

The Effects of Using ICT

The effects of ICT on employment

1. Manufacturing- robots have replaced human workers in many areas of manufacturing
2. Shop work- online shopping has reduced the need for high-street shops, leading to loss of staff
3. Banking- introduction of ATMs and online banking has led to the closure of many high street branches
4. Office work- spreadsheets, word processors and databases have taken over many of the tasks once carried out by office staff

The introduction of ICT systems whether to improve efficiency, reduce costs or improve safety- has led to redundancies in many areas of industry and commerce.

Advantages of robots over humans

- i. Higher productivity
- ii. More consistent results
- iii. They work non-stop without any breaks, holidays or time for shift handovers
- iv. They don't get bored with repetitive tasks
- v. They don't go on strike
- vi. They work out cheaper in the long term than employing people

Disadvantages of robots over humans

- i. Robots are initially expensive to set up and purchase
- ii. They have to be re-programmed for tasks often, which can be expensive and time consuming
- iii. If an error occurs in the robot's programming, or if it develops a mechanical problem, a number of production errors will occur until the fault has been identified

Positive effects

- More pleasant, safer places to work
- Introduction of robots in manufacturing has led to a cleaner, safer and quieter working environment
- There has been an increase for job opportunities in the following fields:
 - i. Network managers and computer technicians
 - ii. Website designers
 - iii. Systems analysis
 - iv. Programmers
 - v. Computer engineers

The Effects of ICT on working patterns

Working Pattern	Description
Part time working	Staff work between 1 and 30 hours a week; or someone who works fewer hours per week than full-time staff-this can either mean fewer hours per day or fewer days per week
Job Sharing	A full time job is shared between two part time workers, both workers are doing the same job; one picks up where the other one left off

Flexible working (flexi-time)	Any working schedule outside the traditional working pattern; employees can vary when they want to work or even where they want to work. Flexi-time is the ability to choose the start and the finish of the times, but they must complete a full day's work. This requires agreement with the employer to ensure the office is manned at all times
Compressed hours	In compressed hours, an employee works their full hours for the week but works for fewer days

Microprocessor controlled devices in the home

- Labour saving devices- automatic washing machines, microwave ovens, dishwashers
- Other types of devices- alarm clocks, television sets, central heating, AC systems, home entertainment system

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People no longer have to do manual tasks • Allows for more free time • Provides security and safety • Leads to a healthier lifestyle (smart fridges and ordering fresh food from supermarkets) • Energy efficient 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leads to an unhealthy life style (ready prepared meals) • Makes people lazy • Leads to a more wasteful society • People who are not technologically savvy find them difficult to operate • Leaving devices on stand-by is very wasteful for electricity