

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Economic Development: A Framework for Change in Developing Countries

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Abstract

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) can be used to accelerate economic development. For many developing countries however, the potential of ICT for economic development has not been fully realized. Numerous studies have attempted to examine the underlying problems from different perspectives. While these studies are extremely useful, few examine the situation in its entirety. Researchers who have taken concern on issues of the digital divide, as it is called, have generally worked in isolated areas. There is therefore, a need for concerted work that investigates how all the different aspects of ICT interrelate to influence economic development. Such an analysis will help developing countries to direct their efforts and resources towards ICT. In this regard, a broader perspective is presented in this paper to examine the relationship between ICT and economic development in a comprehensive manner. An attempt has been made to mention broadly, some work that has been done in different areas of ICT within the comprehensive perspective developed, while areas needing more attention are also identified. From this perspective, efforts can be made to enhance each of the different elements, knowing how they relate in the entire development paradigm.

This approach will improve the impact of ICT on economic development.

Keywords: ICT, Economic Development, Developing Countries