

# 3

## **Information Communication Technology and its Implications on Morality among Nigerian Youth.**

**By**

**Rev. Fr. Dr. Yohanna Tongshinen Wadak**

**Christian Religious Studies Department**

**Federal College of Education**

**Pankshin, Plateau State**

**E-mail address: [yohannawadak@yahoo.com](mailto:yohannawadak@yahoo.com)**

### **Abstract**

*Information Communication Technology has brought a lot of blessings to our society today It is also a force in the actualizing of Vision 20-20-20. However it has its bad sides This paper examines the negative use of ICT and its implications on the morality of Nigerian Youths today. The questfor science and technology out ofwhich ICT comes from is considered. The contemmporary crises of morality on our Nigerian Youths are also highlighted. A wayforward is proffered and a conclusion made.*

### **Introduction**

Interest in Information Communication Technology has been on the increase and stimulated by advances in science and technology, which by their nature, have attracted the attention of humans who are communicating creatures. This new device in social communication has reduced the whole world to a global village. Through this, a lot is achieved either positively or negatively both by adults and the youths. It also has a lot of influence of either good or bad particularly on our youths today.

It should be noted that we live in an image-conscious culture that is saturated with Clothing and advertisements of varying degrees. Clothing makes us what we are and who We are. On the contrary, if morality is bankrupt, disgraceful and disappointing, people will rather run for their life and family. One of such factors that could affect morality to promote and enhance.

## The Quests for Science and Technology Today in Nigeria

Man's life is filled with a lot of puzzles; yet, the greatest puzzle negatively is the use of Information Communication Technology (ICT). Hence Ajiki (2010) while quoting Pope Benedict (XV) says "Science can contribute greatly in making the world and mankind more human. Yet, it can destroy mankind and the world it is meant to be. Of all created beings by God, he alone is endowed with scientific universe his own since the resources of the earth have remained at his disposal. He has tried to manipulate. This is the dilemma of the contemporary man. He has tried to manipulate. Johnson (2004) confirms this assertion. "From the moon to the barest level achievements are unlimited." Despite all these, his humanity remains eroded and corroded by the same achievements that seem to set him on the path of eventual annihilation. For many centuries past, Myths and Metaphysical assumptions have supported the earth's crust, he has tapped energy to meet his needs and those of his environment. Causes of sickness were unveiled and cures provided as a result of diagnosis and curative result of the birth of science and technology in the world and Nigeria) in particular. With However, as time went on, there was a complete shift from this traditional standard elements in nature. As a result, science and technology gained preference to liberal arts. enhanced the life of man through its steady development, study and use of its system to answer to man's fundamental questions- whence people from their limited choice of occupation, helped (2004). acquisition of knowledge and skills to widen ranges of choice of the physical world (Ez Come man and them in path Science and Technology are also major factors in the economic concern of where he is going in society. They have profoundly described the stages of history through the use of thermodynamics. negative effects in the life and environment of man. This therefore states the fact that stands out most visibly is not the success they have made but the difficulties and dangers inflicted on mankind in its expeditious transformation of the world. That is why this study addresses the negative effects of Information Communication technology on morality among Nigerian Youths today.

The Contemporary Crisis of Morality on Our Nigerian Youths The breakthroughs in science, technology are behavior in our modern day society. What were vices? Despite all these benefits, science and technology have impeded the discovery of communal life has been replaced with individualism. The Nigerian society and indeed the whole of the African society

was full of n values that shaped the attitude and life of the people. The fact of this richness cannot be over-emphasized. But these values and treasures are gradually disappearing. It is very clear that these have been relegated to the background. A lot of factors seem to be responsible for this change. Western influence out of which comes science and technology seem to be responsible for this. 197 Technology (ICT are now considered and treated as virtues, vice versa. For instance, the African 1 cultural ie greatly influencing the way peu within the African traditional soue Sexuality was valued in traditional Africa for the sake of procreation. sexuality appears to have become an indispensable source of pleasure and fun. s production which is commonly referred to as "industrialization Hence, it has liber It is a fact that science and technology have embellished the natural lenvironment prostitution, incest, premarital I sex, homosexuality and lesbianism, abortion, co-habitation all its loms have l become the order of contemporary living. As a result, there is wide spread d of discases and other health challenges around us. And the There is total disregard to the sacredness of human life which prior to this has been et enshrined in the heart of every African. As a result, every little provocation on the nds of religion or ethnicity leads to the destruction of lives and property. Eont African child is caught up in the illusion that he can earn a lot by attaching himself to politicians as a thug or by identifying via initiation in occult groups. No wonder, there is rampant cases of mutual killings, kidnappings in our Nigerian society today. Many basic ctors are antecedents to the crisis of morality in our society today as it affects our youths.

