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Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): The Interdependence between MDGs' Educational and Socio-economic Goals

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ABSTRACT This paper focuses on the extent to which university-based research on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) addressed and impacted the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in education, social and economic development in the countries of Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe. Twenty- two ICT-related projects were selected on the basis of (a) having a focus on ICT research knowledge production, (b) intensive involvement of ICTs, and (c) not being more than five years old. The study was descriptive in nature and used both qualitative and quantitative in design using questionnaires, structured interviews and documentary schedules. The data collected was qualitatively analyzed. The findings of the study showed that ICT applications were a means to extend access to wider educational opportunities and this added value to productivity-related socio-economic activities. It was concluded that the studies surveyed did make some positive contributions and education was the base for socio-economic development in attainment of MDG's agenda through the use of ICT.