

2014 NWECEC Leader Seminar Report

Gender and ICT in Digital Age



ご挨拶

国立女性教育会館では、アジア諸国の女性リーダーを日本に招へいし、参加型の国際研修「アジア太平洋地域における男女共同参画推進官・リーダーセミナー」を実施しています。

平成 26 年度は「ICT が拓く女性のエンパワーメント」をテーマに設定し 9 月 29 日から 10 月 3 日に開催いたしました。この小冊子には、カンボジア、インド、フィリピン、タイ、ベトナム 5 か国から参加した 9 名の研修生が報告した ICT を活用した女性の社会参画支援の取組みが紹介されています。

日本国内での活動の参考にしていただければ幸いです。

2015 年 3 月

独立行政法人国立女性教育会館
理事長 内海房子

Message from the President

The National Women's Education Center invites women leaders in Asian countries to Japan to hold the capacity-building training "Seminar for Gender Equality Officers and Women Leaders in the Asia Pacific Region."

Leader seminar was held from September 29 till October 3 2014, focusing on "ITCs and Empowerment" This booklet introduce various initiatives to support social participation of women utilizing ICTs, conducted in five countries of Cambodia, India, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.

It is my sincere hope that this display of efforts will be a source of ideas and inspiration to gender advocates and practitioners in Japan.

March, 2015

Fusako Utsumi
President, National Women's Education Center

www.open.org.kh



Vision:

A country in which widespread access to high quality education, information, communication, and technology lead to a more developed and just society.



About Women

Promote Dialogue on Democracy

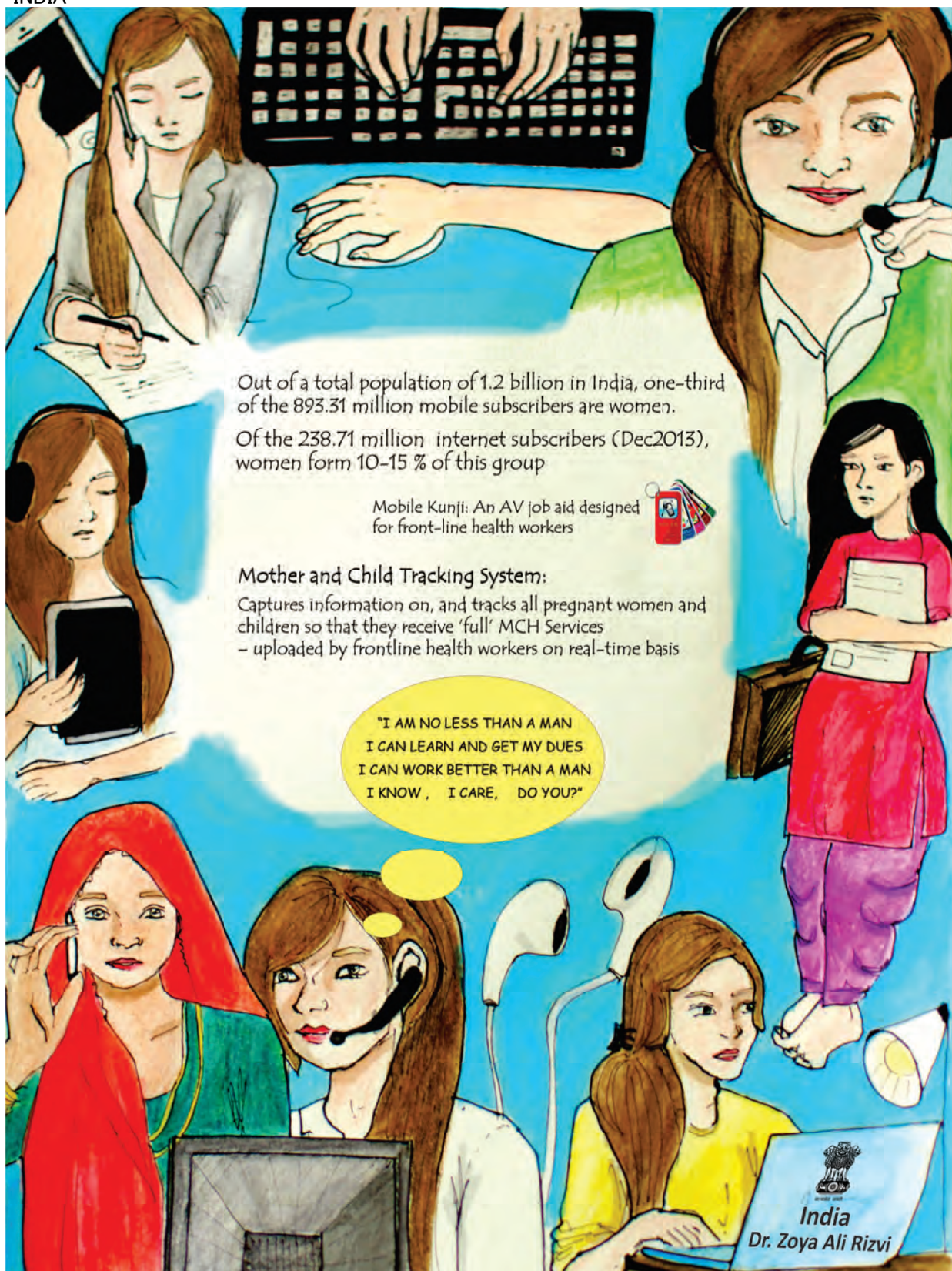


to use Facebook and Twitter to discuss about good governance and election



Gender Based Violence





Out of a total population of 1.2 billion in India, one-third of the 893.31 million mobile subscribers are women.

Of the 238.71 million internet subscribers (Dec2013), women form 10-15 % of this group

Mobile Kunji: An AV job aid designed for front-line health workers



Mother and Child Tracking System:

Captures information on, and tracks all pregnant women and children so that they receive 'full' MCH Services
- uploaded by frontline health workers on real-time basis

"I AM NO LESS THAN A MAN
I CAN LEARN AND GET MY DUES
I CAN WORK BETTER THAN A MAN
I KNOW, I CARE, DO YOU?"

India
Dr. Zoya Ali Rizvi

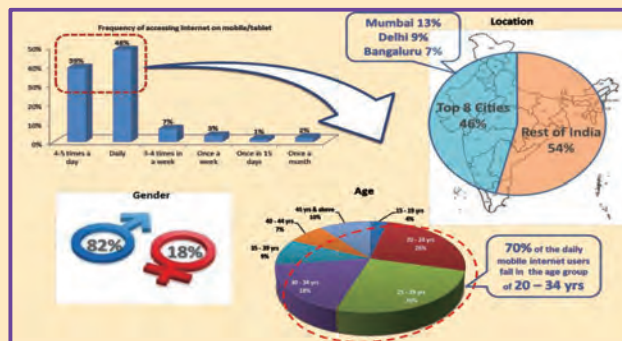
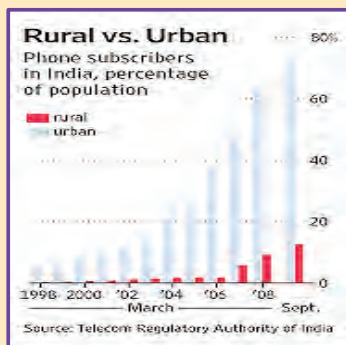


Reducing Gender Gap in India: Role of Information Communication Technologies



ICT and Gender Practice models in India

ICT for economic empowerment	ICT for women's health	ICT for e-governance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> helps women to get in touch with markets, to facilitate business and income generation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reaching pregnant post partum women to ensure delivery of health services. Example: Mother and Child Tracking System (MCTS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing one-stop-shop run by women for people to access government schemes/ documents



Policy recommendations

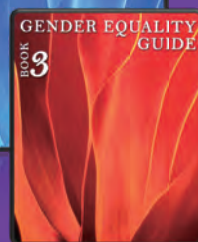
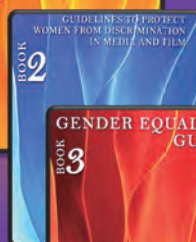
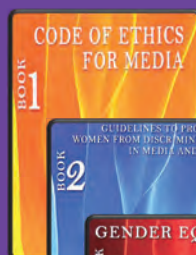
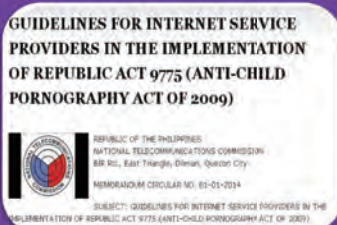
- ICTs need to be made more accessible and affordable to women
- ICTs need to address gender-based violence
- Create greater, sustainable opportunities to encourage women's economic empowerment through ICT
- E-governance needs to promote women's participation in local planning and community monitoring of service delivery systematically
- Need for a national e-health policy
- To maximize girls' education digital technologies need to be integrated with existing government programs for girls education.

PHILIPPINES

Women and Girls' Empowerment in the Digital Era



**Prevention and
Elimination of
Discrimination &
Violence against
Women and Girls**



**Promotion of
Gender Equality by
Addressing
Negative Portrayal
of Women in
Popular Media,
(film television,
print, websites)**



**Transparency &
Delivery of
Services thru
ICTs; Access;
Investment in
Digital Literacy
& ICT skills
[Phil digital
strategy, 2011-2015]**



**Taking control of
Technology to
address Violence
& Abuse against
women and girls
through
awareness
campaigns, use of
mobile apps, etc.;
National VAW
Documentation
system**

PHILIPPINE COMMISSION ON WOMEN
"National Machinery for the Advancement of Women"
www.pcw.gov.ph



Foundation for Media Alternatives

www.fma.ph
www.facebook.com/takebackthetechPH



ICTs and Women's Empowerment

Do they need ICTs?



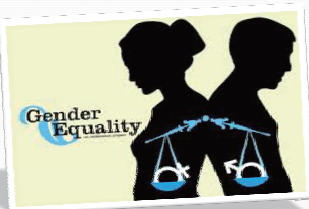
Women and men all need ICTs for:

- Information
- Workes
- Families
- Society
- Communication
- Themselves



Strategies to empower women in ICTs:

- Integrate gender perspectives in all ICT initiatives.
- Promote gender issues in social media.



"Making gender issues visible in ICTs"



ICTs is the best way to empower women



Women can join in ICTs area with high income



Having ICTs- related forum series for women



ICTs area is paid much attention by Government in recent years. As a result, ICTs infrastructure has been improved and more people, including women can easily access to ICT devices such as computer, laptop, smart phone



Women in remote, mountainous areas and women ethnic minority women can access to ICTs



Ms Chu Thi Thanh Ha – Deputy General Director of FPT Group one of the big ICT company in Viet Nam that encourages for many fem



Award for female engineers as incentives for women

平成 26 年度アジア太平洋地域における男女共同参画推進官・リーダーセミナー
Highlights of 2014 Seminar for Gender Equality Officers and Women Leaders in the Asia Pacific Region

「ICT が拓く女性のエンパワーメント」
“ICT and Women's Empowerment”

2014 年 9 月 29 日～10 月 03 日

平成26年度 アジア太平洋地域における
男女共同参画推進官・リーダーセミナー
2014 Seminar for Gender Equality Officers and
Women Leaders in the Asia Pacific Region



開会挨拶
Welcoming Address
内海 房子 NWEC 理事長
Ms. Fusako Utsumi,
President, NWEC



講義
女性情報をつくる
Lecture
Creating Women's
Information



視察
女性教育情報センターとアーカイブセンター
Visit to NWEC Information Center for
Women's Education and
Women's Archives Center



カントリーレポートの発表
Country Report Presentation



講義
人身取引被害者サポートセンター
ライトハウスによる取り組み
Lecture on initiatives of
Light House Support Center
for Human Trafficking Victims



視察と講義 日本女性学習財団
Lecture & Discussion at Japan Association for Women's Education



講義
メディアとジェンダー
Lecture
Media and Gender



講義
ICT とジェンダー：企業における事例
Lecture
Support for Women
in Home-based Employment
by Utilizing ICT

日本文化の紹介
Introduction to Japanese Culture



埼玉県立川越女子高等学校の視察
Visit to Kawagoe Girls' Senior High School

閉講式
Closing Ceremony



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Ms. Fusako Utsumi

President, National Women's Education Center (NVEC)

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Foreword

Since 2006, the National Women's Education Center (NVEC) has held international seminars for women in leadership roles in the Asia Pacific region. Every year, the Seminar for Gender Equality Officers and Women Leaders has chosen emerging gender issues that are common in all countries, such as violence against women, promotion of girls' education and gender-responsive disaster recovery. In the 2014 fiscal year, the seminar was held between September 29 and October 3 under the theme of ICT and Women's Empowerment. Nine women leaders who work for national machineries, academic institution or non-governmental organizations, representing five countries in the Asia Pacific region (Cambodia, India, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam), attended the seminar.

Viewed from the perspective of women's participation in the society, rapid growth of ICTs has had dual effects. While the spread of cell phones and social networks facilitated formation of connections and sharing of information among women across national borders, it has also generated new gender issues, including violence against women in cyberspace, as seen in revenge pornography.

This booklet is based on the country reports, which are included as a PowerPoint document in English at the end of the booklet and analyses by the participants of the 2014 Leader Seminar regarding the current situation and challenges relating to gender issues and ICT in their respective countries. The booklet also contains materials of poster sessions, shown in color at the beginning of the booklet, presented at the Seminar. The opinions shared during the presentation of the country reports regarding the situations in the five Asian countries, and reports that were written by the participants incorporating knowledge that they gained during the seminar in Japan are included. Legal systems concerning gender issues and ICT, as well as actual cases of women's empowerment efforts in each country are also presented in the booklet. It is our sincere hope that this booklet will offer some help in promoting gender equality in all countries.

Fusako Utsumi
President
National Women's Education Center

Chapter 1 ICT and Women's Empowerment

1. Introduction

Rapid technological innovations and a decline in the price of ICT (Information and Communications Technology) facilitated a sweeping global spread of technology. Its impact has spread to various industries beyond the science and technology industries. It has also affected business models and a number of other areas, including the way people live and their value systems. This report contains examinations about ICT and women's empowerment in six Asian countries, including Japan.

ICT stands for Information and Communications Technology. In this report, we will base our discussions on the premise that information, technology and the ability to communicate with others by applying information and technology are all equally important. In Japan, more than 82% of people use the Internet and no significant gender gap is observed among users (総務省, 2014). In some other countries in the Asia-Pacific region, however, women face obstacles in using new technologies. For example, the benefit of the IT boom in India, a country that many Japanese consider to be a major IT powerhouse, is not enjoyed equally by women and men. It has been pointed out that some women “borrow” cell phones from their family members (Chapter 3 Report from India). Even if access to ICT is equally open to both genders, challenges remain in place. In Thailand, the gender breakdown of Internet users has been approximately equal to that in Japan. It has been reported, however, that women's employment in ICT-related industries is mostly in jobs that do not require advanced skills, such as the repair and maintenance of electronic equipment (Chapter 5 Report from Thailand). These two examples suggest the need to examine the issue of access to information processing technology, which is the case in India, separately from the issue of gender inequality in employment opportunities for higher paying jobs, which is the case in Thailand. Nonetheless, both examples testify to the fact that the growth of new technology and its applications are not gender neutral and that women tend to be marginalized when it comes to the benefits brought on by ICT.

Next, let us take a look at the relationship between ICT and women's empowerment. In the fields of development studies and gender studies, empowerment refers to the process in which people who are placed in socially disadvantaged gets power. Does ICT promote gender equality or does it widen the existing disparity? There is more than one answer to this

question. Viewed in the framework of the participation of women in society, the growth of ICT has had two conflicting effects. On the positive side, ICT can promote gender equality and help bring about social changes. More specifically, ICT is used to help women achieve economic independence and raise public awareness that violence against women is a problem that affects all of society. On the other hand, the negative aspects of ICT cannot be dismissed. For instance, new modes of violence that have arisen in cyberspace, including revenge pornography and stalking activities using e-mail and social networking sites, have been mentioned repeatedly in the five country reports that are contained in this report.

ICT's growth is important not only for technological improvement, but also because data applications enabled by such technological improvement create diverse values. This report adopts a broad definition of ICT and analyzes not only the technical aspects of information processing and information communication, but also the role of media in how it produces, processes and disseminates gender-related information.

2. ICT and Gender Issues in Japan

Next, we would like to review the current situation in Japan. As we are unable to provide a comprehensive review here, due to limited space, we will instead focus mainly on the trends since the 1990s regarding feminist movements to promote gender equality in Japan and ICT's relevance to those movements, based on knowledge gleaned from lectures and visits during the Leader Seminar that was implemented by the NVEC in FY2014. The seminar was the impetus for the publication of this report.

2-1. Women's Movements in Japan and ICT—"Creating" Women's Information

The involvement of ICT in women's movements in Japan dates back to the 1990s. During the 90s, the majority of the Japanese viewed equipment such as personal computers (PCs) and mobile telephones strictly as a promising industry. Not many saw its potential for creating social values. Accordingly, the term IT industry was extensively used. However, feminists who instinctively sensed that the new technology had the potential to change society recognized that "C" (of communication), which is lacking in mainstreaming business models, was essential to that change and that there was a need to re-examine the role of the media, which handles communication, from a gender perspective. (村松, 1997; 鈴木, 2005:81).

Item J (Women and the Media) of the Beijing Platform for Action, which is the outcome document of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, illuminates the fact that such awareness of the issues was not limited to Japan.

During the past decade, advances in information technology have facilitated a global communications network that transcends national boundaries and has an impact on public policy, private attitudes and behaviour, especially of children and young adults. Everywhere the potential exists for the media to make a far greater contribution to the advancement of women (Item J 234).

During the Beijing Conference, NGO Forum on Women, Beijing '95 was held in parallel to the intergovernmental conference. More than 6,000 gender scholars and activists from Japan attended the NGO Forum. After their attendance at the international conference, full-scale use of the Internet started as a means of exchanging information among people who were involved in women's movements. One of the visible outcomes of the Beijing Conference as it related to information on women was the formation of the NGO Report Preparatory Committee in 1999 by groups of women who attended the conference and united with one another.

At the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, held in 1999, a resolution was reached to create NGO Alternative Reports that summarized the status of progress on efforts to improve women's status throughout the world in time for Women 2000, which was a special session of the United Nations general assembly, to be held in 2000 in New York. The NGO Alternative Reports summarized the findings of studies conducted to measure the extent of efforts made to achieve gender equality from the point of view of civil society, separately from government reports. The Japan NGO Report, which was created by Japanese women's organizations, was eventually reflected in one of the regional reports that were compiled for each of the five regions of the world and submitted. (日本 NGO レポートを作る会, 1999) Because only a limited number of women were able to actually attend international conferences such as the Beijing Conference and other United Nations conferences, reporting on women's opinions and activities, compiling the information, and disseminating it to the international community via the Internet in the form of NGO reports was a dramatic achievement in the history of women's movements.

The importance of sharing information that adopts women's points of view was not restricted to the dissemination of information to the international community. It was also reflected in movements at home. An information network on women's policies, or Josei Seisaku Joho Network (JJ Network), was established in 1996 by some female members of the Diet along with female NGO leaders with the purpose of sharing information about the progress of new laws on gender equality and lobbying related activities. JJ Network published four or five newsletters every month, covering Parliamentary actions (development and summary of minutes of plenary sessions and committees of both houses of Parliament), information on councils about women's policies, and women's actions that were not reported by major mass media. The newsletters were sent over fax. JJ Network was unique in that it created a loose circle for information exchange among people who were interested in women's policies, and that it was a bidirectional network, allowing each participant to be both a sender and a recipient of information. JJ Network continued until 2004 (日本女性学習財団).

Naila Kabeer, a Bangladeshi-born British social economist, coined the term "Power with" in her study of the empowerment concept. The term refers to women forming lateral connections at grass-root levels and raising their voices (Kabeer, 1994). The actions of the NGO Report Preparatory Commission and JJ Network during the 90s are notable examples of the "Power With" concept that was advocated by Kabeer as women pursued the goal of creating and disseminating information that met their needs.

2-2. Media-related Issues in Japan

Since the 1990s, gender equality centers and women's centers were established in Japan as key locations to promote gender equality in respective communities. As of 2014, 386 women's centers were operated by governments and private organizations throughout Japan. At women's centers, various lectures and study sessions are held on issues such as women's way of life, values of housework, and problems at work place. A course on critically examining media (media literacy) has been held, too. When we examined mass media from the gender perspective, it became evident that "Print and electronic media in most countries do not provide a balanced picture of women's diverse lives and contributions to society in a changing world." (Beijing Platform for Action, Item J-236)

Let us take a look at the current situation faced by women who work in the broadcast

industry. According to a survey conducted principally by the Society of Japanese Women in Radio and Television, women accounted for 13.4% of the total workforce at broadcast stations and newspaper publishing companies in 1993. This percentage rose only minimally to 15.0% in 1999 and 15.4% in 2004 (谷岡, 2011:222). These figures show that women are still a minority in the very place from which information is disseminated in spite of the revisions to the Gender Equality in Employment Act (in 1996 and 2006) and the enactment of the Basic Act for Gender-Equal Society (in 1999).

Male dominated studios are even producing TV commercials that affirm existing gender division of labor. One widely-known example is a TV commercial for instant noodles that was made by House Foods in 1975. When the ad was broadcast, the catch phrase “We (girls) are the ones who prepare it! I (a boy) am the one who eats it!” used in the commercial met protests from citizen groups for fear that it affirmed the stereotypical gender division of labor, and the ad was halted. (行動する会記録編集委員会, 1999).

As this shows, the mass media has yet to pay adequate attention to gender issues. Nevertheless, the climate is shifting. One new development is that even in the world of TV commercials, expressions that are not bound by traditional gender division of labor are emerging. In Japanese society too, men who actively share responsibilities of household chores and child care, are called iku-men, or child-raising men. The term is gradually taking roots. During lectures at the Leader Seminar, a lecturer introduced a detergent commercial in which a man does laundry and sews an appliqué on a nursery school uniform for his child. An active discussion followed about the portrayal of women and how gender roles are presented in commercials in the seminar participants’ originating countries. Although the progress is slow, the number of women managers in the broadcast industry has been growing, offering signs of change. Media has also become diverse. Since the Great East Japan Earthquake that struck in 2011, information is disseminated actively by alternative media, providing reports that are not covered by major mass media and other reports that adopt the viewpoints of gender and minority groups.

2-3. Experimenting with New Ways to Work through Telework

ICT is also changing the way people work. In Japan, people who are 65 years or older account for 23% of the total population (2010). By 2060, that percentage is projected to rise to 39.9%. The decrease in the birthrate and the aging of the population are expected to

accelerate at an unprecedented pace. In contrast, 4.28 million of the non-working population wishes to be employed (2013 average). Women account for three quarters of this group, and number approximately 3.15 million. Reasons for women quitting work include childbirth and child care (2.05 million), lack of a suitable job (.97 million), and nursing care (.16 million). The absence of employment opportunities that match women's life cycles can be said to be one cause of women's involuntary unemployment. At the same time, baby boomers are now reaching age 70, raising the possibility that they will need nursing care. A survey by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Labour revealed more than 70% of workers regardless of gender (78% of women and 72.1% of men) are worried about their ability to keep their jobs while providing nursing care at the same time (Mitsubishi UFJ Research & Consulting).

Given this situation, ICT-based work-at-home programs or telework are receiving attention as new ways of working. Considering importance of telework that enable single mothers and other women who gave up employment for such reasons as child care to continue to work while achieving a work-life balance, NVEC arranged a lecture during the Leader Seminar about NTT Communications' initiative to support women working at home with the use of ICT.

The company has operated a virtual contact center since 2001 by using telephone operators who work from home. Telephone operators, who are called CAVA (an abbreviation for .com Advisor & Valuable Agent), are chosen from among those who pass the .com Master Internet examination and receive training. Operators consist of work-at-home telephone staff members who provide Internet technical support services from home, and home-based staff members who visit customers' offices to provide support services. As of 2014, NTT Communications' virtual call center employed 1,000 work-at-home telephone staff and 900 home-based staff who make customer calls. Together these workers provided services to approximately 8 million customers.

The attributes of staff members vary. There are women who are raising young children, people who left corporate positions, and women who are providing nursing care for family members. The system uses cloud technology and thus enables operators to perform their work by referring to scripts on a personal computer screen in their homes. The use of cloud technology is beneficial to corporations as the risk of customer information leakage is reduced. Workers can work at home when they want for as long as they wish while improving their ICT skills. It is thus a win-win situation (Kobayashi, 2014).

According to the 2014 ICT White Paper (総務省, 2014), the ICT environment of corporations is improving. However, only about ten percent of corporations adopt telework. In comparison, the majority of people, regardless of gender, wish to telework. This indicates the construction of systems to enable people to work in diverse ways lags behind people's desire to practice such new ways. It is hoped that many more such attempts will be made in the future to make it possible for both men and women to work flexibly.

3. To link ICT to Women's Empowerment

So far in this chapter, we have examined the history of ICT's involvement in women's movements, the current media environment, and corporations' initiatives in relation to ICT and gender issues in Japan. What kinds of measures are effective for linking ICT to women's empowerment? Chapters 2 through 6 of this booklet present the best practices of ICT use in promoting women's social participation, as well as challenges faced in each country. Please refer to the country reports for details. Before closing Chapter 1, the five countries' best practices are summarized as follows:

In Cambodia, social media is used as an important tool to ensure violence against women is recognized by all of society and to educate the public about prevention. In addition, a campaign entitled *Take Back the Tech!* is led by a civil society organization. In India, cell phone usage has been linked to improved maternal and child health. In the Philippines, a system to control documents on VAW cases (VAW DocS) was launched by the Philippine Commission on Women. A contest has also been held to develop cell phone applications for women. As in Cambodia, initiatives to return technology to women's hands are also abundant in the Philippines. From Thailand, reports were made of community ICT learning centers that are operated to provide life-long learning, as well as a gender-sensitive drama series created by Thai PBS. And finally from Vietnam, vocational training in the IT field to promote the economic independence of women was introduced.

