

6th lesson : Fundamentals of the information society

objectif :

- to determine the role that the interaction and exchange of data, information, and knowledge between countries' local knowledge systems and the global knowledge system plays within developed countries;

- Analyze key indicators and measuring techniques for IS development.

- to determine the barriers that prohibit developing countries from becoming information and knowledge societies; and

Fundamental Principles of Building an Inclusive Information Society to ensure that everyone can benefit from the opportunities that ICTs can offer, WSIS defined the following fundamental principles for building an inclusive information society:

1. Education :

is first and foremost a fundamental human right, spelt out in Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), which declares that 'elementary' education shall be free and compulsory, and that higher levels of education will be equally available on the basis of merit. This pledge was reiterated in several major international gatherings throughout the 1990s, and most recently in the Dakar Framework for Action (2000), which reaffirms education as "the key to sustainable development and peace and stability within and among countries, and thus an indispensable means for effective participation in the societies and economies of the twenty-first century, which are affected by rapid globalisation." An array of compelling evidence shows education's direct impact on health, fertility rates, life expectancy, productivity in rural and urban self-employment, and per capita income growth. A

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recent study by UNESCO and the OECD⁶ on 16 emerging economies finds that investment in human capital over the past two decades may have accounted for about half a percentage point in the annual growth rates of those countries. The study emphasized the rich dividends reaped from investing in secondary and tertiary education – not just primary¹.

2 . The role of governments and all stakeholders in promoting ICTs for development. :

To democratise access: To place within the reach of all persons, the means to access and use information and information and communication technologies, guaranteeing the enjoyment of citizen rights, fostering education, local development, eradication of poverty, gender equity, digital inclusion, universal access, public transparency and efficiency, and participatory governance.

To develop capacities: to create, support and promote strategies, tools and methodologies to generate capacities and skills to utilise information and information and communication technologies for all sectors and societal groups, at all levels of formal and informal education, also disseminating the possibilities provided by different information management models. In particular, to build capacity for research and technological innovation oriented toward generating one's own knowledge; and to generate national contents on the part of public institutions and local contents on the part of different social groups.

To achieve an adequate legal and regulatory framework: to create the necessary norms and regulations to guarantee the right to information; to encourage utilisation of information and of

¹ Cynthia Guttman, Education in and for the Information Society, UNESCO Publications for the World Summit on the Information Society, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Paris, 2003, 13

information and communication technologies, through relevant legal bodies, creating an adequate, stable legal setting.²

2. Information and communication infrastructure as a critical foundation for an inclusive information society.

information has become an important element without which society cannot achieve its objectives. The term “information society” is increasingly used nowadays, instead of the terms “production” or “consumption society”, because of the importance and necessity of information in today's dynamic environment. Since IT became commercial in the early 1990s, it has diffused rapidly in developed countries but generally slowly in developing ones. The ICT development requires preparation, largely in the form of investment in network infrastructure, skills and regulatory frameworks. So the physical infrastructure of information systems is one of the important components of the information society³.

3. ICT applications and their contribution to all aspects of life.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has numerous applications that are essential to modern society. some applications of ICT are in communication, education , businesse, heath care, Entertainment⁴

4. Access to information and knowledge.

Often it is said that the Internet allows for unrestricted and unlimited access to any kind of information. but even there restrictions concerning access to information exist, for instance, economic

² African Leadership in ICT, GOVERNMENT AND THE KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY, Roxana Bassi in collaboration with Fergal Marrinan & Susana Finquelievich, 2012, p 15

³ Ermelinda Kordha, Klodiana Gorica, Lavdosh Ahmetaj, MANAGING IT INFRASTRUCTURE FOR INFORMATION SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT. THE ALBANIAN CASE, 2011

⁴ What are the 5 applications of ICT? What is its importance to society?, <https://www.quora.com/What-are-the-5-applications-of-ICT-What-is-its-importance-to-society>

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constraints which means that one has to pay for access to information; legal restrictions also exist, particularly in case of certain types of political propaganda and pornography. now, given that people living in those western-style democracies actually have almost hopes often stated with regard to the so-called information age: people will be much better informed, have much greater knowledge, will have much more opportunities to take part in political decision-making processes, and for the first time in history really can enjoy freedom of expression and freedom to inform themselves⁵.

⁵ Karsten Weber, Access to Information and Fragmentation of Knowledge and Society, SSRN Electronic Journal, March 2013, p 1

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