

The Changing Life World of the Adolescent: A Focus on Technological Advances

F. E. Gouws

University of South Africa, PO Box 329, Pretoria, South Africa, 0003

E-mail: gouwsfe@unisa.ac.za

KEYWORDS Technological Addiction. Cyber-Citizenship. Generation Y. Digital Technology

ABSTRACT The society in which adolescents live is constantly changing, demanding that adolescents cope not only with their own developmental changes but also with the challenges of technological advances. Limited research has been carried out on the changing life world of the adolescent in South Africa. In the research on which this paper is based, particular emphasis was on the current adolescents, who are also known as the Millennial Generation or Generation Y. Most of today's learners and students are from this generation. The general aim of the research was to investigate the changing life world of the adolescent, focussing on technological advances. By way of a literature study this paper describes how technological advances change and influence the life world of the adolescent. The research highlighted the role of parents and teachers in their attempts to support adolescents in coping with the demands and challenges presented by technological advances. The recommendations arising from the research suggest how parents and teachers can support adolescents in coping with educational advances. Recommendations are also made for future research.