# Influence of Information and Communication Technology on Family Values among the Staff of Ogun State University Teaching Hospital

**OWOSENI Joseph Sina[1] & JEGEDE Lucy Iyabo[2]**

**[1]College of Medicine and Health Sciences (Medical Sociology), Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria**
E-Mail**:**      owoshynah@yahoo.com

**[2]JEGEDE Lucy Iyabo, Department of Sociology,  Ekiti state University, Ado – Ekiti**
E-Mail:      iyabest01@yahoo.com

## Abstract

*The Internet, Global System of Mobile Telecommunication (GSM), and Satellite Communication (cableTV networks) are perhaps the most influential of all Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in modern digital society. This study therefore, investigates the influence of ICT on family values.*

*The study adopted modernization theory, dependency and world system theory  as well as functionalist theory.  A descriptive research design was employed for the study, using both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection. The sample size was collected through random purposive technique and a total of 250 questionnaires were distributed to workers of the Olabisi Onabanjo University Teaching Hospital in Sagamu. Ogun State but only 237 were retrieved and used for the analysis. Also, 20 In-depth Interviews were conducted with male and female respondents and content analysis was employed for qualitative data.*

*Findings showed that a weak significant relationship (0.368) exists between education of respondents and access to internet. Also, good moral could be negatively altered through television programmes and home movies, the highest percentage (50%) of the respondents agreed that television programmes and some home movies can alter good moral while about 30% of them disagreed that good moral could be negatively altered through television programmes and home movies.*

*Consequently, the conclusions were drawn from the findings extracted from real life experiences rather than on assumptions or theoretical ideas. The Information and Communication Technologies have a double edged impact on family values. On one hand, there is the detrimental effect of the moral cultures being overshadowed by the more dominant or overriding cultures of the western society perhaps leading to the disappearance of some traditional values. On the other hand, these technologies have yielded a platform or stage upon which the Nigerian scripts are acted out or showcased globally as in a theatre room. The technologies, despite their harmful potentials, thus empower the family have mutual contact and maintain family norms*

**Key words: ICTs, Globalization/global culture, Family Values, Influence, Nigeria, Family Interaction.**

## Background To The Study

Information and Communication Technology is usually abbreviated as ICT, is often used as an extended synonym for information technology (IT) but is usually

Influence of Information and Communication Technology on Family Values Among the Staff of Ogun State University Teaching Hospital

237

a more general term that stress the role of unified communications and the integration of telecommunication (telephone lines and wireless signals), computers, middleware as well as necessary software, storage, and audio-visual systems which enable users to create, access, store, transmit and manipulate information.  In other words, ICT consists of IT as well as telecommunication. Broadcast media, all types of audio and video processing and transmission and network based control and monitoring functions.

The expression was first used in 1997 in a report by Dennis Stevenson to the UK government   promoted by the New National Curriculum Document for the UK in 2000.

Hence, the mass media of radio, television, newspapers and magazines were regarded as the drivers of socio-economic development.  Leading this campaign were communication scholars such as Evarett Rogers, Wilter Schramm, Lucian Pye and Daniel Lerner among others.  According to their views, a certain number of mass media channels were required in every developing country that which wished to be developed.  This argument was based on the assumption that the mass media carried within them elements of modernity.

As a reflection of the mood of the era, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO) recommended in 1961, a minimum mass media target for developing countries.  According to UNESCO, "Every country should aim to provide for every 100 of its inhabitants at least 10 copies of newspapers. Five radio receivers, two cinema seats and two television receivers.  However, research evidence has shown that there are factors which limit access to mass media in the rural communities.

A family is defined as a social unit consisting of parents and the children they raise. Value is defined as the quality or worth of a thing.  To combine the words together yields a definition of a traditional set of social standard defined by the family and a history of customs that provide the emotional and physical basis for raising family.

**Statement of Problem**

Technological advancements made in the world especially for the last ten to fifteen years have altered the entire

scenario in every field including education, entertainment, workplace environment, and personal life etc. People until some decades earlier were more social and interacted with each other participating in different outdoor as well as indoor activities. Growth of Internet and advancements in computer technology evidences that people now live in the virtual world of the computer using it extensively in every walk of life. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) explore and search the ways in which the combination of communication technology and information technology can serve people, businesses, governments, and community members.

