

RESEARCH PROGRESS AND INFORMATION COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

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The introduction and rapid spread of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs), such as the world wide web, e-mail, telephones, fibre optics and satellites is revolutionising the way in which societies interact, conduct their businesses, compete in international markets and set their economic and human development agendas.

ICT (information and communications technology - or technologies) is an umbrella term that includes any communication device or application, encompassing: radio, television, cellular phones, computer and network hardware software, satellite systems. Information and communication technology (ICT) has become, within a very short time, one of the basic building blocks of modern society.

Technological developments lead to changes in work and changes in the organization of work, and required competencies are therefore changing. Gaining in importance are the following competencies:

- critical thinking,
- generalist (broad) competencies,
- ICT competencies enabling expert work,
- decision-making,
- handling of dynamic situations,
- working as a member of a team, and
- communicating effectively

The second part of my representation is about the development of mobile phones and their influence on people.

But the most important invention of 21st century is mobile phone, as for me because of communication with anyone whenever you want and wherever you are. Innovation in mobile phones has been happening so fast that it's difficult for consumers to change their behaviour. Phones are constantly swallowing up other products like cameras, calculators, clocks, radios, and digital music players. There are twenty different products that previously might have been bought separately that can now be part of a mobile phone. Mobiles have changed the way people talk to one another, they have generated a new type of language, they have saved lives and become style icons.

Obviously, the rich have been buying phones faster than the poor. But this happens with every innovation. Mobile phone take-up among the poor has actually been far quicker than it was in the case of previous products, such as colour television, computers and Internet access. Indeed, as mobile phones continue to become cheaper and more powerful, they might prove to be more successful in bridging the gap between the rich and the poor than expensive computers.

There are obviously drawbacks to mobiles as well: mobile users are two and a half times more likely to develop cancer in areas of the brain adjacent to their phone ear, although researchers are unable to prove whether this has anything to do with the phone; mobile thefts now account for a third of all street

robberies in London, and don't forget about all the accidents waiting to happen as people drive with a mobile in one hand. But, overall, mobile phones have proved to be a big benefit for people.

And to sum up, be aware of the possible dangerous – and enjoy your mobile!