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DEVELOPING A MANUAL FOR CURBING THE ABUSE OF  
ELECTRONIC MEDIA AMONG ADOLESCENTS  
AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH KOSOFE, LAGOS

A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF  
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## ABSTRACT

The aim of the project was to address the issue of abuse of electronic media among adolescent members of First Baptist Church Kosofe, Lagos. The project was designed to find out: (1) different activities which amount to abuse that adolescents engaged themselves with on phones, especially phones that are internet enabled, and (2) how to curb inappropriate and excessive use of electronic media among them. The researcher proffered answers to those questions. The project was also designed to equip adolescents with Biblical principles that will help them resist every form of temptation that can lead to abuse of electronic media. The project was carried out by designing a manual which contained five lessons. The lessons were prepared to explain Biblical steps and spiritual efforts every adolescent must take in order not to abuse electronic media. The lessons also gave attention to evil effects of abuse of electronic media among adolescents. Two questionnaires were designed, namely pre-test and post-test questionnaires. The pre-test questionnaire was administered before the teaching of the lessons with a view to ascertain the level of abuse of electronic media among adolescent members of First Baptist Church Kosofe, Lagos. After the administration of the pre-test questionnaire, the five lessons were taught and the post-test questionnaire was also administered to inquire the degree of the respondents' determination and readiness not to abuse electronic media, especially during worship service. Through the interactions during the teaching of the manual, it was discovered that abuse of phones during worship service is rampant among adolescents. One of the major reasons for the abuse is because most of the phones contain exciting features which easily satisfy the curiosity of an average adolescent. It revealed that most adolescents could not resist the tempting prowess of electronic media because they are not growing in their salvation. The project also brought to fore that worship services often time are not planned in a way that will allow adolescents to participate. This is an error that was a contributory factor to abuse of phones among adolescents during worship service. The researcher, therefore, recommended that adolescent members of First Baptist Church Kosofe, Lagos should be helped to have a genuine relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Having established a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ, the church leadership should make concerted effort to ensure they grow consistently in their salvation. They can be taken through basic discipleship courses such as Follow the Master, Master Life, Experiencing God and In His Presence. These discipleship courses were designed to help young believers grow in their salvation and develop the mind that is Christlike. Adolescents should not be left alone. They should be closely monitored by their parents and the teachers that work with them in the church. Adolescent children should be called into account by their parents on how they are spending their time. Excessive use of phone and internet amount to abuse and it will have negative effects on the academic and spiritual life of those concerned.

## Conclusion

The following conclusions could be drawn from this project:

Adolescents by nature are susceptible to abuse phone during worship service because of several activities which are appealing to them that are obtainable on

phones. There are some activities which adolescents engage in on their phones which inherently are not evil but when they are done in wrong places or too much time is committed to them, they become evil.

Abuse of electronic media among adolescents could become an addiction. When this occurs among adolescents, it becomes difficult to curb it and the victim will need special attention. For instance adolescent who check Facebook six times daily manifest a degree of addiction to Facebook and people in this category will need the special touch of God to quit such a life style. After the teaching, some of the respondents insisted that they will still watch porn on their phone. This is a clear manifest of abuse which has snowballed into addiction.

Nirenberg's observation about the revolutionary effect of electronic media should not be ignored. He pointed out that with internet; we face a world of revolutionary change, viral growth and instant intimacy with people we may never see. The impact of electronic media according to him is obvious, unavoidable and demands adaptation. In view of his observation, the church must be alive to her responsibility in growing believers in the Lord so that they will not become one with the world.

Abuse of electronic media among adolescents is partially as a result of peer influence. Some participants confessed during the teachings that there are some activities which they know are wrong but because everyone around them is doing it and it appears no one is speaking against it, they are also forced to do it in order not to be an odd one out. This confession further corroborates what Burkhalter, Leman and Ziglar observed about adolescents that they are greatly influenced by their peers.

Adolescents who abuse electronic media by pinging, chatting, text messaging and browsing during worship service cannot receive instruction, guidance and

blessing from the Lord because such adolescents are not connected with other worshippers. Sweet observed that adolescents rarely connect with worshippers when they come for worship because they found virtual world quite appealing and interesting. The worship planners must give special attention the uniqueness of adolescents when planning worship service. Those who abuse electronic media by spending too much time on social media cannot thrive in their spiritual life; hence they should be helped to be connected with other worshippers.

It could be deduced from findings in this project that abuse of mobile phones among adolescents is a big problem because many of them are involved in one way or the other. As long as they are connected to their phones, they are disconnected from God and cannot receive from him. If the trend goes on, adolescents will grow up to be strangers in God's house and in the things of God. The warning of Imasogie in the literature review is relevant here. He cautions the church not to abdicate her calling to bring people back to Christ at all cost. He observed that most of what the church does today has little or no bearing on her calling.

The objective of this project is to curb abuse of electronic media among adolescent members of First Baptist Church Kosofe. Post-modern mobile phones, especially smart phones and Iphone are equipped with variety of features that everyone who uses them is prone to abuse. The phone will beam virtually every minute to notify the user of the latest event in the viral world. The guiding principle as it was emphasized during the implementation of the manual should be, "...whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (I Cor 10:31). Every adolescent who desires to embrace this guiding principle in order not to abuse phone should ask the following questions: Why am I doing this? For whose sake am I doing this? If what we do does not bring glory and honour to God, we should not do it. Why must