ICT has, in fact, revolutionized the communication modes providing new ways to interact socially. Young people and children are specifically more interested in the opportunities afforded by the Internet and ICTs. These opportunities are, however, not confined to youth rather people of all age including senior citizens are using new modes of social interaction supported by ICT. Video, Online Games, Facebook, Twitter, and MySpace have restructured social order in the community

breaking normal family traditions in which new types of relationships are being formed. Societies, especially in the western world, are witnessing changes in family structures. The process of change in family arrangements started in the 20th century and is continuously altering lifestyle of people. Change in family arrangements and lifestyle signify that culture is dynamic in nature. Culture comprises all those items, products, and systems employed in the contemporary world exhibiting life styles or living standards of people. The concept of culture covers a broader spectrum including elements such as film, T.V, video games, MP3 players, and cell phones etc. Technology has reshaped social and cultural values in so many ways if social institution is considered. Another problem associated with ICT is pornography which has in turn led many people to prostitution and other related deviant behaviours.

Information and communication technologies via the use of internet has increased the rate of internet fraud, the "get rich syndrome" among youth has encourage the increased internet fraud popularly called "yahoo yahoo". The

prevalence of this fraudulent trend has led many youth to other anti-social behavior like robbery and examination malpractices.

Technologies that promise to significantly impact the day to day circumstances of all social relations" ( p. 23), it can be viewed as a practical problem with unprecedented benefits and risks for individuals and families (Rehm, 1999). When comparing the growth of ICT usage with an expanding global marketplace, it effects on family, it becomes imperative to gain a better understanding of the usage of ICTs among various families.

These and many more reason constitutes the reason for this research and shall be duly considered.

## Main Objective

The main objective of this study is to access the perception of Information and Communication Technology on family values among the staff of a selected government organization.

## Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of this study are to:

- Examine how Television, Internet, Computers, Phones affect family values.

- Investigate the effects of ICT on family values.

- Examine the stance of ICT usage in the family.

- Examine the perception of information and communication technology on family values

## Methodology

## The Research Design

The study adopted a combination of qualitative and quantitative research method. It also utilizes a cross sectional design, across the cadres, departments, among junior, senior and management staff of Olabisi Onabanjo University Teaching Hospital in Sagamu, Ogun State.

## Study Population

The study population is the entire Olabisi Onabanjo University Teaching Hospital staff male, female, educated or uneducated, skill, semi-skilled and unskilled staff.

## Sampling Techniques

A stratified random sampling technique was utilized for the study. The

selection of sample for the study began by first stratifying the staff into various departments. Also, each stratum of workers in the organization was further be stratified into age grade levels.

**The Study Area**

This study was carried out on the selected workers of the Olabisi Onabanjo University Teaching Hospital in Sagamu. Ogun State. Like any other government organization, Olabisi Onabanjo University Teaching Hospital in Sagamu. Ogun State is chosen as the study area because employees from all works of life with different socio-economic background are there, there will also be an opportunity to compare people who will likely spend more time at work than at home (Doctors, Nurses and social welfare officers) who will be on night duties thus, preventing them from having enough time with the family.

**Sample Size and Sample Procedure**

The sample size for this research is 250. Probability sampling method was used. The organization has 25 departments with 812 staff that is Administrative Department, Engineering Services Department, Finance and Supply Department, Medical Advisory Committee Department, Department of Medicine, Department of Pharmacy, Post Graduate Health Research Department, Tailoring and Laundering Department, Security Department, Internal Audit Department, Communication and Cooperate Service Department, Department of Physiotherapy, Department of Radiology, Food Service Department, Department of Medical Social Services, Health Information Management Department, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Department of ENT/Oral, Department of Anesthesia and Intensive Care, Department of Ophthalmology, Department of Pediatrics, Department of Surgery, Department of Family Medicine, Nursing Department and Medical Microbiology and Parasitology Department. 250 staff was randomly selected for male and female; junior and senior staff constituting 32% of the work force of the organization.

**Data Management and Analysis**

Completed questionnaire were tagged serial numbers for adequate coding and to prevent missing questionnaire from respondents. Data were entered into excel sheet and statistical package for social sciences (SPSS)- chi-square version and were saved into a computer to prevent loss

of data. Analysis is carried out using descriptive statistics that is, social demographic characteristics respondent and chi-square with other appropriate statistical tools.

**Findings**

Findings are presented in line with the study objectives. Necessary inferences are drawn from some of the findings in light of theoretical framework of the study, while observed similarities and differences between the present study and extant literature are reconciled using appropriate sociological explanation.

**Socio-Economic And Demographic Characteristics Of The Respondents**

Table 1 shows the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of 237 respondents on the influence of Information and Communication Technology on family values among the staff of olabisi Onabanjo University Teaching Hospital.

