

## **Unit 3**

This report is to research how ICT affects people's lives at home. These vary from the most obvious and the less obvious. These are in different categories like entertainment, education and technology that help people to do everyday tasks. Technology has developed a lot over the last 10-15 years. The improvements made through technology are magnificent. The reason why technology development has been so successful is that people are backing the developments. People are welcoming technology because it makes their every day tasks easier and more time efficient.

One of the fastest growing technology is the Internet. The Internet covers entertainment and education, communication and also everyday chores like shopping. Before the Internet was formed people had to go to libraries and find other sources of information, this was time consuming and a lot of times people didn't get the information they wanted. With the Internet it's like having all the sources of information in a box. The Personal Computer (PC) is used to do work, research and for entertainment. The PC allows us to do work and it also stores information and record for us. The Internet is also a good way to communicate with people using chat rooms and email. Companies nowadays use the Internet to keep in touch with their employees using email, video conferencing and text messaging. I use the Internet at home and at school to research, communicate and just for basic entertainment like games etc. The Internet is often run using the PC or a laptop or through the new relatively new technology which is called WAP. WAP enables you to visit Internet sites through your mobile phone. This makes it easier to receive news updates, download information and also just browsing searching for information. The police use the Internet to reach more people; this helps them receive information because they can reach more people. The Internet is good for both school, social and home use because it has a lot of educational and entertainment sites. It is also easy to use and allows you to learn an unlimited amount of information.

The bad thing about the Internet is that there isn't an effective control on it, so people can post anything they want on their websites. This is bad because people of all ages can access this information, this include little children who might visit unsuitable sites on the Internet. The other major problem being highlighted over the last couple of years is that paedophiles are using the Internet chat rooms for grooming young children. Due to this lack of control over websites people are using it as a way to commit crimes that they can get away with like hacking and also

stealing people's credit card numbers off shopping websites. These fraudulent acts are hard to prosecute because it will be hard to catch the perpetrator. The other concern is that to actually get Internet access cost a lot of money averaging around £20 a month. Even though there are disadvantages they are overshadowed by the advantages of the Internet.

At home I have got a lot of ICT facilities that makes my ordinary everyday life a lot easier and a bit more enjoyable. Some of the equipment we take for granted improve our standard of life better and reduces the physical workload. One example is the dishwasher; this cleans our dirty dishes on the push of a button. This reduces the hassle of hand washing the dishes and therefore reduces the time you spend doing chores. The dishwasher is an excellent way to clean your dishes because it can clean a lot of them at the same time. In catering businesses like restaurants they rely on dishwashers to help them shorten the workload.

The bad thing about dishwashers is that they use a lot of electricity power to run them and they also need to get repaired or service if they fail to function and the servicing is very expensive.

Another good contraption that reduces time spent on chores is the vacuum cleaner normally known as the Hoover. This technology has been around for a while now but is being improved every time. They have managed to improve suction and they have also managed to reduce the electricity power needed to run it. This technology is used all around the country and it makes cleaning the floor easier and quicker. It also cleans more thoroughly in a short amount of time. At home I use the hoover it saves me a lot of energy and time.

The problem with Hoovers is that they lose suction after a while and you have to get it fixed. The price to get them fixed is very expensive. Most Hoovers require to have their bags replaced regularly.

The other main type of technology that has kept growing in popularity over the last decade is the microwave. Invented in 1946 the microwave can be found in almost every household. The microwave saves time on heating food and also cooking meals. The microwave is a quick and easy to use technology. The microwave is a great technology because it saves time and it's cheap to run. At home I use the microwave to heat my food and to also cook meals.

The disadvantages of the microwave are that it's too expensive to buy.

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Since the beginning of time man has always tried to find ways to entertain himself. From drawings to books and more recently the television. The TV is a great source of information and is also fun. The television provides news through news programs and provides pleasure through movies and programs of the same nature. The TV qualities have been improving a lot over the last couple of decades. The TVs have gotten more thinner and the screen more wider. Businesses use television adverts to promote their companies and products. I watch the TV at home to get information and for entertainment.

The improvements in technology also means more money will be needed to buy a latest TV. This is a huge disadvantage, another disadvantage is that just like the Internet they can provide inappropriate material for people under the regulated age for example violence, nudity and other forms of inappropriate behaviour.

There is a technology that has been created to be used with the TV. This technology is the DVD/DVD player. Since the beginning of the 90s technology developers have been trying to make a smaller more compact version of the videotape. Then they came up with the idea of a compact disc, which would then be aptly named a DVD. This technology provides entertainment to you at the best quality possible in your own home. It's a better version of a VCR. The disc was smaller and it had easy scene location unlike the videotape you could actually go to the exact scene you wanted at the push of a button. The DVD has cinema quality display so this saves you time and money spent on visiting the cinemas. I personally use DVDs because of their picture quality. They are a great technology because they are easy to get hold of and are cheap to buy.

Technology has had a boom over the past few years and most of the new technologies have managed to satisfy any customer needs. As new technologies emerge they are getting cheaper and better. So the way I see it technology is good because of its services and also its price.