ICT initiatives, Women and work in developing countries: reinforcing or changing gender inequalities in South India

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Abstract

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) are increasingly used by developing countries in strategies that see the new technology as having the potential to deliver economic growth, employment, skills generation and empowerment. There is growing agreement, however, that the impact of ICTs in developing countries is not gender neutral, necessitating an engendered approach to ICT-based projects. This paper argues that ICTs as a form of new technology are socially deterministic, with varied implications for women in terms of employment and empowerment dependent on the context within which the ICTs are utilised.

The paper presents findings from two ICT initiatives in South India showing significant impacts on women's employment, income and social roles. One ICT initiative - "gender-blind" and pursued within the globalised, competitive context of an increased role for markets and 'flexibility' - has generally reinforced gender inequalities. By contrast, a gender-focused ICT initiative involving significant state intervention has brought about positive changes to livelihood outcomes and empowerment of poor women.

Statistics

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CT initiatives, Women and Work in Developing Countries: Reinforcing or Changing Gender Inequalities in South India? Shoba Arun, Richard Heeks and Sharon Morgan. Abstract. Information and communication technologies (ICTs) are increasingly used by developing countries in strategies that see the new technology as having the potential to deliver economic growth, employment, skills generation and empowerment. Can ICTs be part of the solution to gender inequality? Is it reasonable to draw general conclusions from just two case studies based in a single state in India? You are a consultant asked to give advice to an NGO that wants to use ICTs to promote women's development. What advice would you give? Can you draw any lessons from the paper about globalisation? You can add location information to your Tweets, such as your city or precise location, from the web and via third-party applications. You always have the option to delete your Tweet location history. Learn more. Turn on. Not now. Close. Your lists. Tweets not working for you? Hover over the profile pic and click the Following button to unfollow any account. Say a lot with a little. When you see a Tweet you love, tap the heart — it lets the person who wrote it know you shared the love. Spread the word. The fastest way to share someone else's Tweet with your followers is with a Retweet. Tap the icon to send it instantly. Join the conversation. Add your thoughts about any Tweet with a Reply.