**Table 1:        Socio-Economic And Demographic Characteristics Of The Respondents**

| SEX | FREQUENCY | PERCENTAGE (%) |
|---|---|---|
| Male | 130 | 54.9 |
| Female | 107 | 45.1 |
| **Total** | **237** | **100** |
| **AGE (Years)** | **FREQUENCY** | **PERCENTAGE (%)** |
| 21-30 | 34 | 14.3 |
| 31-40 | 54 | 22.8 |
| 41-50 | 111 | 46.8 |
| 51-60 | 25 | 10.5 |
| 61 and above | 13 | 5.5 |
| **Total** | **237** | **100.0** |
| **EDUCATIONAL LEVEL** | **FREQUENCY** | **PERCENTAGE** |
| O'level | 23 | 9.7 |
| OND/NCE | 142 | 59.9 |
| HND/Degree | 72 | 30.4 |
| **Total** | **237** | **100** |
| **CADRE** | **FREQUENCY** | **PERCENTAGE** |
| Junior | 179 | 75.5 |
| Senior | 56 | 23.6 |
| No comment | 2 | 0.8 |
| **Total** | **237** | **100** |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | **FREQUENCY** | **PERCENTAGE** |
| Single | 79 | 33.3 |
| Married | 130 | 54.9 |
| Separated/Divorced | 2 | 0.8 |
| Widowed/Widower | 24 | 10.1 |
| No comment | 2 | 0.8 |
| **Total** | **237** | **100** |
| **ETHNIC GROUP** | **FREQUEN** | **PERCENTAGE** |

| Yoruba | 205 | 86.5 |
|---|---|---|
| Igbo | 6 | 2.5 |
| Hausa | 12 | 5.1 |
| Others | 14 | 5.9 |
| **Total** | **237** | **100** |
| **RELIGION** | **FREQUEN** | **PERCENTAGE** |
| Christianity | 128 | 54.0 |
| Muslim | 105 | 44.3 |
| Traditional | 4 | 1.7 |
| **Total** | **237** | **100** |
| **MONTHLY INCOME** | **FREQUEN** | **PERCENTAGE** |
| ≤ 20,000 | 25 | 10.5 |
| 21,000 – 30,000 | 30 | 12.7 |
| 31,000 – 40,000 | 55 | 23.2 |
| 41,000 – 50,000 | 35 | 14.8 |
| 51,000 –  60,000 | 39 | 16.5 |
| 61,000– and Above | 53 | 22.4 |
| **Total** | **237** | **100** |

**Source: Fieldwork: 2012**

Table 1 shows the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of 237respondents on the influence of Information and Communication Technology on family values among the staff of Olabisi Onabanjo University Teaching Hospital. The table indicates that 54.9% of the respondents were Male while Female respondents were 45.1%. This shows that the highest number of the respondents is male. For the age distribution, the data shows that the respondents age range between 18-65 years which is in line with labour force age for Nigerians. While the majority of respondents between ages 41-50 years 46.8% constitute the highest. Respondents of age range 21-30 years have 14.3% of the total respondents. Furthermore, respondents within the age range 31-40 and 51-60 were 22.8% and 10.5% respectively while 5.5% of the respondents were above 61 years of age.

Furthermore, the marital distribution of the respondents shows that married people were predominant in the study. Majority of the respondents (54.9%) were married. This signifies that married people with the full support from their spouses as regards family responsibilities may not likely engage in the use of ICT than the single (33.3); separated/divorced (10.1%) and widows (0.8%), which lack the resources to support them in purchasing computers or connecting to internet.

Data on educational attainment of the respondents revealed that the population consists mostly respondents with higher level of education. Respondents with O'level certificate were 9.7%. Respondents with tertiary education, ranging from diploma/NCE (59.9%) to Bachelor (30.4%) were higher in the study. The extreme use of ICT is higher among those with tertiary education than lower level of education. This shows that many of the respondents did acquire formal education.

The majority of the respondents 86.5% were Yoruba, followed by Hausa 5.71%, Igbo 2.5% and 5.9% were from other ethnic groups in Nigeria. This finding was expected because the study was conducted in the Yoruba speaking community. The proportion of the Yoruba respondents was higher compared to other ethnic groups. The religion affiliation of the respondents shows that the highest number of the respondents (54.0%) identified with Christianity followed by Islamic (44.3%) religion while 1.7% of the respondents practiced traditional religion.

