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Technology-Enhanced Family Communication in Osun State: A study of Ede North Local Government Area

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Abstract
This study aimed to assess the dynamics of family communication patterns in Ede North Local Government, Osun State, Nigeria, with an emphasis on the impact of technological innovation. The main objective of the study was to determine the impact of technological innovation on the quality of family communication in Ede North Local Government Area of Osun State, Nigeria. Using a survey research design, data were obtained from 350 respondents via a questionnaire. The findings show a high reliance on technological developments, such as smartphones, for family communication. Despite concerns about the decline in face-to-face interactions and potential compromises to family privacy in Ede North LGA, the study revealed perceived benefits, such as improved communication quality and greater frequency of interactions between family members. The study indicates that, while technology has a dual impact on family communication, with both positive and negative effects, more inclusive research approaches are required to capture diverse perspectives. The study makes several recommendations for policymakers and technology companies, including enhancing digital literacy in Ede North LGA, protecting data privacy, and encouraging a balance of online and offline relationships within families. Furthermore, investment in infrastructure development, digital literacy programmes, technology integration into school curricula, and prioritising privacy and security measures is critical to addressing the challenges of limited internet access, socioeconomic disparities, and cultural preferences for traditional communication methods in Ede North LGA.

Keywords: Technological Innovations, Family Communication, Social Media, Smartphones.

Introduction

In an ever-changing communication landscape, technological developments have played critical roles in transforming how people and families connect. The rapid proliferation of mobile phones, social media platforms, and other digital tools has altered how families interact and stay connected in today's culture, particularly in Nigeria. Technology is becoming increasingly vital in our lives, with applications in healthcare, education, and entertainment utilising it extensively. This generation's lifestyle has been impacted by the advent of digital technologies. Indeed, Uduk (2022) refers to this group as "digital natives." People of all ages have widely embraced these digital devices in the current digital era. According to Uduk (2022) and Accenture (2017), it is not unexpected to witness a child under two years old proficiently handling a digital device. A few examples of these activities include reading newspapers and devotionals, keeping up with current affairs and developments in our fields of interest, playing games, watching films, listening to music, and learning. The majority of people use digital devices for extended periods while at work. Our family lives are changing as a result of these digital gadgets, in addition to improving our daily lives (Wartella, Rideour, Lauricella, & Connel, 2014; Uduk, 2022).

A study by Poushter (2016) found that 99% of young individuals aged 18 to 34 use the internet, and 92% of them use mobile phones. According to surveys conducted by Rudi (2014) and Perrotta (2017), workplaces are becoming more demanding, requiring workers to always be "on call" and connected to the office by phone and email. Therefore, even after leaving the workplace and going home to their families, employees are expected to remain focused on their work. Perrotta (2017) and Adkins and Premeaux (2014) claim that technology has taken control, and people no longer feel as much of a need to maintain relationships as they do to stay connected to their jobs or social lives. Technology is having an increasing effect on children and teenagers. Teenagers' attachment to these gadgets influences their interaction with gaming systems. The impact of social media on families is growing as it expands (Singh, 2014; Perrotta, 2017). Children who communicated with their parents through technology experienced more physiological problems due to the trend of being physically distant through communication, according to a study conducted to explore whether interacting through social media and messaging had a positive impact on people (Perrotta, 2017; Rudi, 2014).

This study was conducted to investigate the impact of technological advancements on family communication in contemporary Nigeria, with a focus on Ede North Local Government Area, Osun State, Nigeria. The aim was to shed light on how family communication is changing in contemporary Nigeria, which could impact strategies for fostering strong family ties in the midst of the digital revolution.

Statement of the Problem

The Ede North Local Government Area (LGA) of Osun State, Nigeria, has experienced notable improvements in governance, infrastructure, education, and healthcare, contributing to the overall development and well-being of its citizens (Ajala & Ojokuku, 2020). However, the rapid advancements in technology have significantly altered the dynamics of family communication in this locality. These technological developments have the potential to both strengthen and disrupt traditional family ties within Ede North LGA. As digital communication tools become increasingly prevalent, it is crucial to understand how they are influencing family relationships, values, and cohesion in this specific socio-cultural context. Despite the growing prevalence of technology in

daily life, there is a lack of empirical research addressing the impact of technology on family communication in Ede North LGA. This study aims to fill this gap by examining the role of technology-enhanced communication in family dynamics in Osun State, specifically within Ede North LGA, from a Nigerian perspective.

