

## ICT – DOES IT HAVE A DOMINEERING ROLE IN A FAMILY?

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**ABSTRACT:**The present era has seen vast developments in the field of Information Communication Technology (ICT). Day after day new technological devices are being introduced into the world and they keep having impacts on almost all fields and activities willy-nilly. Technology has reached the hearts and minds of almost all people and become their prime obsession. They are ever on the lookout for what the next innovation is going to be. The ICT gadgets have far-reaching impacts on all aspects of human life. On this basis, a study was carried out to explore how these devices dominate the members of a family in their interactions with one another and their social roles. This research was done in Kattankudy, a densely populated area in Sri Lanka. About 200 number of families were involved in this study and the methods mainly adopted were the semi-structural questionnaire and the focus interview. This research revealed that the ICT gadgets have considerably affected the interactions and relationships among parents, children and spouses leading to the weakness of family bonds and marital relations and resulted in their inability to perform their responsibilities towards the society.

**Keywords:** Globalization, Human Life, ICT, Interaction, Gadgets, Relationship.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Family is the core institution in the societal structure. It is the nucleus of a culture universally. The family alliances are strengthened by affective role performance of members and interaction with each other. A group of two people or more (one of whom is the householder) related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing. The survival, intimacy and love among family members cannot be build up without the institution of family. Families be it the family of orientation or family of procreation either performs many social functions. The family institution is responsible for the rearing and caring of its members and enculturation of cultural values and norms. In an era of globalization the family institution has drastically been affected like all other social institutions .Globalization refers to the increasing integration of production, development and communication among nations on a worldwide scale (Andrzej.P, 2010). The swift results of Globalization can improve the communication and interaction among different societies. The process of globalization has both social and psychological impacts on family institution. The transformation of extended family systems into nuclear family systems is the result of globalization and awareness created by ICT.

The ICT gadgets are basically the result of Globalization and socio economic transitions. ICT stands for Information and Communication Technologies. ICT gadgets are used for the purpose of interaction and communication among people. The television, radio, mobile phones, computer, internet, newspapers etc come under the ICT. Due to ICT the level of communication and interaction has raised among societies resulting into changes besides ensuring the process of acculturation among societies. Globalization gave birth to the ICT which is affecting the family life, roles and relations of family institution. The family performs many social functions to maintain the ties among its members. The family ties are base of kinship system which keeps the members in close bonds. (Georgiadou, 2006)The family ties can be maintained through the family alliances which are made through family of orientation and family of procreation. After the industrial revolution

information revolution is another revolution which in the form of ICT has given birth to the Information Society. Due to information revolution the family institution like other fields has been affected. In current societal setup the family size and type have also been shaped up by the spreading awareness.

The ICT has been affected the family institution both through positively and negatively. ICT has affected not only the individuals but also the family. The members in family are associated with specific roles. The roles are performed by members in family helpful in achieving the objectives and targets through media and ICT. The people living in a family perform the roles of grandparents, parents, spouse, siblings, daughters and sons. These all relations are inter-dependent upon each other. The family members are hence expected to perform their respective roles for smooth functioning and maintenance of family ties.

The very Institution has been affected due to lack and absence of face to face interaction between its members. When members' do not interact with each other the roles associated with them stay unfulfilled. They rarely communicate within household through direct face to face interaction which is a threat indeed. Mobile phone is another gadget due to which distance between parents and children relationship has been widened. Mostly parents remain busy on their mobile phones and never give time to their children.

The young adults are the immediate adopter of the technology. Due to increased use of ICT gadgets the parents-children relationship has been affected in a way that they rarely interact with each other even when they are living under the same roof. Mostly the children spend time on internet, mobile phones (Facebook, online gaming) and on television sparing lesser time with their parents and also learn disobedience.