An examination of the monthly income, the figure shows that majority of the respondents were between the average income of ₦31,000 – ₦40,000 (23.2%), those with income below ₦20,000 were 10.5% while those that earned between ₦21,000 – ₦ 30,000 of the respondents were 12.7%. Respondents with income between ₦51, 000 – ₦60, 000 and above ₦61, 000 constitute 16.5% and 22.4% respectively. This shows that respondents that do not have good income may not have an attempt to make use of sophisticated phones with internet connection or buy computers.

**FIG. 1: THE EFFECTS OF ICT ON FAMILY VALUES.**
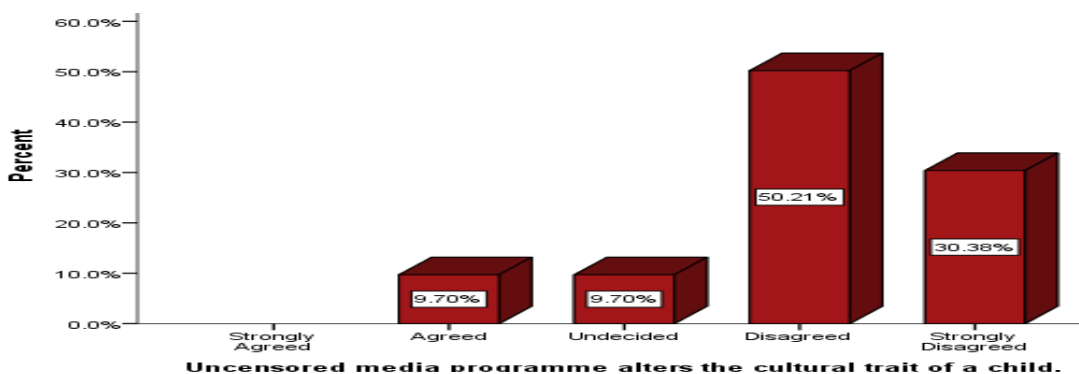
An examination on whether ICT has effects on family value, the finding above indicated that 9.7% of the respondents were in agreement that ICT has effects on family value while about 80% of them were of the view that ICT does not have any effect of the family value and 9.7% of them were undecided. In supporting the finding, a man of 56 years old during an interview observed that;
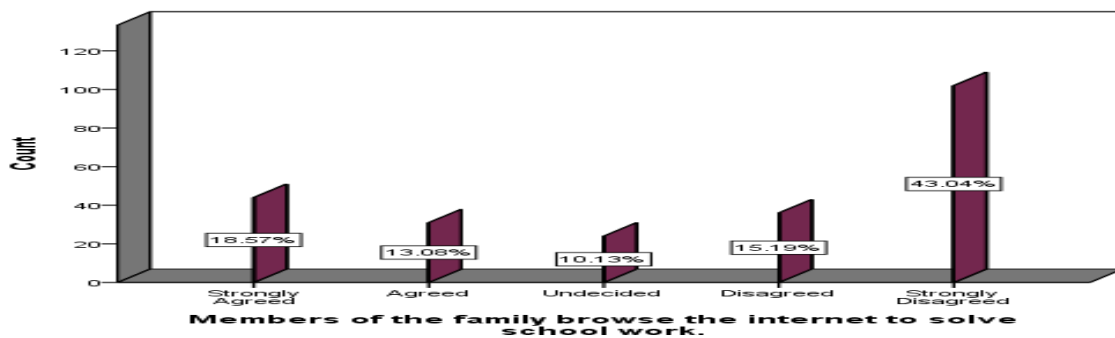
*"Without gain saying, the use of ICT has both negative and positive effects on the cultural and family value. It has helped strengthen the relationship that exists within the family and at same time, it has broken many homes most especially the use of mobile phones. For example, marriage through internet is rampant these days in which most of the marriages do not last.*

*Positively, ICT has really helped many family members to have reunion. For instance, I just met one of my family members that had traveled for years on facebook. I really appreciate the effort of those that brought about facebook. It is a great thing to have existed"*

**(IDI/Male/August 10, 2012).**

It appears that the evidence of the social impact of the Internet is inconclusive although there is a widespread belief that computers and the Internet affect people socially. It is therefore imperative to explore and understand the impact of utilization of ICTs on family.