As stated at the outset of this chapter, the environment that surrounds ICT and gender issues differs from one country to another. Nonetheless, the fact that deep-rooted beliefs in gender division of labor and male-dominated organizational culture stand in the way of promoting women's participation in society with the use of ICT indicates the presence of common problems that transcend national boundaries and cultural differences. In order to overcome such challenges, a mechanism has to be built that drives society as a whole to

respect women's human rights, and at the same time make visible and communicate the concrete achievements of ICT-based support to women faced with challenges.

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Primary Source

Yoko Kobayashi, “Initiative to Support Women’s Home-based Employment with the Use of ICT,” lecture materials from the 2014 Seminar for Gender Equality Officers and Leaders in the Asia Pacific Region, National Women’s Education Center, 2014

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第4回世界女性会議 行動綱領（総理府仮訳）

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(Accessed on January 5, 2015)

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Chapter 2 Report from Cambodia

1. Cambodia's picture of gender in the ICT Era

Information, Communication Technology (ICT) is continually referred to as one of the defining features for economic and social development. It creates economic growth in emerging high profit markets, improves productivity in existing industries and sectors, provides job opportunities, can improve levels of and access to essentials such as health care, and can promote networking, participation and advocacy in society. However it is also recognized that it can also exacerbate existing gender inequalities, and has created a “gender digital divide” in Cambodia, where women are less likely to benefit from the opportunities that engaging with ICT can bring.

In Cambodia, tradition information and communication services are of poor quality. Public postal services are unreliable, mass media reaches only 85% of the population and only 3.96% of Cambodians have a fixed phone line. Despite this, Cambodians have been embracing technology through other mechanisms. With the introduction of wireless broadband technologies, Cambodian's have been moving towards mobile and internet services at a rapid rate. Mobile phone usage is reported to have a 135% penetration rate, with over 1 million people subscribing to the mobile broadband in early 2014. Today, 2.5 million people have internet access at home.

This boom in ICT development has not been evenly distributed through Cambodian society. The emerging ICT industries have predominately been located in the capital, Phnom Penh, and there is a significant divide between men and women engaging with this technology in both the economic and social spheres. There has been very little research regarding women and ICT, however it is evident that ICT is not gender-neutral. 2005, Hor Sophia from the University of Phnom Penh stated: "within the given social and economic structure, gender roles and relations, women and men cannot get equal access to ICT". The lack of access to ICT because of societal, cultural and market constraints have led women to become distant from the global pool of information and knowledge. Very little has changed since 2005.

Worldwide, Facebook is one of the largest social media platforms, with over 1.35 billion people checking their account at least once a month. Over half of these users are

women. According to “Geeks in Cambodia” as of June 4, 2014, Cambodia had 1,420,000 Facebook users, and it is the largest social media site in the country. 38% of Facebook users are Cambodian women, well below the worldwide standard. Interestingly, the number one interest on Facebook as ranked by Cambodians is technology, i.e. computers, mobile phones and televisions and tablets.

In a study conducted by Open Institute in 2013, out of the surveyed 2000 Cambodian people in rural and urban areas, 94.4% claimed to have their own phone(s). 87.1% of the women surveyed were found to own a phone, versus 95.1% of men.

In terms of education in Cambodia, there is gender parity in enrolment rates for primary and lower secondary schools with 60% of children enrolled in lower secondary. Statistics for completion of lower secondary education tell a different story, a story where the societal norms for young girls mean that completing education is not prioritized and women either stay at home in caring roles or are forced to work to support the family. In 2014, it is expected that 27% of girls will complete their lower secondary school compared to 44% of boys. In upper secondary school, enrolment rates are 27% for girls and 32% for boys. Introduction to ICT is only taught at upper secondary school, leaving only 27% of girls in Cambodia who will receive any formal ICT training.

In tertiary education, according to a study conducted by Open Institute in 2010, 40.19% of women were studying bachelor degrees, 19.24% enrolled in master’s degrees and 5.57% of women were undertaking master’s degrees. 9.1% of women in 2009/2010 studied ICT. The survey, after focus group discussions with ICT students, found that women choose ICT studies less often than men for several reasons: they perceive that ICT jobs are difficult and are often reserved for men only; they perceive that ICT is difficult to study because of the mathematics involved, and because the field has too many areas of study; no encouragement from the family; companies normally recruit only male staff; low interest in studying ICT; Khmer cultural traditions (a mindset and traditional pressure that discourages women from studying); a general opinion that ICT is only a job of repairing; it costs a lot of money; and women have to do housework.

As can be seen by the table below, the gender divide is highlighted in the adult literacy rates, and although it is evident that literacy rates are on the rise, the gender gap, particularly in rural areas are still concerning. It is difficult to assume that the ICT revolution

will effect men and women equally given the disparity between the genders in all level of the education system.

Graph1: Adult Literacy Population aged 15 years and above per Gender and Geography (2008 - 2013)

	2008			2013		
AREA	Women	Men	Both Sexes	Women	Men	Both Sexes
TOTAL	70.9	85.1	77.6	73.6	86.4	79.7
URBAN	86.8	94.5	90.4	86.8	94.2	90.3
RURAL	66.3	82.5	74.0	69.7	84.1	76.5

Source: Cambodia Inter-Censal Population Survey 2013 (CIPS 2013)

The formal sector in Cambodia comprises all jobs with regular hours and wages, and in 2013 according to Cambodia Inter-Censal Population Survey, 17.9% of women worked in this sector, whilst 26.1% of men had paid employment. 53% of women classified themselves as unpaid family worker, compared to 23% of men.

A study on Women and ICT in Education and Employment in 2010 found that less than on quarter of Cambodian NGOs, 9% of Higher Education institutes, 14% of Internet providers and 35% of government ministries have a policy implemented to encourage women to build their own capacity in the ICT sector. According to MOWA et.al 2010, a similar percentage of organizations and institutions are willing to design policies to encourage ICT skills and capacity building for women.

The Cambodian picture of gender in the ICT era is one of inequality. The disparity between men and women's ability to learn, access and engage with technology is inherent in Cambodian society. This is reflected in the formal education system, where completion rates for young girls at upper secondary school are reported to be as low as 22%. Very few women are taking up opportunity to gain the economic benefits of ICT by not enrolled in ICT related university courses. Illiteracy rates are higher for women than men. For those women in the formal employment sector, the knowledge and use of ICT is limited and there a very few organizational policies that encourage ICT skill development for women.

2. Cambodian Policies and Laws on ITC

On June 26, 2014, the Royal Government of Cambodia approved the National Strategic Development plan for 2014 - 2018, a blue print for economic policy. This document

contains a full section dedicated to ICT and indicates the Governments desire to move Cambodia to more knowledge based nation. It provides a framework for infrastructure expansion, policy and regulation development, human resources and skill development. The Policy document mentions they will foster the principles of gender equality, however it does not stipulate how.

At the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing Sept.1995- Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action: Women in media, two strategic objectives were delivered:

- Strategic objective J1: Increase the participation and access of women to expression and decision-making in and through the media and new technologies of communication. Actions to be taken.
- Strategic objective J2: Promote a balanced and non-stereotyped portrayal of women in the media. Actions to be taken.

In the Concluding Comment of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against women, article 38. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against women urges the State party to utilize fully in its implementation of its obligations under the Convention, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which reinforce the provisions of the Convention, and requests the State party to include information thereon in its next periodic report. Cambodia is a signatory to this convention, thus must be held accountable for its strategy and report against the actions taken.

Cambodia also has a draft National ICT Policy 2015 that clearly specifies their support for Women in Development in the ICT sector. Within this policy framework, there is much support for gender equality, yet there is little evidence on how this is reflected in the real world.

Unfortunately there are no consistent legal frameworks to govern the industry as a whole. In 2012, the Government established the Telecom Regulator of Cambodia charged with overseeing the country's telecom industry. Many laws have been drafted, by not enacted. As yet, the Telecom Law has not been passed, so in the absence of laws, the sector is governed by decrees and sub-decrees issued by the Department and the prime ministers officer. Specific laws on Cyber-crime and e-Commerce are deemed necessary, however

have not been adopted. There is also little evidence of the how these laws reflect gender sensitivity and equality.

3. Best Practice

Best practice involving women and ICT in Cambodia has been the involvement in Take Back the Tech initiative. The Open Institute in cooperation with the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) and the Ministry of Women's Affairs, have since 2006 been actively involved in this strategy creating awareness of how information and communication technologies are connected to violence against women. The program recently won global acclaim for its efforts to reduce threats online and building women's confidence and security in the use of ICT, winning first place in Gender Equality Mainstreaming - Technology the ITU-UN awards.

The campaign calls on all ICT users -especially women and girls - to take control of technology and use activism against gender-based violence. The project encouraged, facilitated and strengthened:

- The use of ICTs to enhance interventions by women's rights organizations to address different forms of violence against women and girls
- The application of ICTs for work focused on the healing of women victims/survivors of violence
- The provision of small grants for women victims/survivors of violence to increase visibility of their issues and enable them to participate in combating VAW
- Efforts to address new forms of violence against women and girls facilitated through the internet, mobile phones and other emerging technologies
- Advocacy towards better formulation and implementation of rights based ICT policies that impact on violence against women and girls.

A Facebook account called Cambodia TBTT has been created in Khmer language and it has over 1,299 friends. The TBTT Twitter account has over 1900 followers. Articles are regularly posted informing people of issues on the prevention of violence against women

and giving women the opportunity to voice their opinions and ideas regarding human rights and advocacy.

This advocacy strategy has very attractive campaign materials, with the use of banners, stickers, digital stories and icons. It has allowed Open Institute to incorporate this branding in most of their events, (over 1000 young people have been involved in training over the past year) and has attracted significant attention to women using ICT to end violence against women. It was used in International Women's Day, and will be incorporated into the 16 Day Campaign on 25th November until 10th December 2014 in cooperation with UN Women Cambodia.

It is a simple strategy that works. Its attractive marketing engages women to get involved with ITC as a tool for advocacy effectively empowering women and girls through skills, knowledge, advocacy and community-building.

4. Issues and Challenges

The growth in influence of ICT has created many issues and challenges for women in Cambodia, as they struggle to embrace the economic and social advantages of ICT. The three most significant challenges of the gender digital divide is:

1. the cultural norms of Cambodian society, where women are the most impoverished with the least access to resources and with little control over decisions that affect their lives;
2. the lack of women with decision making influence; and
3. the emergence of a new avenue for violence against women.

Social norms in Cambodia are a significant challenge for women accessing ICT and enjoying the economic benefit of the sector. In an impoverished country, boys are targeted over girls by families as a priority for education as many young girls drop out of formal education to support their families in either the caring or financial role. It is a hierarchal society where men are valued more highly than women and there are persistent gender power imbalances that lead to poverty, illiteracy and gender discrimination.

In the research conducted by the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport and the Open Institute in 2010, some 66% of respondents stated

that women have to take more responsibility for their family than men; 64% think that most parents provide more support to men than women for higher education. About 60% think that policies and policy implementation are also obstacles. Other responses include: language (57%), limited ICT infrastructure (53%), cost of internet access (52%), “technology is too modern” (40%), obstacles erected by social norms and culture (31%) and women are not encouraged by their superiors to participate in ICT (26%).

There is a complex relationship between ICT and violence against women that is well documented, and often a difficult for policy makers and advocates to grapple with. In many ways, ICT is a valuable tool in preventing violence against women through advocacy and empowerment. Women and women’s networks and organizations worldwide are using online resources, websites and chat rooms to share experiences, mobilize support for specific actions or to develop global action strategies to end violence against women. However, ICT has also facilitated a new form of violence against women with cyber stalking and online harassment. This involves mobile text message monitoring, intimate photos and video blackmail, mobile phone and email account tracking. Traffickers are also using the Internet to communicate and recruit victims, and private home videos are also being commercialized. The growth of the Internet tends to push the limits of a society’s attitudes towards acceptable media images and technology is moving across boundaries faster than the law can address.

This is not a phenomenon unique to Cambodia, and a challenge for society in general. However in Cambodia, with the gender imbalance that is innate in society, together with the gender divide regarding access to ICT as already discussed, this is a challenge that advocacy groups, government and Cambodian society as a whole must address.

The third significant challenge for women and ICT in Cambodia is the lack of women in decision-making and power roles in Government. Women represent approximately 14.7% of the senate, and 20.32% of members of parliament 20.32% There are 13.9% women judges, 10.2% Women Prosecutors and women constitute 22.1% of Court Clerks. There have been no Provincial Governors and only 14.3% of Deputy Governors in 2013 are women. These needs to be seen in the light of 52% of the population are women.

Without effective representation of women in decision-making roles, active engagement in the gender digital divide will remain problematic. Advocacy groups are active

in building relationships with decision makers, but until they are physically represented, there will continue to be inequities and inactivity in gender related issues.

5. Policy Recommendations:

- ICT is integrated into lower secondary school to ensure that young girls locked out of senior schooling have some level of ICT education.
- Stronger commitment of the government, donor agencies and civil society for supporting consultative meetings for the integration of gender sensitiveness in national policy and action plans such as National ICT Policy 2015 Neary Ratanak, National Action Plan to Prevent VAW, National Strategy Development Plan; as well as support for Women in Development of sectoral ICT Policy.
- Stronger commitment of government in nomination more women to take decision maker post in ICT development sector.
- To add “Women in ICT Development” in the Joint Indicator Matrix of Cambodia Development Council. This will then ensure this as a measurable outcome for the Government.
- Stronger cooperation between the government and UN Women and with other donor agencies for the implementation of the UN CEDAW Concluding Observation point 19 c. about “...to explore the use of ICT for women rights and gender equality.”
- Stronger commitment of the government and donor countries for the implementation of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing 2004) about women and media.
- Tough laws and regulations must be adopted and enforced to protect vulnerable women and children from exploitation via ICT. Training and education needs to fund regarding safe and informative ways to explore the internet and how to avoid on-line dangers.
- From learning from the NWEF, more research needs to be conducted around gender and its impact in Cambodian society. A similar model to the NWEF should be established in Phnom Penh. This could become a central depository for research and development regarding all issues pertaining to women. It will enable women’s advocacy groups to

meet, discuss and collaborate on gender topics and create a space for open dialogue to promote a gender-equality society.

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2- Gender Equality Policy



National Frameworks for Gender Equality (I)

Constitution of Cambodia: Adopted in 1993

- It states that “men and women have equal rights before the law and enjoy equal participation in political, economic, social and cultural life; equality in marriage and family; employment and equal pay for the same work. It also includes measures to prevent and eliminate of all forms of discrimination and exploitation of women”.

National Strategic Development Plan and Rectangular Strategy for Growth, Employment, Equity and Efficiency, Phase II

- Aim at reducing gender disparities in all development sectors and the need to put in place effective measures to remove barriers that women face, and increase opportunities for women to fully participate and benefit from development.

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National Frameworks for Gender Equality (II)



Cambodia Millennium Development Goals

- CMDG 3 focuses on promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women through reducing gender gaps in education at all levels, increasing women's participation in government and ensuring equal wages between men and women.

The Five-Years Strategic Plan For Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment 2014-2018 (Neary Rattanak IV)

- Strategic areas:
 1. Economic Empowerment of Women
 2. Education of Women and Girls, Attitudes and Behavior change
 3. Legal Protection of Women and Girls
 4. Health and Nutrition of Women and Girls, and HIV/AIDS
 5. Women in Public Decision-making and Politics
 6. Women in Climate Change and green growth
 7. Women and Disabilities

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National Women's Machineries

- Ministry of Women's Affairs
- Cambodian National Council for Women
- Other Mechanisms for Gender Equality
 - Gender Action Groups and Gender Action Plans from Line Ministries
 - Women's and Children's Committees (at sub-national level)

International Frameworks for Gender Equality

1. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)
2. Millennium Development Goals for 2015
3. Conference on Population and Development El Cairo (1994)
4. Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW, 1979) : Signed and ratified by Cambodia in 1992.

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3. Current Situation for Gender Equality in Cambodia

• Education

Educational level		Percentage
Primary and Lower Secondary		Gender parity index achieved
Upper Secondary Education		Ratio of girls to boys is 72.9 (CMDG target is 100)
Tertiary Education		
	bachelor degree	40.19%
	master degrees	19.24%
	undertaking a PhD	5.56%

[Data from academic year 2011-2012, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport]

Economic sector

Women presenting in formal sector	27 % (men: 73%)
Women presenting in informal sector	82 %

[Data from CSES 2009]

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Politics and Decision Making

National level

Parliamentarians in National Assembly	25 of 123	20.32%
Senators	9 of 61	14.75%
Deputy Prime Ministers	1 of 9	11%
Ministers	3 of 28	10.71%
Secretaries of State	38 of 185	20.54%
Public Civil Servants	70,526 of 192,029	37%

Politics and Decision Making

Subnational level



Provincial Governors	no women
Provincial Deputy Governors	20%
District Governors	1 %(2 female district governors)
District Deputy Governors:	29 %
Commune Council members	17.78%
Commune/Sangkat Chiefs	5.8%

Data from the National Elections Committee 2012

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health 	
median age at first marriage among women	20 years (men: 23 years)
Median age of first sexual intercourse for women	21 years old (while for men is 22 years)
maternal deaths	206 per 100,000 live births in 2010 (rate decreased almost 60 percent in only five years, between 2005 and 2010 [DHS 2005 and 2010]).
women report having one or more problems in accessing health care	72%
women aged 15-49 years using a method of family planning	31%
women aged 15-49 years having abortion	at least 1 abortion of 6 % women in urban areas, while 5 % in rural areas
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4. Overview of ICTs: Media and Gender in the country

- 4.1: Women in Media:
- The Women's Media Centre of Cambodia (WMC 2005) survey found that women are a minority across all media sectors, comprising 17% of those in journalism, 21% in technical roles and in 28% in administrative positions.
- No statistics are available from the Ministry of Information (MoI) on the number of female journalists in Cambodia, according to WMC. However, the WMC 2005 survey covered 145 media organizations and reported the total number of people working in media and media related fields as 4,623 with 79% males (3,652) and 21% females (971). among 137 journalists whose positions were decision makers only 6% were female.

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4. Overview of ICTs Media and gender in the country (cont.)

- 4.2: Women in ICT :

Women and ICT status in Cambodia

The lack of access to ICT because of societal, cultural and market constraints have led women to become distant from the global pool of information and knowledge.

Reasons for less representation of women holding jobs in ICT fields include lower percentage of female student's enrollment in IT related education.

- 4.3 ICT Policy

The National Summit on ICT Policy and Strategy took place on 3 July 2003 to involve key actors to determine a draft of National ICT Policy.

NIDA proposal for National ICT Policy for 2015 included the creation of legal framework, ICT services, to develop a knowledge based system, ICT access points, reduce public administration cost, ICT4D that support Women In Development (WID) in the ICT sector.

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4. Overview of ICTs Media and gender in the country (cont.)

National ICT Policy -2015-

ICT Frameworks

1. Develop a *national ICT legal and regulatory framework* to ensure a national economic and social stimuli
2. Develop measures to achieve *the e-ASEAN Framework Agreement*, as well as to ensure efforts to keep pace with the ASEAN level of ICT technology through the promotion of a national ICT innovation

ICT Services

3. Improve *government services* through the application of ICT
4. Support the use of ICT in *the private sector and the growth of e-commerce*
5. Encourage the growth of *a national ICT industry* and its links among the ASEAN region

ICT Infrastructure

6. Develop a reliable national *ICT Infrastructure*

ICT Development

7. Enhance the level of *ICT literacy* among the population
8. Develop regionally *competitive ICT experts and ICT savvy human resources*
9. Support *WID (Women in Development)* in the ICT Sector

Commitment to Global Issues

10. Encourage an awareness of ICT as a tool for fighting *Global Warming*



4. Overview of ICTs Media and gender in the country (cont.)

- International Instruments: Gender and ICT4D:

Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing Sept.1995- Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action: Women in media

Strategic objective J1: Increase the participation and access of women to expression and decision-making in and through the media and new technologies of communication. Actions to be taken.

Strategic objective J2: Promote a balanced and non-stereotyped portrayal of women in the media. Actions to be taken.



4. Overview of ICTs Media and gender in the country (cont.)

- International Instruments: Gender and ICT4D:
- 56th UN CEDAW session in Geneva from 30 Sept-18 Oct, 2013



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4. Overview of ICTs Media and gender in the country (cont.)

- International Instruments: Gender and ICT4D:
- *Concluding Observation of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against women (CEDAW/C/KHM/CO/4-5 A , Geneva 18 October 2013)*



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4. Overview of ICTs Media and gender in the country (cont.)

- International Instruments: Gender and ICT4D:
- *Gender and ICT4D-Concluding Observation of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against women* (CEDAW/C/KHM/CO/4-5 A , Geneva 18 October 2013)
- Article 19. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (CEDAW/C/KHM/CO/3, para. 18) and recommends that the State party:
- **(c) Explore the use of information communication technologies, including social media, in the dissemination of information on women's rights and gender equality;**

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4. Overview of ICTs Media and gender in the country (cont.)

- Women & ICT in Education (MoWA Research 2010)

The total of female who get the bachelor degree of ICT in the last four years'2005 to 2009' was 12.4% of total student in ICT if comparing with 8.4% of the proportional of female students who has been studying ICT of the 1st year to the 4th year of the year 2009-2010 .

- Women & ICT in Employment

Women & ICT in The proportional of women in ICT' jobs:

- The percentage of women can use ICT in civil society is 44.4% of total staff
- In government and ministries is 15.5%,
- Internet Provider is 32.5% and Education institution is 33.3%.

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4. Overview of ICTs Media and gender in the country (cont.)

Result of the Research (MoWA 2010).

Only less than 1/4 of NGOs (22.5%), 9% of HE institutes, 14% of ISPs and 35% of government ministries have a policy implemented to encourage women to build their own capacity in the ICT sector.

This status will not have much changed in the near future because for the rest of them, there are only 23% of NGOs, 41% of government ministries, 21% of ISPs 21%, and 21% HE institutes are willing to design a policy to encourage ICT skills & capacity building for women (MOWA et.al 2010).

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Consultative meetings of NGOs to promote the integration of Gender Perspective in ICT Policy Development.



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5. Case Analysis:



• Story Telling 1



Ms. Chea Sipheng, Second Assistant of Chief of Kor Ki Sangkat, Phnom Penh had commitment to learn how citizen journalist and ICT were interested in her work.

She initially engaged political activists of Human Rights to help people to solve problems so it made her more popular in politics until she became the Second Assistant to the Chief Commune. During the election she was battled by many men's advocacy efforts, but she still received her position as intended. She was delighted that Open Institute provides the opportunity to attend training and added that she was not aware of media practices and did not know how to write news any way until she received the appropriate training.



5. Case Analysis: (Cont.)



• Story Telling 2



1. Miss. Keang Hy, became a strong facilitator in a youth club

My name is Keang Hy, 26 years old; I live in house number 20D, Street Veng Sreng, Sangkat Choam Chao, Khan Dangkor, Phnom Penh.

After I got involved with Open Institute, "it made me got well communication with the other, improve and building my ability, participate in helping social, could sharing information through the use Facebook and email, knew about social accountability meaning...". I have become a facilitator at in National Youth Senate's KYSD.



6. Best practices:



Take Back The Tech model to use ICT for discussion and dissemination of information on women right and eVAW

Media monitoring for ending VAW

The Integration of gender sensitive in the draft of National ICT Policy 2015.

Integration of the promotion of the use of ICT and media in Neary Ratanak and National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women (NAPVAW).

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Under the cooperation with the UNIFEM in New York, UNIFEM in East Asia and South East Asia, and UNIFEM in Cambodia, the women program localized and posted the template “Say NO to violence against women” to the Women Web Portal to invite visitors to join the event by provide their signatures to support the campaign.

និយាយថា ទេពពោះ អំពើហិង្សាលើស្ត្រី



ក្នុងចំណោមស្ត្រី និងកុមារីជាង ១០ លាននាក់នៅទូទាំងពិភពលោក មានប្រមាណ ១ ភាគបី ដែលបានរងការបំពានសិទ្ធិរបស់ពួកគេ។ នេះគឺជាការបំពានសិទ្ធិមនុស្សដ៏ធ្ងន់ធ្ងរមួយ។ តែងតែជួយលើកកម្ពស់ស្ត្រី និងការរំលោភបំពាននេះ នោះគឺស្ត្រីខ្លះដែលបានប្រកាសប្រាំបីពីម្នាក់ដែលបានរងការបំពានទាំងនោះទៅពីព្រោះពួកគេខ្លាចមានអំពើហិង្សាកើតឡើងបន្តទៀត និងទទួលបានការគាំទ្រ។

ចុះឈ្មោះរបស់អ្នក

ប្រាប់មិត្តរបស់អ្នក

បញ្ជូនចុះឈ្មោះ

ចំនួនអ្នកចុះឈ្មោះ 5834

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អំពើហិង្សាទាក់ទងនឹងយេនឌ័រ

អំពើ (ស្ត្រី)

កិច្ចសហការរវាងអង្គការសហប្រជាជាតិ និងរដ្ឋាភិបាលកម្ពុជា
សម្រាប់ការអភិវឌ្ឍន៍ប្រជាជនក្នុងតំបន់អាស៊ីបូព៌ា

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www.gbv.open.org.kh

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7. Major Obstacles to reduce gender gaps in access to ICTs and to overcome gender-bias in the media

- 7.1. The challenges of women in ICT4 development:

Family responsibility such as take care husband, children, elderly person in family (66%).

Female get less opportunities than male in getting chance to study more (64%).

State policy and sectoral implementation (60%), Language (57%).

Infrastructure (53%), High cost of Internet (52%)
- 7.2. Challenging: VAW&ICT:

However, Women are concerned about the new form of VAW:

Some groups of people have been using ICTs for other purpose that against women rights. Negative portrayal of women.

The growth of Internet tends to push the limits of a society's attitudes towards acceptable media images.

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7. Major Obstacles to reduce gender gaps in access to ICTs and to overcome gender-bias in the media

- 7.2. Challenging: VAW&ICT: (cont.)

