



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Economics

THE ROLE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY IN POVERTY REDUCTION IN INDIA

KEY WORDS: ICTs, Poverty reduction.**Shilpa Sree R**

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ABSTRACT

Information communication technology as a main instrument for poverty reduction in developing countries. ICT's can introduce new ways of participation by the poor man, women and young people in the global economy. It creates opportunity to address the issues of poverty reduction both through direct intervention and as support to poverty reduction projects and programs supported by various agencies. The millennium development Goal that aims to reduce a below poverty line the number of people living in many countries including in India. This study examines the relationship between the ICTs and poverty reduction in India. Using secondary data NSS, CSO. This paper would examine whether exist any statistically significant difference between the ICTs and Poverty reduction in India. Based on the obtained results, Suggestion in this paper which ICTs can better to use in poverty reduction strategies.

Introduction

The ICTs refers to technologies that provides access to information through telecommunication the information technology basically focused on communication technology which included the internet, wireless networks, hard wares, soft wares, cell phone, computinssg information service, multimedia, telephone, fax, and electric news, business and other system communication technologies have created a "global village" in which people can communicate with others across the world.

ICTs can introduce new ways of participation by the poor man, women, and young people in the global economy in cost-effective and poor-friendly ways thus creating opportunity to address the issues of poverty reduction both through direct intervention and as support to poverty reduction projects and programs supported by various agencies. Asian Institute of information Technology for Poverty Reduction (AIITPR) based on ICTs. It can help in developing country eruzize the existing open learning systems facilitated their services to bring to the community level so that the rural poor and disadvantage can take advantage of ICTs.

The ICTs contribute to GDP directly through the production of ICTs goods and services as a continuous benefit in ICTs-producing sector and ICTs industries and increasing of ICTs it leads to increasing labour productivity also. Now a days ICTs contributing to global economic growth, and in developing region have experienced steady decreasing in absolute poverty. ICTs contribute to total factor productivity growth, the impact of ICTs on economic growth, along with targeted intervention to increase their impact on poverty reduction, it will helps to relieve the plight of those in absolute poverty and improve the well-being of citizens everywhere.

Definition of poverty;

According to World Bank "Poverty is defined as the inability to attain a minimal standard of living".

The "Maitland Report" explained the impact of telecommunication as "an engine of growth and a major source of employment and prosperity". Especially in developed economies.

Information communication technology as a main instrument for poverty reduction in developing countries. It creates opportunity to address the issues of poverty reduction both through direct intervention and as support to poverty reduction projects and programs supported by various agencies. The millennium development Goal that aims to reduce a below poverty line the number of people living in many countries including in India.

Suggestion and Findings in this paper which ICTs can better to use in poverty reduction strategies, and how ICTs can be used in poverty reduction in India.

Review or literature;

Africa Region working paper (2001) information and communication technology, poverty and development in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. In this paper finds that SSA and South Asia have the lowest access to ICTs resources. There are two critical access gaps, between urban and rural area, and there is a difference between the poorest and the richest 20% of the population.

Richard Gerster and Sonja Zimmermann (2003) information and communication technology (ICTs) for poverty reduction. In this paper explained the main challenges in ICTs application for poverty reduction, and NGOs, some National ICTs policies and analyze SDCs current ICTs for development program me.

Quibria and Ted Tschang (2001) they studied the information and communication technology and poverty an Asian perspective. This paper evaluates the direct and indirect economic impact of ICTs and analyze the direct use of ICTs to reduce the poverty.

Joseph Kasumba Ssewanyana (2007) he studied the ICTs access and poverty in Uganda. In this paper the result indicate that access to any form of ICTs is associated with lower incidence of poverty. However, ICTs access per is not enough as still find some incidence o poverty among households with ICTs not significantly lower than the overall national average.

Objectives of this present study;

This study examines the relationship between the Role of ICTs in poverty reduction in India.

Methodology of the study;

Using secondary data NSS, CSO and Government Reports. This paper would examine whether exist any statistically significant difference between the ICTs and Poverty reduction in India. Based on the obtained results.

Result and Discursions;

ICTs for poverty reduction:

- Ict applications in developing countries are often part of an overall strategy for economic growth, relying on the trickledown effect to those in poverty. Effective poverty requires a more targeted approach.
- Ict applications are technologies and as such cannot solve political and social problems that are often at the roots of poverty.
- Due to the requirement of connectedness like roads, power, telephone most of the icts have an urban bias and discriminate against rural.
- The potential poor beneficiaries of icts are often unskilled, illiterate people, mainly women, who may also speak a minority group language.

- The impact of icts on poverty differs greatly, depending on which technology is used. Radio and telephone are rather cheap: their use requires few skills while in terms of context and language, they enjoy great flexibility. Access through radio, to relevant and timely information can make a difference in the sustainable livelihoods of people living in poverty. Empirical evidence about the fast developing modern icts mainly the internet, however is still quite limited. The added value of the internet to the poorest has yet to be conclusively demonstrated.
- Those who live in poverty must define their information needs themselves in order to get relevant answer.
- The information will be provided in the local language and even better originate from local sources.
- The ict component should be embedded in a broader effort of self help or external support.
- Successful internet applications for development often depend on individuals and their enthusiasm, competence and motivation.

