

7th International Conference on Intercultural Education “Education, Health and ICT for a Transcultural World”, EDUHEM 2016, 15-17 June 2016, Almeria, Spain

## Information and communication technologies impact on family relationship

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### Abstract

ICT have influenced and modified economic, politic, social and cultural structures. The purpose of the study applied to sample of Medellin City is exploring how the use of ICT haven affected the family. ICT have enabled to a large flow of information that reinforces the nuclear family, but also have caused a detriment in their communication processes and family life. As a conclusion, It is pertinent to encourage further researches to evaluate the ICTs' impact in the relation processes from a qualitative approach and through longitudinal studies, and exploring how new technologies have redefined the concepts of family life in modern societies.

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Peer-review under responsibility of the organizing committee of EDUHEM 2016.

*Keywords:* Information and Communication Technologies; Family; relationship; usage.

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### 1. Conceptual framework

In recent years, it has been popularized the idea of immersion of modern societies in a phenomenon of revolution that involves social, economic and cultural structures as a result of Information and Communication Technologies – ICT (Sánchez, González & Sánchez, 2012).

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The gradual and generalized access that has been experimented the current societies to internet, has encouraged the development of a new space which it sets out a countless of operations from information interchange to business transactions (Cano & Maestre, 2015). This situation has generated a significant change in life of people, transforming the communicational ways, the labor market relations and the mechanism of negotiation for organizations (Sánchez, González & Sánchez, 2012).

In this framework is important to consider that the emergence of the information society is given by the convergence of three independent phenomena ending in the seventies: the first of them, is built by economic crisis and the weakening of the workforce productivity by the labor conflicts; the second, it is given by the growth of cultural and social movements as a defense of the human rights, protection of environment and a greatest women empowerment; the third revolution is given by information technologies, situation that involves the redefinitions of the power relationships and the self-dynamics of interaction which societies base on (Castells & Martínez, 2006; Bergonzelli & Colombo, 2006).

According to before exposed, most of individuals try to be at the forefront of advances generated around the ICT (Bonder, 2008), which families are not an exception, since they are part of the most important institution of a person, and also are the basis of future societies; a figure that will have to adapt to new environmental changes to continue accomplishing with their role in the current communities framework, where this situation leads to the recognition of positive changes that can have the technologies in nuclear family (Leung, 2011, Carvalho, Francisco & Relvas, 2015).

Therefore, consequently with the constant dynamic of the current societies, the concepts of family and technological changes are realities increasingly interrelated (Verza & Wagner, 2010). Even the classical figure of family is now a support role between their members; the new technologies have redefined the communication processes and the access to information by their members, modifying even the ways which family life activities made (Lasen, 2010).

In this context, it has to be recognized that the revolutionary phenomenon that is hidden in the growth of information technologies could be defined by the positive or negative impact according to the way which ICT are used. From this, the importance of generating conscience for their usage is considered as a facilitator of the communication processes and do not permit the bad use of them (Mendoza & Chávez, 2010).

In this order of ideas, is relevant by the causes that originated this research considering the factors that have an influence in acquisition and use of ICT, in the case of families is determined by the gender and the socio-economic situation of parents. However, it is important to consider the role of children, since parents are conscious of their responsibility in formation processes of nuclear family as a basis of the same society. They ensure to anticipate to effects that ICT can provide when are adopted by the dynamics of each nuclear family (Etcheverry & Johnson, 2011). In this sense, families could be classified in three dimensions according to their propensity for the use of media: traditional (low use), intermediate (average use), and multimedia (high use) (Rompaey, Roe & Struys, 2002).

The children who are part of traditional and intermediate families are involve in tools as internet by the access from their institutional educations (Cabra & Marciales, 2011), with the difference that children of intermediate families can navigate by their proper internet in their homes, who express their interest to have in home this tool for the development of academic activities and mechanism of amusement; while those of traditional families can do it in a low frequency. (Rompaey, Roe & Struys, 2002).

In this sense, the equipment of homes related with ICT is presented in cases where many families have computers, television, internet connection, mobiles phones, Mp3 and Mp4 devices, video console, etc. This situation shows a relevant perception by parents in the incorporations of these tools as a motor of socialization and they motivate the acquisition of these (Buxarrais et al., 2011).

It is important to note that according to studies in buy decision in the acquisition of ICT devices, men are the most involved, where they are who invest more in this concept. Before exposed, the gender differences are stood out in the usage of information and communication technologies and feel pleased by typology applications (Sánchez, 2010).

When these elements are taking into account, and assembling with before exposed, it is important to relating the impacts and derivated problems from the use of CTs, identifying that the most used technologies by children are television, internet and computers, where internet and computers are the most used, but television is the media that family interacts most of time (Buxarrais et al., 2011). These situations are changed by Mendoza & Chavez Maldonado (2010), who in their research exposed that only 23% of respondents watch their favorite TV program with their family, this without distinguishing if they live or not with both parents. That is to say, do not matter family conformation; television is not a significant family union factor.

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