**FIG.2: Examination of The Stance Of ICT Usage In The Family**

Influence of Information and Communication Technology on Family Values Among the Staff of Ogun State University Teaching Hospital

245

The chart above shows an examination on whether members of the family browse the internet to solve school work. The finding shows that 18.6% of the respondents said they strongly agreed that members of the family browse the internet to solve school work; 13.1% were also in agreement to that while 10.1% of the were undecided; 15.2% of the respondents indicated their disagreement while 43.0% of them strongly disagreed that members of the family browse the internet to solve school work. The result signifies that majority of the respondents agreed that members of the family browse the internet to solve school work.

In supporting the finding, IDI shows that:

> *"Internet has made everything simple. There is nothing you cannot get on internet. I strongly agreed that internet really assist students to solve many academic problems. For instance, my project work was made easy for me by consulting materials through browsing internet"* ***(IDI/Female/August 11, 2012)***

In supporting the finding further, Navel (2007) revealed in his study that 50% of students who are online spent time discussing schoolwork, and 59% spent time talking about education related topics, including college or college planning; learning outside of school; news; careers or jobs; politics, ideas, religion, or morals; and schoolwork

## Conclusion

Finally, the investigation revealed that it could be necessary to legislate against excessive importation of unwholesome media contents where when it is possible to do so. The government needs to monitor and legislate against websites known for Internet fraud and pornography. In conclusion, it is very possible to exhibit and transmit our cultural values using ICTs (the Internet/cable channels). Thus, productions on African values which are programmed for cable transmissions and on-line communication is a viable way to popularize the indigenous culture The focus of this study is not purely quantitative: measuring numbers and proportion but in the qualitative or descriptive part of the research. The survey has shown that both cable

Influence of Information and Communication Technology on Family Values Among the Staff of Ogun State University Teaching Hospital

246

television and the Internet increase the quantity and enhance the quality, speed and availability of information in the global system; both boost education, information and social development. They bring people together and improve level of interaction between different cultures or exposure to other cultures. For some people, they have become their primary sources of knowledge or information on other cultures. They have the potentials to popularize family values. These media of communication have a double-edged effect since they are capable of impoverishing as well as enriching family values of indigenous societies. Given this potential, the onus is on the Nigerian society to cue in to the globalization trend in order to utilize maximally the enriching capabilities of ICTs. Globalization will certainly remain an unavoidable or necessary part of the new global system and global communication through ICTs will continue to be the nature of the global system. Therefore, the Nigerian society has no choice but to incorporate itself to the global community and become active contributor and producer-society in order

to harness the opportunities offered to it by ICTs.

## Recommendations

In light of the literature review and study evidence, in order to understand the influence of information and communication technology on family values, the following recommendations are suggested:

1.     For the media industry, the mission is to contribute quality programmes into the global system and share the family values with the rest of the world.

2.     For the government, it is important to improve communication infrastructure to help Nigerians participate in the global community. It is foolhardy to believe that Nigeria will become a communication-producer-society in the global system with an epileptic power supply and neglect to the state of information technologies in the country.

3.     It is equally inevitable for people to interact without an exchange or transfer of values, ideas, viewpoints, and beliefs. Therefore, tolerance of cultural pluralism

which is a feature of the global system is tendered here as the way forward.

4. Rather than worrying over whose culture dominates the system, the concern of developing countries like Nigeria perhaps ought to be on how to exploit the opportunities of ICTs to make its cultural statement in the global system.

5. Family values could be fine tuned or polished when global interaction is enhanced. Cultural development, reinforcement and preservation thus become a healthier and more acceptable fallout of ICTs engineered globalization rather than the over emphasized cultural domination and imperialism.

6. There should be adequate parental enlightenment on the use of computer by the children to avert the negative effects the use of ICT have on them.

7. It should ensure that government staff is actively involved in the decision making surrounding the purchasing and application of ICT, rather than being randomly supplied without adequate knowledge of the usage.

8. There should be no substantial age gap in ICT adoption and usage, and also a significant gender gap. This applies to mobile phones, PCs, and the internet.

9. Factors which explain ICT behaviour include resources, experience, and preferences. However, these are interlinked. For instance, people with relatively high incomes are likely to have a home PC but are also more likely to be in the type of work which requires use of a PC, to live with other people who use PCs, and to have a higher education which influences preferences in favour of using PCs. The same applies to the internet and indeed to any other technology. So, people should be encouraged to learn more on the usage of computer.

10. Trust should be a watchword for every family member this is because the use of ICT especially mobile phones has caused a lot of havoc between couples.

11. Children should be discouraged from watching movies that alter the moral and cultural values of the family.

**References**

**Abi- Road** 1997**.** Journal of Information Technology for Teacher Education, Vol.6, No.2 p.207

**Bala A Muhammad** Dec (2007*)" toward ethical uses of information and*

*communication technology ICT* .CITAD monthly lecture.