Technology is moving across boundaries faster than the law can address. This is a blurred line between freedom of information and cultural preservation

- 7.3. Government Policy

Since 2005 the Ministry of Information has set some rules for all media organizations advising and reminding them to respect the press law Chapter 2, Article 7 that states “Publication of obscene texts or pictures or graphically violent materials is prohibited.”

During the Annual Cambodian National Council for Women Meeting (NWC) in 2007, the Prime Minister recommended that the Ministry of Interior close facilities which show or sell obscene films.

Advocacy for improving the portrayal of women in the media should be stepped up and continued, as there is still much progress to be made

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8. Conclusion and Policy Recommendations



- Stronger commitment of the government, donor agencies and civil society for supporting consultative meetings for the integration of gender sensitiveness in National ICT Policy 2015 and beyond; as well as support for the development of sectoral ICT Policy.
- Stronger commitment of government in nomination more women to take decision maker post in ICT development sector.
- Stronger commitment of the government and donor support for the integration of women in ICT development in national policy and action plan such as Neary Ratanak, National Action Plan to Prevent VAW, National Strategy Development Plan.

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8. Conclusion and Policy Recommendations



- To add “women in ICT development” in Joint Indicator Matrix of Cambodia Development Council.
- Stronger cooperation between the government and UN Women and with other donor agencies for the implementation of the UN CEDAW Concluding Observation point 19 c. about “...to explore the use of ICT for women rights and gender equality.”
- Stronger commitment of the government and donor countries for the implementation of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing 2004) about Women and Media.

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Thank you!



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Chapter 3 Report from India

1. Introduction:

As the seventh largest country with a population of 1.2 billion, India is a land of contradiction; while on one hand fewer girl children thrive, as compared to their male counterparts (Sex ratio of 940 women for every 1000 men, and even lower child sex ratio of 914 girls children per 1000 male children), on the other life expectancy for women is more than men (women=62.7 years; men = 61 years)¹. On one hand India is increasingly seen as an economic force to reckon with, on the other girls/women still face discrimination in their access to education (female literacy= 65.5%; male literacy= 82.1%) and participation in workforce, as only approximately 24% of women are included in workforce. Although as per constitutional amendment (2010), women's representation is stipulated in parliament and state assemblies, only for 11% of the total representatives in upper and lower houses of Parliament are women.

Information Communication Technology (ICT) sector's contribution to the nation's GDP has shown an increase of 4.1% from 2001 to 2012. The benefits of the IT boom however are unevenly distributed among men and women. The situation of women in ICT-sector employment in India mirrors the trends at the global level, where women have been found to account for, "30 per cent of operations technicians, only 15 per cent of managers and a mere 11 per cent of strategy and planning professionals"²

While overall penetration of telephones quite high, the distribution is skewed. It is to be noted that while 68.8% of Indians live in rural areas, the reach and use of ICT favours urban locations and men in particular³. A mere 30% of the 893.3 million mobile subscribers are women, another 20% are "borrowers" of mobile through family and of the 238.7 million

¹ Census of India 2011

² Tandon, N. (2012) 'A Bright Future in ICTs: Opportunities for a New Generation of Women'. Information Telecommunication Union Girls in ICT, Retrieved: http://girlsiniict.org/sites/default/files/pages/itu_bright_future_for_women_in_ict-english.pdf 4 October 2014

³ Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, 2010 <http://www.trai.gov.in> accessed August 1, 2014

internet subscribers a meager 10% are women⁴. The disparity in ‘connectivity’ accessible to Indians is unequal, which can be said to be a reflection of need for infrastructure development and shifting priorities. Overall the International Telecommunications Union, in its 'Measuring the Information Society' Report of 2013, places India in the category of the World's 'Least Connected Countries' based on a composite measure of ICT access, ICT use and ICT skills.

2. Media and Gender

The Census of India, 2011 reveals that 47.2% households have and use television sets, only 19.9% use radios. Thus television is preferred source of information for most. The Indian print media currently include over 69,323 registered newspapers and periodicals, according to the latest figures on the website of the Registrar of Newspapers for India (updated up to 31 March 2008⁵). The total circulation of newspapers in 2007-08 was over 200 million copies (207,108,115). Indian publications appear in as many as 101 languages and dialects. There are over 500 registered television channels in India (503, according to the January-March 2010 quarterly report of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India⁶ . At least 100 more are reportedly awaiting permission to uplink or downlink. As mentioned earlier, radio news is still restricted to the state/public broadcaster, All India Radio, since the government does not permit other radio service providers – private or community based – to broadcast news and current affairs. The growing private FM radio sector is at present almost exclusively devoted to entertainment (largely popular music) and community radio is still in the process of establishing itself in the media environment.

A comparative analysis of portrayal of women in media across 15 countries including India found that in India on any given day, women constitute only 22% of the news subjects across all topic categories. Women featured in only 18% of the subjects in political stories and an abysmally low 10% in stories relating to the economy. Whereas just five percent of news stories highlighted gender equality/inequality related stories. Nearly two

⁴ GSMA Development Fund and Cherie Blair Foundation for Women. (2010). Women and Mobile—A Global Opportunity: A Study on the mobile phone gender gap in low and middle-income countries. London: GSMA.

⁵ Website of the Registrar of Newspapers for India: <http://rni.nic.in/>

⁶ Website of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India: <http://www.trai.gov.in/> accessed June 10, 2014

thirds (63 per cent) of the news stories from the Indian media reinforced gender stereotypes while only nine per cent challenged them. In contrast, globally less than half (46 per cent) of the news stories reinforced stereotypes. Men vastly outnumbered women among reporters across all media and all news topics.

Less than half the presenters and announcers on Indian radio and television were women. About a third (34 per cent) of the news stories in the print media and less than half (43 per cent) of the stories on TV were reported by women. Similarly, several popular television programs and television advertisements reinforce stereotypical gender roles for women. For example women are often portrayed as being “Naari” (faithful, obedient, non-assertive woman), the virtue of being “fair” is over emphasized in numerous advertisements. Compared to men, women appear more often for household products and personal or beauty products and were less likely to be shown as being employed than men.⁷

With the increasing access to internet, women have greater opportunity to connect to the global world, learn about opportunities, socialize with others, using social media such as Facebook, Twitter etc. However, this has also led to increased vulnerability of women to be victims of cyber violence against women have been reported in media in the form of cyber stalking, phishing, issuing threats of violence and revenge porno etc. Cybercrime against women in India is relatively a new concept. There are yet no reliable estimates of rates of cybercrimes against women, as fewer women report such crimes, as most of the cybercrimes remain unreported due to the hesitation and shyness of the victim and her fear of defamation of family’s name. Many times she believes that she herself is responsible for the crime done to her. The women are more susceptible to the danger of cybercrime as the perpetrator’s identity remains anonymous and he may constantly threaten and blackmail the victim with different names and identities. Historically, when India started ventured in the field of Information Technology, the primary security concern addressed under the Information Technology Act, 2000 was the protection of electronic commerce (e-commerce) and communications, whereas cyber socializing communications and related human rights violations haven’t been addressed.⁸

⁷ *Who Makes the News* : India Global Media Monitoring Project-National Report. 2010).

3. Policies and Laws on ICTs

The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Constitution of India. National Commission of Women was set-up by an Act of Parliament in 1990 and a further amendment led to their increased participation in decision making at various levels. Taking a step further India has ratified the CEDAW in 1993.

The National Commission for Empowerment of Women was set up in 2010 with the following objectives in mind:

- To eliminate violence against women (VAW)
- Social empowerment of women with emphasis on health and education
- Gender mainstreaming of policies and programs
- Create awareness amongst beneficiaries
- Work on advocacy

The current 12th Five Year Plan (2012-2017) includes a Working Group on Information Technology Sector which has identified e-learning, ICT skill development, development of rural connectivity infrastructure, development of local language content, ICT-enabled health services and financial inclusion through ICT technology as key elements for utilizing the ICT potential for social inclusion.

Although India does not have a comprehensive ICT policy, ICT is well ensconced in the various initiatives undertaken across ministries as well as by many Non-government Organizations; these have been either as Public Private Partnerships (PPP) or standalone initiatives. Successful examples of which are seen in the sectors of health, governance, education etc.

⁸ Jeet, S., (2012). Cyber crimes against women in India Information Technology Act, 2000. *Elixir Criminal Law*, 48, pp. 8891-8895.

Laws on ICTs

The legal provisions which are presently available to challenge acts of violence are “strongly influenced by existing laws on indecency and obscenity, ill-defined as they are”. These include the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, and Section 67 A and Section 67 B of the Information Technology Act that deal with cyber-pornography and child pornography respectively. Additionally, Section 66 A of the Information Technology Act provides for punishment for communication made via computer or other devices which may be “grossly offensive,” have a “menacing character,” or even cause “annoyance or inconvenience”.

4. Best Practices

India has acknowledged the potential of ICTs in development and has initiated many programs that use ICT to leverage access and usage of services. These programs fall largely under the areas of health, e-governance, education and economic empowerment. A few examples are cited in the following sections:

4.1. E-governance:

The National E-governance Plan (NeGP), through its 31 Mission Mode Projects, aims at developing a country-wide infrastructure reaching to the remotest village, for facilitating single-window, one-stop, public service delivery to all citizens and the large scale digitization of records, to enable easy interaction between citizens and government, over the Internet. The connectivity infrastructure envisioned by the NeGP consists of a country-wide network of ICT enabled kiosks called the 'Common Service Centers' under which ICT-enabled single window service delivery centers are proposed to be set up in every *Gram Panchayat* (the smallest unit of local governance in India) of the country through a public private partnership model involving various kinds of partnership agreements between village level entrepreneurs, private companies and government agencies; as well as Electronic Service Delivery Gateways⁹ and State-Wide Area Networks. This connectivity infrastructure is envisioned as a platform for digitized public service delivery, the back-end for which is

⁹ See <https://nsdg.gov.in/administration/aboutus.jsp> for details.

expected to be readied by a range of Central, State-Led and Integrated Mission Mode Projects¹⁰.

With the efforts of the Department of Information and Technology, Government of India the following initiatives have been rolled out under the NeGP:

- a) The Launch of Mobile Seva: An Unique Country-wide initiative to provide public services to citizens through mobile phones and hand-held devices, through which 200 different services of 444 departments have been offered.
- b) Pilot project covering 59 panchayats in three blocks in three states on using the hi-speed connectivity of National Optical Fiber Network (NOFN) for delivery of public services
- c) The launch of the 'Open Government Platform' developed in collaboration with the United States, intended to enhance access and use of government data for innovation; government transparency, accountability and public participation.
- d) The launch of 'Data Portal India' to function as a single access point for open government data sets across the country in multiple topics.

The CSC schemes have been used as a means to address women's empowerment, where women are encouraged to operate the CSC kiosks. For example, in the state of Kerala, the CSC scheme, is operated by women who are Village Level Entrepreneurs to run the single window service delivery centers. While studies have found that this model of integrating gender in e-governance has significant gains for the women entrepreneurs, it could not address issues of gender barriers to access CSCs.

Another model to overcome the barriers aforementioned, was overcome in an innovative model of integrating gender in CSCs is in Delhi. In this model, a government-NGO-community partnership model was tested, wherein the State Government of Delhi, local NGOs with grassroots presence and urban slum communities focuses on

¹⁰ Prime Minister's Office (2013), PM Reviews National e-governance Plan, Retrieved: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=96938> 13 April 2014 ;and <http://ogpl.gov.in/>; <http://www.futuregov.asia/articles/2014/feb/20/india-launches-improved-open-government-platform/> on 2nd August 2014

targeted service delivery through a network of pre-existing gender resource centers managed by the NGOs on the ground. The rationale guiding the project was that the NGOs operating the Gender Resource Centers were already sensitive to the local context, aware of gender barriers and needs to overcome these and therefore were more invested in addressing community needs. The choice of these gender resources centers ensured smooth processing of information requests and entitlement claims and enables women to access CSCs.¹¹

4.2. ICT- in Health:

Although the economic prowess of India is growing consistently, still India's ranking is among the bottom five countries, with the lowest public health spending world over, accounting for nearly 21% of the global disease burden. A World Bank report published in 2010 estimates that India is annually losing over 6% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) due to the premature deaths and preventable illnesses. Indian healthcare sector is still suffering on account of underfunding and poor governance, which have led to substantial inequities in basic healthcare provisions. Following women centered innovations and interventions are just a few that have been planned both by Government and its partners to improve the health parameters of women.

4.2.a. Mother and Child Tracking System (MCTS): Mother and Child Tracking System (MCTS) is a name based tracking system, launched by the Government of India in 2009 as an innovative application of information technology directed towards improving the health care service delivery system and strengthening the monitoring mechanism for women's health. MCTS is designed to capture information on and track all pregnant women and children (0-5 Years) so that they receive 'full' maternal and child health services and thereby contributes to the reduction in maternal, infant and child morbidity and mortality.

A total of 2,18,22,364 pregnant women have been registered in MCTS during 2013-2014 (as on 11th June, 2014) which indicates a registration of 73 % as against

¹¹ Gurumurthy, A., & Chami N. April 2014- Digital Technologies and Gender Justice in India- An analysis of key policy and programming concerns Input to the High Level Committee on the Status of Women in India

estimated number of pregnant women in 2013-2014. A total of 1,80,67,874 children have been registered in MCTS during 2013-2014 as on 11th June, 2014, which indicates a registration of 67% as against estimated number of infants in 2013-2014.

The MCTS software sends reminders to the Auxiliary Nursing Midwives (ANMs) or ASHAs (Accredited Social Health Activists) on the various treatments to be availed by the expecting mothers having mobile phones. Once a mother receives her immunization, ANMs have to send the details to the MCTS service through an SMS. After the enrolment, every expectant mother receives SMS regarding their next immunization and checkup dates. It is absolute essential that all ANMs start upload the service delivery data in near real-time. In order to facilitate this near real-time data updation by ANMs “Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD)” based service has been enabled for MCTS data updation .

4.2.b. Mobile Kunji : Mobile Kunji is a unique model AV job aid designed for the Frontline Health Workers (FLHWs). Forty phone –sized card are illustrated with key messages on family health, family planning, pregnancy, post-natal care and childcare up to two years of age. The number of cards is flexible and can vary with the State’s specific health needs. Each of these messages is accessible by a unique toll free seven digit mobile code that can be dialed directly by the FLHW from her mobile to share the information with the beneficiary. It can be carried at all times and does not need a smart phone to access this service, thus making this a low end technology for high-end gains project. This project is run as a partnership between State Government, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and BBC Media Action. Since its inception in 2012, 89171 users have accessed 21,32,420 minutes of information on the mobile phone. Under the program, 200,000 FLHWs have been trained use of this mobile application. It is currently running in large parts of three states of India. Government may plan to scale-up this intervention in the coming year if the intervention shows positive results.

4.2.c. Mobile Academy: Mobile Academy is an innovation to use mobile technology that is handset independent; audio based, accessed via a simple voice call and helps to train FLHWs to deliver life-saving information to beneficiaries. It is a highly subsidized, but paid initiative that costs FLHWs a mere Rs 100 (¥200 approx) for the entire training. It is an IVR based programme providing voice lectures and quizzes over 190 minutes for knowledge enhancement of the FLHWs. The training broadly covers topics on: maternal

health, family planning, child health, immunization to name a few. On successful completion of the training, FLHWs take a tele-exam and are awarded a ‘Certificate’ by senior government officials, which go a long way to improve their self-esteem and position in their community. To date more than 39,000 workers are trained and have received certificates under this program.

5. Issues and Challenges:

ICTs have been acknowledged as potent tools for development, but there are multiple challenges to successfully use ICTs for gender and development. These issues and challenges range broadly from contextual factors like unequal gender-norms that hinder women’s access and control of ICTs that make it difficult for ICTs to be maximize its reach and effectiveness, to policy level issues like absence of comprehensive policies to make provisions of infrastructure development to facilitate penetration of ICTs. Some specific issues and challenges are pointed below:

- Lack of a clear National Policy for promoting ICT for development of women.
- Setting up and maintenance costs of ICT structures are major deterrents in its nation-wide expansion
- Poor ICT infrastructure: given the magnitude of need for ICT, adequate infrastructure in form of availability of computer systems, affordable internet, and low bandwidth are not available.
- Lack of trained personnel to manage and use ICT in terms of numbers and quality
- Lack of basic infrastructure like electricity, telephone lines etc.
- Poor female literacy, combined with poverty, skewed gender roles makes access to ICTs a major stumbling block for women
- Women are perceived as mere ‘consumers’ of ICT rather than producers or decisions makers in ICT sector
- Being a patriarchal society decisions and access regarding women’s participation in ICT initiatives are often controlled by the ‘others’ in their family.

6. Policy Recommendations:

While the need for a comprehensive ICT policy foregrounds all ICT interventions, keeping women and gender issues central across all ICT based development programs needs to be underscored in all policy and programs using ICTs.

- Government to frame a national ICT Policy with special focus on inclusion of women as active agents of change.
- Review existing ICT related laws from a gender perspective to ensure protection of women, as well as safe guard their interests and rights.
- Policy measures to outline guidelines for data sharing, storage, access and confidentiality in various ICT and development interventions.
- Government to advocate proportionate representation of women at all levels in ICT sector aiming at increase in uptake of ICT-related education and employment.
- Government to felicitate successful women-led ICT initiatives on a National/State level to inspire more women-led entrepreneurial innovations.
- Government in collaboration with women's groups to develop gender sensitive content for ICT initiatives in various ministries/departments
- All ICT interventions to be made available in the vernacular languages to increase access and use.
- Government to formulate policy to carry out continuous media surveillance to monitor harmful effects of stereotyping of women.

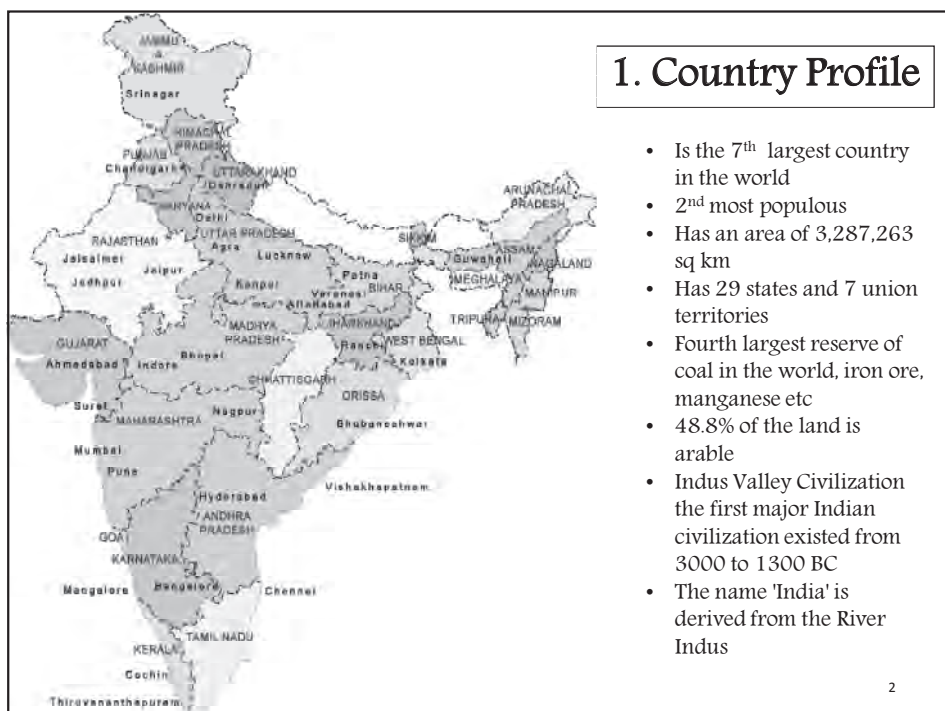
ICTs have tremendous potential to strengthen women's political and social identity and stimulate far-reaching ICTs-induced structural transformations. The responsibility and opportunity to exploit the potential of ICT and gender, rests equally with governments and policy makers of the country by making gender inclusive policies and with existing national women's machineries and women's groups to acquaint themselves with digital environs and ensure that ICTs do not become 'tokenistic' but are transformative to lives of women.

FY2014 Seminar for Gender Equality Officers and
Women Leaders in the Asia Pacific Region

Country Report

Dr Zoya Ali Rizvi &
Dr Priti Prabhughate

India



Gender in Context

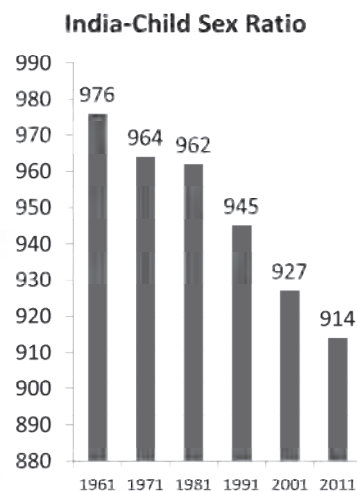
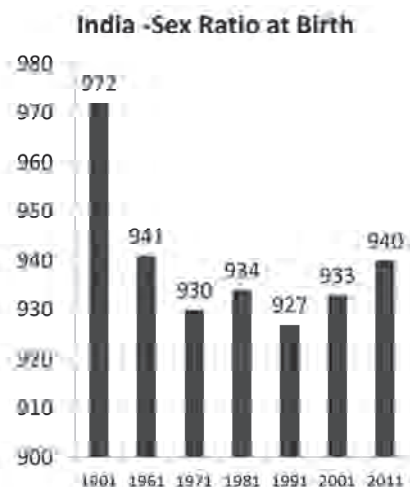
- India is a predominant patriarchal society with hegemonic norms around gender roles, socialization of men and women and rigid expectations from each gender.
- India has in recent years witnessed rapid economic growth with concomitant rise in urbanization and shifts in values and norms relating to marriage, relationship and women's status in particular.
- Yet we contradictory trends.

For eg Khap Panchyat

3

Country Profile contd

India is home to 1210 million people; of which women are approx 587 million



Source: www.censusindia.gov.in/

4

2. Gender Equality Policy

- Creating a suitable environment for women through positive economic and social policies .
- The *de-facto* enjoyment by women of all human rights and fundamental freedom in all spheres – political, economic, social, cultural and civil
- Equal access to participation and decision making
- Equal access for women to health care, education, career and vocational guidance, employment, social security and public office etc.
- Strengthening legal systems –elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girl child
- Changing societal attitudes and community practices
- Mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development process
- Building and strengthening partnerships within civil society

5

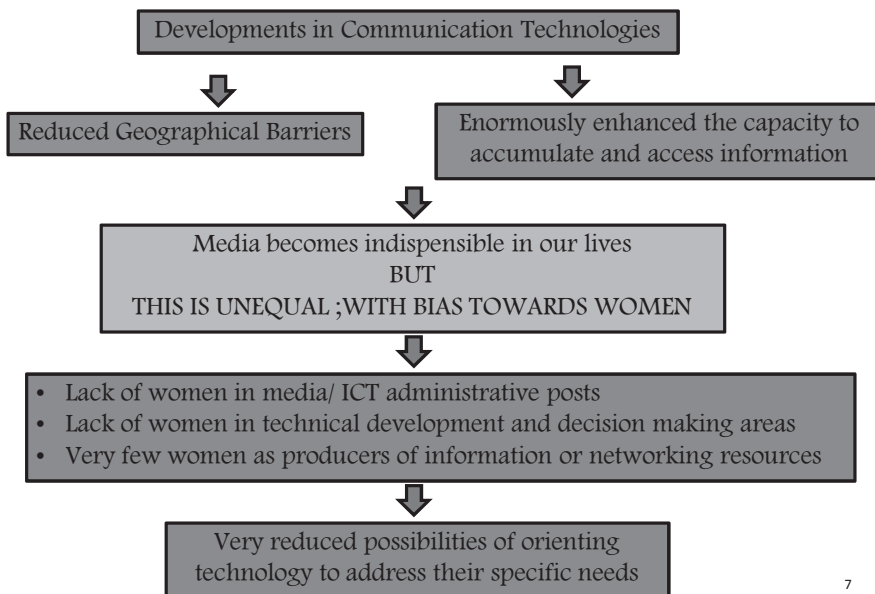
3. Current Situation of Gender Equality in the county

- India is home to more than 1.2 billion people (women make up almost a half (48.4%))
- Life expectancy for women is 62.7 yr as compared to 61yr in men
- Literacy Rate for women is 65.5% while for men it is 82.1%
- The Gross Enrolment Rate for Sec and Higher Sec School is 41.4%
- In 2009–10 Universities had 41.4% students as girls
- Women make up 25–30% of the workforce in the rural and 15–18% in the urban settings.
- Representation of women in *Village Panchayats* is 37%
- India ranked 111th with 62 women parliamentarians sitting in the Lok Sabha, a small 11.4 per cent of the total 545 MPs**

Source: www.censusindia.gov.in/

6

4. Overview of ICTs • Media and Gender in the country



Overview contd

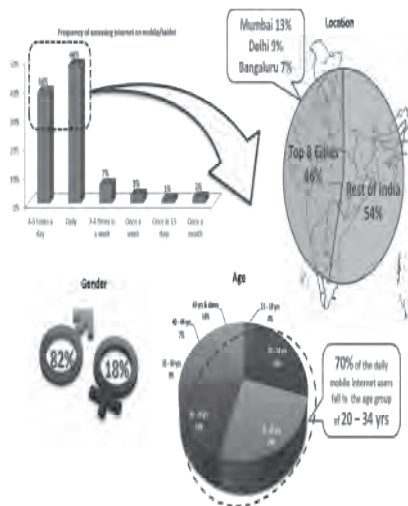
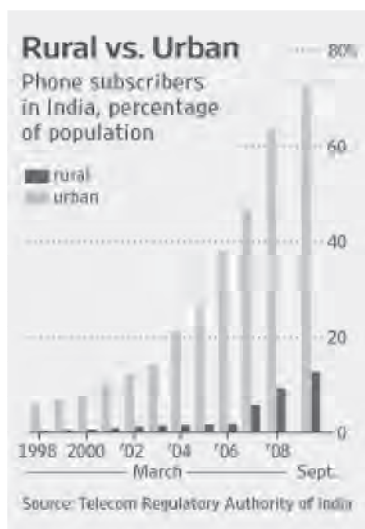
- ICT industry has contributed to India's economic growth
ICT sector's contribution to India's GDP grew from 3.4 % in 2000–01 to 5.9% percent in 2007–2008
- Number of phone users in India is high
63.2% of homes have a telephone and 53.2% have a mobile phone.
- Disparity in access to computers and internet (urban and rural)
Just 6.3% of households owned a computer without Internet connections.
3.1% of households had a computer and Internet access.
8.7% of urban households own computers with Internet access compared with just 0.7% of rural households.
- Media (usage of print/television/radio)
47.2% households —television sets, only 19.9% use radios
- Television is preferred source of information for most

8

- Recent survey by GSMA Development Fund and the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women provides a gendered breakdown of mobile phones users and owners in India (GSMA and Cherie Blair Foundation for Women (2010))
- Only 28 percent of women own a mobile phone compared to 40 percent of men.
- Another 20 percent of females were found to be “borrowers” of mobile phones through family or friends.
- Access and use among women still favors those with higher education and income levels, as well as those who live in urban areas.

