

INFLUENCE OF INNOVATIVE PRACTICES ON PROJECT MANAGEMENT SUCCESS IN NIGERIA

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Article Info

Keywords: Innovative, Management, Practices, Project, Success

DOI

10.5281/zenodo.17121814

Abstract

The study examined the Influence of Innovative Practices on Project Management Success in Nigeria. The specific objectives were to; examine the influence of new technology adoption on Project Management Success and evaluate the influence of Agile methodologies on Project Management Success in Nigeria. A survey research design was utilized for the study. Data collection involved appropriate instruments, especially questionnaires structured with a five-point Likert scale. The collected data were coded and imported into SPSS for analysis. Descriptive statistics were then used to analyze and describe the data, while the hypothesis results were assessed using Multiple Regression analysis. The result revealed that new technology adoption has a significant positive influence on Project Management Success with a p-value of (0.003<0.05), while agile methodologies have a significant positive influence on Project Management Success with a p-value of (0.000<0.05) in Nigeria. Therefore, the study concluded that Innovative Practices has significant positive influence on Project Management Success in Nigeria. The study recommended that Organizations should actively invest in and adopt new technologies that enhance project management capabilities. This includes tools for project planning, monitoring, and collaboration. Training programs should be established to ensure that project teams are proficient in using these technologies effectively.

1.1 Introduction

Innovative practices refer to the adoption and implementation of new ideas, processes, or technologies that enhance efficiency, effectiveness, and value creation within organizations. These practices are critical in today's fast-paced and competitive environment, where businesses must continuously adapt to changing consumer needs, technological advancements, and market dynamics (Drucker, 2014). By fostering a culture of innovation, organizations can not only improve their operational processes but also drive growth and sustain their competitive advantage (Tidd & Bessant, 2018). The significance of innovative practices extends beyond mere product development. They encompass a broad range of activities, including improving existing processes, developing

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new business models, and enhancing customer engagement strategies. According to the OECD (2015), innovation is a key driver of productivity and economic growth, contributing to improved standards of living and job creation. Project management is critical for driving economic growth and development in Nigeria, influencing everything from infrastructure development to healthcare improvements. However, the Nigerian project landscape is often riddled with challenges such as funding constraints, corruption, inadequate infrastructure, a lack of skilled labour, socio-political factors, and economic instability (Adigwe, et al. 2024). To overcome these obstacles and achieve successful project outcomes, the adoption of innovative project management practices is essential (Adegbite et al. 2023). Innovative practices in project management encompass the integration of new technologies, methodologies, and approaches to enhance project efficiency, effectiveness, and overall success. These practices include, but are not limited to, the use of digital tools, Agile methodologies, Building Information Modeling (BIM), Artificial Intelligence (AI), and cloud computing (Elegunde & Osagie 2020). By embracing these innovations, project managers in Nigeria can streamline processes, improve decision-making, foster collaboration, and mitigate risks.

The integration of technology is particularly crucial for modernizing project management practices in Nigeria. Digital tools can help overcome logistical issues, streamline project processes, and improve efficiency (Imhanwa, 2024). For example, project management software can automate repetitive tasks, reduce human error, and enhance collaboration among team members. Data analytics can provide real-time insights and predictive analytics, enabling project managers to make informed decisions and optimize project outcomes (Tidd & Bessant, 2018). Furthermore, digital platforms facilitate better communication and stakeholder engagement, which are vital for project success in Nigeria's diverse cultural and socio-political environment (Elegunde & Osagie 2020). Agile project management, with its emphasis on flexibility, collaboration, and iterative development, is another innovative practice that holds significant promise for the Nigerian context (Adigwe, et al. 2024). In the face of rapidly changing requirements and uncertainties, Agile methodologies enable project teams to adapt quickly, deliver value incrementally, and ensure that projects align with client needs (Adegbite et al. 2023). The adoption of Agile practices can foster a culture of continuous improvement and enhance team dynamics, leading to improved project outcomes.

