**Impact of Technological Advancement on Family Practices**

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Word count: 2050 words

**Introduction**

Technology affects various units within society. Most importantly, advancement in technology has positive and negative impacts on family relationships. It determines the decision-making, dating and marriage, ageing, and intergenerational relationship. Technology is a force that exists outside the family, and therefore it increases the opportunities to utilize resources for the improvement of family units. Decisions based on technological advancements help better resource management (Lecture notes 1, n.d.). The technology involves education on family relationships and how modern families benefit from past ones and help create better family structures without interfering with people's mobility.

**Impact of Technological Advancement on Family Practices**

There has been a debate about how technological advancement, attributed to having readily accessible media devices, has impacted family dynamics. At the turn of the 20th century, some devices such as radios became standard devices present in most homes. At the end of the century, huge strides were made mainly in technology. Most households witnessed the revolution brought by the internet and advanced media devices. These devices became part of society (Keles et al., 2020). They have become intertwined with most families to the extent they have dictated most family practices, such as making decisions and communicating with each other. One side of the debate has been how technology has made it possible for parents to communicate with their children. While the other side of the discussion has been arguing against the technological advancements claiming they are the reason most families have been split up (Liu & Ma, 2019). Without being on either side of the debate, it is apparent that society is undergoing a revolutionary phase due to technology adoption. Community and families choose to do with the advancement is up to their discretion, but it is necessary not to compromise on family values.

**Positive Ways through which Technological Advancements Have Impacted Family**

**Practices**

Technological advancement has made it easier for families to coordinate their daily activities. Without the current technological advancement, people rely on face-to-face communication (Osgerby, 2020). It is easier now for families to coordinate some family practices such as having dinner together by communicating over their mobile devices. Families exist to provide for each other, and technology has made it easier to cater to each other. Technology can be defined as a resource that provides a means through which family members can communicate. There has been an upsurge in the intake of technological advancement within families because of the culture, accessibility, and availability. Most families are dynamic, which means they can adapt and change, and technological devices are available and accessible.

The internet and smart devices have been instrumental in tracking the location of family members. Most parents have placed tracking devices in their children's smart devices; they relay the current locations of the device being tracked (Osgerby, 2020). Tracking smart devices is essential in establishing power dynamics in a family setup often, more power lies with the family member who has more resources. According to the social exchange theory, power or having control over others influence the decision-making process (Moore & Sylvia, 2018). Based on the resource theory of family power, the family member with more resources has more power than those who depend on family resources (Moore & Sylvia, 2018).

**Impact of Technology on Family Decision-Making**

Family decision-making involves developing and allocating resources like time, money, space, and people. Advancement in technology ensures proper time management by setting the communicating gadgets to monitor the time utilized by every member in the decision-making

process. The rational model works best when modern technology is applied. For instance, it facilitates the search for alternative decisions and estimating the risks associated with the given decisions (Lecture notes #10, n.d.). Technology reduces the impacts of bureaucracy in the determination of the family goals. Through the advancement in technology, the family decision-making process can occur without the family members physically meeting. For example, if the critical decisions require inputs from members living or working in diverse locations, zoom videos help contact these meetings. Family members can hold meetings using gadgets like smartphones as it is possible to video call each other. If the decisions need financial support, money can be sent through the media within a short time. Even if family members live on different continents, technology helps us to send and receive money via western union PayPal, among other means.

Since technological advancement is a resource that facilitates communication in a familial setup, it is subject to some influences. One such influence is the historical aspect, which refers to how families respond to resources (Moore & Sylvia, 2018). In recent times, the world was ravaged by a pandemic, which brought the need to readjust; intelligent devices became a critical tool for communication within and outside familial boundaries. Children began using intelligent devices to communicate with their tutors, and parents would work from their homes and communicate with their work colleagues. By communicating using the messaging apps, parents can interact with teachers without interacting with each other through face-to-face communication. Ultimately, with an effective line of communication between parents and teachers, the student's interest is talked about in-depth.

Technological advancements have seen an improvement concerning security. Most families are worried about their safety, but with technological advancement, homeowners can

relax (Gram-Hanssen & Darby, 2018). Most of the families are unable to communicate with each other if they feel that their homes are not secure, and as such, they will keep going to how they left their homes unguarded. With technological advancements such as installing security gadgets such as cameras, they can focus on other issues. In high-risk areas, families cannot have fun or dine comfortably if they are constantly worrying about their safety. The constant worry affects how families communicate, and if there is a communication breakdown, there is a continual tussle that affects the familial bonds.