9

Urban-rural Disparity In Access To ICT-data



10

ICTs, Gender and Development

- E-governance
focus on establishing one-stop-shop for people to access government schemes/documents/certificate, file complaints etc.
- Economic empowerment
ICT as an industry and as a tool
- Health
ICTs used to remind women of vaccination schedules, disseminate information on health
- ICT for women's safety
very recently, new mobile apps have been launched for safety of women

11

5. Case Analysis



Mobile Kunji

- An AV job aid designed for front-line health workers (FLHWs).
- The 40 phone-sized cards are illustrated with key messages on family health and planning, pregnancy and postnatal care for children up to two years of age.
- Each card has a unique seven-digit mobile short code that can be dialled on the FLHW's mobile phone.
- Partnership between a State government, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and BBC Media Action (India).
- 89,171 users have accessed 21, 32,420 minutes of information since the start in 2012.
- 200,000 health workers have been trained on the mobile application
- Enhanced interpersonal communication has resulted to improve the quality of home visits (plan to scale up by 2015)

12

5. Case Analysis contd

Kilkari

- Phone call to registered mothers as a family timeline service
- Automated IVR calls sent as a pre-recorded call made to the registered phone of families who have subscribed to it.
- Provides time sensitive information related to pregnancy, child birth and child care.
- Used as a pilot in a state in India

Mobile Academy

- Place to train FLHW to deliver life saving information to millions of families
- IVR based Certificate programme providing voice lectures and quizzes over 190 minutes for knowledge enhancement
- More than 39,000 workers trained till now
- Being piloted

13

6. Best Practices : to enhance inclusion of women and girls in information society (by MoHFW, India)

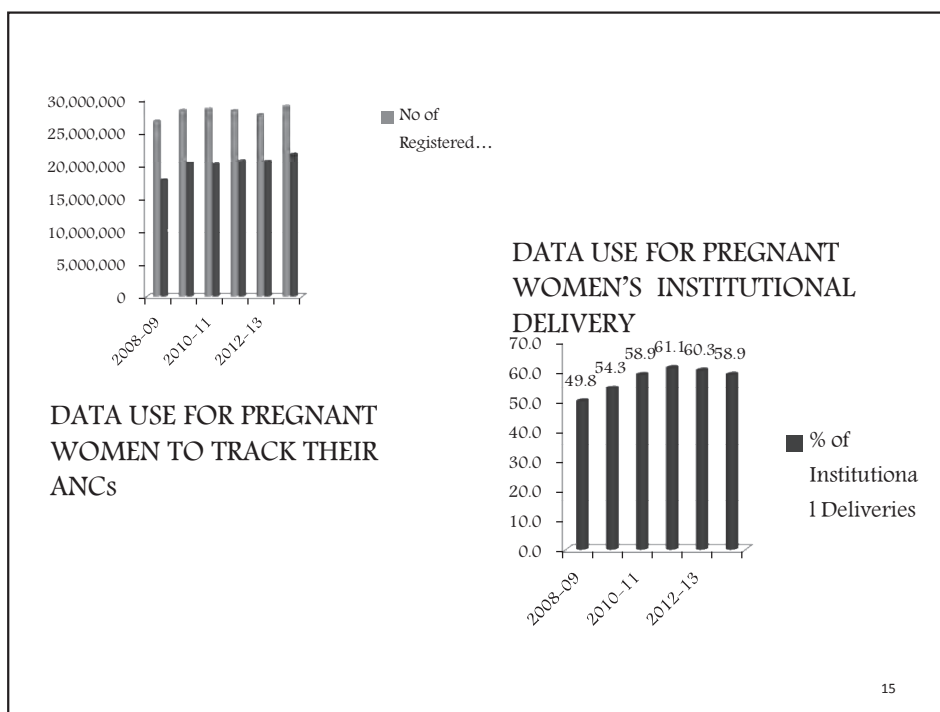
I. Mother and Child Tracking System (MCTS)

- Captures information on and track all pregnant women and children (0-5 Years) so that they receive 'full' MCH Services
- 2,18,22,364 pregnant women and 1,80,67,874 children were registered in MCTS during 2013-2014 as on June, 2014(73 % & 67% against estimated number)
- ANMs upload this service delivery data in near real-time

II. Health Management Information System (HMIS)

- To monitor and evaluate the impact of the various health programmes and interventions being run in all states.
- Capture facility-level statistics/details on health indicators and health facilities for M&E of the impact of initiatives under NHM
- Has analytical and reporting capabilities soon to be along with GIS Integration
- Gender/ age wise data can be enumerated for planning purposes.

14



ICT: Media and gender-India

- Portrayal of women in news (Global Media Monitoring Project, 2010)

In India women constitute only 22% of the news subjects across all topic categories.

In India women account for only 18% of the subjects in political stories and an abysmally low 10% in stories relating to the economy.

Only 5% of the news stories highlighted gender equality /inequality.

- Portrayal of women in television ads and programs.

sexist images combined with ideal 'Naari' -dedication to husband and family and children

Women and girls are expected to perform equally well with men in the office and work spaces and yet continue to excel in their ideal woman's role that looks after the children, husbands and families.

7. Major Obstacles to reduce gender gaps in access to ICTs and to overcome gender-bias in the media

- Lack of a clear National policy for promoting ICT for women's development.
- Poor ICT infrastructure, lack of electricity in many remote, far-flung areas, and frequent power cuts.
- Poor literacy among women and inadequate computer skills
- Unaffordable costs of computer hardware and software, maintenance and connectivity.
- Little awareness of the full range of opportunities offered by ICT other than access to information
- Limited online information in vernacular languages.

17

Obstacles contd

- Women seen merely as consumers of media and ICTs
- Market driven motives
- New gender norms to be created and supported by greater engagement of men and boys.
- Inefficient telephone services along with absence of favourable bandwidth and connectivity for smooth operation
- Financial powers do not wrest with women usually nor can she decide for herself.

18

Conclusion & Policy Recommendations

- ICT can influence changes and restructure the prevailing power equations both in and out of family.
- Government of India is running schemes in the various ministries to empower women and girls by providing them trainings in the field of technology and supporting them through their ventures.
- Computer labs are set up in senior secondary schools and colleges to provide free IT education to girls.
- Schemes provide subsidized or free trainings to girls and even provide financial incentives for completion of course and establish them with low or no interest loans from cooperative societies and banks.

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Conclusion & Policy Recommendations

- Creating an enabling environment for women to support and encourage strategies which promote equal access to and opportunity to benefit from ICT projects
- Developing content which speaks to women's concerns and reflects their local knowledge, and is of value in their daily lives, business enterprises, or family responsibilities
- Promoting increased employment and representation in the IT sector for women and the use of ICTs for women's SMEs
- Institution of scholarships and awards, with incentives, to promote the enrolment of girls and women in ICT programmes.

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Conclusion & Policy Recommendations

For social development and gender equality changes must take place in a context which consists of following components:

- Implementing e-governance strategies which are accessible to women; and promoting women's lobbying and advocacy activities.

- Need for continuous surveillance of media to monitor harmful effects of stereotypical portrayal of women

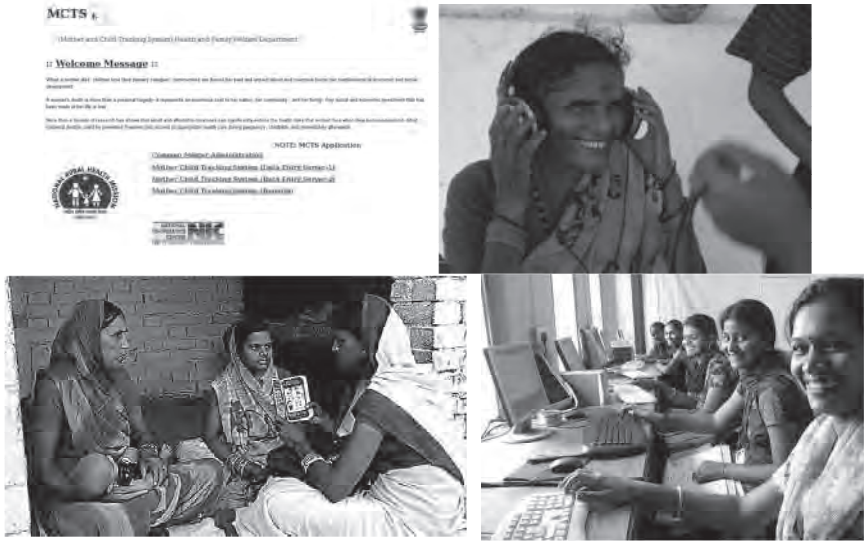
- Programs and policies need to critically examine whether ...

Use of ICT to empowerment seeks to serve 'market needs' of consumption or

Are ICT and media used to reinforce gender stereotypes of

Are ICT and media are transforming and challenging gender norms

21



MCTS
Mother and Child Training System (Parent and Family Support)

Welcome Message

What a wonderful day! Welcome to the MCTS (Mother and Child Training System) (Parent and Family Support) program. This program is designed to provide you with the necessary skills and knowledge to support your child's development and growth. We are excited to have you as a participant and we look forward to working with you throughout the program.

It is important to note that this program is designed to be a supportive and collaborative environment. We encourage you to share your experiences and knowledge with the other participants and to learn from them. We also encourage you to ask questions and seek clarification as needed.

We hope that this program will provide you with the necessary skills and knowledge to support your child's development and growth. We are excited to have you as a participant and we look forward to working with you throughout the program.

NOTE: MCTS Application

Comments/Feedback/Addressed to:
Mother: CHAIR, District Training, District, District, District
Mother: District, District, District, District, District, District
Mother: District, District, District, District, District, District

THANK YOU

22

Chapter 4 Report from the Philippines

1. Introduction: Country Profile of Gender and ICT

With a population of more than 92 million,¹ the Philippines is the second most populated country in Southeast Asia, the 7th in Asia, and the 12th in the world. There is almost parity of sex ratio – men at 51% and women at 49%. Life expectancy at birth is higher for women at 73.1 years compared to 67.6 years for men. The Philippines has a basic literacy rate of 96.1 % for women and 95.1 % for men. Women have a 49.7 percent labor participation rate compared to men's 78.3%. Women occupy 18.4% of elective posts in the country.² It has had two women Presidents and at present has a woman Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. In 2013, the Philippines ranked 114 in the Human Development Index.

The last few years has seen the development of technology. Information and communications technology (ICT) have started to play a big role in many countries, including the Philippines. The proliferation of ICTs is transforming various aspects of our lives, including our culture, and Filipinos have adapted and embraced its various uses.

The telephone has changed the way people communicate, but with the advent of mobile phones, more Filipinos found a better way of communicating. According to the Philippines' National Telecommunications Office, telephone subscription grew by 8.4 per cent in 2006 compared to 33.6 per cent in cellular phone subscription. Today, more than 100 million Filipinos have access to mobile phones.³ Ten per cent of global short messaging system (SMS) traffic is from the Philippines, with the average Filipino sending about 600 text messages in a month, according to studies conducted by various agencies.⁴ It is no wonder therefore that the Philippines is called the texting capital of the world. Recently, the Philippines has also been tagged as the “selfie” capital of the world, because of the volume of selfies being shared by Filipinos.

¹ Per 2010 population census. In NSCB Fact Sheet in <http://www.nscb.gov.ph/gender/FS%20on%20WAM%2018mar2013.pdf>

² NSCB Fact Sheet, 2013

³ 2012 State of Broadband

⁴ 2009 researches conducted by Reuters, Portio research, NY Times, CTIA.org

When the Internet was introduced in the Philippines in 1994, there were only about 4,000 users.⁵ This has steadily grown and by the year 2000, some 2 million Filipinos were said to have accessed the Internet.⁶ This figure grew to 7.8 million by 2005,⁷ and today, the Information and Communications Office (ICTO) reports that 35 per cent of the population or about 33 million Filipinos have access to the Internet.⁸ Latest figures from the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) show that Internet penetration has reached 41% or roughly 44,000,000.⁹ Although a large portion of the population has not yet accessed the Internet, those who do, use the Internet in their work, in school, to do research, and to communicate with other people.

The Philippines is in the top 20 countries with the highest number of Internet users in the world. According to the 2013 South East Asia (SEA) Digital Future in Focus, the Philippines has the highest social network access among SEA countries.¹⁰ The top social network preferred by the Filipinos is Facebook (FB), with 92 per cent of the social network users having an FB account. This is followed by Twitter, Tumblr, and LinkedIn. The same study also said that males spend more time online, although when it comes to using social networks, the women are more active.

Young people are the biggest consumers of ICTs. According to a study by comScore in 2013, 71% of the online population in the Philippines falls under the age group 15-34 years old.¹¹ Data from the 2013 Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality (YAFS) survey corroborate the comScore study. According to the YAFS survey, 6 in 10 young people aged 15-24 years old are regular internet users, and that more than half have social network and email account, and 78 percent have mobile phones.¹² On the average, they spend 6 hours a

⁵ In www.itu.int

⁶ Ibid

⁷ CI Almanac

⁸ Statement of DOST Undersecretary Louis Casambre on internet penetration in the Philippines. In <http://www.philstar.com/business/2013/02/02/903770/internet-penetration-rises-35>

⁹ <http://www.internetworldstats.com/stats3.htm>

¹⁰ In comScore.com

¹¹ comScore Media Users, March 2013.

¹² Findings are based on a national survey of about 17,000 young adults for the 2013 Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality survey conducted by the University of the Philippines Population Institute.

week online, some logging in as much as 35 hours of internet use. Females, the younger youth and those from economically better off regions show higher social media consumption than males, older youth and those coming from poorer regions.

As subjects of news, women fare low. According to the 2010 Global Media Monitoring project (GMMP) Philippine findings on news subjects, 31% are women and 69% are men. 76% of stories reinforce stereotypes, while only 18% challenge stereotypes and only 8% highlight issues of gender inequality.¹³ This just shows that women are virtually invisible in the news. The Internet, in many ways, has replaced traditional source of news, but the way women are portrayed and talked about in the news have remained almost the same in the online world.

In terms of employment in media, findings from the International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF) Global Report on the Status of Women in the News and media (2008-2010) shows that in the Philippines men outnumber women in media management. In middle management, half are women, 34.5% are in top level management, and 10.3% are board members.

Business process outsourcing (BPO) in the Philippines grew as a result of developments and demands in ICT. It is a growing industry. In 2010, BPO activities have generated almost 213,000 employment. Bulk of the jobs were in call centers which employed more than three fourths of the total BPO workforce. It is followed by data processing, and computer programming activities.¹⁴

More than half of the total workforces were female workers (54.9%). They were mostly engaged in data processing, application hosting services, customer relationship management activities, and medical transcription activities.

In special economic zones,¹⁵ that host industries mainly for export, the proportion of women working is much higher than the over-all female labor force participation rate. 64

¹³ See pages.cmns.sfu.ca/Kathleen-cross/files/2010/11/GMMP-global.pdf

¹⁴ 2010 Annual Survey of Philippine Business and Industry (ASPBI)

¹⁵ Philippine economic zones (ecozones) are collections of industries, brought together geographically for the purpose of promoting economic development. These ecozones

percent of the 660,600 workers employed in ecozones are female, and this percentage is higher in certain industries such as electronics.¹⁶

Government media institutions are active partners in advocacy against negative portrayal of women in media. Since May 2009, the Bureau of Broadcast Services, in partnership with PCW has been airing the weekly interactive radio program, “*Tinig Ng Kababaihan!*” (Women’s Voices!) to raise public awareness on government’s efforts to promote gender equality and uphold women’s human rights, including those guaranteed under the UN CEDAW. Several media agencies have developed and produced IEC materials on anti-VAW related laws in comics, pamphlets, brochures and flyers; and conducted orientation/briefing on various gender and development topics, including but not limited to gender fair media practice and the Anti-Violence against Women and their Children Act.

Other government agencies have also been supporting advocacy efforts. The Tourism Promotions Board (TPB) directed its advertising agencies to produce marketing campaigns and promotional products that are gender sensitive and do not portray discrimination against either men or women in text or visual renditions. The directive stressed that under no circumstances should these materials promote (implicitly or explicitly) sex tourism or the commodification of women. The National Council for Children’s Television also conducted two dialogues in December 2009 and May 2010 to promote a child-friendly culture, correct the discriminatory portrayal of women and men in certain situations, among others. The local government unit of Quezon City, with the initiative of its City Mayor and its GAD Resource Coordinating Office and through its City Council passed a resolution providing funds for a yearly Gender and Development (GAD) Award for the Most Gender-Sensitive Film submitted to the Metro Manila Film Festival.

2. Policies and Laws on Gender and ICTs

were established through Republic Act No. 7916, otherwise known as "The Special Economic Zone Act of 1995" as amended by Republic Act No. 8748

¹⁶ In Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Gender and Development survey 2009 in Fostering Women’s Economic Empowerment through Special Economic Zones, 2011. Available in <http://herproject.org/download/sez-and-women-global.pdf>

The Constitution of the Philippines says that “The State recognizes the role of women in nation-building and shall ensure the fundamental equality before the law of women and men (Art. II, Sec. 14).” The country in fact, ranks high when it comes to gender equality.¹⁷ It has signed several human rights conventions, and has ratified the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1980. In 2012, Republic Act (RA) 9710, otherwise known as the Magna Carta of Women was passed into law. This is the local translation of CEDAW in the country. Under the Office of the President is the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), formerly known as the National Council on the Role of Filipino Women, the primary policy-making and coordinating body of the women and gender equality concerns.

Republic Act 9710 provides for the “non-discriminatory and non-derogatory portrayal of women in media and film. Its Implementing rules and regulations (IRR) called on the Philippine Commission on Women and the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) to form the Media and Gender Equality Committee (GEC). A milestone in the advocacy in eliminating gender stereotyping of women in media, the MGEC is composed of the Office of the Press Secretary, Philippine Commission on Women, and various self-regulatory bodies and the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB), Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP), Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP), Optical Media Board (OMB), from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), and representatives from women’s media NGOs. The Committee produced the Code of Ethics for Media, Gender Equality Guidelines, and Media Guidelines to Protect Women against Discrimination in Media and Film, which were launched in March 2013 for government media, self-regulatory bodies, schools of journalism, information and communication, and national federations and associations to make media more gender sensitive while respecting media’s self-regulation. The Executive Secretary of the President also issued a Memorandum Circular (2013) “directing all concerned government agencies to adopt the gender equality guidelines in the development of their respective media policies and implementing programs in order to promote gender mainstreaming.”

¹⁷ In 2013, the Philippines ranked number 5 among 136 countries in the Global Gender Equality Gap, and number 9 among 142 countries for 2014.

In 2012, MGEC launched three books for media – the Code of Ethics for Media (Book 1); Guidelines to Protect Women from Discrimination in Media and Film (Book 2); and Gender Equality Guide (Book 3).

In 2011, the Philippines came up with a Philippine Digital Strategy (PDS), to build a citizenry that is not just knowledgeable in ICT but adept in it, as it positions itself at the forefront of the digital revolution.¹⁸ There is a need to review the PDS though, considering that cross cutting issues such as gender and ICT have not been seriously considered.

Other than the PDS, there are specific laws that have been passed, in relation to ICT. The more relevant ones that consider women and children issues include the following:

1. The Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2009 (RA 9775) extensively recognizes the role of ICT in the production, advertising and promotion, sale and distribution, purchase and access (even for personal use) of pornographic materials, albeit only where the pornography involves children, and punishes those responsible for these acts.

This law considers a *child* as a “computer-generated, digitally or manually crafted images or graphics of a person who is represented or who is made to appear to be a child” [Section 3(a)(2)]. The age of the person is immaterial, so long as he/she is presented, depicted or believed to be a child as defined by the law [Section 3(a)(1)].

The law penalizes *child pornography*“ as “any public *or private* representation, by whatever means, of a child engaged in real *or simulated* explicit sexual activities *or any representation* of the sexual parts of a child for primarily sexual purposes: [Section 3(b)]; Child pornography materials may be in the form of visual depiction, audio representation (including real-time internet communications), or written text [Section 3(c)].

2. RA 9995 or the Anti-photo and video voyeurism act of 2009 defines photo or video voyeurism as the “act of taking photo or video coverage of a person or group of persons performing sexual act or any similar activity or of capturing an image of the private area of a person or persons without the latter’s consent. It also includes the act of selling, copying, reproducing, broadcasting, sharing, showing or exhibiting the photo or video coverage or recordings of such sexual act or similar activity through

¹⁸ Philippine Digital Strategy, 2011-2016

VCD, DVD, internet, cellular phones and similar means or device without the written consent of the persons involved.

3. RA 10173 or the Data Privacy act was passed in 2012 to safeguard and protect individual and personal information in information and communication system in the government and the private sector. Under this Act, the data subject has the right to know if their personal information is being processed, and how it is being used. Those processing the information must also ensure that security measures are in place to protect the information that they process.
4. In 2012, RA 10175 or the Anti-cybercrime was passed with the aim to prevent and combat crimes occurring in cyber space. The law defines and punishes certain acts, generally classified as:

(a) Offenses against the confidentiality, integrity and availability of computer data and systems; (b) Computer-related Offenses; and (c) Content-related Offenses. The said law, passed in 2012, is at present under temporary restraining order following complaints by groups with the Supreme Court of its unconstitutionality.

Last year, just a few days after RA 10175 was signed into law, the Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order after fifteen (15) petitions to stop its implementation were filed by journalists, civil society groups, non-government organizations, and even several congressmen and one senator (see sc.judiciary.gov.ph/microsite/cybercrime). The Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), in its consolidated Answer to these complaints, identified in the law a total of 20 provisions being assailed as constitutionally invalid while conceding as constitutionally infirm Section 19, i.e., the “take-down” provision.

Feminist organizations opposed the enactment of the said law. Specifically, they rejected the cybersex provision of the law for its vagueness and overbroadness. In a statement signed by several groups, it said that

While the law presumably addresses sexual violence committed online, which are exploitative and harmful particularly to women, the vagueness and overbroad of cybersex as content-related offense creates a different impact on women, who will be the ones caught up in its wide web and targeted for criminal prosecution.

Moreover, the elements of the crime under the cybersex provision are not well defined, therefore the law poses more harm to women who are usual victims of sexual violence in cyberspace. The law fails to concretely define what constitutes the violation under the cybersex provision of the law. If the intent of the law is to suppress the occurrence of syndicated and exploitative cybersex, the measure may be ineffective as it fails to consider the transnational nature of sexual violence in cyberspace where site owners or operators and the buyers are beyond the jurisdiction of the Philippines.¹⁹

On February 18, 2014, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of most of the provisions of RA 10175, including the cybersex and cyber libel provisions, while the following were voted down as categorically unconstitutional:

- Section 4 (c)(3) which pertains to unsolicited commercial communications
- Section 12 which pertains to real-time collection of traffic data, and
- Section 19 which pertains to restricting or blocking access to computer data²⁰

3. Best Practices

3.1. Gender Mainstreaming Monitoring System (GMMS)

The GMMS is a system for managing the gender and development (GAD) profiles, GAD Plans and accomplishment reports of agencies and local government units (LGUs). It can also help generate related reports.

The system is also intended to be a tool for the technical officers of PCW in the provision of technical assistance to agencies and LGUs. Using the system, technical officers can profile each agency/Local Government Unit (LGU) which includes among others the organizations' vision, mission, description, information available on GAD, including statistics, and other issuances related to GAD. As such, it becomes easier to monitor agency

¹⁹ Delete, Undo, retrieve: Statement on the cybercrime Prevention act of 2012, drafted by the Women's Legal and Human Rights Bureau

²⁰ "Cybercrime law constitutional – Supreme court," in <http://www.rappler.com/nation/special-coverage/cybercrime-law/51197-full-text-supreme-court-decision-cybercrime-law>, accessed on 24 February 2014

and LGU progress in related to gender mainstreaming, as well as monitor government compliance to the Magna Carta of Women, CEDAW, BPfA, and other related instruments.

3.2. VAW Documentation System

The VAW Documentation System (VAW DocS) is a secure web-based documentation system that facilitates and integrates the collection and standardization of information from concerned government agencies and other service providers dealing with VAW. VAW statistics which are systematically gathered can be used to guide national policies, such as lobbying for anti-VAW legislation. Data from the VAW DocS can also be used to gauge the magnitude of the problem which is useful in programming and budgeting as well as improving service provision, i.e. in a locality.

VAW DocS is still in its pilot stage but has shown its potential. When done regularly, it can be used as basis for monitoring the Philippine progress in addressing VAW.

3.3. Mobile Applications for women

With support from the Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID), the PCW launched a contest for college and university students, both from public and private, to develop an Android-based mobile apps based on the Republic Act 9710 or the Magna Carta of Women (MCW). This aims to raise public awareness and popularize the provisions of the MCW and to promote women's empowerment and gender equality. To date, a free application called Magdalena is downloadable at Google Play apps. The said application provides the user with basic background and information on the MCW.

