

ICT Applications in Everyday Life

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has changed the way many operations are carried out in everyday activities. It affects how information flows and provides better and faster communication among people.

ICT is used in many work environment and in many places to carry out variety of tasks. ICT is used for communication, timing and control and for information processing and management.

Unit 1: Use of Information and Communication

Technology (ICT) For Communication People use computers and telephones to communicate with their friends and families. ICT allows faster communication speed.

With the Internet, messages can be sent by e-mail to friends, business associates and families. Examples of ICT devices used for communication include mobile phones, radio, televisions, printers, scanners, computers, etc.

Other uses of ICT for communication are:

1. To send and receive e-mails
2. To send and receive text messages
3. To make phone calls
4. To connect to the internet
5. For chatting

Unit 2: Use of ICT for Timing and Control

ICT is used for timing and control. It helps us in taking proper control of events in a technological manner. Examples of such events are electronic traffic control systems, electronic doors, elevators, petrol dispenser, scanning machine at the hospital, etc. ICTs used for timing and control could also be in:

1. Controlling equipment used in medical, engineering and scientific research.
2. For monitoring the weather and carrying out weather forecasting.
3. For electronic doors and elevators.
4. For time planning e.g. the use of organisers like Microsoft Outlook

Unit 3: Use of ICT for Information Processing and Management

Computers are used for information processing to prepare written text. They are also used for storing, retrieving and manipulating data. They can be used to type letters, notes and other documents. ICT is used for sharing and transferring information.

Unit 4: ICT and Society

ICTs can be used in a variety of places and in various areas of human activities, such as at home, in the schools, in the banks, in supermarkets, in hospitals, in libraries, etc.

Examples of ICTs are radio, computers, printers, projectors, scanners, telephones, mobile phones, ECG machines, etc. ICT is used in different occupations because most ICT devices are flexible and are made to work for different purposes. ICT is applied to everyday life to increase productivity and make work easier and faster.

(i) ICT in Education

ICT is used to find useful information for educational purposes from the internet, to type school assignments, for projecting learning contents on a screen like board and for learning. Students can also communicate with one another and with their teachers. Students and teachers connect to the internet using ICT to get more information about school work or in carrying out home work or typing assignments and reports. In schools, ICT is used to keep records of teachers and students.

(ii) ICT in Banking

ICT devices are used to withdraw money, e.g. using the ATM (Automated Teller Machine). ICT is also used to enable money transfer, and to allow users pay their bills online, through the internet, Eg, NEPA bills, DSTV bills, school fees, etc. ICT is used to keep records of bank account holders and of employees.

(iii) ICT at Home

At home, ICT devices are used to play games, to type documents or to do calculations. Telephones are used as well as answering machines and mobile phones.

(iv) ICT in Supermarkets

ICT devices, such as barcode readers, scanners, POS (Point of Sale)

are used to make life easier. ICT is used to keep record of items in a supermarket or bookstore so as to help the cashiers/storekeepers know the prices of goods and the quantity of stock remaining.

(v) ICT in the Library

ICT is used in libraries to store the record of all the books in the library. It is also used to store the list of library staff and users.

(vi) ICT in the Hospital

ICT is used in the hospitals to store patients' records. ICT allows doctors have access to patients' medical history and to log patient's appointments. ICT is also used to conduct medical tests to diagnose patients' ailments. ICT is also used to keep records of medical staff.

(vii) ICT in Government

ICT is used by the government to provide better government policies, to take population census, in electioneering processes and so on. Government agencies use ICT to prepare budget.

(viii) ICT in Engineering

Engineers, such as architects use ICT to draw their designs, do their measurement and mapping and also to connect to other engineers.

(ix) ICT in Law Enforcement

Law enforcement agents, like the police use CT to communicate with one another in case there is a crime. It is also used to store criminal records.

(x) ICT in Transportation

ICT is used at the airport to schedule flights. Passengers can also book their train and bus tickets with the use of ICT