Objectives of the Study

In view of the identified problem, the objectives of the study are to:

1. Examine how technological innovations are accessed and used for family communication in Ede North Local Government Area, Osun State.
2. Assess the influence of technological innovations on the quality of family communication in Ede North Local Government Area, Osun State.
3. Identify the advantages and disadvantages of technological innovations for family communication in Ede North Local Government Area, Osun State.

Literature Review

Technological innovations have developed so rapidly that they have had a profound impact on families and individuals. Unquestionably, the discourse surrounding families and their social structures is evolving, and understanding this evolution requires an awareness of the interactions between families and the technologies they use on a daily basis. Social science research in this field has a long history, and it is widely accepted that technological progress has a significant impact on how work and family life are shaped. Nowadays, many people are focused on the latest technological tools, such as those made with computers and telecommunications equipment. However, technology encompasses a wider range of objects, including smartphones, artificial intelligence, 5G technology, and more. The technologies discussed in this study are those created using computers and communication devices, such as cellphones and the internet, and how families, as observed by Omoge (2021), use them in Osun State's Ede North Local Government Area, Nigeria. These are the technologies that are used most frequently in family settings. The internet is undoubtedly the fastest-growing modern communication medium (Li, Ning, Xia, Guo, & Liu, 2022).

Technology is at the forefront of social connections. On the internet, people are meeting their foes, lovers, colleagues, and friends. Through devices like PDAs, other wireless technologies, and web services, young people are establishing and growing a communication culture that encompasses many unique elements. Furthermore, technology has become an effective, affordable, and adaptable way of communication due to its benefits and reach as a means of information transportation. Nabela and Rianto (2020), in line with the positions of Zaman and Mifsud (2017), and Przybylski and Weinstein (2017), claim that the presence of new media technology affects the closeness of contact between parents and children. It is impossible to separate technology's rapid development from humans' demand for it.

According to Thakkar and Sheth (2014), communication is one method used by family members to sort things out and express their meanings to one another. Umennuihe, Eya, Nwobi, and Obiora (2023) contended similarly that participants define their own identities and interactions with the outside world and each other through this interaction. Communication is important in people's lives because it modifies and shapes the structure of the family system (Clark, 2015). Family

members converse with one another to share ideas, learn new things, and broaden their empathy (Thakkar & Sheth, 2014). According to Effiong and Usoroh (2020), a pluralistic communication pattern emphasises children's freedom of expression without concern about repercussions. A consensual communication pattern prioritises both open communication and harmonious relationships. As long as the family stays united, children in such a household are free to express their thoughts. Parents who score highly on exchange patterns of free communication as well as relational harmony are categorised as consensual.

Gee, Takeuchi, and Wartella (2017) argue that a sense of unity and belonging in the family can only be sustained through effective communication. Afifi and Guerrero (2016) noted that candid and open communication fosters a sense of closeness among family members. This is accurate given that communication plays a major role in resolving family disputes. Using conflict resolution strategies like compromise and active listening requires effective communication (Braithwaite et al., 2016). Family communication provides a platform for emotional support and expression. Family ties can be strengthened by communicating emotions and concerns (Vangelisti, 2016).

Offordile, Adene, Adimora, Chibuogu, and Umeano's (2019) study examined how parent-child communication styles affected the self-esteem of teenagers attending schools in the Enugu Education Zone. The results showed that communication methods between parents and children have a major effect on the sense of self-worth of adolescents. Adeoye (2010) studied how households in Lagos, Nigeria, adopted and used information and communication technologies (ICT). His study explored ICT adoption and utilisation among families in Lagos, Nigeria, and found that ICT has great potential to improve families by creating new opportunities for social support, parent education, and parent-child interaction. A study by Israel and Eunice (2019) examined the effects of technological advancements on family relationships and engagement in the Ado-Odo Ota Local Government Area, Ogun State, Nigeria, and found that the majority of family members prefer face-to-face communication over texting on Facebook, WhatsApp, and other apps.