3.4. Take Back the Tech! Campaign

In 2009, the Association of Progressive Media (APC) launched the Take Back the Tech campaign in the Philippines with the Foundation for Media Alternatives as its country partner. The objective of the campaign is the elimination of VAW by using technology, with the end in view of documenting, denouncing and transforming the reality of violence against women in online spaces and those that are perpetuated using various forms of ICT. Women and girls are encouraged to own technology and use it for gender-based activism. The

campaign utilizes the Ushahidi mapping technology²¹, to document cases of ICT-related violence against women and girls. Reports generated through the map are then used as evidences to back up campaigns for policy changes.

In the Philippines, a total of 68 cases of technology-related VAW have been reported in the website ph.takebackthetech.net from late 2012 to October 2014. The most common violation reported is online harassment, followed by the uploading of photos/videos without consent. In fact, of late, there have been frequent reports in media of sex video scandals involving local celebrities.

As part of the campaign, FMA also conducts awareness raising on the issue of technology-related violence against women in schools, as well as in communities in partnership with women's rights organizations and local government units. FMA likewise holds digital story telling workshops with women so that women's stories and experiences are shared. Trainings on secure online communication are also provided to individual and groups of women, to teach them about their rights online and to protect these same rights. Through online spaces, women are also taught how to do campaigns and digital activism.

4. Issues and Challenges

Indeed, ICTs have provided women with a lot of opportunities and benefits. ICTs are powerful tools and platforms for advocacy and organizing. Individuals and women's rights groups utilize various forms of ICT to amplify women's voices and help publicize women's experiences and perspectives, disseminate rights based information, build women's capacity and promote gender equality through networking and advocacy.²² But despite the gains, there are still issues and challenges that the country has to address, in relation to gender and ICTs. These include the following:

In media, whether it be in print, photos, television and radio programs, advertisements and films, women are still stereotyped and at worst, they are portrayed in

²¹ The Ushahidi technology is an open source project that allows users to crowd-source crisis information to be sent via mobile, or online. In www.usshahidi.com

²² AnitaGurumurthy. Gender and ICTs: Overview Report. IDSS, 2004

derogatory ways. There are television advertisements, for instance, that portray women as working mothers and yet when they get home, they are still supposed to cook, take care of the children and the family.

Despite the guidelines developed by the GEC, there remains a low level of awareness and appreciation of media practitioners to the problems related to the negative or inequitable portrayal of women and men. A case in point is when a media personality held a show and trivialized the issue of rape. This has resulted in the MTRCB calling the attention of television shows and conducting gender-sensitivity training among the employees and production staff.

While there had been initiatives to address stereotyping and derogatory portrayal of women in media, there are difficulties in implementing the policies relating to gender issues because of the lack of criteria for gender neutral programming. The absence of structural mechanism to monitor this concern compounds the issue. However, the most alarming emerging gender issue recently is the use of information and communication technology (ICT), specifically the internet, on ICT-related violence and other forms of cyber harassments. These issues call for the establishment of structured criteria for gender fairness in media coupled with the creation of monitoring mechanism on this concern. Sustained interaction and coordination among various government agencies and NGOs and cooperation of private media entities should be promoted to advance this advocacy. Participation of women's group in the formulation, review and enhancements of ICT policies should be ensured.²³

According to a report of the thematic working group on discrimination against women in public spaces in 2013, "The internet has become a site of diverse forms of violence against women, in the form of pornography, sexist games and breaches of privacy."

Below are some of the emerging forms of VAW as a result of technology:

Cyber harassment. This refers to online harassment of women, which includes rape threats, doctored photographs portraying women being strangled, postings of women's home addresses alongside suggestions that they are interested in anonymous sex, and technological

²³ BPfA+20: Philippine Progress Report on the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 2014

attacks that shut down blogs and websites.²⁴ Examples of cyber harassment include threats of sexual violence, doctored photographs of women, postings of women's personal information, technological attacks that shut down feminist blogs and websites, and emails to forward unwanted proposals, to name a few.

Revenge porn. It is a form of sexual assault that involves the distribution of nude/sexually explicit photos and/or videos of an individual without their consent. Sometimes called cyber rape or non-consensual pornography, revenge porn is usually posted by a scorned ex-lover or friend in order to seek revenge after a relationship has gone sour.²⁵

Cyber pornography. This refers to acts of using cyberspace to create, display, distribute, import or publish pornography or obscene materials.

Cyber trafficking. This includes fake online "marriage agencies" or websites advertising non-existent work of study opportunities, as well the commercialization of private home videos.

Technology-related violence against women, although something which many people may consider as trivial because it occurs in 'virtual' or cyber space, is still violence. New forms of VAW violate women's right to privacy, bodily integrity, freedom of association, and freedom of expression. Although the more common experiences relate to psychological harm caused by these new forms of VAW, it is something that can escalate into physical violence.

What differentiates the new forms of VAW from what we know as VAW are the following:²⁶

Anonymity. An abuser may remain anonymous because of digital technology.

Automation. With the use of ICTs, information may be distributed to a large number of people; surveillance or monitoring can be done without too much time and effort.

²⁴ Citron, D. "Law's Expressive Value in combating Cyber Gender Harassment," in *Michigan Law Review*, Vol. 108:373. December 2009.

²⁵ www.endrevengeporn.org

²⁶ APC. *Voices from digital Spaces: Technology-related violence against women*, 2011.

Action at a distance. ICTs allow people to abuse or harass others anywhere in the world.

Affordability. The cost of gadgets and other technological tools have gone down and this has allowed more people to make use of new technology. There are also many free applications and platforms that people share, which they do not have to pay for.

Propagation. Once something has been shared or uploaded in the Internet, it is recorded and easily shared. The propagation of violative texts and images can lead to the re-victimization of women.

We also have to take note of the gender and sexuality issues in relation to ICTs, specifically internet content regulation, monitoring, surveillance and privacy which limit the rights to freedom of expression, information and privacy on the net.

With the emerging new forms of VAW committed through ICT, there is also the need to identify and define ICT-related VAW within national legislations, as well as provide protection and access to justice of women who have been victimized online.

Government says it will address the physical infrastructure to address access and connectivity. Knowing how to use devices is not enough. Women should be taught how to use ICTs strategically for their empowerment, for them to be informed, to avail of opportunities, to learn and to earn. Thus, there is also a need to review the government's digital strategy in order to address issues in relation to women's empowerment through ICTs.

5. Policy Recommendations

Based on the above, the following are our policy recommendations:

- Need to have sex-disaggregated data especially those coming from government agencies. While the MCW stipulates this, there is a need to monitor its implementation.
- Intensify monitoring of the implementation and compliance of the Gender Equality Guidelines as well as women-related laws especially those that perpetuate VAW through ICTs (R.A. 995, R.A. 9775)

- Media practitioners need to be capacitated to use gender sensitive language and images in print, photos, television and radio programs, advertisements and films.
- Women should be represented in all decision-making structures in the ICT sector in order to push for decisions and innovative projects, policies and standards in the ICT sector that will help empower women.
- Need to increase the level of understanding and awareness of the opportunities that ICTs could provide for women as this will be one of the ways in bridging the gender digital divide and towards transforming it into digital opportunity. Infrastructure development is needed to address the digital divide, and corollary, the gender divide
- Education and human resource development to promote ICT awareness
- Inclusion of women's rights perspective for the development of internet and ICT policies; direct participation of women in the development of the policy where the needs of the poor and the marginalized are heard.
- Ensure women's access to justice, not just offline but also online, by not merely focusing on protectionism and criminalization but through concrete programs to prevent VAW in cyberspace.



FY 2014 Seminar for Gender Equality Officers and Women Leaders in the Asia Pacific Region

Philippines Country Report

Vichel Rse E. Juguilon
Philippine Commission on Women (PCW)
&
Liza S. Garcia
Foundation for Media Alternatives (FMA)

1. Country Overview

- ☐ Consists of 7,107 islands
- ☐ Capital city is Manila
- ☐ Approximately 300,000 square kilometers (115,831 sq mi) and the 64th largest country in the world.
- ☐ With a population of at least 99 million people, the Philippines is the 2nd most populated country in South East Asia, 7th in Asia and the 12th in the world.
- ☐ GDP: US\$250.2 B (World Bank, 2012)
GDP per capita: US\$2,587
Poverty line (% of pop'n): 25.2%
Unemployment rate: 7.2%
- ☐ Human Development Index: 114 (UNDP, 2013)



2. Gender Equality Policy

- “The State recognizes the role of women in nation building and shall ensure the fundamental equality before the law of women and men.” (Art. II, Sec. 14 of the Philippine Constitution)
- Ratified the United Nations *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)* in 1980
- Passed into law **RA 9710**, otherwise known as “*The Magna Carta of Women*” which is the local translation of CEDAW
 - *Philippine Commission on Women* is the primary policy-making and coordinating body of the women and gender equality concerns under the Office of the President



3

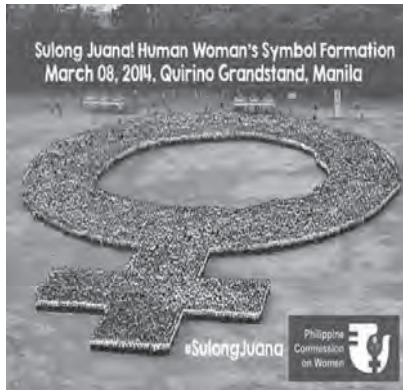
2. Gender Equality Policy

Aside from RA 9710, the Philippines is implementing the following laws:

- RA 7192- Women in Nation Building and Development Act (1992)
- RA 7877- Anti-Sexual Harassment Act (1995)
- RA 8353 and 8505- Anti-Rape Law (1997) and Rape Victim Assistance and Protection Act (1998)
- RA 9262- Anti-Violence against Women and their Children Act (2004)
- RA 9775 - Anti-Child Pornography Act (2009)
- RA 9995 – Anti Photo and Video Voyeurism Act (2012)
- RA 10354-Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act (2012)
- RA 10364- Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act (2012)
- RA 10398-National VAW Consciousness Day for the Elimination of VAW (2013)

4

3. Current Situation of Gender Equality in the county (statistics and salient features)



- ❑ In the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2013, the Philippines ranked 5th out of 136 countries, making it the only Asian country to enter in the top ten since 2006.
- ❑ The Philippines ranks number 8 in the list of "Best Countries for Women to Live In" and is also dubbed as "The Best Place in Asia for Women"

5

3. Current Situation of Gender Equality in the county (statistics and salient features)

- ❑ The Philippines also had 2 women Presidents and women now hold the following positions: Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Secretary of Justice, Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, Commissioner of Audit and Commissioner of Internal Revenue



6

3. Current Situation of Gender Equality in the county (statistics and salient features)

Indicator	Women	Men
Functional Literacy Rate (%) (10-64 years old)	88.7	84.2
Basic Literacy Rate (%) (10 years and over)	96.1	95.1
Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100,000 live births)	221	-
Life Expectancy at Birth	73.2	67.6
Labor Force Participation Rate (%)	49.8	78.1
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.9	6.8
Proportion of Occupied Elective Positions (%)	20.0	80.0

7

4. Overview of ICTs in the Philippines

- Internet penetration (2013): 33.6m of population (based on 2012 est. of 92.3m)
- Penetration based on age
 - 15-24 years old (40%)
 - 25-34 years old (31%)
 - 35-44 years old (16%)
 - 45-54 years old (9%)

8

4. Overview of ICTs in the Philippines

- Female share of the Internet population: 49% (ComScore, 2013)
- Women spend an average of 15.6 hours per month on the internet. They are likely to visit sites that relate to family, home and retail
- FB usage: 92.2%
 - F : 51.9%; M : 48.1 (2010)

9

4. Overview of ICTs - Media and Gender in the country

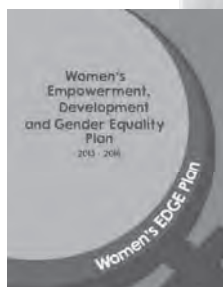


Indicator	♀	♂
Own a cellular phone	81.0	76.0
Use the internet	61.0	57.0
Have an email account	55.0	49.0
Have a social networking account	56.0	50.0

10

4. Overview of ICTs - Media and Gender in the country

- Magna Carta of Women Section 19 provides for Non-discriminatory and Non-Derogatory Portrayal of Women in Media and Film
- Gender Equality Guidelines: Guidelines to Protect Women against Discrimination in Media and Film, and Code of Ethics for Media was formulated by the Media and Gender Equality Committee (MGEC)
- The Women's EDGE Plan 2013–2016 seeks to address the persistent negative portrayal of women in popular media, especially in film, television, print, and Internet sites.



11

5. Case Analysis: PCW

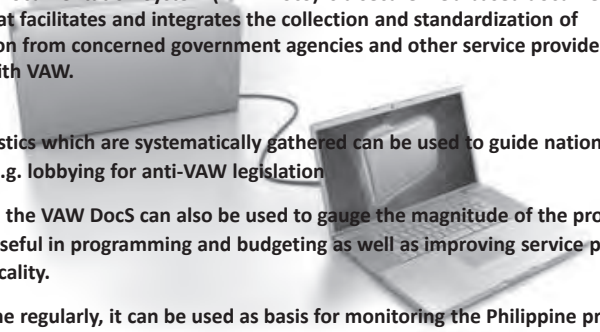
VAW Documentation System (VAW DocS)

The VAW Documentation System (VAW DocS) is a secure web-based documentation system that facilitates and integrates the collection and standardization of information from concerned government agencies and other service providers dealing with VAW.

VAW statistics which are systematically gathered can be used to guide national policies; e.g. lobbying for anti-VAW legislation

Data from the VAW DocS can also be used to gauge the magnitude of the problem which is useful in programming and budgeting as well as improving service provision, i.e. in a locality.

When done regularly, it can be used as basis for monitoring the Philippine progress in addressing VAW



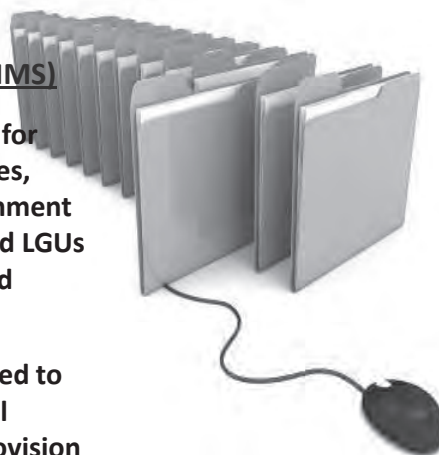
12

5. Case Analysis: PCW

Gender Mainstreaming Monitoring System (GMMS)

The GMMS is the system for managing the GAD profiles, GAD plan and accomplishment report of the agencies and LGUs and for generating related reports.

The system is also intended to be a tool for the technical officers of PCW in the provision of technical assistance to agencies and LGUs.



13

5. Case Analysis: PCW

Gender Mainstreaming Monitoring System

- Profile each agency/Local Government Unit (LGU) which includes among others the organizations vision, mission, description, information available on GAD, including statistics, issuances related to GAD, etc.
- Manage the GAD Plan/ AR submission of each agency and its bureaus, regional offices and attached agencies, and LGUs
- Monitor agency/ LGU progress in gender mainstreaming ;
- Monitor government compliance to the Magna Carta of Women, CEDAW, BPfA, etc;
- Generate related reports.

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5. Case Analysis: FMA

TECHNOLOGY AS A SPACE FOR EMPOWERMENT



Take Back the Tech! campaign

- Calls on all ICT users, esp. women and girls, to take control of technology and strategically use any ICT platform at hand for **ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**



6. Best Practices : How to make media gender-responsive and to enhance inclusion of women and girls in information society

GENDER EQUALITY GUIDELINES

Launched by the Gender Equality Committee (GEC) for Media, this kit contains three books which are: Code of Ethics for Media (Book 1); Guidelines to Protect Women from Discrimination in Media and Film (Book 2); and Gender Equality Guide (Book 3).



6. Best Practices : How to make media gender-responsive and to enhance inclusion of women and girls in information society



MCW Mobile Application

A contest for college and university students both public and private with support from the Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID) to develop an Android-based mobile apps based on the Republic Act 9710 or the Magna Carta of Women (MCW).

This aims to raise public awareness and popularize the provisions of the MCW and to promote women's empowerment and gender equality.

19

7. Major Obstacles to overcome gender-bias in the media



Stereotyping of women in media may it be in print, photos, television and radio programs, advertisements and films is still pervasive.



Low level of awareness and appreciation of media practitioners to the problems related to the negative or inequitable portrayal of women and men



The Internet as a means to perpetuate violence against women is of increasing concern. It is utilized to accelerate the sexual exploitation of women and children.

20

7. Major Obstacles to reduce gender gaps in access to ICTs



Physical infrastructure, connectivity



Lack of access and skills



Gender-blind ICT policy, and there is no clear direction on how to address ICT gender-related issues

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7. Major Obstacles to reduce gender gaps in access to ICTs



Gender and sexuality issues in relation to ICT, specifically internet content regulation, monitoring, surveillance, and privacy which limit the rights to freedom of expression, information and privacy on the net



Identifying and defining ICT-related VAW within national legislations, in clarifying issues of jurisdiction and in terms of providing protection for women against these forms violence.

22

8. Conclusion and Policy Recommendations



Intensify monitoring of the implementation and compliance of the Gender Equality Guidelines as well as women-related laws especially those that perpetuate VAW through ICTs (R.A. 995, R.A. 9775)



Media practitioners need to be capacitated to use gender sensitive language and images in print, photos, television and radio programs, advertisements and films.



Women should be represented in all decision-making structures in the ICT sector in order to push for decisions and innovative projects, policies and standards in the ICT sector that will help empower women.

23

8. Conclusion and Policy Recommendations



Need to increase the level of understanding and awareness of the opportunities that ICTs could provide for women as this will be one of the ways in bridging the gender digital divide and towards transforming it into digital opportunity.



Infrastructure development to address the digital divide, and corollarily the gender divide



Education and human resource development to promote ICT awareness

24

8. Conclusion and Policy Recommendations



on of women's rights perspective for the development of Internet and ICT policies; direct participation of women in development of the policy where the needs of the poor and the marginalized are heard.

Ensure women's access to justice, not just offline but also



by not merely focusing on protectionism and criminalization but through concrete programs to prevent violence in cyberspace.

25

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SALAMAT PO!

Philippine
Commission
on Women



*“National Machinery for the Advancement of
Women”*

www.pcw.gov.ph

facebook.com/philippine.commission.on.women

Twitter: @PCWgovph



Foundation for Media Alternatives

www.fma.ph

facebook.com/takebackthetechPH

Chapter 5 Report from Thailand

1. Introduction: Country Picture of Gender in ICT Era

Thailand is a country at the center of the Indochina peninsula in Southeast Asia, with the population around 64 million people (male 31 million; women 33 million).¹ Thailand was ranked by Gender Inequality Index (GII) in No.66 (0.36), because of the proportion of women's participation in the politics was still lower than the mean of GII, and in No.103 (0.69) of Human Development Index (HDI).

Computer and Internet Skill

In 2014, Survey of the use of information technology and communication (household) of the National Statistical Office found that computer and internet skills of population in 6 years and above have increased consistently. Women with computer and Internet skills were 26.6%, 29.1% and 34.9% in 2012, 2013 and 2014, respectively, compared to 26.3%, 28.8% and 34.9%, respectively for men over the same period. Computer users were 23.8 million people or 38.2%, internet users were 21.7 million people or 34.9%, and mobile users were 48.1 million people or 77.2%. Computer user steadily increased from 30.9 to 38.2 in 2010-2014, internet user increased from 22.4 to 34.9 in 2010-2014 and mobile user from 61.8 to 77.2 in 2010-2014.

Bangkok had the highest computer user rate, followed by the Central. Computer, Internet and Mobile user among women were approximate to men in almost every year from 2010 to 2014. The proportion of men's Internet user increased from 21.9 to 34.9 and women's Internet user increased from 22.8 to 34.9.²

ICT is still very much the men's world.

The working in ICT sector are classified as high-skilled, e.g. computing and computer associate professionals, optical and electronic equipment operators, and low-skilled, e.g. electrical and electronic equipment mechanics and fitters. Despite women's ICT skills,

¹ Prediction of Thai population as of the middle of the year 2014

² National Statistical Office: The Survey of Use of information and Communication Technology in Household, 2014

they constituted a small part of the ICT workforce, especially in the low-skilled group. In the high-skilled group, women accounted for only half of men.³

2. Policies and laws on ICTs

2.1. Policies on Women

After Thailand was a member of the global community and has been committed to the international agreements on women and the promotion of gender equality, such as the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) that ratified in 1985 and the 2000 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and MDGs Plus (MDGs+) and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPFA). These agreements also had the goal to advance of gender equality concerns of women and emphasized gender mainstreaming.

The Thai government has taken actions to implement relevant international obligations through collaborative efforts of government agencies, by attached to mainstreaming gender in national policies and coordinated with other organizations. This is the mainstreaming gender in national policies in the following sections:

2.1.a. The Women's Development Plan under the National Economic and Social Development Plan

Thailand has incorporated women and gender issues into 5 years National Economic and Social development plans, through the Women's Development Plans, starting from the 3rd National Development Plan (1972-1976).

In the present, Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development (OWF) is implementing the Women's Development Plan during the 11th under the National Economic and Social Development Plan (2012-2016).

The principle aim of this plan is promoting the right attitudes, as well as to adjust negative traditional attitudes towards women in Thai society. There are also 5 strategies to capacity building of women, including:

³ National Statistical Office and the Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development, on the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP Thailand): Gender Development: Similarities and Differences, 2008

- To promote and establish of positive attitudes on gender equality : Recognizing the roles of family, schools and the media in cultivating the right attitudes towards the issue of gender equality, this strategy aims at promoting knowledge on gender roles, recognition of human dignity, and the importance of gender equality for the creation of balance, healthy and sustainable development among family members as well as through educational courses, programmes and the media, while correcting traditional prejudices regarding women's roles in the family and the society.
- To create justice and fairness between men and women: As the best way to assure that national policies and programmes be truly beneficial for women is to let women be in the position to make decisions, as well as to voice their concerns on matters that affect their way of life and status in the society, this strategy focus on the promotion of women's potentiality to participate in politics and administration. Also, it seeks to distribute equal opportunities among women and men to access resources, public services, and to create appropriate legal mechanisms and measures to support women's participation in politics and administration.
- To improve women's health, sanitation, security and quality of life: Good health enables women to work, And to realizing the best of their potentiality. This strategy, thus, seeks to promote women's physical, mental and reproductive healthcare as to ensure that women are not prevented to engage or benefit from the country's course of development because of their health issues. Furthermore, it emphasizes that women participate in all processes of healthcare policy-making and implementation, and that women, particularly rural women, old women and those in high-risked groups, have accesses to sufficient and quality healthcare services.
- To develop women's capability and opportunity: For many poor and disadvantaged women, violence against women (VAW) has loomed as life threats and barriers against their development in many potential aspects. This strategy, therefore, proposes to promote security in women's life and body, in

order to ensure that women can live their life with freedom from fear and violence.

- To strengthen and develop women's mechanism: Realizing that any women are poor just because they are denied accesses to economic opportunities, participation in making economic decisions and deserved benefits, this strategy propose to solve the problem by promoting knowledge and information for women, especially regarding their rights, as well as accesses to economic resources, services, and market so that they may enjoy economic security.⁴

2.1.b. The master plan on gender statistical:

The National Statistical Office (NSO), the central statistical organization, developed a statistical master plan for all government agencies to ensure that Thailand's statistical development supports national policies and development plans. In collaboration with all line ministries, has therefore developed Thailand's first Statistical Master Plan (TSMP) 2011-2015. The drafting process was based on participation of line ministries and consultation with other stakeholders.

The TSMP 2011-2015 is based on the following vision "Thailand's statistics represent a joint effort of all government agencies that are driven by a shared goal to develop Office Statistics to guide and support national development".⁵

The coordination with other government agencies, the NSO appointed the Committee of Thailand' Statistical System Administrative in Economic, Social, Natural Resources and Environment to conduct the plan into action, and The Committee of Thailand' Statistical System Administrative in Social branch, also appointed the Subcommittee of Gender Statistical, which was the mechanism to provide The gender statistical development plan under the Thailand' Statistical Master Plan for 5 years.

⁴ Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development: The Women's Development Plan during the 11th under the National Economic and Social Development Plan (2012-2016).

⁵ The National Statistical Office: Executive Summary of Thailand's Statistical Master Plan (TSMP) 2011-2015.

3. Policies on ICTs

3.1. Thailand Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Policy Framework.

Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) had provided the Thailand Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Policy Framework since 2001. The first was Thailand Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Policy Framework (2001-2010) or IT 2010 has guided the development of Thailand's ICT in the first decade of the 21st century until the present. IT 2010 flagships, was the "5 e's strategy", e-Government, e-Industry, e-Commerce, e-Education and e-Society, which aiming to enhance the economy and quality of life of the Thai people and lead Thailand towards a knowledge-based economy and society.

Since the IT 2010 was finished, the MICT has developed the ICT 2020 Policy Framework for the next 10 years (2011-2020). In drafting the ICT 2020 Policy Framework, the working group has taken as important inputs the previous policy framework and the current status as well as limitation of ICT development of the country. In addition, analysis was conducted on the context and overall development direction of Thailand, along with various challenges that will be faced by the country in the 10-year span of the policy framework. This will allow the needs and role of ICT in the future to be anticipated. Furthermore, the development of the policy framework has also considered the technological changes that will occur in this period, in order to assess the impacts of these technological changes on individuals, economy, industry and social transformation in the country.

The development of the content of this policy framework is founded on the following principles:

- Use the key concept of sustainable development which has to consider balanced development in three dimensions, namely, the social dimension, the economic dimension, and the environmental dimension. Furthermore, both quantity and quality of development should be considered, along with social justice, in order to ensure sustainable and stable development.
- Use ICT in reducing inequality and providing opportunities for people to benefit from development in an equitable manner.

