



**A TECHNICAL REPORT ON
STUDENT INDUSTRIAL WORKING EXPERIENCE SCHEME
(SIWES)**

**HELD AT
SOFTMIND INTERGRATED SERVICES**

**YANKARI OPPOSITE INTERCONTINENTAL HOSTEL, KWARA STATE
POLYTECHNIC, ILORIN**

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this technical report to the Almighty God, the giver of knowledge, wisdom and who is rich in mercy.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to begin by expressing my heartfelt gratitude to the Creator of heaven and earth, the One who knows the beginning and the end, the Alpha and the Omega, the Almighty Allah for His guidance and blessings throughout this journey.

I am deeply grateful to my beloved parents, **Mr. and Mrs. Yusuf**, whose unwavering support and prayers have been my foundation. To my brothers and dear friends, your encouragement and companionship have meant the world to me.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Industrial Training Fund (ITF) and SIWES

SIWES was founded by ITF in 1973 to address the issue of Nigerian tertiary school graduates lacking sufficient practical skills to prepare them for employment in industries. The program exposes students to industry-based skills that are essential for a seamless transition from the classroom to the workplace. It gives tertiary institution students the chance to become acquainted with and exposed to the necessary experience in operating machinery and equipment, which is typically not available in educational institutions.

Participation in industrial training is a well-known educational strategy. Classroom studies are integrated with learning through hands-on work experiences in a field related to the students' academic major and career goals. Successful internships foster an experiential learning process that not only promotes career preparation, but provides opportunities for learning to develop skills necessary to become leaders in their chosen professions.

One of the primary goals of the SIWES is to help students integrate leadership development into the experiential learning process. Students are expected to learn and develop basic non-profit leadership skills through a mentoring relationship with innovative non-profit leaders. By integrating leadership development activities into the industrial training experience, we hope to encourage students to actively engage in non-profit managements as professional career objectives. However, the effectiveness of the SIWES experience will have varying outcomes based upon the individual student, the work assignment, and the supervisor/mentor requirements. It is vital that each internship position description includes specific, written learning objectives to ensure leadership skill development is incorporated.

Participation in SIWES has become a necessary pre-condition for the award of diploma and degrees certificates in specific practical-oriented disciplines in most institutions of higher learning in the country, in accordance with the education

policy of government operators-the ITF, the coordinating agencies (NUC, NCCE and NBTE), employers of labor and the institutions.

1.2 Objectives of the Students Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES)

1. To provide students the opportunity to test their interest in a particular career before permanent commitments are made.
2. To provide an avenue for students in institutions of higher learning, acquire industrial skills and experience in their course of study.
3. To provide and prepare students for the industrial work situation they are to meet after school.
4. To aid students in adjusting from college to full-time employments
5. To provide students the opportunity to develop attitudes conducive to effective interpersonal relationships.
6. To increase students' sense of responsibility.
7. To make students acquire good work habits.
8. To provide students with an opportunity to apply their knowledge in real work situation thereby bridging the gap between theory and practice.