To determine the relationship between adult cohesion and family communication patterns in Uyo Local Government Area, Nigeria, Effiong and Usoroh (2020) conducted a study titled Family Communication Patterns and Cohesion between Adolescents and Parents in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. The study found that communicatively pluralistic and consensual families are more likely to have close-knit and cooperative members, while communicatively protective and laissez-faire families are more likely to have dispersed and non-cooperative individuals. In Cross River State secondary schools, Bisong et al. (2023) looked into the opportunities and challenges associated with ICT instructional delivery. The research recommends that Cross River State public secondary schools include ICT education in their curricula, along with strategies for implementation.

Sakrani et al. (2022) discovered that organising family get-togethers, keeping an eye on children, and updating daily schedules are key uses of communication technologies. Perrotta (2017) investigated the effects of communication technology use on relationships and family contact, concluding that as communication technology usage increases, there is less in-person family engagement. A study by Nabela and Rianto (2020) discovered that how skillfully someone uses technology, how securely they use the internet and social media, and how they manage work and family time, all significantly impact their own or their family's wellness.

Theoretical Framework

This study is based on the technological determinism theory and the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM).

Technology Acceptance Model

The Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) is a widely researched and applied tool that predicts how an organisation will integrate and utilise the technology it has adopted. Numerous studies on the adoption of new technologies have employed TAM. According to Au and Zafar (2008) and Chen and Tan (2004), all show that TAM is a useful model that reflects the degree of adjustment in the acceptance and utilisation of technology.

Perceived utility and perceived ease of use are defined, respectively, by Au and Zafar (2008) as "The extent to which a worker in an organisation feels that a specific system would improve his work performance" and "The extent to which a worker in an organisation feels that a specific system would require no effort." In TAM, an employee's attitude towards adopting new technology is based on how easy and beneficial they perceive it to be, which, in turn, impacts whether or not the employee plans to use the newly adopted technology and continue using it, according to Schillewaert et al. (2005). Based on the concepts of reasoned action and planned behaviour, the Technology Acceptance Model makes distinctions between principles, attitudes, beliefs, and intentions (Au & Zafar, 2008). TAM postulates that, in addition to its influence on attitude towards usage, perceived ease of use influences perceived usefulness. The ease of use of the recently approved system is considered to make it more beneficial.

Dube et al. (2021) opined that TAM has faced difficulties that have produced inconsistent results, notably being measured by perceived rather than actual behaviour adoption, as noted by Tan and Chen (2004). This limits its capacity for description and forecasting, as stated by Garaca (2011). It is imperative, according to Wu (2011) and Autry et al. (2010), to consider and investigate several aspects, such as an organisation's cybersecurity and technological readiness position. Although the Technology Acceptance Model predominates in studies on technology adoption, Williams et al. (2009) highlight its inconsistencies and argue that comprehensive models should integrate TAM with alternative theories.

Technological Determinism Theory

One of the contemporary theories that emerged from the media's role and the ways in which it influences different societies was developed by Marshall McLuhan, an English professor at the University of Toronto in Canada, and one of the most well-known thinkers of the second half of the 20th century (Page, 2022). Hauer (2017) posits that the notion of technological determinism holds that, as we move from one technological period to another, media technologies influence people's thoughts, emotions, actions, and social interactions. Griffin (2000) confirms McLuhan's theory that the signals individuals receive through readily available technology influence our emotions, thoughts, and learning.

The idea explains why significant shifts in communication technology lead to adjustments in our social structure. It is believed that communication technology has the ability to change our senses, which, in turn, can change how we live. Thorstein Veblen is credited with creating the term "technological determinism," which denotes the idea that a society's technological prowess

determines its nature, as noted by Jackson and Rosenblatt (2024). Technology is said to influence a society's culture and historical course. Karl Marx thought that improved methods of production, brought about by technological advancements, eventually affected a society's cultural, political, and economic components, ultimately transforming society as a whole (McLuhan, 1962).

Research Method

The survey research approach was adopted in this study. According to Ibrahim (2018), a survey is an investigation of a sample's characteristics through inquiry that enables the researcher to draw conclusions about their population of interest in general. Consequently, the survey research design is more suited to the study, as its focus was on human behaviour and cognition. The study's population comprises 142,585 individuals from Osun State, Nigeria's Ede North Local Government Area (citypopulation.de, 2023). To calculate the appropriate sample size, the study employed the basic technique of random sampling. A sample of 350 respondents was selected for the research. The sample size was calculated using the Taro Yamane formula. The instrument used to collect data for this study was a questionnaire. The quantitative data were analysed using both descriptive and inferential statistics.