The Negative Effects of ICT on Morality among Nigerian Youths Today Information Communication Technology (ICT) has made life easy and enjoyable for modern man. You can travel miles and miles within seconds through the use of the Global System of Mobile Communication (GSM). Lots of electronic gadgets have been invented for our pleasure. Information Communication Technology has also made sourcing of information quite easy. Although ICT has made its positive contributions, the fact that the negative effects on our Youths and the society generally is also visible. It has been the cause of societal ills, because it has brought about moral decadence in the society. For instance, the presence of various pomographic materials both in print and electronic media have debased the morals of the society, and led to promiscuity. The proliferation of video clubs and uncensored films has really debased womanhood. The influence of foreign culture, through these tends to adversely influence our Nigerian Youths. It is no longer news to see our girls dressed indecently just to attract the

opposite sex The influence of foreign and they call it "New School Fashion". Adaobi (2008) says, culture has made many people to forget where they come from, they tend to imitate the whites in dressing and speaking, which is not purely African". Another area in which Information Communication Technology is used is in examination malpractice. The Youths use it to download foreign materials that are forbidden in examination halls. They also use ICT for fraudulent activities. The common is the use of the GSM by fraudsters in sending text messages that one has won millions of Naira and is expected to either send a recharge card of seven hundred and fifty or even more to facilitate its process of getting the money. The Nigerian society is full of such fraudsters. The case of server-crime is worth-mentioning. Through this, a lot of people have enriched themselves with people's funds and transactions. Foreign agencies have lost millions of Dollars/Pounds to such criminals. Money that would have saved many people from poverty, disease and enhanced human life has been intercepted. As a result, the Nigerian society is viewed by the western world as a very corrupt country that investment could be avoided. What a very bad image because of the negative use of Information Communication Technology. It should be noted that most of the perpetrators are the Youths.

#### **The Positive Contributions of Science and Technology:**

- Science and technology, including ICT, have made significant advancements in human society, facilitating communication, transportation, and access to information.
- These innovations have improved living standards and enhanced the life of mankind through better healthcare, industrial progress, and resource management.

#### **The Crisis of Morality in Nigeria's Youth:**

- The introduction of Western influences through science and technology, particularly ICT, has contributed to the erosion of traditional African values.
- Issues such as promiscuity, indecent dressing, and the pursuit of materialistic lifestyles have emerged, partly influenced by ICT and foreign media.
- Traditional values that emphasized communal life, respect for human dignity, and moral discipline are increasingly being overshadowed by individualism and immoral behaviors.

### **The Negative Effects of ICT:**

- ICT has been a tool for various immoral activities, including the spread of pornography, examination malpractice, fraud, and other cybercrimes.
- The proliferation of digital media and foreign culture through ICT has impacted the behavior of Nigerian youths, leading to social ills such as drug abuse, violence, and unethical practices.
- Many youths engage in fraudulent activities, including internet scams and the misuse of mobile phones for deceitful purposes, which tarnishes Nigeria's reputation globally.

### **The Way Forward:**

- To address the negative impact of ICT on Nigerian youths, public awareness campaigns should be launched to educate the youth on responsible ICT use.
- Moral education and values should be reinforced in schools, and religious leaders can play an instrumental role by engaging youths in positive activities and teaching them ethical standards.
- The government should focus on economic empowerment through skill acquisition and job creation to reduce idleness among the youth, which often leads to the misuse of ICT.
- A holistic approach, involving families, communities, educational institutions, and religious bodies, is necessary to foster moral development and reduce the detrimental effects of ICT.

In conclusion, while ICT has brought numerous benefits, its negative influence on Nigerian youth, particularly in terms of moral decay, calls for immediate action to restore ethical standards and promote positive engagement with technology.

## References

Adaobi, R.O. (2008). Ills of Modemisation. City Watch Magazine, February. Awakening Morality Today. The Augustians View Point: A Philosophical and General Interest Magazine, 1/1, pp 3-4.

Ajiki, P. (2010).

Dako A.L(2008). The Contemporary Crisis of Morality in Africa and the Role of Moral Education: The Angelic Word, 1/4 pp 28-29.

Pümonyé, R., & Konye, M. (2007). The Crisis of Morality in Africa. Nacaths Journal of African Theology, 1/1 pp 69-70.

Eze, K. (2004). Science and Technology: The Elusive Foe. The View Point: Philosophical Magazine. 3/4, pp 9-10.

Johnson, P.E. (2004). Man, Science and Technology: The Contradictions of our Contemporary World. The View Point: Philosophical Magazine, 3/4, pp 4-5.