This introduction will explore the influence of these and other innovative practices on project management success in Nigeria. It will examine the challenges and opportunities associated with adopting these practices, and provide insights into how project managers in Nigeria can leverage innovation to achieve better project outcomes and contribute to the nation's socio-economic development (Drucker, 2014). Case studies of successful projects in Nigeria will be used to illustrate the practical application and benefits of innovative project management practices. Ultimately, this introduction aims to highlight the importance of embracing innovation to transform project management in Nigeria and drive sustainable development.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Despite the critical role of effective project management in Nigeria's economic development, many projects face significant challenges that hinder their success. Traditional project management practices often fall short in addressing the complex landscape characterized by inadequate infrastructure, funding constraints, corruption, and socio-political instability. As a result, project delays, cost overruns, and failures are prevalent, leading to suboptimal outcomes that adversely affect economic growth and public trust in project execution.

Innovative practices, including the integration of digital tools, Agile methodologies, and data analytics, offer potential solutions to these challenges. However, the adoption of such practices remains inconsistent across

various sectors in Nigeria. Factors such as resistance to change, lack of training, and insufficient technological infrastructure impede the widespread implementation of innovative project management techniques.

This gap raises critical questions about the extent to which innovative practices can influence project management success within the Nigerian context. Understanding this influence is essential for developing strategies to enhance project outcomes, improve stakeholder engagement, and drive sustainable development. Therefore, this study aims to investigate the relationship between innovative practices and project management success in Nigeria, focusing on identifying barriers to adoption and exploring the potential benefits of integrating innovative methodologies into existing project management frameworks.

1.3 Objective of the study

The main objective of the study is to examine the Influence of Innovative Practices on Project Management Success in Nigeria. The specific objectives were to;

- i. Examine the influence of new technology adoption on Project Management Success in Nigeria.
- ii. Evaluate the influence of Agile methodologies on Project Management Success in Nigeria.

1.4 Hypotheses of the study

- i. New technology adoption has no significant influence on Project Management Success in Nigeria.
- ii. Agile methodologies have no significant influence on Project Management Success in Nigeria.

Review of Related Literature

2.1 Conceptual Review

Innovative Practices

According to Tidd and Bessant (2018) innovation is "the process of turning ideas into reality," they highlight that creative practices are not the only factors that contribute to inventive practices; implementation and commercial success are equally important. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD, 2020) defines innovative practices as "new or improved organizational methods, processes, services, or products that significantly enhance performance." 2020 Johnson et al. In order to enhance learning outcomes, student engagement, and the educational process as a whole, innovative practice teaching employs fresh or imaginative approaches to teaching and learning. It uses innovative ideas, methods, or technologies to create and execute solutions that improve the processes of teaching and learning.

Innovative practices are defined as "strategies and methods that lead to the development of new ideas, products, or processes that provide a competitive advantage" by Khan & Kaur (2021). Bessant & Tidd (2021) contend that creative practices entail a methodical approach to generating value via novel concepts, stressing the role that culture and leadership play in promoting innovation. "The activities and processes that organizations use to develop new products, services, or processes, focusing on the importance of collaboration and knowledge sharing," is how Schilling (2021) defines innovative practices. Nowak (2021) "New approaches to improving patient care and outcomes, often using technology and data analytics" is the definition of innovative practices in the healthcare industry.

Project management success

There are numerous ways that may be found and used when project management success is taken into consideration. The iron triangle method is among the most conventional. It confirms that projects are characterized by three primary elements that need to be managed in tandem: scope, cost, and time. The scope of work is defined as "the work done to deliver a product, service, or result with the specified features and functions" (PMI, 2013). Moreover, PMI defines cost management as the price of materials required to finish project tasks.

The impact of project choices on the ensuing recurrent expenses of utilizing, preserving, and assisting with the product, service, or project outcome.