CHAPTER TWO

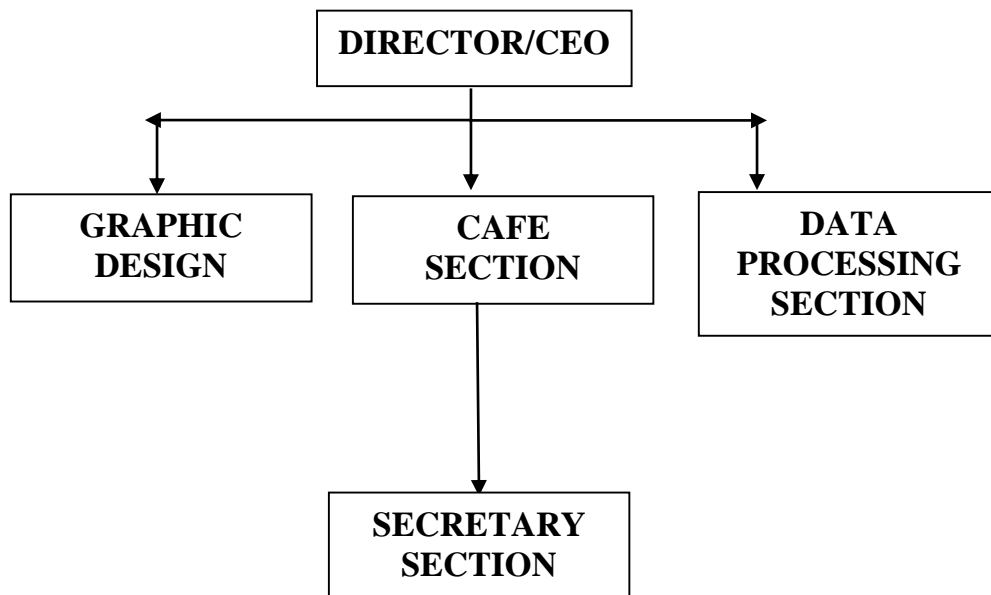
INTRODUCTION

2.1 Organizational Background

The Establishment location and **SOFTMIND INTERGRATED SERVICES** is a citadel of learning which was established in the year 2013, located at *Yankari, Opposite Intercontinental Hostel, Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin Kwara State*. The Institution has two sections; with Eight (8) working system, 6 laptops and two (2) desktop.

Meanwhile, the organizational chart is simply the diagram showing the position of workers, department and office.

ORGANIZATION CHART



AN ORGANIZATION CHART OF SOFTMIND CYBER CAFÉ & INTERGRATED SERVICES

2.2 VISION, MISSION AND OBJECTIVE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT

The organization is to set the standard for On- Site computer solutions through fast, on-site service and response. Our customer will always receive one on one personal attention at a very affordable price .Our customer service available.

OBJECTIVES

- I. Making computer literate as a self employment
- II. Making computer easily for young and old people
- III. Show an awareness of what the major computer components and how they act as a system
- IV. To prepare students who wish to go on to further studies in computer science and related subjects
- V. To foster among students an interest and confidence in using computers
- VI. To use computer application software in solving problems

2.3 MANAGEMENT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT

The Management of **SOFTMIND INTERGRATED SERVICES** consist of the Director,

The SIWES Coordinator I.T Officer and The Student Coordinator

- The director control, oversee and direct the overall affair of the institution
- The SIWES and Student Coordinator; Attend, lead, direct and guide both the SIWES and I.T students in all activities pertaining to computer programs.

CHAPTER THREE

NATURE OF WORK, ACTIVITIES, SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE GAIN ON SIWES

The ICT department is located directly under the Managing Director (MD) and is headed by the ICT Manager.

ICT department has an office which is the helpdesk where you can find the ICT manager, Information Technology Service Manager (ITSM) and a handful of IT students

The ICT department is further divided into 4 arms:

Helpdesk: This part of the ICT department acts as a call centre. Users in the organization call the Helpdesk when they have any challenge with their computers. The Helpdesk receives user's calls, logs the calls in a CALL SHEET and forwards the challenge to the appropriate arm of the department that will resolve the call. After the call is resolved, the person who resolves this call must get in touch with the Helpdesk, informing them that the challenge has been resolved.

Network Communications (Netcom): This arm of the department is involved in resolving challenges that are related to computer networking within the Agency. This concerns the local intranet and internet connections. It also manages the connections between the Agency's headquarters, regional office, local and international airports.

Business Operations Support (BOS): This arm of the department is involved in resolving challenges that are related to the hardware and software components of the computers used within the Agency. The BOS handles procurement and installation of new computer systems, repair of existing computer systems and preventive maintenance of the

computer systems.

Training Centre: this arm of the department is responsible for training the agency's staff and IT student on utility programs that are relevant for business operations in the agency.

Staffs and IT students are trained to use the computer.