**Baum, L.S.** 2004. Internet parent support groups for primary caregivers of a child with special health care needs. Pediatric Nursing. (5) 381-8, 401.

**Coal drake, Peter and Stedman, Lawrence (1998)**. On the Brisbane University of Queensland Press. P. 35

**Dennis, S., & Ebata, A.T**. 2005. Family life education on the technological frontier. In S.F. Duncan & H. W. Goddard (Eds.),

Devoogd Glenn, University of Houston Cultural Congruence in the Technology Liturate classroom in Diversity and International ed. By Willis, Dee Anna and Isleib.

**Dlodlo, N. & Sithole, N**. 2001. The Internet as a tool for a revolution in education in Africa: A dream or reality. World Conference on

**Eason, B. Noble, and I. N. Sneddon**,( 1955) "On certain integrals of Lipschitz- Hankel type involving products of Bessel functions," Phil. Trans. Roy. Soc. London, vol. A247, pp. 529–551,

**English-Lueck,** (1998). Technology and social change: The effects on family and community. Available Online at http://www.sjsu.edu/depts/anthropology/svcp/pdfs/svcp

cosa.pdf. Retrieved on April 10, 2010.

**Fischer, C. S**. (1992). America calling: A social history of the telephone to 1940. Berkeley: University of California Press.

**Foster, D.** (1997). Community and identity in the electronic village. In D. Porter (Ed.),

**G. Eason, B. Noble, and I. N. Sneddon,** (1955) "On certain integrals of Lipschitz-Hankel type involving products of Bessel functions," Phil. Trans. Roy. Soc. London, vol. A247, pp. 529–551,

**Griffiths M; 2005** Encyclopedia of international Relation and Global Politics Routledge New York. **Hunt D.L 1996**;Civil Society and the Idea of a commercial Replublic," Western Models RoutledgeNewyork.\

**Igarashi, T., Takai, J., & Yoshida, T**. (2005). Gender differences in social network development via mobile phone text messages: A longitudinal study. Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, 22(5), 691-713.

Internet culture, pp. 23-37. New York: Routledge.

**Jegede, Olugbemiro . (1995)** talking drums to electronics networking: "Africans' Snail mobile through the Cyberspace" FID News

Bulletin, vol.45 No.7/8 July/August pp. 218-224.

**Kling, R., Crawford, H., Rosenbaum, H., Sawyer, S., & Weisband, S**., (2000). Learning from social informatics: Information and communication technologies in human contexts. Available Online at http://www.slis.indiana.edu/ SI. Retrieved May 15, 2010.

**Musa Umar M** (2008) " *Globalization and it effect on Nigeria. D*aily triumph. Monday 7 January, p7 no 6,580, web site. www.triumphnewspapers.com

Owoseni, J. S. (2014). Adherence, Treatment and Health Communication among Tuberculosis Patients in Ekiti State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Research*, *1*(4), 124-148.

Outreach in Family Life: Principles and practices for effective family life outreach education (pp. 180-219). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. G.

**Roberstson R and Scholte J; 2007** Encyclopedia of Globalization volume 4 U-Z MTM Publishing Inc Newyork.
**Roodt. M ( 2001)** "Land Restitution in South Africa; An overview in Coetzee, J et al (eds) Development; Theory,Policy and Practice ,Oxford Univesity Press;Oxford pp305-315.

**Rogers, E**. (1995). Diffusion of Innovations, Available Online at http://www.stanford.edu/cla ss/symbsys205/Diffusion%2 0of%20Innovati ons.htm. Retrieved Sept 4, 2009.

**Roodt,M (2001)** Participation, Civil Society and development" in Coetzee, J et al (eds) Development; Theory,Policy and Practice ,Oxford Univesity Press;Oxford pp465-466

**Sani Bala Shehu** (2006) *"globalization A curse or blessing to Africa.* Unpublished article.

**Scharer K,** (2005). Internet social support for parents: the state of science. Journal of Child Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing. 2005. 18(1):26-35.

**Sohail and Gidley Jennys (eds) (2000 in Press)** The University in Transformation Global Perspectives on the future of the University Westport, Bergin and Garvey.

**Yau** (2002) *"globalization, ICTs and new imperialism, perspective on Africa in the global electronic village (GEV).*

Influence of Information and Communication Technology on Family Values Among the Staff of Ogun State University Teaching Hospital

250