

**THE ROLE OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)
TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs)
ON WATER AND SANITATION FOR WOMEN IN ZIMBABWE**

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ABSTRACT

Clean, safe drinking water, sanitation and good hygiene are fundamental to health and survival. MDG 7 intends to halve the proportion of people without access to safe potable drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015. For many women access to safe water is still a luxury. According to UNICEF (2006), over 1.1 billion women do not use drinking water from improved sources, while 2.6 billion lack basic sanitation. Sanitation remains one of the most off-track Millennium Development Goals. Over 3,000 children die per day due to health risks associated with poor sanitation and lack of clean water. Safe drinking water and basic sanitation are essential to health. Lack of basic sanitation indirectly inhibits the learning abilities of millions of school-aged children who are infested with intestinal worms transmitted through inadequate sanitation facilities and poor hygiene. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have set us on a common course to push back poverty, inequality, hunger and illness. The study explored the role of ICT in helping to achieve MDG 7. The study was qualitative in nature where a sample of 10 key informants from the 10 provinces in Zimbabwe were used and nominal group discussions were held over the internet. The study found out that ICT methods provided wider access and the acquisition of independent, lifelong skills for all women, which are relevant in the attainment of MDG 7. Based on the findings, it was recommended among others that programmes for attainment of MDG 7 utilise ICT and the views of women in both rural and urban areas. Use of ICT should also be relied upon because of their widest reach to the targeted individuals.

Keywords: ICT, Role, Women, Assessment, Millennium Development Goals.