Alice Wafula Kituyi- Kwake

Work Plan.

	Activity/Event	Months											
	Year 2003	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
1.	**Proposal: Development & Presentation**												
2.	**Chapter 1: Introduction & Background**												
3.	**Chapter 2: Audit and Mapping of ICTs amongst women in Kenya & South Africa**												
	Year 2004												
	Chapter 2: Audit and Mapping of ICTs amongst women in Kenya and South Africa												
4.	**Chapter 3: Conceptions of Information needs and information seeking behavior and information use**												
	Chapter 4: Theoretical Framework												
5.	**Chapter 5: Gender ICTs and Dvelopment**												
5.	**Chapter 6: Research Methods and Research Instruments; Pre-testing of instrument (liasa)**												
	Year 2005												
6.	**Chapter 6: Research Methods and Research Instrument**												
7.	**Field Work in Kenya (including Case Study)**												
8.	**Field Work in South Africa**												
	Year 2006												
9.	**Chapter 7: Data Presentation and Analysis**												
10	**Field work in South Africa (Case Study)**												
11.	**Chapter 8: Data Analysis and Presentation (Case Studies for Kenya and South Africa)**												
12.	**Chapter 9: Discussion and Findings**												
13	**Chapter 10: Summary Conclusions and Recommendations**												
	Year 2007												
14	**Theses Corrections and Submission**												

15	**Graduation**												

Slide 1

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen! My name is Alice Kwake. The title of my Research Topic is:

Information Communication Technologies for women in rural Development: a Comparative study for Kenya and South Africa.

The Principal Promoter of this research is Professor Ocholla from the Department of Library and Information Science, while the Co- Promoter is Professor Adigun, from the Department of Computer Science. They are both from the University of Zululand.

Before I go through this presentation, let me first expound on three areas:

What ICTs are;

The role of ICTs in rural Development;

And, why women?

This background information will help give us all a clear understanding as to the importance of this topic.

ICTs encompass all those technologies that enable the handling of information between human actors, human actors and electronic systems and between electronic systems.

They include **Capturing Technologies** such as those input devices that collect and convert information into digital form e.g. keyboards, mice, voice recognition systems, bar code readers, image scanners etc.

Then we have **Storage Technologies** that store and retrieve information in digital form such magnetic tapes, floppy disks, hard disks, optical disks (e.g. CD-ROMs), smart cards – for example those used for financial transactions.

Next in this same group of ICTs are Processing technologies which create systems and applications software used by ICTs.

Then we have **Communication Technologies** that produce the devices, methods and networks to transmit information in digital form such as digital broadcasting, Integrated Serial Digital Network (ISDN), Digital Cellular networks, Local Area Networks (LANS); Wide area networks (WANS) such as the internet, electronic bulletin boards, modems etc. In line with this are **Transmission Media** such as fiber optics, cellular phones, fax machines etc.

Display Technologies are the last group of ICTs which create a variety of output devices for the display of digitized information such as display screens for computers, digital TV sets, digital video discs, printers, voice synthesizers and virtual reality helmets.

Let us now have a quick run-down on the role of ICTs in rural Development:

- ICTs can improve the creation, collection, storage, dissemination and use of information. Radio and television are important tools for instance in that they are highly spread-out in developing countries than telephones or the internet.
- The potential impact of ICTs on poverty alleviation can be experienced at the micro level, where the rural poor can use ICTs to address their information needs, for example, increase access to reproductive health information, including information AIDS, its prevention and control.
- At the intermediate and macro level, efficient information flows, and robust communications infrastructure, are vital components of well-functioning markets. Health workers can access the latest information, get assistance with diagnosis, and more effectively target interventions and resources with the help of ICTs.
- Agricultural extension agents can access and share local and global knowledge on crops, pest management, irrigation and other aspects of small-scale agriculture relevant to the needs of the poor.

- Educators can access and share new training materials, continue their own training, and expose their students to the ideas and experiences of children elsewhere. ICTs can help local businesses to be more productive and more responsive to their customers.
- The internet for instance reduces the costs of making information available to others and accessing global information and knowledge resources. It provides electronic discussion forums and bulletin board systems formed and managed by different people.
- Web sites offer information and entertainment and are the launch sites for electronic commerce transactions between businesses, their suppliers and customers**.**

- Satellites and other advanced technologies make new things possible e.g. recent innovations in hand-held devices, in mobile telephony, and in satellite communications will lead to new and cutting edge information and communication tools specifically relevant to the needs of the poor. For example, in some developing countries, rural health workers are using small hand-held devices to record health data from their clients .