EXPERIENCE GAIN IN SIWES

- ❖ Undergraduates may acquire their desires
- ❖ Have more knowledge on he/she have not learn before
- ❖ It may learn much doing the 3 month period of my internship
- ❖ I had learnt a lot about development website e.g. editing video and designing poster

CHAPTER FOUR

4.1 KEY KNOWLEDGE GAINED FROM THE SIWES TRAINING PROGRAMME

During my Student Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) at **SOFTMIND INTERGRATED SERVICES**, I gained practical knowledge and hands-on experience in various aspects of Office Equipment, business administration, inventory management, customer service, and fashion retail operations. Key experience gained included:

1. Identification Of Office Equipment and Their Functions

I get to know more about Various office equipment utilized to enhance administrative efficiency, record-keeping, customer service, and sales processing. These devices play crucial roles in streamlining business operations, ensuring smooth communication, and improving overall workflow. Below are list of Office Equipment and Their Functions:

Computer: Used for processing business data, managing inventory using Microsoft Excel, writing invoices, scanning and storing documents, and handling payroll records.



Printer: Used to produce hard copies of invoices, receipts, payroll documents, and other business records required for customer and administrative use.



Photocopier Machine: Duplicates essential business documents such as receipts, invoices, staff records, and sales reports for record-keeping.



Point-of-Sale (POS): Machine Processes customer transactions, allowing for secure and efficient payment via credit/debit cards, reducing reliance on cash payments.



Scanner: Converts physical documents into digital files for secure storage, record-keeping, and easy retrieval.



Telephone (Landline and Mobile): Facilitates communication with customers, suppliers, and employees, ensuring seamless business operations.



Binding Machine: Used to assemble and organize hard copies of business reports, invoices, and other important documents for easy reference.

Laminating Machine: Protects important documents (e.g., business licenses, certifications, and ID cards) by sealing them in a plastic covering to prevent damage.

Cash Register: Records sales transactions, providing printed receipts and keeping track of daily revenue.

2. Inventory and Stock Management

Inventory management involves tracking, ordering, storing, and controlling business materials, goods, and supplies to ensure there is enough stock to meet customer demand without excessive overstocking. I acquired valuable hands-on experience in tracking and managing inventory, ensuring stock records were up to date and accurately recorded. I also learned how to use Microsoft Excel for stock control and reporting, an essential tool for inventory management. Proper inventory management prevents stock shortages, reduces waste, and optimizes financial resources. By keeping an accurate record of stock levels, businesses can forecast demand, reduce unnecessary costs, and ensure customer satisfaction.

3. Financial Documentation and Payroll Processing

Financial documentation involves recording, storing, and managing financial transactions such as invoices, sales records, payroll, and expenses. Payroll processing refers to calculating and distributing employee salaries, including deductions and benefits. I gained in-depth knowledge of preparing invoices, handling payroll records, and maintaining financial accuracy. Observing payroll management processes gave me insights into salary calculations, tax deductions, and employee benefits. Accurate financial documentation ensures compliance with financial regulations, minimizes errors, and enhances transparency in business operations. Payroll processing is essential for employee satisfaction and legal compliance regarding wages and tax obligations.

4. Customer Relations and Front Desk Operations

Customer relations refers to the strategies and processes a business uses to interact with and satisfy its customers. Front desk operations involve handling inquiries, issuing invoices, processing transactions, and addressing customer concerns. Interacting with customers taught me effective communication, problem-solving, and the importance of professionalism. I learned how to process transactions, issue invoices, and address customer concerns politely and efficiently. Good customer relations increase customer retention, enhance brand loyalty, and drive business growth. Front desk operations ensure efficient service delivery, professional communication, and streamlined business transactions.

5. Digital Record-Keeping and Administrative Efficiency

Digital record-keeping involves scanning, storing, and managing business records electronically for quick access and long-term storage. It replaces manual filing systems with computerized data management tools. I was trained in scanning, organizing, and securing digital business records, reducing reliance on manual filing systems. I also learned how to retrieve and manage customer and financial records digitally. Digital documentation improves accuracy, enhances security, and allows easy retrieval of important business records. It reduces paperwork, saves time, and ensures compliance with data protection regulations.

In one word, My SIWES experience at **SOFTMIND INTERGRATED SERVICES** provided me with comprehensive exposure to business administration functions. I developed practical skills in inventory management, financial documentation, customer relations, digital operations, and supply chain management. These competencies are essential for ensuring business efficiency, optimizing resources, and driving sustainable growth.

