

The Effect of Technology on Inter-personal Communication

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May 21, 2017

1 1. Introduction.

Little by little, technology has become an integral part of the way that people communicate with one another and has increasingly taken the place of face-to-face communication. Due to the rapid expansion of technology, many individuals fear that people may be too immersed in this digital world and not present enough in the real world. Many others have expressed shared concerns regarding the overuse of technology and its impact on face-to-face communication, so much so that some restaurants in the United States of America have banned the use of mobile devices to ensure customers enjoy both their meal and their company. Throughout this study, I seek to answer questions regarding technology usage and investigating whether technology affects face-to-face communication negatively.

1.1 1.1. Background.

Recent technological advancements have had a drastic impact on the way individuals communicate. According to UCC, as of 2014, Uganda had 19.5 million mobile phone subscribers which is a significant percentage of the population. Technology has been at the center of many developments in Uganda however, these developments have come at hefty price. Technology has consequently led to the deterioration of inter-personal communication.

1.2 1.2. Problem Statement.

Currently we are unconsciously addicted to technology and it is beginning to control us. Technology has degraded the human dimension of communication. About 80 percent of University students own smartphones and are therefore prone to this vice.

1.3 1.3. Aim and Objective.

The purpose of this research is to bring to light how deeply technology has affected our interpersonal communication. This will prompt some rehabilitative measures to reduce on the negative effects of technology.

1.4 1.4. Research Scope

A survey will be done on University students who are currently believed to be at the center of this this technology revolution.

2 2. Methodology.

A field observation will be conducted and a survey to measure the level of engagement Makerere University students have with their cell phones, other technologies, and each other in face-to-face situations. The survey will be administered to Makerere University students who will be recruited using a probability sample on the University campus. Students were asked 10 questions regarding their technology use, habits, perceptions of face-to-face communication in the presence of technology, and engagement both face to face and screen to screen, which will help better answer the question of whether technology has a negative effect on face-to-face communication. Observations will be conducted during heavy foot-traffic times, including in-between classes and during lunch hours, when students would most likely be present and interacting with others. A variety of different interactions between other students and technology will be recorded, including those texting or talking on the phone, those interacting with others, and those who did not have contact with devices.

3 3. References.

<http://www.ucc.co.ug/data/qmenu/3/Facts-and-Figures.html>