** I helped install Windows, Linux, and essential software applications required for office work.

- **Diagnosing and Fixing System Issues:** I troubleshot hardware and software problems such as system crashes, slow performance, and network issues.

- **Performing Routine Maintenance:** Conducted virus scans, disk clean-ups, and system updates to keep computers secure and efficient.

3.2   NETWORKING AND INTERNET MANAGEMENT

I was actively involved in maintaining network infrastructure, including:

- **Setting Up and Configuring Local Area Networks (LAN):** Assisted in connecting computers to the network, configuring IP addresses, and ensuring proper communication between devices.

- **Managing Internet and Network Security:** Helped install firewalls and antivirus software to prevent cyber threats.

- **Troubleshooting Network Issues:** Diagnosed network problems and assisted in restoring connectivity when issues occurred.

3.3   SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRAMMING

During my SIWES, I had the opportunity to practice software development by:

- **Writing Simple Programs:** Developed basic applications using programming languages like Python, Java, and C++.

- **Debugging and Testing Code:** Assisted in identifying and fixing errors in software code.

- **Developing Web Applications:** Worked with HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and PHP to design and modify web pages.

- **Using Development Tools:** Became familiar with IDEs such as Visual Studio Code,

PyCharm, and Eclipse.

3.4   DATABASE MANAGEMENT

Database systems are crucial for managing information, and I gained experience in:

- **Creating and Managing Databases:** Used MySQL, Microsoft Access, and Oracle to design and maintain databases.

- **Performing Data Entry and Query Operations:** Assisted in inputting, retrieving, and manipulating data using SQL queries.

- **Backing Up and Securing Data:** Helped in creating database backups to prevent data loss.

3.5   IT SUPPORT AND USER ASSISTANCE

As part of my duties, I provided technical support to staff and clients by:

- **Assisting in Setting Up Computer Systems:** Helped new users set up their workstations and ensured proper system configurations.

- **Providing User Training:** Guided non-technical staff on how to use office applications such as Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint).

- **Resolving Common IT Issues:** Addressed problems like printer malfunctions, software errors, and slow internet connectivity.

3.6   CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS AND IMPLEMENTATION

To ensure data security and system protection, I was involved in:

- **Implementing Security Policies:** Assisted in enforcing password policies and secure login protocols.

- **Scanning for Malware and Threats:** Regularly conducted virus scans and removed detected threats.

- **Educating Users on Cybersecurity Practices:** Advised staff on safe browsing habits and phishing attack prevention.

3.7   WEBSITE AND CONTENT MANAGEMENT

I was also assigned to manage and update the organization's website by:

- **Updating Web Content:** Modified text, images, and links on the website.

- **Managing Content Management Systems (CMS):** Used platforms like WordPress to edit web pages.

- **Monitoring Website Performance:** Helped check website speed, uptime, and security vulnerabilities.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.1   HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE IN COMPUTER SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

▪ Learned how to install, update, and configure operating systems and software.

▪ Developed troubleshooting skills for diagnosing and fixing hardware/software issues.

▪ Understood the importance of regular system maintenance for performance optimization.

4.2   NETWORKING SKILLS

▪ Gained practical experience in setting up and maintaining LAN connections.

▪ Understood how to configure routers, switches, and wireless networks.

▪ Learned basic network troubleshooting techniques such as using ping and tracert commands.

4.3   PROGRAMMING AND SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

▪ Improved coding skills in Python, Java, and web development languages.

▪ Understood the debugging process and how to identify errors in code.

▪ Learned how to collaborate on software development projects using GitHub.

4.4   DATABASE MANAGEMENT AND SQL KNOWLEDGE

▪ Gained proficiency in creating and managing databases.

▪ Understood how to retrieve and manipulate data using SQL queries.

▪ Learned how to perform database backups and security measures.

4.5   IT SUPPORT AND HELPDESK EXPERIENCE

▪ Developed communication skills while assisting users with IT-related problems.

▪ Understood how to diagnose and resolve user complaints in a professional manner.

▪ Learned how to provide training and IT guidance to non-technical users.

4.6   CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS

▪ Understood the importance of cybersecurity in protecting data and systems.

▪ Learned how to use antivirus software, firewalls, and encryption tools.

▪ Developed skills in identifying and preventing cyber threats.

4.7   WEBSITE MANAGEMENT AND DIGITAL CONTENT SKILLS

▪ Gained experience in updating and managing website content.

▪ Learned how to use CMS platforms like WordPress.

- Understood the basics of SEO (Search Engine Optimization) to improve website visibility.

My SIWES experience provided me with practical skills in computer system management, networking, programming, database administration, and IT support. It enhanced my understanding of real-world IT applications and prepared me for future roles in the technology industry.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

5.1   SUMMARY OF ATTACHMENT ACTIVITIES

This is a complete report of an industrial training program carried out during my SIWES (2024/2025) at National Moonlight Newspaper, Alimi Close, Off Ahman Pategi Road, GRA, Ilorin, Kwara State. Activities including field work such as news writing and report, different types of interview, news editing, photo news and caption and so on.

The experience gained has given me a sound knowledge on media house in general which has helped prepare me for the future journalism work.

5.2   PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

The success of my training is undisputed, but it was not devoid of rough edges. I experienced some challenges, among these are:

- The issue of expensive transportation: I have to pay an average of 500 naira every day for transport without remuneration.

- Every member of staff was now depending on me to carry out assignments when there were other hands. This made me work overtime sometimes & it was favorable coming back late to a family house.

- The bureaucratic system is rigid and before things are done its takes so much time. This affected the conducive working environment for the members of staff in that whenever machines are bad and need repairs it takes so much time before it gets attended to. This system made work so tedious and cumbersome.

5.3   SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE SCHEME

- Visiting of students during the program should be ensured by the ITF

- Students should be paid their allowance on time to ensure motivation

- Selection of placement should not be left to students. Polytechnics should make a means of allocating students to related companies

- Seminars should be organized for establishments to acquaint them with their roles towards students on training

- Government should participate fully in the provision of equipment in the placement centers

5.4   CONCLUSION

The period has contributed immensely to my academic experience. Students Industrial Working Experience Scheme (SIWES) is an important program for all students. It helps in tackling the issue of unemployment amongst youth as it teaches us way to be

independent. The exercise made me understood part of what is expected as a journalist in the practice. It helped groom my relationship skills especially in areas where team work are required and communicating with the staffs and students alike. It has exposed me to work ethics and routines.

The problems, if not tackled, will make it lose its usefulness and vitality notwithstanding the benefits of it.

Finally, I do hope the program will be improved so as to enhance manpower development and student's skill in their respective field of study.