Data Presentation and Analysis

Table 1: Access and Usage of Technological Innovation for Family Communication in Ede North Local Government Area.

Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
In my home, I have access to contemporary communication devices.	4 (1.2%)	12 (3.5%)	32 (9.2%)	215 (61.5%)	87 (24.9%)	350 100%
My family actively uses modern communication technologies for daily communication.	109 (31.1%)	78 (22.3%)	21 (6%)	130 (37.1%)	12 (3.5%)	350 100%
To what extent do you agree that your family has adopted modern communication technologies for daily interactions?	12 (3.5%)	73 (20.9%)	9 (2.6%)	156 (44.6%)	100 (28.6%)	350 100%
The availability of modern communication technologies has improved family communication in my household.	69 (19.8%)	21 (6%)	7 (2%)	143 (40.8%)	110 (31.5%)	350 100%

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 1 presents statistics on household access to and use of modern communication technologies for family communication in Osun State, Nigeria's Ede North Local Government Area, as well as the level of adoption and reported impact on family communication. Regarding access to modern communication technology, 61.5% of respondents (215 people) agree, and 24.9% (87 people)

strongly agree, bringing the total to 86.4%. Conversely, only 4.7% of respondents disagree or strongly disagree, indicating widespread availability of communication technologies.

When it comes to active daily communication usage, 37.1% (130 people) agree, while 31.1% (109 people) strongly disagree, resulting in 68.2% of respondents either agreeing or strongly agreeing. However, 31.1% (109 households) strongly disagree or disagree, suggesting that modern communication tools are not widely used for daily communication. On the adoption of these technologies, 44.6% of respondents (156 people) agree, and 28.6% (100 people) strongly agree, bringing the total to 73.2% who agree or strongly agree. In contrast, 31.4% (110 respondents) disagree or strongly disagree, indicating skepticism or limited adoption.

Regarding the perceived impact on family communication, 40.8% (143 people) agree, and 31.5% (110 people) strongly agree that modern communication technologies have improved family communication, bringing the total to 72.3%. However, 25.8% (90 people) disagree or strongly disagree, indicating a significant portion who do not perceive an improvement. Overall, while there is widespread access to modern communication tools, their usage for daily communication varies across families. Although a significant number of respondents acknowledge the positive impact on family communication, a notable proportion remain skeptical or do not perceive any improvement.

Table 2: Impact of Technological Innovation regarding the calibre of Family Communication in Ede North Local Government Area.

Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
Technological innovations have positively influenced the quality of family communication.	45 (13.0%)	19 (5.5%)	27 (7.8%)	72 (20.6%)	187 (53.5%)	350 100%
Technological innovations have increased the frequency of family communication.	19 (5.5%)	39 (11.2%)	17 (4.9%)	198 (56.6%)	77 (22%)	350 100%
I prefer using technological means (e.g. video calls, messaging apps) for family communication.	21 (6%)	14 (4%)	9 (2.6%)	201 (57.4%)	105 (30%)	350 100%
The availability of modern communication technologies has improved family communication in my household	73 (20.9%)	50 (14.3%)	16 (4.5%)	115 (32.9%)	96 (27.5%)	350 100%
The members of my family actively utilize modern communication technologies	53 (15.1%)	29 (8.3%)	24 (6.9%)	141 (40.3%)	103 (20.4%)	350 100%

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 2 illustrates the impact of technological innovation on family communication, with respondents rating their agreement with various statements. Regarding the positive impact of technological advancements on the quality of family communication, 187 respondents (53.5%) strongly agree, and 72 (20.6%) agree, bringing the total to 259 (74.1%) who agree. In contrast, 45 (13.0%) strongly disagree, 19 (5.5%) disagree, and 27 (7.8%) are undecided, totaling 91 (26.0%). Concerning the increase in the frequency of family communication due to technological advancements, 198 respondents (56.6%) agree, and 77 (22.0%) strongly agree, resulting in a total of 275 (78.6%) agreeing. However, 19 (5.5%) strongly disagree, 39 (11.2%) disagree, and 17 (4.9%) are undecided, totalling 75 (21.4%).