- Adhere to the “sufficiency economy” philosophy, that is, to focus on economic that allows the country to keep up with modern times, while, at the same time, being mindful of sufficiency and moderation that is commensurate with national capacity, reasonable and has immunity from internal and external changes.
- Ensure linkage and continuity in policy and strategy with previous policy frameworks and master plans, in order to sustain momentum.
- It is assumed that public sector financing by itself will not be adequate, therefore, the private sector involvement is highly desirable⁶

4. Best Practices

Thailand had tried to enhance the potential of ICT in development and initiated many program for use ICT to access and usage services for empowering women and men. There were some programs which focused on gender issues, such as gender statistical to show and highlight the situation and trend of women and men’ development. The examples were cited in the following sections:

4.1. Thailand’s Gender Information Center

Office of Women’s Affairs and Family Development (OWF) had established the website www.gender.go.th for the center of gender information, such as policies and act for women’s empowerment, publication, Gender statistical which are concern of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, including:

- a. Women in Poverty.
- b. Education and Training of Women.
- c. Women and Health.
- d. Violence against Women.

⁶ Executive Summary Thailand Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Policy Framework (2011-2020): ICT2020, Ministry of information and Communication Technology.

- e. Women and Armed Conflict.
- f. Women and the Economy.
- g. Women in Power and Decision-making.
- h. Institutional Mechanism for the Advancement of Women
- i. Human Rights of Women.
- j. Women and the Media.
- k. Women and the Environment.
- l. The Girl-Child.

The website (www.gender.go.th) was the way to communicate to the society about the situation of women and men. However, there was a limitation for gender statistic in the website, because of OWF wasn't the primary organization to collect the data, OWF only use the data from the other government agencies and private sector and bring to analyze on women and gender issues, so OWF couldn't control the other organization to provide sex disaggregated data continuously.

From this problem, OWF try to cooperate with another organization such as international and regional organization to emphasize and indicate the importance of gender statistical to the government agencies and Thai society.

These are the examples of the cooperation with the government agency, international and regional organization for the gender statistical in the following below:

4.2. Gender Statistics

- Gender - related Development Index Plus : GDI Plus,

In 2009 Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development (OWF), with the support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP Thailand) developed composite index Gender - related Development Index Plus: GDI Plus.

GDI plus was inspired by the concept and based on the methodology of UNDP's Gender-related Development Index (GDI). The components and the indicators were expanded and adjusted to fit the Thai context, and to accommodate data constraints. GDI

Plus aimed to reflect gender development at the provincial level, which was the strategies focal point at the policy and implementation levels.

GDI Plus consisted of 6 components and 21 indicators that reflect various aspects of human lives and social activities, including participation and leadership. The indicators also reflected the distribution of development gains by women and men. The 6 component are health, education, employment, income, participation, and leadership.

GDI Plus was a composite index that reflected the level of human development that took into account gender equality at the provincial and regional levels. It could only a general representation. In reality, there were many dimensions and complicated dynamics in human and gender development which cannot be fully captured by any composite index.⁷

- The report of “Gender Development: Differences and Similarities”

In 2008, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP Thailand) support the National Statistical Office (NSO) cooperation with the Office of Women’s Affairs and Family Development (OWF) prepared the report of “Gender Development: Differences and Similarities”. The report presented the NSO’s survey data and administrative (back office) data from many government agencies.

This report presented an analysis of gender-disaggregated data on the role and development of women and men in 7 aspects:

1. Health
2. Education
3. Employment
4. Income and poverty
5. Family life and reproductive health
6. Violence

⁷ Office of Women’s Affairs and Family Development (OWF), with the support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP Thailand); Gender - related Development Index Plus : GDI Plus, 2009

7. Leadership

The aim of the report was to highlight the differences in terms of opportunity, role, and gender equality, sex-specific behaviors. For example, the ratio of women's and men's income in waged employment in non-agricultural sector was 0.92. Women had higher computer literacy rate, but constituted a small part in ICT employment; the female/male ratio was only 0.13. More women became victim of sexual violence. Women outnumbered men in the civil service, but a very small number managed to reach high-level executive positions. These data clearly reflect the gender situation and gender equality in the Thai society.⁸

4.3. Center for learning ICT; Thai Community ICT Learning Centers

The concept of Thai Community ICT Learning Centers was founded in Thailand in 2001-2002. The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) policy emphasized to develop Thailand to be the Knowledge Base Society. There were also projects launched continually on one temple one learning center (OTEC) and Information Community (I-Community). Thai Community ICT Learning Center had been established in 2007 with the support of the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT). From 20 centers in the beginning, the Center had expanded throughout the country with almost 2,049 in 2014.⁹ These centers were located in four regions in North, Northeast, Central, and South regions of Thailand.¹⁰

Thai Community ICT Learning Centers served as a center for learning and development of skills and capabilities in information technology, where community's members can find resources and seek self-improvement through the internet. They promote the concept of lifelong learning and the creation of knowledge-based society. Gender perspectives were applied in conceptualizing the centers, focusing on, for example, women's

⁸ National Statistical Office and the Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development, on the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP Thailand) : Gender Development: Similarities and Differences, 2008

⁹ <http://www.thaitelecentre.org/main/index.php/2013-05-17-10-39-27>, October 24, 2014

¹⁰ Learning Management in Enhancing Potential of Thai Community ICT Learning Center Project for ICT Development and Utilization; Narong Sompong, Nattapon Rampai, Cherdpong Kheerajiti, www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1877042813038196 October 24, 2014

participation and the usefulness of the centers for different groups/housewives. The centers have more women visitors than men visitors. In 2010, there were 963,202 women visiting the center compared to 415,876 men.¹¹

Gender and Media

Thailand is now have the media organization, Thai Public Broadcasting Service (ThaiPBS), which is the private sector of public media that focus on gender equality and women's potentiality in mass media for vision "Public Media and Promotion of Gender Equality". ThaiPBS produces and created the television programs, drama series which based on gender issues and gender perspective, such as "Khon La Dao Deawe kun" the variety game shows, that focused on the differences of attitudes and feeling in various kind of problems' condition of women and men, the drama series which mentioned on the situation of gender equality in Thai's society. However ThaiPBS is now the only one clearly of mass media organization which specific focuses on gender equality and women's potentiality in Thailand.

5. Issues and Challenges

Since the information and communication technology (ICTS) was spread rapidly to the social, there were many problems occurred with women and children, such as sexual exploitation, pornography, seduction on social network. However, ICTs were still regard as the valuable tools and the best way to communicate and disseminate the information thoroughly. The challenges to success for use ICT to empower women and gender equality, wasn't only know and have the skill on how to use the technology, but also realize on the usefulness and bad effect of the information technology too. This is the importance thing, which the government agencies and related organization should to aware. Some issues and challenges are below:

- The government agencies and the media associations don't have measures to curb and control all kinds of violence against women in all types of media.

¹¹ Draft of Thailand's sixth and seventh Reports on the Implementations of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (Combined); Office of women's Affairs and Family Development

- Almost the media organization don't emphasize on gender responsive such as women's right and human dignity when disseminate the information about women to public.
- Almost media and computer network vocational lack knowledge of gender awareness to disseminate or report the information about women.
- The government agencies don't emphasize and understand the importance and the advantage of gender statistical that can show the situation and problem of women and men.

6. Policy Recommendations

- Promote the Government and related organization to give precedence to collect and provide gender statistical.
- Identify and promote good practices and lesson learned on the use of gender perspective and gender statistical in policy-making as well as developing targets and indicators to track the progress of women's and girl's empowerment.
- Capacity-building towards gender equality in media and social network.
- Develop research on ICTs and Women's Empowerment for the way to integrate gender responsive and perspectives in all ICTs initiatives.
- Integrate gender perspectives in all ICT initiatives.
- Promote gender issues in social media.



FY2014 Seminar for Gender Equality Officers and Women Leaders in the
Asia Pacific Region

Thailand Country Report ICTs and Women's Empowerment

Mrs. Natthita Vijittrakarnkul
Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development
Ministry of Social Development and Human Security

Country Overview



- 514,000 square kilometres
- Population: 64,871,000*
 - Female: 33,329,000
 - Male: 31,542,000
- *Prediction of Thai population as of the middle of the year 2014
- GII: 0.36 (ranked no.66)
- HDI: 0.69 (Medium human development / ranked no.103)

Country Overview (cont.)



Politics: Temporary Junta
with



Religions: Buddhism



Economy: Agriculture

3

Gender Equality Policy



➤ Women's Development Plan during the 11th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2012–2016)

- Principle aim :
To promote the right attitudes, as well as to adjust negative traditional attitudes towards women in Thai society.

4

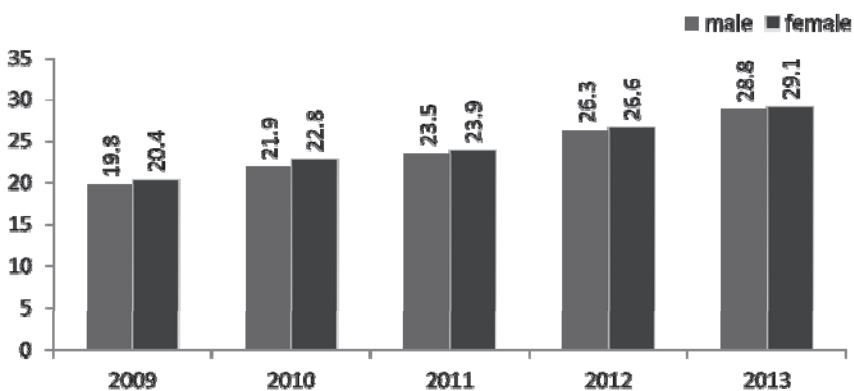
Gender Equality Policy (Cont.)

Strategies:

- To promote and establish of positive attitudes on gender equality.
- To create justice and fairness between men and women.
- To improve women's health, sanitation, security and quality of Life.
- To develop women's capability and opportunity.
- To strengthen and develop women's mechanism.

5

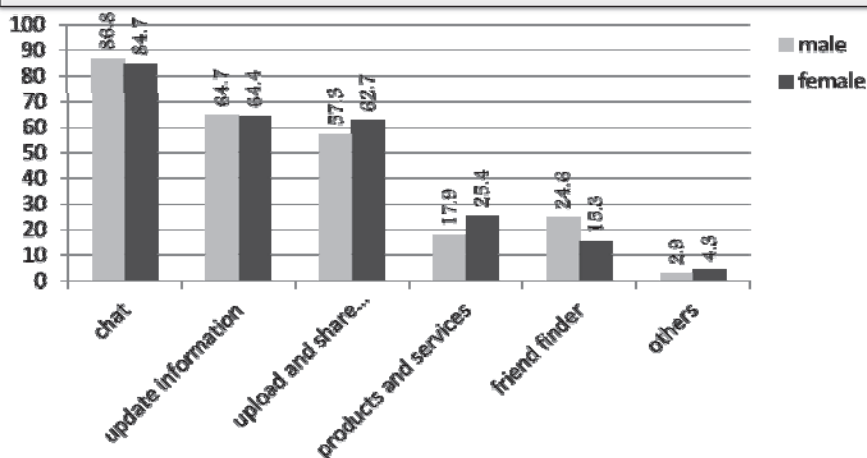
Current Situation of Gender Equality in the country Population 6 years and over who use the internet by sex, 2009–2013



Source: Survey of the Internet users in household year 2013, National Statistical Office,
Ministry of Information and Communication Technology.

6

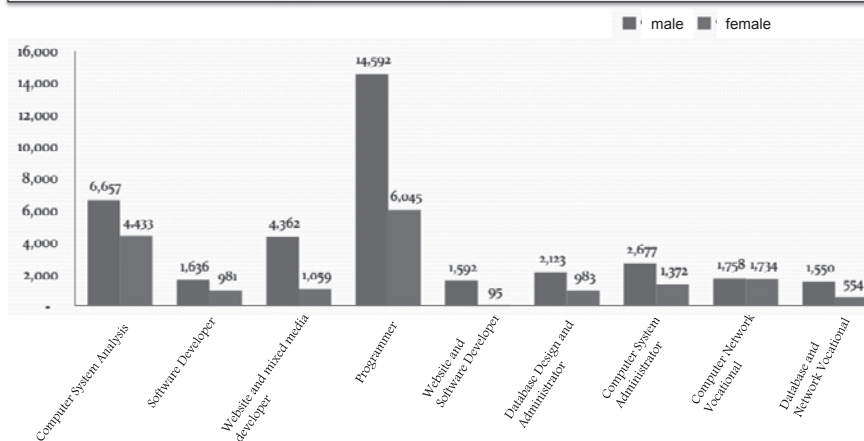
Current Situation of Gender Equality in the country Social media Users compare with activities by sex,2013



Source : Thailand Internet User Profile 2013, Electronic Transactions Development Agency (Public Organization) Ministry of Information and Communication Technology

7

Current Situation of Gender Equality in the country The number of ICT Workers classify by job description, 2012



Source : Survey of home workers, National Statistical Office

8

Overview of ICTs

- Women had higher computer and internet user, computer literacy of population 6 years and over steadily increased from 26.6% in 2012 to 29.1% in 2013.
- Bangkok had the highest computer literacy rate, followed by the North.
- Internet literacy was higher among women in almost every part of the Country.
- Southern men had the lowest computer and internet literacy rate.

9

Overview of ICTs (cont.)

- ICT was still very much the men's world.
- Working in ICT sector are classified as high-skilled e.g. computing and computer associate professionals, optical and electronic equipment operators, and low-skilled, e.g. electrical and electronic equipment mechanics and fitters.
- Women accounted for only half of men in the high-skilled group.

10

Case Analysis



- The report “Gender Development: Differences and Similarities” in cooperation with The National Statistical Office and the Office of Women’s Affairs and Family Development, on the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP Thailand), 2008

11

Case Analysis (cont.)

- Report of gender disaggregated data on the role and development of women and men in 7 aspects:
 1. health
 2. education
 3. employment
 4. income and poverty
 5. family life and reproductive health
 6. violence
 7. leadership

12

Case Analysis (cont.)



- Gender- related Development Index Plus : GDI Plus, consists of 6 component and 21 indicators.

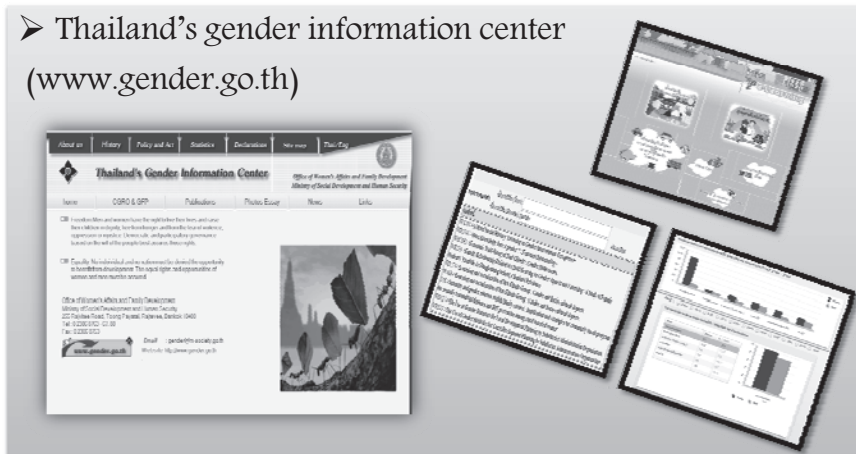
- The 6 component are health, education, employment, income, participation, and leadership, (2009).



13

Best Practices

- Thailand's gender information center (www.gender.go.th)



14

Best Practices (cont.)

- The Subcommittee of Gender Statistics under the Committee of Thailand' Statistics System Administrative in Economic, Social and Natural Resources and Environment.
- The gender statistics development plan under the Thailand' statistics master plan for 5 years.

15

Best Practices (cont.)



➤Community ICT learning centers under the supervision of the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology .



16

Best Practices (cont.)

- Promote the positive attitudes toward issue of gender equality to public and media vocational.
- Promote knowledge on gender roles, recognition of human dignity, and the importance of gender equality for the creation of balance through education courses, programmes and the media.
- Thai Public Broadcasting Service (ThaiPBS) is the private sector of public media which focus on gender equality and women's potentiality in mass media for vision "Public Media and Promotion of Gender Equality"

17

Major Obstacles to reduce gender gaps in access to ICTs and to overcome gender-bias in the media

- The government organization don't emphasize the importance and the advantage for provide sex disaggregated data.
- The government and media associations don't have measures to curb and control all kinds of violence against women in all types of media.
- Almost media don't emphasize on gender responsive such as women's right and human dignity when disseminate the information about women to public.
- Almost media and computer network vocational lack knowledge of gender awareness to disseminate or report the information.

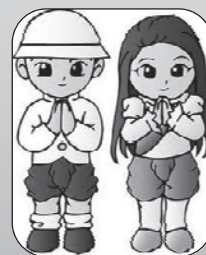
18

8. Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

- Promoting the Government and related organization to give precedence to collect and provide sex disaggregated data.
- Identifying and promoting good practices and lesson learned on the use of gender perspective and gender disaggregated data in policy-making as well as developing targets and indicators to track the progress of women's and girl's empowerment.
- Capacity-building towards gender equality in media and social network.
- Developing research on ICTs and Women's Empowerment for the way to integrate gender responsive in all ICTs initiatives.

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Thank you



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Chapter 6 Report from Viet Nam

1. Introduction of Gender in ICT Era

In Vietnam, the ICT sector is mainly dominated by men, but there is some notable progress. In 1996, only 10% of all university computer graduates were female. In 1998, 21.6% of all students enrolled in IT facilities were female. ICT is the first Vietnam tertiary education sector which has set up a scholarship program for excellent female students and professors. ICT tertiary sector promise that women's participation in IT sectors will grow in coming years.

Existing Gender Division of Labor

In general, Vietnamese women face specific barriers in entering ICT professional labor force and the opportunity to get benefits from ICT applications are much more limited and fragile than that of men. Overall in IT sector women work in lower skilled and lower paid positions than men. Many IT companies do not hire women as IT professionals. Among female IT professionals, 85% work as programmers and only 15% are software designer.

The barrier for women's carrier in the IT sector is reinforced by a gender prejudice which is quite strong in Vietnamese society that men are technically more competent than women. Women are often fired for sale, marketing and administrative positions even when they bear same degrees as men's in software for hardware.

Low Representation of Women in Decision-making in ICT Sector

In general, women's role in planning, policy making or management of ICT sector at all levels is not clear compared with men. Little attention has been paid on women's empowerment in this sector. Moreover, a number of human resource development and management policies tend to work towards limiting women's representation in decision making level. Women's representation in leadership of all agencies is low compared with their contribution in the labor force. Moreover, most female representatives often hold vice than chief management position; therefore their voice among decision makers is very weak.

Lack of gender awareness and sensitivity in ICT development

Although progress has been achieved in fostering gender equality and improving women's status, there remains insufficient gender awareness and sensitivity of decision

makers, public service providers and professionals in the country in general and those responsible for technology development in particular. This may cause gender discrimination to be ignored or efforts for gender equality to be difficult.

2. Policies and Laws in ICTs

In comparison to many other countries in the worlds, Vietnam has enacted many policies to support gender agenda, such as Law on Gender Equality (2007), Domestic Violence Prevention Law (2008), etc. Through laws, the Government has recognized and affirmed men's and women's equal rights in both the society and the family.

In ICT sectors, the Government of Vietnam considers communication and the media as key tools through which to realize gender equality and the advancement of women. This is reflected for example in Decree 70/2008/ND-CP, Decree 48/2009/ND-CP and Decree 55/2009/ND-CP, all stipulating various articles, measures and penalties regarding the Law on Gender Equality.

In 2010, The Government approved the National Strategy on transforming Vietnam into an advanced ICT country which defines strategic mission to accelerate the IT industry of Vietnam. There is also strategy on development of human resources of Vietnam during the period 2011-2020 which encourage girls to study on ICTs sector.

In order to promote people in rural areas, remote areas to use computer and access internet, the Government established the project on improvement of computer usage and public internet access ability in Vietnam 2011-2016.

Recently, on 1st July 2014, the government established resolution for promoting ICT to response to sustainable development that creates equal environment access for both men and women.

3. Best Practices

Since 1996, The National Committee for Advancement of women (NCFAW) has been publishing the bulletin "Women in Progress" on a quarterly basis. This is distributed to the Committee for Advancement of women in all sectors, provinces and cities, as well as to individuals and organizations working on gender equality and the advancement of women.

NCFAW's website (<http://genic.molisa.gov.vn>) in Vietnamese and English has been upgraded and maintained, and has received almost 1000 visitors per month.

Since July 2009, capacity building around gender mainstreaming for the Ministry of Information and Communication (MIC) using television and printed media has been implemented within the framework of the UN – Vietnam joint program on gender equality.

The MIC organized the World IT Forum in 2009 with a session dedicated to discussing gender in information technology. Issues discussed included the obstacles faced by women in accessing IT as well as policy recommendations and solutions for improving their access.

Information and communication technology development, particularly the internet, has created opportunities for information exchange to promote the empowerment of women and girls, and created conditions for women to share their knowledge, to develop networks and engage in e-commerce. The Vietnam Women Union support women's access to IT at different levels. So far, all of the vocational training centers and establishments run by provincial Vietnam Women Union have been provided IT vocational training for hundreds of thousands of women, particular young women.

Increasing numbers of media agencies are promoting women's participation and broadcasting positives images of women in mass media. Vietnam television (VTV) and the Radio of Vietnam run programs especially for women such as "New Energy" (broadcast on daily basis), "Women and Life" with eight 15 minutes broadcast per month and communication messages from the Center for Applied Science on Gender, Family and Adolescents (CSAGA).

The Ministry of Science and Technology collaborates with Young Union to organize an annual ceremony for the "Award for outstanding female Students in IT". Since 2011, nearly 500 outstanding female students in the IT sectors have received the award. This is an effort to encourage young female IT students to make a greater contribution in the IT sector in Vietnam.

The percentage of female workers in the telecommunication sector is increasing with their improved capacity and qualifications. The statistics from Vietnam Post and

Telecommunications (VNPT) show that women account for 42% total labor force the sector, with 38.37% having university and other higher education qualifications.

Women engaged in IT teaching at universities in on the increase. According to data from 17 IT faculties of universities nationwide, female lecturers account for 26% of IT lecturers. There are 20 IT lectures holding PhDs.

The percentage of urban women having access to mass media is higher than that of rural women. For instance, 38.8% of urban women have access to three basic types of media, while only 15.5% of rural women do so.

Much progress has been made in combating the broadcast of negative images of women through professional guidance, proactive implementation and support of broadcasting images on gender equality and using non-sex-discriminatory language in communication programs.

4. Issues and Challenges

The percentage of women in leadership positions in the information and culture sector remains low.

Women have less access to IT than men, due in part to the lack of time, burdens of work within the family and limited education levels.

There are still negative images of women including gender stereotypes in various forms of media using modern communication technology.

There has not yet been a large-scale study on images of women and gender equality in the media in Viet Nam

5. Policy recommendation

It is very clear that improving ICT infrastructure may increase the number of people access to ICT. Therefore, the Government's investment in IT infrastructure has assisted women in improving their access to IT.

Currently, the policies, projects and programs often lack of gender sensitivity. Government should manage mechanism of gender mainstreaming in all steps of policy making.

Many scholars find out that women are lag behind since their low knowledge to recognize rights of themselves. The Government should Improve women's IT knowledge and facilitate women's equal access to IT education and training opportunities.



FY2014 Seminar for Gender Equality Officers and Women Leaders in the Asia Pacific Region

Country Report

Name: Nguyen Thi Nga
Nguyen Thi Hoang Bich
Viet Nam
MOLISA & VWU

1. Country Overview

- The socialist republic of Viet Nam
- Capital: Hanoi/ population: 90 million (2013)
- Major language: Vietnamese
- Monetary: Viet Nam Dong
- Location: in South East Asia, share border with China, Lao, Cambodia.
- Weather: Vietnam lies entirely within the tropics
- People: there are up to 54 different ethnic groups in habiting in Viet Nam (Kinh: 86% and ethnic minority groups: 14%)



2. Gender Equality Policy

- Governmental managing gender equality: Gender equality Department – Molisa
- 2013 Constitution
- Gender Equality Law (2006): to stipulate gender equality in all aspects of life
- Marriage and Family Law (2007)
- National Strategy on Gender Equality 2011–2020 mentions some national targets in terms of gender equality in Viet Nam by 2020

3

2. Cont.

- National Program on Gender Equality 2011-2015
Build some projects and models to promote gender equality in many fields: employment, politic, economy, etc,...
- Resolution 11-NQ/TW of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Vietnam dated 27/4/2007 on the Work for Women in the Period of Accelerating Industrialization and Modernization
- The Decree No. 56/2012/ND-CP, prescribing responsibilities of ministries, sectors and People's Committees at all levels for ensuring the participation in the state management by the Vietnam Women's Union at all levels

4



"With their heartfelt efforts, our women - both young and old - have built and woven the country of Vietnam to make it ever more beautiful!"
— President Ho Chi Minh

Vietnam Women's Union

- A political – social organization
- Founded in 1930
- Members: over 15 million
- Operating through out Vietnam at: central, provincial, district and commune
- Mandated to take care women rights and promote gender equality
- VWU's mission is to take care women's spirits and promote equality for women

3. Current Situation of Gender Equality in the county

(Gender Inequality Index and salient features)



The trend of GII in Viet Nam

Source: UNDP

Labour force

	Women (%)	Men (%)
Literacy	92.2	96.2
Secondary school	24.7	28

Cont.