Let us now look at the question, Why Women?

An overwhelming amount of evidence has shown us today that women are not only the providers of 60 to 80 percent of household food in many parts of Africa, but also, that women are the keys actors in ensuring the survival and well-being of children, youth and the aged. Women also constitute the largest percentage of the population in many African countries, for example, 51.6% in South Africa and 53% in Kenya. Many of these women live in environmentally fragile areas and depend on marginal lands, have very little coping capacity, are exposed to health hazards and natural disaster, and have hardly any assets to fall back upon in times of crisis.

With this scenario on **ICTs, ICTs role in rural development,** and **why women…?** allow me now to take you through this presentation:

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The purpose of this study is set to **investigate** and **identify ICTs** that **provide access to and use of information, enhance quality of life**, and **improve economic** standards of **rural women**, by **creating a model** for the **development, management, exploitation and use of ICTs in an African rural environment.**

Slide 3

Problems identified include those of access and exclusion to ICTS. The internet for instance is biased towards rich countries and households. Then there is the problem of physical infrastructure such as electricity and telecommunications which are poorly maintained; Additionally, there is inadequate or non-existent national policy and regulation for broadcasting licenses, and on skills and capacity necessary to use, and maintain ICTs; Poverty indicators such as High infant mortality, large families, food

insecurity and poor women's health are fuelled by ignorance and inability to access information.

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The problem of inequitable distribution of resources especially in relation to access to services such as education, resources and power cannot be under-estimated. Similarly, marginalized communities, especially women, spend a lot of time and money to access information, sometimes over very long distances.

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Needless to say, the rural woman continues to be the silent sufferer. Due to poverty and ignorance, she rarely contributes to policy debate on issues that affect her own well – being.

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In the light of these problems, the study has drawn up the following objectives**:** To explore, analyze and compare ICT development, policies and strategies in Kenya and South Africa. This will give the study a platform from which decision makers can learn and share experiences. Following closely is the auditing and mapping of ICT capacity in Kenya and South Africa. – i.e. the study will give an inventory of ICTs, how and who organizes them, and where they are found.; The study will also identify ICT needs and services of rural women in areas such as health, education, agriculture, social welfare, entertainment, commerce and industry, in both Kenya and South Africa; Finally, the study will analyze and determine ICT training needs of rural women in Kenya and South Africa and consequently develop and propose a model for ICT development and application for rural women in Kenya.

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In so far as research methodology is concerned, the study will adopt both quantitative and qualitative research methods. Priority will be given to the survey method which will be used to measure variables, test hypothesis and produce statistical information. Similarly, historical comparative method will be used to combine data and theory by using existing

statistics, documents, the inter-net, newspapers and also interviews. It will also comprise of exploratory, descriptive and explanatory phenomena.

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The target population will consist a cross section of women aged 15-60 (including the girl child and women managers) that live, go to school, run businesses and work in the civil service in the rural areas of Kwazulu Natal Province in South Africa and Rift Valley Province in Kenya. The study will constitute two types of women, i.e. key informants and ordinary women.

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The study will employ the use of interviews and questionnaires as research instruments. Once again, two groups of women will be interviewed – one purposively selected, while the other, selected at random. On the other hand, questionnaires will be targeted at carefully selected informants, and also at women respondents selected at random.

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In so far as sampling is concerned, the study will use probability techniques i.e. systematic and stratified and non- probability techniques i.e. purposive and snowball sampling techniques. These two techniques will help create the sampling frame.

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A 1% sampling ratio from census data of both Kenya and South Africa will be used. It will include between 350-400 respondents.

Data will be analyzed using content analysis and also a statistical package to determine frequencies, percentages and relationships among variables.

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Work Plan

Finally ladies and gentlemen, let us briefly look through my Work Plan before I close down with this presentation.

I will be embarking on Chapters 1-3 up until Dec, after which in 2004, I will start off

with the Theoretical Framework, followed by Research Design and Methodology, and Development of Research Instruments up until March. I intend to conduct a Pilot Study here in South Africa in April, after which head on to Kenya for my field work for about 4 months. I will be back in South Africa round about September to conduct field work up until December.

In the year 2005, I hope to be able to Analyze my Data, Discuss my Findings and Draw Conclusions and recommendations within the first six months. I will then collate my thesis and submit it for examination.

I hope to graduate in May 2006.

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Thank you all very all much.