Regarding the preference for using technological methods for family communication, 201 respondents (57.4%) agree, and 105 (30.0%) strongly agree, making the total 306 (87.4%) who agree. Only 21 (6.0%) strongly disagree, 14 (4.0%) disagree, and 9 (2.6%) remain undecided, totaling 44 (12.6%). In terms of the availability of current communication tools improving family contact, 115 respondents (32.9%) agree, and 96 (27.5%) strongly agree, bringing the total to 211 (60.3%) who agree. Nonetheless, 73 (20.9%) strongly disagree, 50 (14.3%) disagree, and 16 (4.5%) are undecided, totalling 139 (39.7%). Finally, regarding the active use of modern communication technology by family members, 141 respondents (40.3%) agree, and 103 (29.4%) strongly agree, making the total 244 (69.7%) who agree. However, 53 (15.1%) strongly disagree, 29 (8.3%) disagree, and 24 (6.9%) remain undecided, for a total of 106 (30.3%). The results the data suggest that technological innovations have a significant positive impact on family communication, with most respondents acknowledging improvements in communication quality, frequency, and preferences. However, a portion of respondents remains either undecided or skeptical of the extent of this impact.

Table 3: Advantages and Challenges of Technological Innovations on Family Communication

Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
The number of in-person family interactions has decreased as a result of technological advancements..	41 (11.4%)	22 (6.3%)	11 (3.2%)	157 (44.9%)	119 (34%)	350 100%
The use of modern communication technologies enhances family cohesion.	43 (12.3%)	33 (9.5%)	17 (4.9%)	167 (47.8%)	90 (25.7%)	350 100%
Privacy within the family is compromised due to the use of modern communication technologies.	42 (11.9%)	20 (5.8%)	9 (2.6%)	201 (57.5%)	88 (25.2%)	350 100%
Social media platforms contribute positively to family connections.	12 (3.4%)	39 (11.4%)	21 (6%)	190 (54.3%)	88 (25.1%)	350 100%

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 3 demonstrates how technology affects various aspects of family dynamics and communication. To begin, for the statement "Technological innovations have led to a decrease in face-to-face family interactions," 41 respondents (11.4%) strongly disagree, 22 individuals (6.3%) disagree, 11 respondents (3.2%) are undecided, 157 (44.9%) agree, and 119 (34%) strongly agree. This shows that the majority of respondents (78.9%) believe that technological developments have resulted in fewer face-to-face family interactions.

Secondly, in response to the statement "The use of modern communication technologies enhances family cohesion," 43 respondents (12.3%) strongly disagree, 33 (9.5%) disagree, 17 (4.9%) are undecided, 167 (47.8%) agree, and 90 (25.7%) strongly agree. This indicates that a significant percentage of respondents (73.5%) believe that modern communication tools improve family cohesion.

Thirdly, in response to the statement "Privacy within the family is compromised due to the use of modern communication technologies," 42 respondents (11.9%) strongly disagree, 20 (5.8%) disagree, 9 (2.6%) are undecided, 201 (57.5%) agree, and 88 (25.2%) strongly agree. This reveals that the vast majority of respondents (82.7%) believe that modern communication tools jeopardise family privacy.

Finally, in response to the question "Social media platforms contribute positively to family connections," 12 respondents (3.4%) strongly disagree, 39 (11.4%) disagree, 21 (6%) are undecided, 190 (54.3%) agree, and 88 (25.1%) strongly agree. This implies that the majority of respondents (79.4%) believe that social media platforms enhance family connections.

In conclusion, the table analysis demonstrates that while attitudes differ, a significant proportion of respondents generally believe that technological developments have led to fewer face-to-face family interactions and compromised family privacy. However, they also believe that modern communication technologies improve family cohesion and that social media platforms help strengthen family connections.

Discussion of Findings

According to the study's findings, families in Osun State's Ede North Local Government Area (LGA) communicate primarily through smartphones due to the convenience and accessibility of mobile technology in the area, allowing them to stay connected even when physically separated. This result aligns with the observations made by Wartella et al. (2014), who noted that digital devices are revolutionising family life and enhancing daily living. Additionally, the findings support Alao's (2012) arguments about the central tenet of the technological determinism theory, which posits that media technologies shape people's thoughts, emotions, behaviours, and the way society functions as it progresses through different technological ages.

In Ede North LGA, technology is widely used for family communication; however, several obstacles and challenges remain. Issues such as power shortages, socioeconomic disparities, and limited access to reliable internet services were highlighted in the literature review.