This training has equipped me with the ability to analyze business challenges, propose effective solutions, and implement best practices for operational success. The hands-on experience has bridged the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world business applications, making me better prepared for a future career in business administration.

CHAPTER FIVE

CHALLENGES, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND CONCLUSION

5.1 Challenges

During my Student Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) at **SOFTMIND INTERGRATED SERVICES**, I encountered several challenges that tested my ability to adapt, learn, and apply my knowledge of business administration in a real-world setting. These challenges, while demanding, significantly contributed to my professional growth.

Limited Initial Experience in Business Administrative Processes: At the start of my internship, I faced difficulties understanding core business administration tasks such as inventory management, payroll processing, and financial documentation. However, through continuous practice and guidance from my supervisor, I developed proficiency in these essential business functions.

Lack of Financial Incentives for SIWES Students: While SIWES provided invaluable practical knowledge, the lack of financial compensation posed a challenge, especially for students who had to cover transportation and other expenses. A small stipend for interns could serve as motivation and enhance productivity.

Technical Challenges with Office Equipment: The photocopier, scanner, POS machine, and other office equipment occasionally developed technical faults, causing delays in administrative processes. Learning basic troubleshooting and maintenance techniques became necessary to ensure smooth workflow and prevent operational inefficiencies.

5.2 Conclusion

The Student Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) at **SOFTMIND INTERGRATED SERVICES** provided me with invaluable hands-on experience in business administration, enhancing my understanding of key administrative functions such as inventory management, financial documentation, payroll processing, and customer relations. Through practical engagement in these tasks, I developed essential workplace skills, including effective communication, problem-solving, multitasking, and digital proficiency in business tools like Microsoft Excel.

Despite the challenges encountered, such as handling customer complaints, managing high workloads, and adapting to technical and inventory-related issues, these obstacles ultimately contributed to my professional growth, resilience, and adaptability in a real-world business environment. Additionally, my exposure to various administrative duties deepened my knowledge of business operations, stock control, and financial record-keeping, which are vital components of any successful organization.

The insights gained from this experience have reinforced my passion for business administration and have equipped me with the necessary skills to navigate the corporate world with confidence. Moving forward, I believe that implementing the recommendations proposed—such as structured departmental exposure, investment in modern business tools, financial support for interns, and digital skills training—will further enhance the SIWES program, ensuring that future students gain even greater practical knowledge and professional competence.

Overall, this experience has been a significant stepping stone in my academic and career journey, preparing me for future roles in business administration and corporate management. The lessons learned will remain invaluable as I continue to develop my expertise and contribute meaningfully to any organization I become a part of.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on my industrial work experience, I propose the following recommendations to improve the SIWES program and enhance its benefits for future students:

- 1. Comprehensive Departmental Exposure:** All students undergoing SIWES, especially in business-related organizations, should be given the opportunity to work across various departments, such as inventory management, financial records, sales, and customer service. This will ensure a holistic learning experience and allow students to discover areas where they excel.
- 2. Investment in Modern Business Tools and Equipment:** Private organizations should invest in modern office equipment to facilitate administrative efficiency. Upgraded computers, payroll software, efficient POS systems, and stock management applications will help streamline operations, reduce errors, and enhance productivity.

3. **Provision of Financial Support for SIWES Students:** Given that students actively contribute to business operations, organizations should consider offering stipends or transportation allowances. This will motivate students, enhance commitment, and reduce financial strain, particularly for those who live far from their place of primary assignment (PPA).
4. **Incorporation of Digital Skills Training:** Business organizations should provide training on digital tools such as Microsoft Excel, accounting software, and customer management systems. These digital skills are essential in modern business administration and will significantly benefit students beyond their internship period.
5. **Structured Feedback and Evaluation:** Companies should implement structured feedback sessions for SIWES students, allowing them to identify their strengths and areas for improvement. Regular evaluations from supervisors will help students develop professional competencies and enhance their future career prospects.