The negative impacts of internet can also be the cause of family conflict. Likewise the relationship of spouse can also be affected due to ICT. If we talk about the television dramas on television spot light the violence. Through this exposure violence can practically be adopted by the husbands and wives which at times results into divorce. The mobile phone and internet can also cause poor performance by spouse in their family roles and maintaining their relation. Spouses usually do not give time to each other and family, as they keep themselves busy on social networking which creates a marital problem and unfaithfulness among couples. Refinement in material aspect of technology has led to degenerated non material entity i.e. family values. The degeneration view of cyclical theory fits here that the marital alliances break due to ICT because spouse cannot perform their roles and roles going to be degenerated. At time even conflict arises with their affiant relatives.

According to Symbolic Interaction family theory members in a family are assigned with their special roles. The strong relationships among members are built through performance of these roles. The satisfaction can be developed not just with their family members but is also associated with individual's awareness of their roles. Due to the Globalization and ICT the individuals remain unaware of their role in family because they are busy in social media communities. They never know what's going on in their home but they know what their friend is doing at the moment that lives in some far away country.

This research was conducted in Kattankudy which is a township in Sri Lanka located along its eastern coastline, about 339 kilometers away from the capital city,

Colombo. The township has an estimated population of 60 000, predominantly Muslims.

## **2. METHODOLOGY**

The locale of study was kattankudy from where respondents from both rural and urban backgrounds are settled. First we conducted a focus interview with Kattankudy Divisional Secretariat regarding the population. Based on the interview we found, there are about 10 339 families living. Then we decided to collect information through 1:50 range. We used the qualitative research techniques and random sampling techniques to select a sample of 200 respondents to check whether the ICT gadgets have affected the interaction among family members in their different roles. For this purpose research was designed on using the semi structured questionnaire for the purpose of data collection. The data was collected over the period of one month to keenly detect the concern objective under research study. A questionnaire consisting of 25 questions was designed. Data collection through a questionnaire survey was chosen because it allows a larger sample, and the collection of larger amount of data in relatively short time. The collected data was then analyzed on statistical software. The frequency tables and percentiles were used to display the results.

The questionnaire consisted four parts, the first part of the questionnaire gathered the respondent's background. The second part of the questionnaire was dedicated to collect data on ICT Gadgets Have Lessened the Interaction of Parents with their children. The third part of the survey was focused on how ICT has adversely affected the time span of children being spend with their. The forth part of the survey was designed to identify the Misuse of ICT Weakening the Marital Relationship. Respondents provided information through both closed-ended and open-ended questions on these topics.

Questionnaires were distributed according to the grama sevaka Divisions. These grama sevaka Divisions were chosen because the people who are living in kattankudy are divided into number of grama sevaka Divisions.

This article will present the findings related to ICT – does it have a domineering role in a family? The degree of agreement on the item as the ICT gadgets have affected the interaction among family members in their different roles were rated using a Likert scale, starting from NO COMMENT, STRONGLY DISAGREE, DISAGREE, AGREE, and STRONGLY AGREE.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

