Gender and ICT

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Gender, ICT and SDGs

**SDG Target 5.B**
Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.

**SDG Target 9.C**
Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020.
Gender and ICT: Access (Basic Access)

Source: ITU 2017, GSMA 2019

Gender gap in ownership/use (%)

\[ \text{Gender gap} = \frac{\text{Male owners/users (}\% \text{ of male population)} - \text{Female owners/users (}\% \text{ of male population)}}{\text{Male owners/users (}\% \text{ of male population)}} \]

Gender digital divide

Internet user gender gap:
17.1% in Asia & Pacific, 11.6% worldwide, 2017

Mobile ownership gender gap in low-and middle-income countries:
1% in East Asia & Pacific, 28% in South Asia, 2018

Mobile gender gap is widest in South Asia where women are 57% less likely to use mobile internet

Source: ITU 2017, GSMA 2019
Gender and ICT: Access (Meaningful Access)  

For example, digital financial services:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Asia 2017</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentages of males and females who made or received <strong>digital payments</strong></td>
<td>53.2%</td>
<td>45.7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentages of male and female use of mobile phone/internet to <strong>access an account</strong></td>
<td>23.1%</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Percentages of male and female use of the Internet to <strong>pay bills or make purchases online</strong></td>
<td>24.8%</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Percentages of male and female use of <strong>mobile money services</strong></td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: EQUALS 2019
Gender and ICT: Participation

Source: EQUALS 2019

**STEM Education**
- Averaging <35% female graduates in STEM studies
- Gender-segregation exists within STEM fields
- Gender & STEM paradox

**Employment**
- Low level of female participation, slow pace of change and wide variations between countries
- 26% female ICT professionals in Asia 2016
- % of entry-level staff >middle and senior management positions

**Policymaking**
- ICT ministry headed by women: 2% in Asia, 7% in Oceania, 14% worldwide
- Telecom regulator with female head: 6% in Asia, 23% in Oceania, 12% worldwide
Gender and ICT: Barriers

**Availability of infrastructure**
- High cost, particularly for large areas with sparse populations
- Mobile: wider gender gap in rural areas

**Affordability**
- Highest cost → lowest women users & largest gender gap
- Low-/middle-income countries: 1GB → 5.5% of average monthly income

**Interest and perceived relevance**
- Lack of relevant material in accessible languages/formats

**Ability**
- Lack of basic skills and digital literacy

**Safety and security**
- Threat of cyber violence
- Ineffective safety net
- Male dominated social practices → suppressive toward women

**Socio-cultural contexts**
- Adverse gender norms
- Negative perceptions of ICT

## Gender and ICT: Opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enhanced communications and access to information</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Cost-effective way to communicate: families/friends/customers, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Effective access to information: maternal care/childcare/education, etc.</td>
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<th>Enhanced access to public services</th>
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<td>Delivery of services regardless of time and distance: taxation/land registration/passport application, etc.</td>
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<th>Opportunities for socio-economic participation</th>
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<td>Boost national and women’s incomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simplify time-consuming issues: bill payment/job search, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICT platforms: approach customers/localize products, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women entrepreneurs: mobile banking/crowd funding, etc.</td>
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<th>Opportunities for political participation</th>
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<td>Political movements with online presence of women activists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New media: flatten traditional hierarchies/platform to connect and raise voice</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Gender and ICT: Opportunities

Two key areas and good practices

E-Health

- Indonesia: Aceh Besar Midwives with Mobile Phones Program
  - Equips the field-level midwives with mobile phones and a customized SMS system
  - Store and update patients’ health information
  - Facilitates voice communication

- Myanmar: Maymay App
  - A mobile-based healthcare service for maternity care
  - Maternal health advice notifications/doctor locator service/user profile

E-Government

- Fiji: mWomen E-service
  - A subscription-based SMS service offering free advice on women’s and children’s legal rights, family law and gender based violence

- Republic of Korea: Sex Offender Alert Portal
  - Pro-actively disclose details of ‘known’ sex offenders
  - Three components: website/mobile app/email notification service
Gender and ICT: Way Forward

- Improve connectivity
- Drive down cost; affordable services
- Improve online/offline safety and security
  *Good practice: Republic of Korea
- Ensure relevant services/empowering content
  *Good practice: Mongolia
- Provide equal opportunities to develop skills; promote interest
  *Good practice: New Zealand
- Closing digital gender gap
  *Good practice: Macao, China

Accessibility

Safety

Affordability

Education

Relevance
THANK YOU

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