Lastly, time management as the procedures needed to oversee the project's timely completion= PMI (2013). These three ideas can be tracked as they are evolved throughout time once projects are planned. They can demonstrate to the project manager and team how closely the project adheres to its iron triangle. Project management (PM) emerged as the most popular management paradigm in businesses a few decades ago (Huemann et al., 2017). This circumstance so emerges because you must successfully manage your project in a challenging and complex environment (Gemün den et al., 2018). Project management is an important field that was established for monitoring and controlling during all project implementation phases, as a guarantee for project handover without overruns, and project management success. Project management success was defined as the full set of tasks necessary to achieve the goals of project management, consistent with requirements of organization/company to complete the project within the time, within cost, within quality, and within performance (Shahibi et al., 2019).

Technology adoption

Technology adoption, according to Denning & Lewis (2020), is the acceptance and incorporation of new instruments, procedures, or systems into current methods. The properties of the technology itself, user attitudes and perceptions, and organizational and environmental factors that impact the adoption process are some of the factors that make up the multi-stage process of technology adoption. Awareness, interest, evaluation, trial, adoption, and post-adoption are some of the phases that make up the adoption process. Mehedi (2023). Ifada et al. (2025) explore the digital frontier of accounting, focusing on the impact of digital literacy and technology adoption. Massini, et al. (2025). This study examines the adoption and effect of advanced digital technologies (ADTs) such as artificial intelligence (AI), big data, cloud computing, 3D printing, Internet of Things (IoT), and robotics, as well as digital platforms in the United Kingdom. Technology adoption is the successful integration of new technology into a business, allowing it to perform to its maximum capacity and reap the benefits of the new system.

Agile methodologies

Agile is a software development life cycle (SDLC) that employs an iterative technique in which meeting business expectations is the top priority, notwithstanding cost, quality, and schedule restrictions. The agile process is an iterative, incremental, or overlapping-based software development life cycle strategy in which requirements can change based on customer requests. The procedure deals with uncertainty in a good way that can arise during the creation of a product. There are various SDLC models available, including Waterfall, V-Shaped, RAD, Big Bang, and Spiral, and the company can select one based on project capacity (Ahmad 2015). Anderson (2024) By creating self-managing teams with the freedom to choose how value is created for their clients, agile is a technique that helps businesses deal with the growing unpredictability of the market. KRC Agile (2024) Adaptive planning, early delivery, continuous improvement, and flexible responses to change are all encouraged by agile methodologies, which are a collection of practices founded on the values and principles outlined in the Agile Manifesto. Collaboration, customer feedback, and quick, small iterations are also prioritized.

Sharma (2024) Agile employs a novel vision, shifting the emphasis from rigid plans to adaptable cooperation. It presents a worldview in which change is welcomed and incremental progress takes precedence over detailed upfront planning. Laoyan (2025). Agile methodology is a project management paradigm that divides projects into multiple dynamic periods, sometimes known as sprints. Customer satisfaction is prioritized in Agile Methodology, which also results in speedier development time because the methodology divides the major epic

(main project) into smaller increments. This allows for the inclusion of new features or needs over numerous iterations. Agile development approach consists of many phases that can be altered by the team according on the project scope. These phases include Requirement Gathering, Review, Registered, Development, Validation, Prod Ready, Go Live, Feedback from Customer. (Sheetal 2025).

2.2 Theoretical review

Technology-Organization-Environment (TOE) Framework

The TOE Framework was created to stress the interaction of technological, organizational, and environmental elements that drive technology adoption. The framework proposes three types of factors that influence technology adoption: technological context, organizational context, and environmental context. The technological context refers to the technology's features, such as complexity, compatibility, and relative advantage. The organizational context encompasses the structure, culture, and resources that influence technology adoption. The environmental context refers to external variables that influence technological adoption, such as regulations and market forces (Arpaci et al., 2012). Numerous studies have used TOE in a range of settings, such as business, education, and healthcare. For instance, a study conducted by TOE looked at the variables that affect the uptake of sustainable e-commerce technologies (Emon and Nahid, 2023). According to the study, organizational and technological context factors—such as IT infrastructure and top management support—as well as perceived complexity and relative advantage had a substantial impact on the adoption of sustainable e-commerce technology.