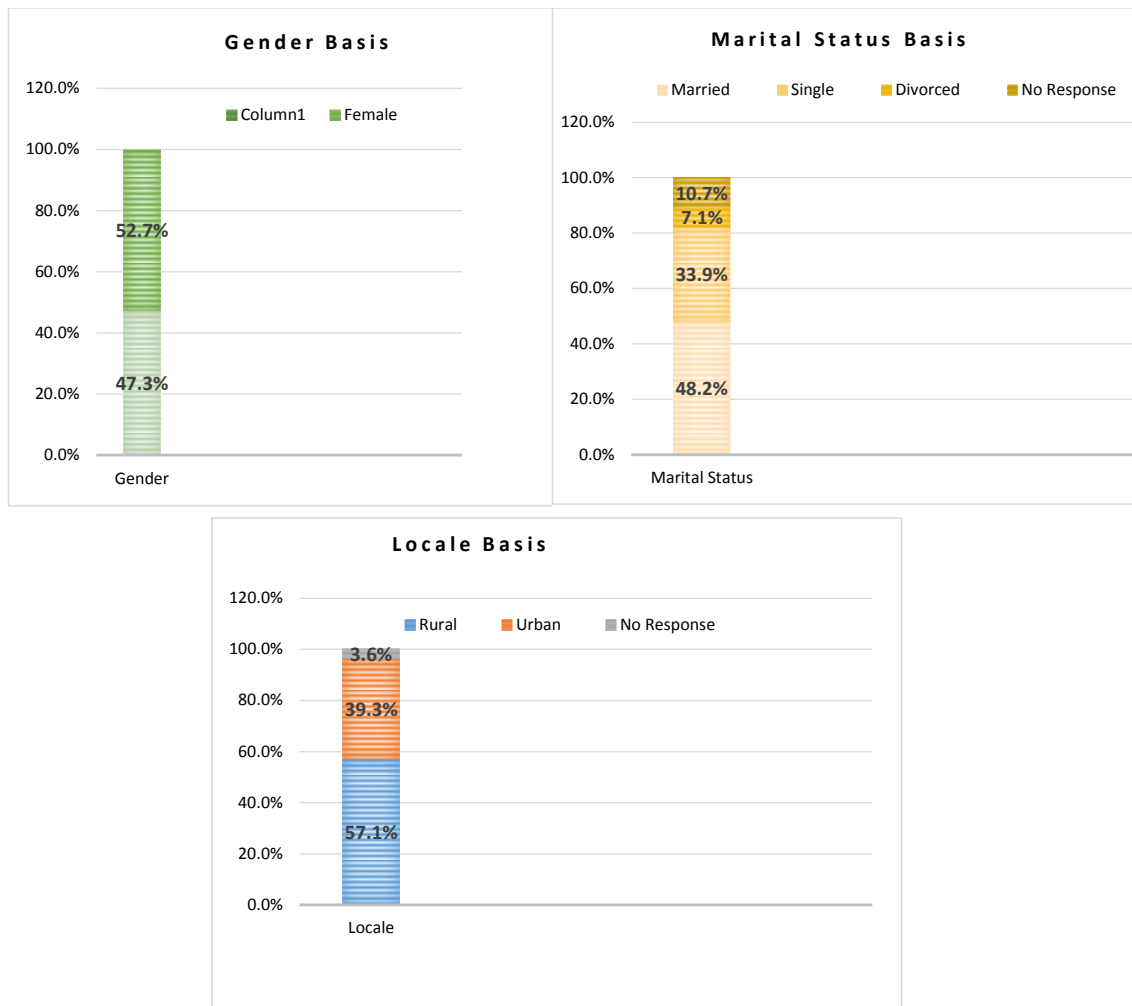


Figure 1. Biostatistical Information of Respondents

The above graph table shows the biostatistical information of the respondents. The total sample size included 200 respondents in which 47.3 % were male and 52.7% were females. In the sample population the marital status of 33.9% respondents were single, where as 48.2% were married. The 7.1% respondents were divorced and 10.7% never showed their marital status. The sample comprised the respondents from rural and urban background to check the tendency of usage of ICT gadgets in both locales. Out of 200 respondents 57.1% were from rural background and 39.3% from urban background whereas 3.6% respondents never showed their background.

Table. 1: ICT Gadgets Have Lessened the Interaction of Parents with their children

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	34	17.0%
Agree	84	42.0%
Disagree	69	34.8%
Strongly Disagree	4	1.8%

No Answer	9	4.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100%</b>

The above table indicates the results of question that “Do you think that due to ICT gadgets parents cannot give time to their children? 17 % respondents strongly agree that ICT affects the parent children relationship and parents never give time to their children. 42% respondents believe due to ICT gadgets parents never give time to their children because mostly parents remain busy on their mobile phones and never give time to their children. They spend time on internet to communicate with their friends and relatives and never pay attention to their children. The cyclical theory in anthropology some scholars believe in the views of degeneration that due to ICT gadgets usage the family ties are on way to degeneration because family members never interact with each other.