General statistics on women in Vietnam:

Female population	50.52%
Women in leadership	
National Assembly (2011-2016)	24.4%
Provincial Peoples Council (2011-2016)	25.2%
District People Council (2011-2016)	24.6%
Communal People Council (2011-2016)	21.7%
Female entrepreneurs	
25%	
Processing industry, manufacturing	52.3%
Finance, banking and insurance	52.9%
Science and technology	30.8% ⁷

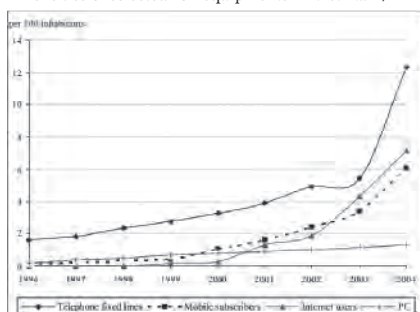
Cont

	Total	Of which	
		Rural area	Urban area
2007	111.6	112.7	111.3
2008	112.1	114.2	111.4
2009	110.5	110.6	110.5
2010	111.2	108.9	112.0

Gender rate of newly born babies
(boys/100 girls)

4. Overview of ICTs • Media and Gender in the country

Densities of selected ICT equipments in Viet Nam,



Source: ITU, 2004

Number of employees in computers, Population
Census 2002

Unit: person, except (1)/(2)

	Total	Hardware	Software	Data processing	Other ⁹
Males (1)	2,684	137	724	166	1,657
Female (2)	1,154	55	326	137	636
(1)/(2)	0.43	0.40	0.45	0.83	0.38

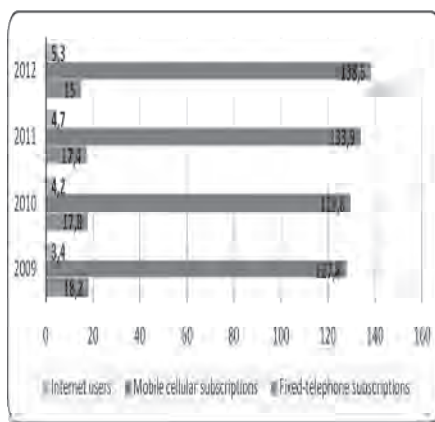
- The percentage of female workers in the telecommunication sector is increasing with their improved capacity and qualification. women account for 42% labor force in this sector with 38,7% having university and other higher education qualifications (Vietnam post and telecommunication – VNPT 2012)
- Women engaged in IT teaching at universities is on the increase, female lecturers account for 26% IT lecturers
- The percentage of urban women having access to mass media is higher than that of rural women. 38.3% of urban women access to 3 basic type of media, whereas 15.5 of rural women do so

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VWU WITH ICT

- Vietnamese and English website
- Open several training courses on computer
- Provide women access to computer
- Provide computers to women
- E-management of credit program
- Starting e-business transaction

The number of internet users, mobile cellular subscriptions and fixed-telephone subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, 2009-2012



In 2012, Vietnam ranked 83th among 190 countries in the world and 4th in the SEA in terms of e-government development index by United Nations.

In terms of communication and information technology development, in 2012, Vietnam ranked 81th among 155 countries in the world in a study by ITU.

Vietnam is also categorized as one of the top ten countries most dynamic in IT development by ITU.

Source: MIC

MIC (2013) Information Technology Application Report 2012

5. Case Analysis

- In 2010, MOLISA and MOGEF, The republic of Korea organized a training workshop “Women and friendly environment to access internet and media” at national level for Board of Advancement of women in provinces and ministries:
 - + Raise awareness on the important of ICT for women
 - + Call for attention on women and ICT
- MOLISA, Youth Union and MOST organize a annual ceremony for the “Award for outstanding female students in IT”

6. Best Practices : How to make media gender-responsive and to enhance inclusion of women and girls in information society

- Raising awareness of people in charge of managing ICT about gender equality
- Increasing number of media agencies to create opportunities for women to participate and broadcasting positive image of women
- Having incentives for girls to study in ICT sectors
- Having a training class for women to guide women to use computer, access to internet, etc, especially for rural women and women ethnic minorities
- Gender mainstreaming in making ICT policies, programs, strategies, etc,....
- Proper punishment for any kinds of action to prohibit women and girls access to ICT sectors

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7. Major Obstacles to reduce gender gaps in access to ICTs and to overcome gender-bias in the media

- The percentage of women in leadership positions in the information and culture sector remains low
- Women have less access to IT than men, due in part to the lack of time, burdens of work within the family and limited education levels
- There are still negatives images of women including gender stereotypes in various forms of media using modern communication technology
- There has not yet been a large-scale study on images of women and gender equality in the media in Viet Nam



8. Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

1. Women should be engaged in ICTs sectors: in ICT labor force; access to media,...
2. Media is crucial tool to change awareness of people in term of gender equality. So, advertisement on internet or on television and other medias should be evaluated under gender lens before releasing
3. The Government's investment in IT infrastructure has assisted women in improving their access to IT.
4. ICT Legal system should be gender sensitive mainstreaming to meet needs of women.
5. Developing budget for ICT and women's empowerment.
6. Networking ICT institutes/organizations in the region.

15



THANK
YOU SO
MUCH!

執筆者プロフィール

Contributors' Profile

カンボジア

CAMBODIA

ケオ・バタナ

Ms. KEO, Vathna

女性省

Ministry of Women's Affairs

TV 放送部長

Chief of TV Broadcasting Office

女性・児童に対する暴力、人身取引、レイプに関する国内のニュースをまとめた日報を作成しています。国内ラジオで放送する前に、ジェンダー主流化に関連する情報を収集しています。公立学校に通う若者たちを対象とした DV 研修を企画し、メディア（地元テレビ、ラジオ、ウェブサイト、ニュースレターなど）を通じた情報発信を担当しています。

I make daily reports from the news related to violence against women and children, human trafficking and rape from the domestic newspapers to the Minister. I provide assistance to ensure about the quality of information on gender mainstreaming before it's broadcasted by the local radio. I also organize the public forum to youth in the public school on domestic violence and am in charge of information dissemination through medias (local television, radio, website and newsletters).

チム・マナヴィ

Ms. CHIM, Manavy

オープン・インスティテュート

Open Institute

代表

Executive Director

20 年以上外務省に勤務の後、現在はオープン・インスティテュートの代表・創設者であり、執行委員委員長を務めています。 <http://open.org.kh/en>.

オープン・インスティテュートでの役割は、以下の通りです。

- ・オープン・インスティテュートのミッションに沿った事業の実施統括
- ・活動戦略の策定
- ・資金調達、運営持続性の確保
- ・女性ウェブポータルと掲示板の編集長として、Women Program and Act の運営

<http://women.open.org.kh/km/contact-us>, <http://women.open.org.kh>

ICTを活用して女性のエンパワーメントにつなげる一連の取り組みは、2013年10月ジュネーブで行われた女性差別撤廃委員会(CEDAW)の第56回UNセッションで、好事例として取り上げられました。

<http://www.apc.org/en/news/committee-elimination-discrimination-against-women>

With over 20 years experience at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I am currently the Executive Director, co-founder of the Open Institute (OI), and Chairperson of the Executive Committee <http://open.org.kh/en>. My responsibilities include:

- Supervise overall progress towards upholding and fulfilling the mission of the OI
- Ensure the organization has a long-range strategy
- Fundraise and ensure the sustainability of the organization
- I created Women Program and Act as Editor-in-Chief of the women web portal and women bulletin

<http://women.open.org.kh/km/contact-us>, <http://women.open.org.kh>

My efforts to advocate the use of ICT for women empowerment have been acknowledged at the 56th UN session of the CEDAW in Geneva October 2013.

<http://www.apc.org/en/news/committee-elimination-discrimination-against-women>

インド

INDIA

リズィヴィ・ゾーヤ アリー **Dr. RIZVI, Zoya Ali**

厚生・家族福祉省

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

副本部長

Assistant Commissioner

国や中央官庁が実施する公衆衛生管理の分野で様々な業務を担当してきました。現在は「青少年健康プログラム」の策定、実施及び広報活動を統括しています。「青少年健康プログラム」は、インド全国の思春期の女子と男子2億5千万人を対象とする意欲的な取り組みです。同プログラムを通じて既存のヘルス・ケア・サービスと協力しながら、予防的ヘルス・ケアの提供を目指しています。保健分野で活動している援助機関とも連携しています。

I have a long and wide experience in the field of public health and health management both at the State and Central Government level. I am currently look after the

planning, implementation and development of communication strategy of the very ambitious Adolescent Health Programme of India which aims to cover more than 250 million adolescent boys and girls spread over 36 states and union territories. We aim to provide promotive and preventive health care along with the already existing curative health care services in the government sector. My responsibilities also encompass interaction with multilateral agencies working in the health sector of India both directly and indirectly.

プラブカテ・プリティ アビジット Dr. PRABHUGHATE, Priti Abhijit

国際女性問題研究センター

International Center for Research on Women

上級技術専門官

Senior Technical Specialist

ソーシャル・ワーカー/研究者の立場で、主にジェンダーと HIV 関連事業の技術支援をしています。ICRW のプロジェクト・リーダーとして、ジェンダー視点に基づいた健康問題（例えば HIV）理解の促進のため、他機関に技術協力を行っています。ICRW では、ジェンダー視点に基づいた、アルコール政策や女性に対する暴力のような幅広い業務を担当し、専門分野を広げることができました。

医療機関へのアクセスや、公共医療政策が女性と男性では異なる影響を与えることについて、データを収集し、ジェンダーと健康の分野への貢献を目指しています。

As trained social worker and researcher, I provide technical assistance to projects primarily involving gender and HIV. I lead projects in ICRW and provide technical assistance to other agencies to enhance understanding on health issues like HIV from a gender perspective. My exposure to various projects in ICRW has helped me to widen my professional horizon to apply my experience to wider health issues like alcohol, alcohol policies and violence against women from a gender perspective. I intend to contribute to the field of gender and health by creating evidence on how access, experience of health services and policies differentially impact women.

フィリピン

PHILIPPINES

フギイロン・ヴィシエル アール エス イー エデン Ms. JUGUILON, Vichel RSE Eden

フィリピン女性委員会

Philippine Commission on Women

企画担当官

Planning Officer II

企画担当官として、ジェンダー主流化、ジェンダーと開発(GAD)、女性関連法に関連したオリエンテーション、講義や研修を担当しています。具体的には、ジェンダーと開発やジェンダー主流化関連法分野での計画・予算策定について、省庁や国立大学、カレッジ、地方自治体などの支援をしています。

PCW のローカル・ジェンダー・プログラム (LGRP)スタッフとして、他省庁と連携しながら、自治体レベルのジェンダー主流化の学習拠点の形成に協力しています。また女性のエンパワーメントと男女平等に関連した、PCW の取組みについて情報提供を行っています。

As Planning Officer, I provide technical assistance on Gender Mainstreaming and GAD Planning and Budgeting to National Government Agencies, State Universities and Colleges, and Local Government Units (LGU) through orientation/lectures and trainings on GAD, Gender Mainstreaming, Laws on Women and other related topics. I am also part of the Local Gender Resource Program (LGRP) of the PCW and provide technical assistance through forging partnerships with other National Government Agencies and identifying LGU Learning Hubs on mainstreaming GAD at the local level. I also represent PCW in meetings to input regarding issues related to women's empowerment and gender equality.

ガルシア・リザ サモンテ

Ms. GARCIA, Liza Samonte

メディア・オルタナティブス財団

Foundation for Media Alternatives

ジェンダーと ICT プログラム・コーディネーター

Coordinator for Gender and ICT

ジェンダーと ICTs のプログラム・コーディネーターとして、テクノロジーとジェンダーの分野で、適切で戦略的な ICTs を活用した、フィリピンの女性団体のエンパワーメントを支援しています。

昨今のデジタル環境の進展のなか、女性の権利の拡張と保護、特にテクノロジーを用いた女性に対する暴力への対応を担当しています。

適切なツールとテクノロジーの戦略的な活用を通して、デジタル環境でジェンダーに関連する権利を守り、市民とコミュニティ、特に女性と女兒のエンパワーメントのために支援をしています。

As Program Coordinator for Gender and ICT, I contribute to the discourse on the underpinnings and intersections of gender issues and technology, and provide assistance in the empowerment of Filipino women and their organizations through appropriate and

strategic use of ICTs. I am in charge of promotion and protection of gender-based rights in digital/electronic environments, especially in understanding and addressing the particular manifestations and impacts of technology-related violence against women. I also provide technical assistance to build the capacity of citizens and communities, esp. women and girls, to protect themselves and defend their gender rights in digital environments, esp. through strategic use of appropriate tools and technologies.

タイ

THAILAND

ヴィジトラッカーンクーン・ナティタ

Ms. VIJITTRAKARNKUL, Natthita

社会開発・人間の安全保障省 女性と家族開発部、ジェンダー平等推進局

Bureau of Gender Equality Promotion, Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development,
Ministry of Social Department and Human Security

社会開発担当職員

Social Development Worker

研究と情報グループの研究開発担当職員としての経験を活かし、統計マスタープランを構築するため、国内のジェンダー統計の整備を国立統計局と連携しておこなっています。また、北京宣言と北京行動綱領に基づき、タイの女性を取りまく現状についてのデータを更新し、ジェンダー問題に関するデータ分析を担当しています。

研究部門のスタッフとして、ジェンダー問題に関して研究計画を策定し、北京宣言と北京行動綱領に沿ったジェンダー研究を総括しています。

省庁（131 機関）を対象にしたモニタリングと評価、ジェンダーの視点の導入、男女平等に関する陸軍士官学校の男子学生の意識調査などの研究を統括しています。

Making use of my experience as social development worker in research and information group, I cooperate with National Statistics Office to develop gender statistics of Thailand to support statistical master plan. In addition, I analyze and summarize data on gender issues for providing Women's Situation Report following the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. As a research unit staff, I prepare research project proposal on gender issues, synthesize and summarize researches on gender issues including researches on women following the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. I also assume responsibilities to conduct research such as monitoring and evaluating the gender focal point among 131 line ministries, working on gender perspectives, and study about attitude of male students of military academy on gender equality.

ベトナム

VIET NAM

グエン・ティ ガー

Ms. NGUYEN, Thi Nga

労働傷病兵社会福祉省男女共同参画局

Gender Equality Department – Ministry of Labour/ Invalids and Social Affairs

職員

Officer

女性と開発の分野で修士号を取得。現職では、ベトナム国内のあらゆる分野で男女平等が推進されるよう、各種業務を担当しています。ジェンダー主流化政策に関する研究を担当しています。加えて、雇用、女性に対する暴力など、さまざまな領域での政策立案をコーディネートしています。さらに、男女平等を推奨する際に、「ジェンダー平等国家戦略(2011-2020 年度)」「ジェンダー平等国家プログラム (2011-2015 年度)」の実施にも従事しています。

I finished my master in women and development. As my office is in charge of managing and promoting gender equality in all aspects in Viet Nam, I often conduct gender related researches in order to mainstream gender perspectives in policies. Additionally, I also coordinate policy-making processes in various areas such as employment and violence against women, etc. Furthermore, I deploy some activities in National Strategy on Gender Equality 2011-2020 and National Program on Gender Equality 2011-2015 in advocating gender equality.

グエン・ティ ホアン ビック

Ms. NGUYEN, Thi Hoang Bich

ベトナム女性ユニオン

Vietnam Women's Union

国際関係部職員

International Relations Department Official

ベトナム女性ユニオンとアジア太平洋地域の女性団体とのネットワーク構築を担当しています。

ベトナムの女性の地位向上を目指し、開発プロジェクトの策定・実施を担当しています。海外諸機関と連携し、ワークショップの企画、セミナーでの情報共有、男女平等の経験・体験の意見交換を支援しています。

女性や女兒に関連した法律や法令の策定には、ベトナム女性ユニオンのコンサルタントとして参画しています。ベトナム女性ユニオンのウェブサイト、ウェブ上の広報、国内でのベトナム女性ユニオンが実施した開発プログラムや国内の女性運動の動向に関す

る記事、各国のジェンダー関連のニュースを収集するほか、記事の寄稿もしています。

I am assigned to maintain and to expand relationships between the Vietnam Women's Union and women's organizations in Asia Pacific region. I am in charge of designing, implementing and managing development projects to promote advancement of women's status in Vietnam. I assist to organize workshop, seminar for sharing information, exchanging experiences on gender equality, that coordinate with Vietnamese and international partners. I serve as consultant to VWU when they draft laws or regulations related to women and girl children. I also contribute articles to VWU website, VWU e-Bulletin, Vietnam Women's News Paper which feature VWU development programs and women's movement in the country, as well as news around the world through gender perspective.

越智 方美

Dr. Masami Helen OCHI

独立行政法人国立女性教育会館 研究国際室

Office of Research and International Affairs, National Women's Education Center

専門職員

Specialist

博士（社会科学）。お茶の水女子大学大学院人間文化研究科博士後期課程修了。上智大学外国語学部フランス語学科卒業後、外資系企業にてマーケティング、人事業務を担当。英国イースト・アングリア大学大学院留学を経て、東京都所轄事業所「東京ウィメンズプラザ」に勤務し、男女平等推進研修の企画業務に従事。2008年9月より現職。国立女性教育会館では、海外の男女共同参画推進機関との連携業務を担当し、社会学の視点から、日本やアジア諸国のジェンダー平等政策について研究をおこなっています。

Ph.D in Social Sciences. Completed the doctoral degree at the Graduate School of Humanities and Sciences, Ochanomizu University, in Tokyo. Graduating Sophia University in Tokyo, Dr. Ochi served as marketing and personnel officer in private sector. She holds an M.A. in Gender Analysis in Development from University of East Anglia in Norwich, U.K. After having worked at "Tokyo Women's Plaza", gender equality center under the jurisdiction of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, she joined NVEC in September, 2008. Her assignments at NVEC include networking with gender machineries and civil society organizations as well as organizing international seminars and forum. She also supervises a

research project on comparative study of gender equality policies in Japan and the South East Asian countries.

本書の内容は、「平成 26 年度アジア太平洋地域における男女共同参画推進官・リーダーセミナー」の報告資料をとりまとめたもので、必ずしも国立女性教育会館の統一的な公式見解ではありません。

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Ms. Fusako Utsumi

President, National Women's Education Center (NVEC)

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Foreword

Since 2006, the National Women's Education Center (NVEC) has held international seminars for women in leadership roles in the Asia Pacific region. Every year, the Seminar for Gender Equality Officers and Women Leaders has chosen emerging gender issues that are common in all countries, such as violence against women, promotion of girls' education and gender-responsive disaster recovery. In the 2014 fiscal year, the seminar was held between September 29 and October 3 under the theme of ICT and Women's Empowerment. Nine women leaders who work for national machineries, academic institution or non-governmental organizations, representing five countries in the Asia Pacific region (Cambodia, India, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam), attended the seminar.

Viewed from the perspective of women's participation in the society, rapid growth of ICTs has had dual effects. While the spread of cell phones and social networks facilitated formation of connections and sharing of information among women across national borders, it has also generated new gender issues, including violence against women in cyberspace, as seen in revenge pornography.

This booklet is based on the country reports, which are included as a PowerPoint document in English at the end of the booklet and analyses by the participants of the 2014 Leader Seminar regarding the current situation and challenges relating to gender issues and ICT in their respective countries. The booklet also contains materials of poster sessions, shown in color at the beginning of the booklet, presented at the Seminar. The opinions shared during the presentation of the country reports regarding the situations in the five Asian countries, and reports that were written by the participants incorporating knowledge that they gained during the seminar in Japan are included. Legal systems concerning gender issues and ICT, as well as actual cases of women's empowerment efforts in each country are also presented in the booklet. It is our sincere hope that this booklet will offer some help in promoting gender equality in all countries.

Fusako Utsumi
President
National Women's Education Center

Chapter 1 ICT and Women's Empowerment

1. Introduction

Rapid technological innovations and a decline in the price of ICT (Information and Communications Technology) facilitated a sweeping global spread of technology. Its impact has spread to various industries beyond the science and technology industries. It has also affected business models and a number of other areas, including the way people live and their value systems. This report contains examinations about ICT and women's empowerment in six Asian countries, including Japan.

ICT stands for Information and Communications Technology. In this report, we will base our discussions on the premise that information, technology and the ability to communicate with others by applying information and technology are all equally important. In Japan, more than 82% of people use the Internet and no significant gender gap is observed among users (総務省, 2014). In some other countries in the Asia-Pacific region, however, women face obstacles in using new technologies. For example, the benefit of the IT boom in India, a country that many Japanese consider to be a major IT powerhouse, is not enjoyed equally by women and men. It has been pointed out that some women “borrow” cell phones from their family members (Chapter 3 Report from India). Even if access to ICT is equally open to both genders, challenges remain in place. In Thailand, the gender breakdown of Internet users has been approximately equal to that in Japan. It has been reported, however, that women's employment in ICT-related industries is mostly in jobs that do not require advanced skills, such as the repair and maintenance of electronic equipment (Chapter 5 Report from Thailand). These two examples suggest the need to examine the issue of access to information processing technology, which is the case in India, separately from the issue of gender inequality in employment opportunities for higher paying jobs, which is the case in Thailand. Nonetheless, both examples testify to the fact that the growth of new technology and its applications are not gender neutral and that women tend to be marginalized when it comes to the benefits brought on by ICT.

Next, let us take a look at the relationship between ICT and women's empowerment. In the fields of development studies and gender studies, empowerment refers to the process in which people who are placed in socially disadvantaged gets power. Does ICT promote gender equality or does it widen the existing disparity? There is more than one answer to this

question. Viewed in the framework of the participation of women in society, the growth of ICT has had two conflicting effects. On the positive side, ICT can promote gender equality and help bring about social changes. More specifically, ICT is used to help women achieve economic independence and raise public awareness that violence against women is a problem that affects all of society. On the other hand, the negative aspects of ICT cannot be dismissed. For instance, new modes of violence that have arisen in cyberspace, including revenge pornography and stalking activities using e-mail and social networking sites, have been mentioned repeatedly in the five country reports that are contained in this report.

ICT's growth is important not only for technological improvement, but also because data applications enabled by such technological improvement create diverse values. This report adopts a broad definition of ICT and analyzes not only the technical aspects of information processing and information communication, but also the role of media in how it produces, processes and disseminates gender-related information.

2. ICT and Gender Issues in Japan

Next, we would like to review the current situation in Japan. As we are unable to provide a comprehensive review here, due to limited space, we will instead focus mainly on the trends since the 1990s regarding feminist movements to promote gender equality in Japan and ICT's relevance to those movements, based on knowledge gleaned from lectures and visits during the Leader Seminar that was implemented by the NVEC in FY2014. The seminar was the impetus for the publication of this report.

2-1. Women's Movements in Japan and ICT—"Creating" Women's Information

The involvement of ICT in women's movements in Japan dates back to the 1990s. During the 90s, the majority of the Japanese viewed equipment such as personal computers (PCs) and mobile telephones strictly as a promising industry. Not many saw its potential for creating social values. Accordingly, the term IT industry was extensively used. However, feminists who instinctively sensed that the new technology had the potential to change society recognized that "C" (of communication), which is lacking in mainstreaming business models, was essential to that change and that there was a need to re-examine the role of the media, which handles communication, from a gender perspective. (村松, 1997; 鈴木, 2005:81).

Item J (Women and the Media) of the Beijing Platform for Action, which is the outcome document of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, illuminates the fact that such awareness of the issues was not limited to Japan.

During the past decade, advances in information technology have facilitated a global communications network that transcends national boundaries and has an impact on public policy, private attitudes and behaviour, especially of children and young adults. Everywhere the potential exists for the media to make a far greater contribution to the advancement of women (Item J 234).

During the Beijing Conference, NGO Forum on Women, Beijing '95 was held in parallel to the intergovernmental conference. More than 6,000 gender scholars and activists from Japan attended the NGO Forum. After their attendance at the international conference, full-scale use of the Internet started as a means of exchanging information among people who were involved in women's movements. One of the visible outcomes of the Beijing Conference as it related to information on women was the formation of the NGO Report Preparatory Committee in 1999 by groups of women who attended the conference and united with one another.

At the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, held in 1999, a resolution was reached to create NGO Alternative Reports that summarized the status of progress on efforts to improve women's status throughout the world in time for Women 2000, which was a special session of the United Nations general assembly, to be held in 2000 in New York. The NGO Alternative Reports summarized the findings of studies conducted to measure the extent of efforts made to achieve gender equality from the point of view of civil society, separately from government reports. The Japan NGO Report, which was created by Japanese women's organizations, was eventually reflected in one of the regional reports that were compiled for each of the five regions of the world and submitted. (日本 NGO レポートを作る会, 1999) Because only a limited number of women were able to actually attend international conferences such as the Beijing Conference and other United Nations conferences, reporting on women's opinions and activities, compiling the information, and disseminating it to the international community via the Internet in the form of NGO reports was a dramatic achievement in the history of women's movements.

The importance of sharing information that adopts women's points of view was not restricted to the dissemination of information to the international community. It was also reflected in movements at home. An information network on women's policies, or Josei Seisaku Joho Network (JJ Network), was established in 1996 by some female members of the Diet along with female NGO leaders with the purpose of sharing information about the progress of new laws on gender equality and lobbying related activities. JJ Network published four or five newsletters every month, covering Parliamentary actions (development and summary of minutes of plenary sessions and committees of both houses of Parliament), information on councils about women's policies, and women's actions that were not reported by major mass media. The newsletters were sent over fax. JJ Network was unique in that it created a loose circle for information exchange among people who were interested in women's policies, and that it was a bidirectional network, allowing each participant to be both a sender and a recipient of information. JJ Network continued until 2004 (日本女性学習財団).

Naila Kabeer, a Bangladeshi-born British social economist, coined the term "Power with" in her study of the empowerment concept. The term refers to women forming lateral connections at grass-root levels and raising their voices (Kabeer, 1994). The actions of the NGO Report Preparatory Commission and JJ Network during the 90s are notable examples of the "Power With" concept that was advocated by Kabeer as women pursued the goal of creating and disseminating information that met their needs.