Technology Acceptance Model (TAM)

Fred Davis developed the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) in 1989, an early framework for characterizing technology adoption that focuses on the adoption of technologies in the computer sciences. The principles of perceived usefulness and simplicity of use of a technology by a potential adopter are the main focus of Davis's approach. Perceptions of a technical system's utility and simplicity of use are created by the interaction between a specific user and the system (for example, by direct encounter or indirect learning). The user's views and intentions toward the use of the technology are influenced by these impressions. The concepts of utility and usability continue to be crucial in determining users' propensity to embrace a technology. Perceived utility has been shown to have a direct impact on technology adoption across a variety of sectors (Marangunić and Granić, 2015). While some studies have identified a direct relationship between behavioral intents to use and perceived ease of use, others have found that perceived usefulness has an indirect effect on intention to adopt.

To put it another way, a person's desire to accept a technology may be influenced by their overall opinion of its usefulness, which may include how easy it is to use. For instance, statistical evidence was found by Abdullah et al. (2016) and Amin et al. (2014) indicating those who believe the internet is easy to use also think it is more valuable than people who think it is more difficult to use. The objective qualities of a technology, or what TAM calls the "system features," that the user observes are inherently linked to its perceived utility and ease of use. These attributes may include the device's performance (or lack thereof), design compatibility, and user interface design. What TAM calls "user characteristics," such as age, education, income, cultural background, technology self-efficacy, and life stage, also influence how an individual views a technology.

A user's view of a device's ease of use may be influenced by their level of self-efficacy, which may also be correlated with demographic traits like gender and age. People who are younger, wealthier, more educated, and white have more positive attitudes toward using the internet, according to a study (Dash et al., 2019) that examined the effects of age, education, income, and race on technological attitudes. TAM also found that users are more likely to adopt a technology if they believe it to be practical and easy to use. Numerous studies have used TAM

in a range of settings, such as business, education, and healthcare. For instance, TAM was utilized in a study to investigate the elements influencing doctors' adoption of telemedicine technology.

3. Methodology

Study Area

Nigeria lies in West Africa between roughly 4°–14°N and 3°–15°E, bordered by Benin (west), Niger (north), Chad/Cameroon (northeast/east), and the Gulf of Guinea (south). This study is situated in Nigeria, a West African nation that provides a dynamic and diverse context for examining the influence of innovative practices on project management success. Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa, with an estimated population exceeding 220 million people and a rapidly growing economy driven by oil and gas, construction, manufacturing, information and communication technology (ICT), agriculture, and public infrastructure development. The country operates a federal system of government with 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (Abuja), each contributing differently to national economic output and hosting numerous large-scale public and private projects. Nigeria's economic hubs such as Lagos State (South-West), known as the commercial and financial centre; Abuja (FCT), the administrative and political capital; Port Harcourt in Rivers State (South-South), the hub for oil and gas projects; Kano State (North-West), a major centre for manufacturing and commerce; and Enugu State (South-East), a growing hub for education, healthcare, and infrastructure serve as key locations for the implementation of modern project management practices. These regions are witnessing increased adoption of digital project management tools, agile methodologies, sustainable/green construction innovations, and stakeholder engagement strategies aimed at improving project outcomes.

The choice of Nigeria as the study area is strategic because the country is undergoing rapid technological transformation, infrastructure expansion, and institutional reforms, creating a fertile ground to assess how innovative practices influence project success. The nation's diverse cultural, institutional, and economic environments provide a rich setting for investigating how different sectors and regions adopt innovation and how these practices affect time, cost, quality, and stakeholder satisfaction in project delivery.

Method

The main purpose of a research design is to create a framework for collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data. In this study, a descriptive survey design will be employed, focusing on detailing the data and characteristics of the population. This approach aims to gather factual, accurate, and organized information while providing insights into the subjects being studied. It is particularly beneficial due to the large population from which the data was obtained. The research was carried out in selected private sectors in southeastern Nigeria, renowned for their established integrity. This study utilized the survey research design to illustrate the Influence of Innovative Practices on Project Management Success in Nigeria. Data collection involved appropriate instruments, especially questionnaires structured with a five-point Likert scale. The survey was essential for gathering primary data necessary for analyzing the relationships between variables. The collected data were coded and imported into SPSS for analysis. To ensure accurate recording of relevant aspects, the data were modified, coded, and recoded. Descriptive statistics were then used to analyze and describe the data, while the hypothesis results were assessed using Multiple Regression analysis. If the regression statistical measures were below the $\alpha = 0.05$ significance level, they were deemed acceptable and significant.