**Impact of Technology on Dating and Marriages**

Technological gadgets such as smart devices have enhanced communication with family members through video calls (Orben, 2020). Video calls have facilitated communication, especially in the dating scene. Couples can communicate despite the distance; this has seen a rise in interracial marriages and inter-religious marriages. Most importantly, dating is nowadays facilitated by online platforms. Platforms like Facebook help people to post pictures and messages that describe them. People find their soulmates by looking at the pictures online and becoming attracted. Once one is attracted to the physical appearance of a given individual, they can send friend requests which eventually lead to the two creating a relationship. Again, when dating, the partners don't need to keep visiting each other. Social media has reduced the cost of travelling every moment one wants to see their partner. Video calls help the partners communicate with each other as if they were physically close (Moore & Sylvia, 2018). The need to visit each other can occur after a couple of months without interfering with the dating process. Technology has enabled new couples to learn the marriage rules. Marriage rules help create and sustain a mutual relationship for intense intimacy among the married. Technology also allows teaching the couples on sexual matters.

**Impact on the rearing of young children**

The modern family comprises the father, mother, mother, and children. Therefore, communication should benefit the parents and the young ones (Lecture Notes 2, n.d.). Notably, there are instances where very young children may not communicate their needs and health challenges; there is, therefore, a need to devise ways of getting vital information to help in the rearing of the children. Technology plays a significant role in the rearing of young children, and it enables the parents and guardians to google for basic information necessary for the best rearing process. If a young one develops abnormal behaviour, the caretaker will only need it to describe the behaviour, and the internet will provide the solution. Googling solutions to health problems is more vital when the child is too young that they cannot speak out to express their feelings (Orben, 2020). The modern communication gadgets bring together the caregivers and physicians; the caregiver needs not to keep visiting the physician's place, but they can instead communicate over social media. Therefore, advancement in technology reduces the cost of rearing young ones.

**Impact of Technology on Intergenerational Relationship**

Technology is a tool used to pass information from one generation to another. Age the fathers and mothers in the given family ages up; they need to communicate to their young ones about how life was in the past and how it is in the present. This communication is facilitated by using modern gadgets that record events and present them as if they happen currently. For instance, watching films or videos showing how life was in the given generation has more influence than just saying it orally. The modern generation will respect the older generation as they compare the success in the present and how the previous generation contributed to that success. The advanced technology also helps research past family structures (Lecture notes 1,

n.d.). It is easy to determine a better communication model among the current generations with the family theories.

**Negative Ways through which Technological Advancements has Impacted Family Practices**

Technological gadgets are addictive, contributing to more screen time; most family members have more than one gadget. In some circumstances, multiple devices are instrumental if they are a source of income. However, it has become apparent that people cannot distinguish between screen time and family time (Keles et al., 2020). The post-modern families are different from conventional families; technological advancement is associated with the familial structure; the structure is characterized as one that does not emphasize familial bonds. People consciously decide to be involved or pull away from their families in recent times.

Technological advancements have reduced the amount of quality time. Family members are glued to the screens and spend most of their time checking emails or responding to messages, losing quality time that would have otherwise been used to strengthen familial bonds (Sampasa-Kanyinga & Lewis, 2015). Families are more like businesses, and both require management skills to run them better; one of the critical skills is communication.

Families are built on communication; over-reliance on technology has resulted in communication elements such as body language fading from existence. Family members' use of text messages may result in misconstruing of words, which ultimately may change the entire meaning of the message (Liu & Ma, 2019). Often family ties are broken due to a lack of understating each other over texts, unlike when there is an actual physical conversation. A facial expression among different body language is critical in determining the nature of a conversation. People may often dismiss a vital message, unlike when the message is behind an actual discussion (Sampasa-Kanyinga & Lewis, 2015). Physical conversation allows people to seek

clarification; people often dismiss texts and do the opposite of the intended message. Especially during conversations intended for family conversations, family members may take long responding to a conversation as something essential, while others may not get offended for the lack of response. This indifference may result in arguments within family members, ultimately affecting the entire family.

A family serves its functions, and one such function is socialization. However, this has been affected by the upsurge in technology. Human beings were created as sociable beings, making socialization an integral part of being a human being. With most people embracing the social media frenzy courtesy of the internet, people get more satisfaction from it than in actual conversation (Keles et al., 2020). Furthermore, people are designed to connect, physically and emotionally, but with over-reliance on technological advancement, family members have since lost the connection.

## Conclusion

As the basic unit of society, the family relies primarily on communication due to technological advancement. Technological advancements have provided a new way for people to perceive the world; parents, especially in the post-modern era, can interact more with their children solely because they speak a universal language. However, not everything is as rosy as portrayed; the internet and most people spending most of their time on their screens familial bonds are being broken. The worrying factor is the dependency that people have placed on the devices; many people cannot survive without modern technologies. Nevertheless, technological advancements have caught up with humanity, and human beings should learn how to incorporate technology with everyday living.

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