Reshaping the future: Mainstreaming Gender and ICT for Development

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Definition

+ The ICT sector covers a broad spectrum : telecommunications, television and radio, computer hardware and software, computer services, and electronic media, such as the Internet as well as the content of these media;
  + "Old" vs "New" ICT
    + "Old " refers to nonelectronic media(such as print) and analogue technologies such as radio.
    + "New" refers to digital technologies that can transmit information all in one go by the digits (such as the computers, the Internet, electronic mail and multimedia.

Gender Issues in ICT

+ Persistent biases against women in ICT content through violent, degrading or pornographic media products under the old and new ICT; or programming that continues to reinforce the traditional roles of women and men;

+ Marginalization of women from decision-making on the organization and development of carrier infrastructure;

+ Limited access to and ownership and control by women of new types of assets and property related to new ICT;

+ Health and safety problems posed by new workplaces to women workers and persistent reproductive health problems faced by women

Gender Issues in ICT

+ Continuing gender-role stereotyping in employment in the ICT sector, although female spaces have been created due to the nature of the structure particularly of the IT industry

+ Lack of competition and cultural policies in connection with trade in audiovisual services, which constitute a part of the ICT sector; and

+ Lack of readily available sex disaggregated statistics on ICT access and use, which may hamper the gender analysis of ICT-related development problems.

Why gender mainstreaming in ICT?

+ ICT and Women's rights is reflected in SDG 5 on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

+ Gender equality is key to ensuring that no one is left behind, and is intrinsic to the success of every SDG;

+ ICTs offer great potential for women and girls: from ending poverty, to improving education and health, to agricultural productivity, and creating decent jobs

Why gender mainstreaming in ICT?

+ ICTs are shaping future employment – but who will get those jobs?

+ ICTs are especially relevant today, as we face a rapidly changing world of work.

  + Issue: How can we ensure that women and girls acquire the right ICT and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) skills to compete with boys and men in the 21st Century, enjoy greater choice and access better-educated, better-paid jobs?

Why gender mainstreaming in ICT?

+ By 2020, it is expected that more than 7.1 million jobs will be displaced,

+ By 2050, half of the jobs that currently exist will have disappeared.
    + What does this mean?
    + This means that 65% of the children entering primary school today could eventually work in jobs that do not yet currently exist;
    + The "Fourth Industrial Revolution is also bringing advanced robotics, autonomous transport, artificial intelligence and machine learning, all of which will have a major impact on the future labor market;
    + Technological invention is no guarantee of women empowerment

What are the Challenges?

+ Gender stereotyping
  + Negative stereotyping of Girls were perceived to be less intelligent than a boy, she is likely to pursue STEM subjects that are often perceived as 'hard'
  + Invest in programs that deconstruct negative stereotypes and traditional gender roles
  + Stop sexist and sexualized advertising, and ensure women are portrayed accurately and equally
  + Work with schools to change the curriculum and with teachers to ensure that they do not have different expectations for boys and girls

What are the Challenges

+ The education-to-employment skills gap

    + More women than men graduate from tertiary education, yet does not result in economic opportunities for women, thus.

    + Help women to learn new skills and competencies for them to adjust to the changes in manufacturing, service and agricultural industries

Going forward

+ Maximizing ICTs for poverty eradication

+ Extending the use of ICTs to poorer people by increasing investment in the rural areas as well as extending the access to ICT by offering opportunities for private, public amd social institutions to work on sustainable and inclusive rural transformation ;

+ Promoting lifelong learning, including higher education, and TVET

+ Adoption of e-commerce to reduce trade cost; or global partnership

Going forward

+ Changing stereotypes about women in the tech industries and equipping women with skills :
  + UN Women projects harness the power of technology to transform women's narratives and their way of life
  + Leveraging partnerships with the private sector (examples are expanding mobile phone access to underserved women, providing scholarships to women in STEM fields

Gender Mainstreaming: a STRATEGY

+ To integrate gender perspectives in institutional policy, programs and activities;

+ GM is operationalized through building GAD capacities and sharing accountability in all areas, and at all levels, of program and project implementation.

+ Essentially, the process of gender mainstreaming entails the transformation of institutional structures, culture and practices wherein gender concerns become central instead of remaining as peripheral issues and concerns.

GOAL 1: NO POVERTY

GOAL 2: ZERO HUNGER

GOAL 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

GOAL 5: GENDER EQUALITY

GOAL 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

GOAL 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

ONLY 26% OF THE 85 GENDER-RELATED SDG INDICATORS ARE WIDELY AVAILABLE

The ADB–UN Women Report is the first comprehensive review of the status of women and girls in Asia and the Pacific under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework. It provides baseline data for 85 gender-related SDG indicators as well as analysis of how prioritizing gender equality can accelerate progress across all SDGs and support their achievement in the region by 2030.

KEY FINDINGS FROM THE REPORT

Women and girls spend up to 11 times more time on unpaid care and domestic work than men

1 in 3 women experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner in the last 12 months

Falling female labor force participation rates the only global region with declining rates, from 56% in 1990 to 49% in 2013

Highest child marriage rate in the world in South and Southwest Asia, 1 in 3 women are married or in a union by the age of 18

Gender gaps in financial inclusion Access to financial services for women ranges from 32.3% in South and Southwest Asia to as high as 96.1% in certain countries of Southeast Asia

330 million women and girls below the poverty line For every 100 men, there are 104 women living below the poverty line ($ 1.90)

50% of the female population living in slums (**no access to clean water**, improved sanitation facilities, durable housing and **sufficient living area**) are girls under the age of 15

Note: "$" refers to United States dollars.

4 TRANSFORMATIVE POLICY AREAS

The report provides analysis and recommendations for action for four transformative policy areas, identified for their catalytic effect and potential to accelerate progress in gender equality and the SDGs for the Asia and Pacific region.

- Sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Recognizing, reducing and redistributing unpaid care and domestic work
- Ending violence against women and girls
- Empowering women to build climate resilience and reduce disaster risks

Source: Asian Development Bank and UN Women. 2018. *Gender Equality and the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: Baseline and Pathways for Transformative Change by 2030*. Bangkok.

Thank you for listening