4. Data Presentation and Analysis

4.1 Data Presentation

The study involved a population of 236 individuals. Approximately 180 questionnaires were completed and returned, leading to a return rate of 76.3%, which is considered acceptable. Descriptive and correlation analyses were used to assess the data. A pilot test conducted on 36 questionnaires produced a Cronbach's alpha of 0.775, indicating a satisfactory level of reliability. The results are displayed in the tables below.

4.2 Results

4.2.1 Gender of Respondents

The study population consisted of a higher number of females compared to males, as illustrated in the pie chart below.

Table 2: Gender Distribution of Respondents

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Male	107	59.4	59.4	59.4
Valid Female	73	40.6	40.6	100.0
Total	180	100.0	100.0	

Table 3: Age Distribution of Respondents

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Under 21 years	8	4.4	4.4	4.4
21-30 years	109	60.6	60.6	65.0
Valid 31-40 years	49	27.2	27.2	92.2
Above 40 years	14	7.8	7.8	100.0
Total	180	100.0	100.0	

Table 4: Distribution of Respondents' Location

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Urban	117	65.0	65.4	65.4
Valid Local	62	34.4	34.6	100.0
Total	179	99.4	100.0	
Missing System	1	.6		
Total	180	100.0		

Table 5: Distribution of Respondents' Educational Level

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Below High School	6	3.3	3.3	3.3
High School Graduate	31	17.2	17.2	20.6
University Degree	131	72.8	72.8	93.3
Master's or Higher	12	6.7	6.7	100.0
Total	180	100.0	100.0	

Table 2-5 provides demographic information about the respondents, including their gender, age, location, and educational qualifications. The data shows that the majority of respondents are male, totaling around 107 individuals (59%). The predominant age group is between 21 and 30 years, with approximately 109 respondents (61%). In terms of location, most participants come from urban areas, representing 117 individuals (65%) of the total sample. Finally, regarding educational qualifications, a significant number of respondents, 131 individuals (72.8%), possess a university degree.

4.3 Multiple Regression Analysis

Table 4.3: Multiple Regression Table

Model 1	Beta	Std. Error	t-Statistic	P-value
New Technology adoption	0.71145	0.41319	1.72184	0.031
Agile methodologies	0.22714	0.03241	7.00833	0.000
Constant	2.90181	0.11028	26.3131	0.000
Adj R ²	0.698			

Source: SPSS version 28.0

Table 4.3 above shows the results of the multiple regression analysis for both hypotheses one and two. This analysis was performed at a 5% significance level and reveals that all predictor variables have a significant impact on the outcome variables. Additional details are provided in the subsequent hypothesis.

4.3 Hypotheses of the study

4.3.1 Hypothesis One

i. **H₀₁: New technology adoption has no significant influence on Project Management Success in Nigeria.**

Regression Model of Hypothesis 1

Below is the equation for a model for Hypothesis 1

$$PMS = \beta_0 + \beta_1 NTA + \epsilon_i \quad (1)$$

PMS= Project Management Success

NTA= New Technology Adoption

Table 4.4.1: Regression Coefficient for model 1

Model 1	Beta	Std. Error	t-Statistic	P-value
New Technology Adoption (NTA)	0.71199	0.41319	1.72315	0.037
Constant	2.90181	0.11028	26.3131	0.000
Adj R ²	0.698			

Source: SPSS version 28.0

Table 4.4.1 shows the values of adjusted R Square, unstandardized beta coefficient, standard error, t value, and P value. The value of adjusted R square is 0.698 meaning thereby 69.8% variation on Project Management Success (PMS), is explained by New Technology Adoption (NTA) and the rest of the variation is unexplained on Project Management Success due to variables that has not been considered in this model.