In family institution the when members deviate the norms and values of family the family relations is going to be degenerated. 34.8 % respondents were of the view that the use of ICT gadgets is not the reason due to which parents never give time to their children. 1.8 % strongly disagree that due to ICT parents neglect their children and never interact with them. 4.5 % respondents never responded the question.

*Table. 2: ICT has adversely affected the time span of children being spend with their parents*

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Strongly Disagree	39	19.6%
Agree	93	46.4%
Disagree	50	25.0%
Strongly Disagree	11	5.4%
No Answer	7	3.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100%</b>

The frequency table reveals that details about the question that ‘Do you think that children cannot interact with their parents due to ICT gadgets? 19.6 % respondents strongly believe that usage of ICT gadgets is a reason due to which children cannot interact with their parents. 46.4 % respondents agree that ICT gadgets usage by children affect their relationship with their parents. They remain busy on mobile phones, internet, online gaming, social media due to which they have no time to interact with their parents and immediate relatives. The Herbert Spencer theory of survival of fittest indicates that those members in society will fit in and survive who adopt the social changes. So children also adopt the new technologies to fit in and survive in the society but this situation lead to reduce the interaction of children with their parents. 25 % respondents disagree that due to the use of ICT gadget, interaction of children with their parents cannot be affected. 5.4 % respondents strongly disagree that ICT gadgets usage is not the reason of lack or less of interaction between children and parents. 3.6 % respondents never gave the answer.

*Table. 3: Misuse of ICT Weakening the Marital Relationship*

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Strongly Disagree	16	8.0%
Agree	88	43.8%
Disagree	82	41.1%
Strongly Disagree	9	4.5%
No Answer	5	2.7%

<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100%</b>
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The table shows the results of question that ‘Do you think that due to ICT gadgets marital relationships are affected? 8 % respondents strongly believe that marital relationship is effected by the prolong usage of ICT gadgets. 43.8 % agreed that ICT gadgets usage affected the marital relationship. Mostly spouse cannot give time to each other and family, as they remain busy on social networking which creates a marital problem and unfaithfulness among. The extra marital relationship are developed by using mobile phones, Facebook and other sites on internet due to which couples don’t have time to interact with each other. They seldom spare time for each other. 41.1 % respondents disagree that ICT never affects the relationship among spouse as marriage is not just the social contract for spouse. There is feeling of intimacy among couples due to their children which strengthens their marital relation. 4.5 % respondents strongly disagree that ICT gadgets never affect the marital relationship among spouse. 2.7 % respondents never gave answer of the question.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

The study was conducted to overview the effects of Information communication technology on interfamilial relationships. In just 20 years the Globalization was swiftly introduced throughout the world which affected the social norms and values in family institution. The ICT gadgets are being used by people of almost all ages and both genders. Due to the process of diffusion and enculturation the ICT gadgets are used not only in urban areas but also in rural areas. The study reveals that the ICT gadgets which are the result of Globalization have affected the family institution by reducing level of interaction among the family members. The parent’s child interaction level and leisure time activities have been reduced. Mostly parents remain busy on social networks. The children’s interaction with their parents has also decreased because of prolong usage of ICT gadgets to communicate with their friends and for study purpose.

The ICT gadgets also affect the marital relationship. Mostly the infidelity and misunderstandings due to excessive indulgence in social networks has been affected the martial relationship. The inefficiency in their respective role as a family member, living out in fantasy world due to excessive usage of social networks have been widening the gap between prescribed and assumed social roles which weakened the marital relationship. So over all the ICT gadgets usage in the form of mobile phone, internet, social media and TV affects the level of interaction in family relations negatively

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**IDENTIFICATION OF PROBLEMS IN RIGID PAVEMENTS IN AMPARA DISTRICT AND PROPOSED SOLUTIONS**