

# [In a global level has been higher](https://assignbuster.com/in-a-global-level-has-been-higher/)

[Economics](https://assignbuster.com/essay-subjects/economics/)

In recentdecades, there have been two developments in the world that form the foundationof this research.

On the one hand, the invention and diffusion of the internethas transformed daily life, particularly in the Global North. Smartphones, e-mails, social media, e-banking and online shopping have rapidly altered howpeople communicate and inform themselves in the past twenty years. On the otherhand, economic growth on a global level has been higher than ever before in thehistory of the world. Since the 1990s, the vast majority of economies in boththe Global North as well as the Global South has doubled in size.  The concept oftime-space compression by David Harvey can place these broad developments intoperspective. In 1989, Harvey argued that the world became smaller as a resultof a growing global economy and technological innovations. These were’processes that so revolutionize the objective qualities of space and time thatwe are forced to alter, sometimes in quite radical ways, how we represent theworld to ourselves’, which Harvey referred to as time-space compression (Harvey, 1989: 240). For technological innovations, an example of time-space compressionis how people travel nowadays.

Whereas first it would take weeks to cross theAtlantic Ocean by steamboat, today the airplane has reduced the time of travelto only a few hours. Also, various information and communication technologieshave made it possible to call, fax, mail and Skype anyone who is also connectedto the internet. With regard to the global economy, lower trade barriers andincreased international cooperation have made countries more interdependent andproductive. The essence is that space has become less of an obstacle for globalflows.  Although someargue that this reading of modernity is only applicable to the Global North, economic development and technological innovation are in fact global phenomena.

Some of the highest increases in productivity have been measured in Sub-SaharanAfrica over the past years (McMillan et al., 2014). Furthermore, the diffusionof the internet and the adoption of mobile phones arrived later in comparisonto the Global North, but in a short period of time the number of Africans, thatis now connected to the internet and owns a smartphone, has radicallyincreased. In Kenya, which this research will focus on, has a mobile phonepenetration rate of over 90 percent and almost two-thirds of all Kenyans hasaccess to internet (Communications Authority of Kenya, 2017). This has led tothe creation of a unique environment where technology can offer solutions toEast Africa’s development challenges.

In order to learnmore about the connection between economic development and technological innovation, the scope of this research will narrow down to internet use and the technologysector of Nairobi.