Besides, the value of the unstandardized beta coefficient is 0.71199 which means that if New Technology Adoption (NTA) increases by one unit, then Project Management Success (PMS) will increase by 0.71199 units. This effect is statistically significant as the p-value is =0.037 which is less than 0.05 at 95% confidence interval. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected, and it can be said that there is a significant effect of New Technology Adoption (NTA) on Project Management Success (PMS) in Nigeria.

4.4.2 Hypothesis Two

ii. **H₀₁: Agile methodologies have no significant influence on Project Management Success in Nigeria.**

Regression Model of Hypothesis 2

Below is the equation for a model for Hypotheses 2

$$\text{PMS} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{AM} + \varepsilon_i \quad (2)$$

PMS= Project Management Success

AM = Agile Methodologies

Table 4.4.2: Regression Coefficient for Model 2

Model 1	Beta	Std. Error	t-Statistic	P-value
Agile Methodologies (AM)	0.22714	0.03241	7.00833	0.000
Constant	2.90181	0.11028	26.3131	0.000
Adj R ²	0.698			

Source: SPSS version 28.0

Table 4.4.2 shows the values of adjusted R Square, unstandardized beta coefficient, standard error, t value, and P value. The value of adjusted R square is 0.698 meaning thereby 69.8% variation in the Project Management Success (PMS) is explained by Agile Methodologies (AM) and the rest of the variation is unexplained on Project Management Success due to variables that has not been considered in this model.

Besides, the value of the unstandardized beta coefficient is 0.22714 which means that Agile Methodologies (AM) increases by one unit, then Project Management Success (PMS) will increase by 0.22714 units. This effect is statistically significant as the p-value is <0.000 which is less than 0.05 at a 95% confidence interval. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected, and it can be said that there is a significant effect of Agile Methodologies (AM) on Project Management Success in Nigeria.

4.4 Discussion of Findings

The study examined the Influence of Innovative Practices on Project Management Success in Nigeria. The Cronbach's alpha for these selected items was 0.775 as shown in Table 4.1, this result indicates that the items were reliable for measuring the variables we have selected.

The multiple linear regression results in Table 4.4.1 and 4.4.2 suggest that for hypothesis one, at a 5% level of significance, the new technology adoption has a statistically significant effect on Project Management Success in Nigeria. while for hypothesis two, at a 5% level of significant the Agile methodologies has a statistically significant effect on Project Management Success in a Nigeria. This result is based on their respective p-values which are below the threshold of < 0.05 .

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, the influence of innovative practices on project management success in Nigeria is profound and multifaceted. The adoption of new technologies has emerged as a significant driver of project management success, enabling organizations to streamline processes, enhance communication, and improve overall efficiency. As firms increasingly embrace digital solutions, they are better equipped to respond to challenges and capitalize on opportunities in a dynamic business environment.

Moreover, the implementation of agile methodologies has also proven to have a substantial positive impact on project management success in Nigeria. Agile practices foster flexibility, collaboration, and rapid response to changes, which are essential in today's fast-paced market. By prioritizing iterative development and stakeholder engagement, organizations can achieve better project outcomes and align more closely with client needs.

Together, these innovative practices not only enhance project success rates but also position Nigerian firms to compete effectively on a global scale. As the landscape of project management continues to evolve, embracing these innovations will be critical for sustaining growth and achieving long-term success in Nigeria's diverse economic sectors. Therefore, the study concluded that Innovative Practices has significant positive influence on Project Management Success in Nigeria.

Recommendations

Based on the findings regarding the influence of innovative practices on project management success in Nigeria, the following recommendations are proposed:

- i. Organizations should actively invest in and adopt new technologies that enhance project management capabilities. This includes tools for project planning, monitoring, and collaboration. Training programs should be established to ensure that project teams are proficient in using these technologies effectively.
- ii. Firms should consider integrating agile methodologies into their project management practices. This can be achieved through workshops and training sessions that focus on agile principles and techniques. By fostering a culture that embraces flexibility and iterative development, organizations can improve responsiveness to changes and stakeholder needs.

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