The internet was indirect potential for poverty reduction:

- Icts can enhance the transparency and accountability of governments, contribute to an enabling environment of good governance and support the mobilization and empowerment of people poverty.
- Well embedded and targeted ict applications particularly in the export sector, may create additional jobs and revenues for those in poverty.
- The radio, particularly in rural areas, through function as an intermediary to facilitate access to the internet, overcoming barriers of infrastructure, language and skills.

Key characteristics and typical groups of people living in poverty.



The information and communication technologies for poverty reduction there is not one agreed definition of icts. In this study identify their different approaches can be identified: that is a technical one (that is production and provision side). A content based approach industries and organizations that create the information and another one user side means diffusion and utilization. The role of ict in poverty reduction. Ict create a new divisions between rich and poor or does it intensify existing socio-economic divides. The ict have direct role in reducing poverty or is it just a luxury that the poor can ill afford. There are two opposing opinion campus those that consider ict to be the panacea for poverty reduction and those that claim has ict has no reasonable role in poverty reduction as long as the basic needs of the poor are not met. Ict in poverty reduction according to recent economic research the relationship between growth and poverty is rather complex, and depends largely on the existing inequalities such as illiteracy and land ownership and initial conditions that favor or discourage the distributional effect of growth. Ict manufacturing sector can provide some direct employment for the poor, although their educational and skill levels are usually too low. There are better employment prospects for them in the service sector. Ict can play major role in enhancing the activities of the poor and increasing their productivity. it can help to increase access to market information or lower transaction cost of poor farmers and traders. The role of the icts in promoting education of the poor and ict improved some health programs.

Poverty is seen as the opposite of well-being beyond a lack of

income, the multidimensional concept of poverty also refers to disadvantages in access to land and credit, services example health and education. The information and communication technologies facilitate the creation, storage, management and dissemination of information by electronic. This statement includes radio, telephone, fax, computer and internet. Four characteristics describe these modern Icts: interactivity for first time icts are effective two-way communication technologies. Permanent availability the new icts are available 24 hours a day. Global reach geographic distances hardly matter anymore. Reduced costs for many: relative costs of communication have shrunk to a fraction of previous values. Information can see as a global public good in contract to the attempt to restrict the access to, and use of information by intellectual property rights. Developing countries usually own little protected information they mainly import information to modernize their economy and society. Such IPRs lead to a tacit taxation of the developing countries in favor of the developed countries that run countries to efforts at poverty reduction.

Findings and conclusion:

The role of icts in poverty reduction is not limited to reducing income poverty, but it also includes non- economic dimensions. Therefore, the both quantitative and qualitative aspects of poverty. On the one hand the lack of ict equipment itself present another quantitative criterion for measuring poverty example number of mobile phone or telephone lines. Such indicators do not say how the existing infrastructure of this lack of physical assets illustrate the qualitative sides of poverty. The lack of information is very prominent, due to its far-reaching implications poor people need among other things affordable access to information that is vital to their livelihoods. Icts are not just about technologies, but more about information transfer and communication. This information has the potential to be used in changing the living standards of poor people and communities. In practice this may be the creation of earning opportunity or improvement of access to basic services, ex; health and education. Hence questions surrounding the creation, the quality and relevance of information are essential when looking at the possibilities of icts for the production of poverty. Information becomes the knowledge. The use of ict in poverty reduction, therefore does not end once information is transmitted. It need to look at an individual or a communities livelihood as well as their perceived needs and determine which information is relevant to poverty reduction.

The role of information in social and economic relations, how knowledge can become an assets or economy commodity is not to be underestimated when looking at the use of icts. Technologies are not gender neutral. Therefore, the problems and potentials of icts for women merit special attention. This social dimension lends to be neglected when dealing with complex technical matters. All activities undertaken at the interface of poverty reduction and the use of icts need to consider implicitly assumed sets of values and beliefs. Technologies developed in the west incorporate particular in social and cultural assumptions that may not to be apply in developing countries. However, for the information service to be sustainable, it needs to arise out of the socio-economic and cultural conditions of the country. Icts as a production sector or as an enablers of socio-economic development within there, an external or internal focus provides a second set of strategic choice, export market focus or national capacity or domestic market focus global positioning focus or development some goals focus the global economy focus is needed in the long term. The poverty reduction is the overarching goals of development of co-operative, and development of rural areas, the improvement of the nutritional situation, especially through self-sufficiency in agricultural production, handicrafts, and local, small-scale industries, the creation of new jobs, the restoration and protection of ecological and demographic balance.

Ict can contribute to poverty reduction, if it is tailored to the needs of the poor and if it used in the right way and for the right purposes. It can also boost a economic growth, that helps to reduce poverty, but this is unlikely to happen in countries where there are persisting and fundamental socio-economic inequalities complementary socio polices are required to prevent market failures and promote sustainable development.

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