In areas like Ede North LGA, the lack of reliable internet access and electrical infrastructure makes it difficult for people to use technology for communication. The broad adoption of technology for

family communication is further hindered by cultural preferences for more traditional forms of communication, such as face-to-face meetings and storytelling at night. These challenges are consistent with findings from a study by Rudi (2014), which examined whether communicating through social media and messaging had a positive effect on people. The study indicated that children who communicated with their parents via technology experienced a higher incidence of physiological problems due to the tendency for physical distance in contact (Rudi, 2014). Families' concerns about security and privacy may also limit their use of digital communication tools.

To address these issues, a variety of strategies are needed, including digital literacy initiatives, infrastructure development, and culturally aware technology design.

Perrotta (2017) argues that the rise in individualism and the lack of family time contribute to the decline of traditional family structures. According to Li et al. (2022), the complexity and diversity of interpersonal relationships have increased in today's society, leading to concerns about the stability of the family unit. Despite these challenges, families in Ede North LGA have numerous opportunities to enhance communication due to technological advancements. As noted earlier, the results demonstrate the widespread use of smartphones and the internet, providing families with the ability to communicate electronically. Social media platforms, messaging applications, and video conferencing services facilitate continuous interaction, information sharing, and emotional support between families. These opinions diverge from and disagree with the claims and theories put forward by Li et al. (2022).

Moreover, cultural heritage and traditions can be preserved for future generations by utilising technology. Digital storytelling platforms, for instance, can be employed to capture and share folklore and oral histories within families. This finding aligns with the research of Kalay and Unvan (2021) and Adeoye (2010), who discovered that ICT has immense potential to positively impact families by providing new opportunities for social support, parent education, and parent-child communication. Furthermore, educational programmes focused on developing digital skills can enable individuals to communicate effectively using technology. In Ede North LGA, Osun State, Nigeria, technological advancements can improve family ties and overcome geographic barriers.

According to Au and Zafar's (2008) Technology Adoption Model (TAM), perceived ease of use and perceived usefulness influence technology adoption. "Perceived usefulness" is defined as the degree to which an individual believes using a particular system will enhance their performance or activities. Additionally, "perceived ease of use" refers to how easy an individual believes a particular technology is to use. The ease of use of various technological advancements related to family communication can positively or negatively influence the adoption of these technologies in the Ede North Local Government Area.

Moreover, investments in infrastructure development are essential to fully harness the benefits of technology on family communication in Ede North LGA. This includes expanding access to reliable internet connectivity and electricity. This is crucial for ensuring equal access to technology. Community-based computer literacy programmes should also be introduced to provide assistance and training, particularly for marginalised groups. Additionally, technology should be incorporated into school curricula in Ede North LGA to foster the development of digital

skills from an early age and create a culture of digital literacy and awareness. These findings support the suggestions made by Bisong, Nkanu, Imoke, and Akpo (2023), who recommended that ICT education be included in the curriculum of public secondary schools to improve family communication and the development of effective human capital in Nigeria, particularly in Osun State's Ede North LGA.

Conclusion

While information and communication technologies (ICT) are widely used for family communication in Osun State's Ede North Local Government Area, there are concerns about their impact on face-to-face relationships and privacy. Although the adoption of ICT has enhanced the quality of family contact and increased communication frequency in Ede North LGA, issues such as limited access to reliable internet services, along with privacy and security concerns, remain. Despite these limitations, there are opportunities for technology to improve family relationships and communication in the region, as evidenced by a preference for adopting electronic means for family participation, interaction, and communication. Furthermore, it is essential to establish a balance between virtual and real-world interactions within Ede North LGA households, while simultaneously promoting digital literacy and safeguarding data privacy and security. In addition, there is recognition in Osun State's Ede North Local Government Area of the positive effects of technology on communication frequency and family togetherness.

Recommendations

The study's findings lead to the following recommendations:

1. Educational activities should be implemented to improve digital literacy among households in Ede North Local Government. This will help people learn how to use technology effectively for communication while also protecting their privacy and security.
2. Policymakers should prioritise the improvement of internet infrastructure in the region to ensure reliable and affordable access for all citizens. This will help eliminate barriers to successful family communication via technology.
3. To safeguard the confidentiality of family communications, technology developers should incorporate strong privacy and security features into communication platforms. This could include encryption techniques and user authentication mechanisms.
4. Families should balance their technology usage by engaging in both online and offline activities. Encouraging regular face-to-face communication, alongside electronic communication, will help improve family relationships.

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