2-2. Media-related Issues in Japan

Since the 1990s, gender equality centers and women's centers were established in Japan as key locations to promote gender equality in respective communities. As of 2014, 386 women's centers were operated by governments and private organizations throughout Japan. At women's centers, various lectures and study sessions are held on issues such as women's way of life, values of housework, and problems at work place. A course on critically examining media (media literacy) has been held, too. When we examined mass media from the gender perspective, it became evident that "Print and electronic media in most countries do not provide a balanced picture of women's diverse lives and contributions to society in a changing world." (Beijing Platform for Action, Item J-236)

Let us take a look at the current situation faced by women who work in the broadcast

industry. According to a survey conducted principally by the Society of Japanese Women in Radio and Television, women accounted for 13.4% of the total workforce at broadcast stations and newspaper publishing companies in 1993. This percentage rose only minimally to 15.0% in 1999 and 15.4% in 2004 (谷岡, 2011:222). These figures show that women are still a minority in the very place from which information is disseminated in spite of the revisions to the Gender Equality in Employment Act (in 1996 and 2006) and the enactment of the Basic Act for Gender-Equal Society (in 1999).

Male dominated studios are even producing TV commercials that affirm existing gender division of labor. One widely-known example is a TV commercial for instant noodles that was made by House Foods in 1975. When the ad was broadcast, the catch phrase “We (girls) are the ones who prepare it! I (a boy) am the one who eats it!” used in the commercial met protests from citizen groups for fear that it affirmed the stereotypical gender division of labor, and the ad was halted. (行動する会記録編集委員会, 1999).

As this shows, the mass media has yet to pay adequate attention to gender issues. Nevertheless, the climate is shifting. One new development is that even in the world of TV commercials, expressions that are not bound by traditional gender division of labor are emerging. In Japanese society too, men who actively share responsibilities of household chores and child care, are called iku-men, or child-raising men. The term is gradually taking roots. During lectures at the Leader Seminar, a lecturer introduced a detergent commercial in which a man does laundry and sews an appliqué on a nursery school uniform for his child. An active discussion followed about the portrayal of women and how gender roles are presented in commercials in the seminar participants’ originating countries. Although the progress is slow, the number of women managers in the broadcast industry has been growing, offering signs of change. Media has also become diverse. Since the Great East Japan Earthquake that struck in 2011, information is disseminated actively by alternative media, providing reports that are not covered by major mass media and other reports that adopt the viewpoints of gender and minority groups.

2-3. Experimenting with New Ways to Work through Telework

ICT is also changing the way people work. In Japan, people who are 65 years or older account for 23% of the total population (2010). By 2060, that percentage is projected to rise to 39.9%. The decrease in the birthrate and the aging of the population are expected to

accelerate at an unprecedented pace. In contrast, 4.28 million of the non-working population wishes to be employed (2013 average). Women account for three quarters of this group, and number approximately 3.15 million. Reasons for women quitting work include childbirth and child care (2.05 million), lack of a suitable job (.97 million), and nursing care (.16 million). The absence of employment opportunities that match women's life cycles can be said to be one cause of women's involuntary unemployment. At the same time, baby boomers are now reaching age 70, raising the possibility that they will need nursing care. A survey by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Labour revealed more than 70% of workers regardless of gender (78% of women and 72.1% of men) are worried about their ability to keep their jobs while providing nursing care at the same time (Mitsubishi UFJ Research & Consulting).

Given this situation, ICT-based work-at-home programs or telework are receiving attention as new ways of working. Considering importance of telework that enable single mothers and other women who gave up employment for such reasons as child care to continue to work while achieving a work-life balance, NVEC arranged a lecture during the Leader Seminar about NTT Communications' initiative to support women working at home with the use of ICT.

The company has operated a virtual contact center since 2001 by using telephone operators who work from home. Telephone operators, who are called CAVA (an abbreviation for .com Advisor & Valuable Agent), are chosen from among those who pass the .com Master Internet examination and receive training. Operators consist of work-at-home telephone staff members who provide Internet technical support services from home, and home-based staff members who visit customers' offices to provide support services. As of 2014, NTT Communications' virtual call center employed 1,000 work-at-home telephone staff and 900 home-based staff who make customer calls. Together these workers provided services to approximately 8 million customers.

The attributes of staff members vary. There are women who are raising young children, people who left corporate positions, and women who are providing nursing care for family members. The system uses cloud technology and thus enables operators to perform their work by referring to scripts on a personal computer screen in their homes. The use of cloud technology is beneficial to corporations as the risk of customer information leakage is reduced. Workers can work at home when they want for as long as they wish while improving their ICT skills. It is thus a win-win situation (Kobayashi, 2014).

According to the 2014 ICT White Paper (総務省, 2014), the ICT environment of corporations is improving. However, only about ten percent of corporations adopt telework. In comparison, the majority of people, regardless of gender, wish to telework. This indicates the construction of systems to enable people to work in diverse ways lags behind people's desire to practice such new ways. It is hoped that many more such attempts will be made in the future to make it possible for both men and women to work flexibly.

3. To link ICT to Women's Empowerment

So far in this chapter, we have examined the history of ICT's involvement in women's movements, the current media environment, and corporations' initiatives in relation to ICT and gender issues in Japan. What kinds of measures are effective for linking ICT to women's empowerment? Chapters 2 through 6 of this booklet present the best practices of ICT use in promoting women's social participation, as well as challenges faced in each country. Please refer to the country reports for details. Before closing Chapter 1, the five countries' best practices are summarized as follows:

In Cambodia, social media is used as an important tool to ensure violence against women is recognized by all of society and to educate the public about prevention. In addition, a campaign entitled *Take Back the Tech!* is led by a civil society organization. In India, cell phone usage has been linked to improved maternal and child health. In the Philippines, a system to control documents on VAW cases (VAW DocS) was launched by the Philippine Commission on Women. A contest has also been held to develop cell phone applications for women. As in Cambodia, initiatives to return technology to women's hands are also abundant in the Philippines. From Thailand, reports were made of community ICT learning centers that are operated to provide life-long learning, as well as a gender-sensitive drama series created by Thai PBS. And finally from Vietnam, vocational training in the IT field to promote the economic independence of women was introduced.

As stated at the outset of this chapter, the environment that surrounds ICT and gender issues differs from one country to another. Nonetheless, the fact that deep-rooted beliefs in gender division of labor and male-dominated organizational culture stand in the way of promoting women's participation in society with the use of ICT indicates the presence of common problems that transcend national boundaries and cultural differences. In order to overcome such challenges, a mechanism has to be built that drives society as a whole to

respect women's human rights, and at the same time make visible and communicate the concrete achievements of ICT-based support to women faced with challenges.

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Chapter 2 Report from Cambodia

1. Cambodia's picture of gender in the ICT Era

Information, Communication Technology (ICT) is continually referred to as one of the defining features for economic and social development. It creates economic growth in emerging high profit markets, improves productivity in existing industries and sectors, provides job opportunities, can improve levels of and access to essentials such as health care, and can promote networking, participation and advocacy in society. However it is also recognized that it can also exacerbate existing gender inequalities, and has created a “gender digital divide” in Cambodia, where women are less likely to benefit from the opportunities that engaging with ICT can bring.

In Cambodia, tradition information and communication services are of poor quality. Public postal services are unreliable, mass media reaches only 85% of the population and only 3.96% of Cambodians have a fixed phone line. Despite this, Cambodians have been embracing technology through other mechanisms. With the introduction of wireless broadband technologies, Cambodian's have been moving towards mobile and internet services at a rapid rate. Mobile phone usage is reported to have a 135% penetration rate, with over 1 million people subscribing to the mobile broadband in early 2014. Today, 2.5 million people have internet access at home.

This boom in ICT development has not been evenly distributed through Cambodian society. The emerging ICT industries have predominately been located in the capital, Phnom Penh, and there is a significant divide between men and women engaging with this technology in both the economic and social spheres. There has been very little research regarding women and ICT, however it is evident that ICT is not gender-neutral. 2005, Hor Sophia from the University of Phnom Penh stated: "within the given social and economic structure, gender roles and relations, women and men cannot get equal access to ICT". The lack of access to ICT because of societal, cultural and market constraints have led women to become distant from the global pool of information and knowledge. Very little has changed since 2005.

Worldwide, Facebook is one of the largest social media platforms, with over 1.35 billion people checking their account at least once a month. Over half of these users are

women. According to “Geeks in Cambodia” as of June 4, 2014, Cambodia had 1,420,000 Facebook users, and it is the largest social media site in the country. 38% of Facebook users are Cambodian women, well below the worldwide standard. Interestingly, the number one interest on Facebook as ranked by Cambodians is technology, i.e. computers, mobile phones and televisions and tablets.

In a study conducted by Open Institute in 2013, out of the surveyed 2000 Cambodian people in rural and urban areas, 94.4% claimed to have their own phone(s). 87.1% of the women surveyed were found to own a phone, versus 95.1% of men.

In terms of education in Cambodia, there is gender parity in enrolment rates for primary and lower secondary schools with 60% of children enrolled in lower secondary. Statistics for completion of lower secondary education tell a different story, a story where the societal norms for young girls mean that completing education is not prioritized and women either stay at home in caring roles or are forced to work to support the family. In 2014, it is expected that 27% of girls will complete their lower secondary school compared to 44% of boys. In upper secondary school, enrolment rates are 27% for girls and 32% for boys. Introduction to ICT is only taught at upper secondary school, leaving only 27% of girls in Cambodia who will receive any formal ICT training.

In tertiary education, according to a study conducted by Open Institute in 2010, 40.19% of women were studying bachelor degrees, 19.24% enrolled in master’s degrees and 5.57% of women were undertaking master’s degrees. 9.1% of women in 2009/2010 studied ICT. The survey, after focus group discussions with ICT students, found that women choose ICT studies less often than men for several reasons: they perceive that ICT jobs are difficult and are often reserved for men only; they perceive that ICT is difficult to study because of the mathematics involved, and because the field has too many areas of study; no encouragement from the family; companies normally recruit only male staff; low interest in studying ICT; Khmer cultural traditions (a mindset and traditional pressure that discourages women from studying); a general opinion that ICT is only a job of repairing; it costs a lot of money; and women have to do housework.

As can be seen by the table below, the gender divide is highlighted in the adult literacy rates, and although it is evident that literacy rates are on the rise, the gender gap, particularly in rural areas are still concerning. It is difficult to assume that the ICT revolution

will effect men and women equally given the disparity between the genders in all level of the education system.

Graph1: Adult Literacy Population aged 15 years and above per Gender and Geography (2008 - 2013)

	2008			2013		
AREA	Women	Men	Both Sexes	Women	Men	Both Sexes
TOTAL	70.9	85.1	77.6	73.6	86.4	79.7
URBAN	86.8	94.5	90.4	86.8	94.2	90.3
RURAL	66.3	82.5	74.0	69.7	84.1	76.5

Source: Cambodia Inter-Censal Population Survey 2013 (CIPS 2013)

The formal sector in Cambodia comprises all jobs with regular hours and wages, and in 2013 according to Cambodia Inter-Censal Population Survey, 17.9% of women worked in this sector, whilst 26.1% of men had paid employment. 53% of women classified themselves as unpaid family worker, compared to 23% of men.

A study on Women and ICT in Education and Employment in 2010 found that less than on quarter of Cambodian NGOs, 9% of Higher Education institutes, 14% of Internet providers and 35% of government ministries have a policy implemented to encourage women to build their own capacity in the ICT sector. According to MOWA et.al 2010, a similar percentage of organizations and institutions are willing to design policies to encourage ICT skills and capacity building for women.

The Cambodian picture of gender in the ICT era is one of inequality. The disparity between men and women's ability to learn, access and engage with technology is inherent in Cambodian society. This is reflected in the formal education system, where completion rates for young girls at upper secondary school are reported to be as low as 22%. Very few women are taking up opportunity to gain the economic benefits of ICT by not enrolled in ICT related university courses. Illiteracy rates are higher for women than men. For those women in the formal employment sector, the knowledge and use of ICT is limited and there a very few organizational policies that encourage ICT skill development for women.

2. Cambodian Policies and Laws on ITC

On June 26, 2014, the Royal Government of Cambodia approved the National Strategic Development plan for 2014 - 2018, a blue print for economic policy. This document

contains a full section dedicated to ICT and indicates the Governments desire to move Cambodia to more knowledge based nation. It provides a framework for infrastructure expansion, policy and regulation development, human resources and skill development. The Policy document mentions they will foster the principles of gender equality, however it does not stipulate how.

At the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing Sept.1995- Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action: Women in media, two strategic objectives were delivered:

- Strategic objective J1: Increase the participation and access of women to expression and decision-making in and through the media and new technologies of communication. Actions to be taken.
- Strategic objective J2: Promote a balanced and non-stereotyped portrayal of women in the media. Actions to be taken.

In the Concluding Comment of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against women, article 38. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against women urges the State party to utilize fully in its implementation of its obligations under the Convention, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which reinforce the provisions of the Convention, and requests the State party to include information thereon in its next periodic report. Cambodia is a signatory to this convention, thus must be held accountable for its strategy and report against the actions taken.

Cambodia also has a draft National ICT Policy 2015 that clearly specifies their support for Women in Development in the ICT sector. Within this policy framework, there is much support for gender equality, yet there is little evidence on how this is reflected in the real world.

Unfortunately there are no consistent legal frameworks to govern the industry as a whole. In 2012, the Government established the Telecom Regulator of Cambodia charged with overseeing the country's telecom industry. Many laws have been drafted, by not enacted. As yet, the Telecom Law has not been passed, so in the absence of laws, the sector is governed by decrees and sub-decrees issued by the Department and the prime ministers officer. Specific laws on Cyber-crime and e-Commerce are deemed necessary, however

have not been adopted. There is also little evidence of the how these laws reflect gender sensitivity and equality.

3. Best Practice

Best practice involving women and ICT in Cambodia has been the involvement in Take Back the Tech initiative. The Open Institute in cooperation with the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) and the Ministry of Women's Affairs, have since 2006 been actively involved in this strategy creating awareness of how information and communication technologies are connected to violence against women. The program recently won global acclaim for its efforts to reduce threats online and building women's confidence and security in the use of ICT, winning first place in Gender Equality Mainstreaming - Technology the ITU-UN awards.

The campaign calls on all ICT users -especially women and girls - to take control of technology and use activism against gender-based violence. The project encouraged, facilitated and strengthened:

- The use of ICTs to enhance interventions by women's rights organizations to address different forms of violence against women and girls
- The application of ICTs for work focused on the healing of women victims/survivors of violence
- The provision of small grants for women victims/survivors of violence to increase visibility of their issues and enable them to participate in combating VAW
- Efforts to address new forms of violence against women and girls facilitated through the internet, mobile phones and other emerging technologies
- Advocacy towards better formulation and implementation of rights based ICT policies that impact on violence against women and girls.

A Facebook account called Cambodia TBTT has been created in Khmer language and it has over 1,299 friends. The TBTT Twitter account has over 1900 followers. Articles are regularly posted informing people of issues on the prevention of violence against women

and giving women the opportunity to voice their opinions and ideas regarding human rights and advocacy.

This advocacy strategy has very attractive campaign materials, with the use of banners, stickers, digital stories and icons. It has allowed Open Institute to incorporate this branding in most of their events, (over 1000 young people have been involved in training over the past year) and has attracted significant attention to women using ICT to end violence against women. It was used in International Women's Day, and will be incorporated into the 16 Day Campaign on 25th November until 10th December 2014 in cooperation with UN Women Cambodia.

It is a simple strategy that works. Its attractive marketing engages women to get involved with ITC as a tool for advocacy effectively empowering women and girls through skills, knowledge, advocacy and community-building.

4. Issues and Challenges

The growth in influence of ICT has created many issues and challenges for women in Cambodia, as they struggle to embrace the economic and social advantages of ICT. The three most significant challenges of the gender digital divide is:

1. the cultural norms of Cambodian society, where women are the most impoverished with the least access to resources and with little control over decisions that affect their lives;
2. the lack of women with decision making influence; and
3. the emergence of a new avenue for violence against women.

Social norms in Cambodia are a significant challenge for women accessing ICT and enjoying the economic benefit of the sector. In an impoverished country, boys are targeted over girls by families as a priority for education as many young girls drop out of formal education to support their families in either the caring or financial role. It is a hierarchal society where men are valued more highly than women and there are persistent gender power imbalances that lead to poverty, illiteracy and gender discrimination.

In the research conducted by the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport and the Open Institute in 2010, some 66% of respondents stated

that women have to take more responsibility for their family than men; 64% think that most parents provide more support to men than women for higher education. About 60% think that policies and policy implementation are also obstacles. Other responses include: language (57%), limited ICT infrastructure (53%), cost of internet access (52%), “technology is too modern” (40%), obstacles erected by social norms and culture (31%) and women are not encouraged by their superiors to participate in ICT (26%).

There is a complex relationship between ICT and violence against women that is well documented, and often a difficult for policy makers and advocates to grapple with. In many ways, ICT is a valuable tool in preventing violence against women through advocacy and empowerment. Women and women’s networks and organizations worldwide are using online resources, websites and chat rooms to share experiences, mobilize support for specific actions or to develop global action strategies to end violence against women. However, ICT has also facilitated a new form of violence against women with cyber stalking and online harassment. This involves mobile text message monitoring, intimate photos and video blackmail, mobile phone and email account tracking. Traffickers are also using the Internet to communicate and recruit victims, and private home videos are also being commercialized. The growth of the Internet tends to push the limits of a society’s attitudes towards acceptable media images and technology is moving across boundaries faster than the law can address.

This is not a phenomenon unique to Cambodia, and a challenge for society in general. However in Cambodia, with the gender imbalance that is innate in society, together with the gender divide regarding access to ICT as already discussed, this is a challenge that advocacy groups, government and Cambodian society as a whole must address.

The third significant challenge for women and ICT in Cambodia is the lack of women in decision-making and power roles in Government. Women represent approximately 14.7% of the senate, and 20.32% of members of parliament 20.32% There are 13.9% women judges, 10.2% Women Prosecutors and women constitute 22.1% of Court Clerks. There have been no Provincial Governors and only 14.3% of Deputy Governors in 2013 are women. These needs to be seen in the light of 52% of the population are women.

Without effective representation of women in decision-making roles, active engagement in the gender digital divide will remain problematic. Advocacy groups are active

in building relationships with decision makers, but until they are physically represented, there will continue to be inequities and inactivity in gender related issues.

5. Policy Recommendations:

- ICT is integrated into lower secondary school to ensure that young girls locked out of senior schooling have some level of ICT education.
- Stronger commitment of the government, donor agencies and civil society for supporting consultative meetings for the integration of gender sensitiveness in national policy and action plans such as National ICT Policy 2015 Neary Ratanak, National Action Plan to Prevent VAW, National Strategy Development Plan; as well as support for Women in Development of sectoral ICT Policy.
- Stronger commitment of government in nomination more women to take decision maker post in ICT development sector.
- To add “Women in ICT Development” in the Joint Indicator Matrix of Cambodia Development Council. This will then ensure this as a measurable outcome for the Government.
- Stronger cooperation between the government and UN Women and with other donor agencies for the implementation of the UN CEDAW Concluding Observation point 19 c. about “...to explore the use of ICT for women rights and gender equality.”
- Stronger commitment of the government and donor countries for the implementation of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing 2004) about women and media.
- Tough laws and regulations must be adopted and enforced to protect vulnerable women and children from exploitation via ICT. Training and education needs to fund regarding safe and informative ways to explore the internet and how to avoid on-line dangers.
- From learning from the NWEF, more research needs to be conducted around gender and its impact in Cambodian society. A similar model to the NWEF should be established in Phnom Penh. This could become a central depository for research and development regarding all issues pertaining to women. It will enable women’s advocacy groups to

meet, discuss and collaborate on gender topics and create a space for open dialogue to promote a gender-equality society.

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2- Gender Equality Policy



National Frameworks for Gender Equality (I)

Constitution of Cambodia: Adopted in 1993

- It states that “men and women have equal rights before the law and enjoy equal participation in political, economic, social and cultural life; equality in marriage and family; employment and equal pay for the same work. It also includes measures to prevent and eliminate of all forms of discrimination and exploitation of women”.

National Strategic Development Plan and Rectangular Strategy for Growth, Employment, Equity and Efficiency, Phase II

- Aim at reducing gender disparities in all development sectors and the need to put in place effective measures to remove barriers that women face, and increase opportunities for women to fully participate and benefit from development.

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National Frameworks for Gender Equality (II)



Cambodia Millennium Development Goals

- CMDG 3 focuses on promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women through reducing gender gaps in education at all levels, increasing women's participation in government and ensuring equal wages between men and women.

The Five-Years Strategic Plan For Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment 2014-2018 (Neary Rattanak IV)

- Strategic areas:
 1. Economic Empowerment of Women
 2. Education of Women and Girls, Attitudes and Behavior change
 3. Legal Protection of Women and Girls
 4. Health and Nutrition of Women and Girls, and HIV/AIDS
 5. Women in Public Decision-making and Politics
 6. Women in Climate Change and green growth
 7. Women and Disabilities

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National Women's Machineries

- Ministry of Women's Affairs
- Cambodian National Council for Women
- Other Mechanisms for Gender Equality
 - Gender Action Groups and Gender Action Plans from Line Ministries
 - Women's and Children's Committees (at sub-national level)

International Frameworks for Gender Equality

1. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)
2. Millennium Development Goals for 2015
3. Conference on Population and Development El Cairo (1994)
4. Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW, 1979) : Signed and ratified by Cambodia in 1992.

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3. Current Situation for Gender Equality in Cambodia

• Education

Educational level		Percentage
Primary and Lower Secondary		Gender parity index achieved
Upper Secondary Education		Ratio of girls to boys is 72.9 (CMDG target is 100)
Tertiary Education		
	bachelor degree	40.19%
	master degrees	19.24%
	undertaking a PhD	5.56%

[Data from academic year 2011-2012, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport]

Economic sector

Women presenting in formal sector	27 % (men: 73%)
Women presenting in informal sector	82 %

[Data from CSES 2009]

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Politics and Decision Making

National level

Parliamentarians in National Assembly	25 of 123	20.32%
Senators	9 of 61	14.75%
Deputy Prime Ministers	1 of 9	11%
Ministers	3 of 28	10.71%
Secretaries of State	38 of 185	20.54%
Public Civil Servants	70,526 of 192,029	37%

Politics and Decision Making

Subnational level



Provincial Governors	no women
Provincial Deputy Governors	20%
District Governors	1 %(2 female district governors)
District Deputy Governors:	29 %
Commune Council members	17.78%
Commune/Sangkat Chiefs	5.8%

Data from the National Elections Committee 2012

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health 	
median age at first marriage among women	20 years (men: 23 years)
Median age of first sexual intercourse for women	21 years old (while for men is 22 years)
maternal deaths	206 per 100,000 live births in 2010 (rate decreased almost 60 percent in only five years, between 2005 and 2010 [DHS 2005 and 2010]).
women report having one or more problems in accessing health care	72%
women aged 15-49 years using a method of family planning	31%
women aged 15-49 years having abortion	at least 1 abortion of 6 % women in urban areas, while 5 % in rural areas
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4. Overview of ICTs: Media and Gender in the country

- 4.1: Women in Media:
- The Women's Media Centre of Cambodia (WMC 2005) survey found that women are a minority across all media sectors, comprising 17% of those in journalism, 21% in technical roles and in 28% in administrative positions.
- No statistics are available from the Ministry of Information (MoI) on the number of female journalists in Cambodia, according to WMC. However, the WMC 2005 survey covered 145 media organizations and reported the total number of people working in media and media related fields as 4,623 with 79% males (3,652) and 21% females (971). among 137 journalists whose positions were decision makers only 6% were female.

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4. Overview of ICTs Media and gender in the country (cont.)

- 4.2: Women in ICT :

Women and ICT status in Cambodia

The lack of access to ICT because of societal, cultural and market constraints have led women to become distant from the global pool of information and knowledge.

Reasons for less representation of women holding jobs in ICT fields include lower percentage of female student's enrollment in IT related education.

- 4.3 ICT Policy

The National Summit on ICT Policy and Strategy took place on 3 July 2003 to involve key actors to determine a draft of National ICT Policy.

NIDA proposal for National ICT Policy for 2015 included the creation of legal framework, ICT services, to develop a knowledge based system, ICT access points, reduce public administration cost, ICT4D that support Women In Development (WID) in the ICT sector.

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4. Overview of ICTs Media and gender in the country (cont.)

National ICT Policy -2015-

ICT Frameworks

1. Develop a *national ICT legal and regulatory framework* to ensure a national economic and social stimuli
2. Develop measures to achieve *the e-ASEAN Framework Agreement*, as well as to ensure efforts to keep pace with the ASEAN level of ICT technology through the promotion of a national ICT innovation

ICT Services

3. Improve *government services* through the application of ICT
4. Support the use of ICT in *the private sector and the growth of e-commerce*
5. Encourage the growth of *a national ICT industry* and its links among the ASEAN region

ICT Infrastructure

6. Develop a reliable national *ICT Infrastructure*

ICT Development

7. Enhance the level of *ICT literacy* among the population
8. Develop regionally *competitive ICT experts and ICT savvy human resources*
9. Support *WID (Women in Development)* in the ICT Sector

Commitment to Global Issues

10. Encourage an awareness of ICT as a tool for fighting *Global Warming*



4. Overview of ICTs Media and gender in the country (cont.)

• International Instruments: Gender and ICT4D:

Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing Sept.1995- Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action: Women in media

Strategic objective J1: Increase the participation and access of women to expression and decision-making in and through the media and new technologies of communication. Actions to be taken.

Strategic objective J2: Promote a balanced and non-stereotyped portrayal of women in the media. Actions to be taken.



4. Overview of ICTs Media and gender in the country (cont.)

- International Instruments: Gender and ICT4D:
- 56th UN CEDAW session in Geneva from 30 Sept-18 Oct, 2013



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4. Overview of ICTs Media and gender in the country (cont.)

- International Instruments: Gender and ICT4D:
- *Concluding Observation of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against women (CEDAW/C/KHM/CO/4-5 A , Geneva 18 October 2013)*



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4. Overview of ICTs Media and gender in the country (cont.)

- International Instruments: Gender and ICT4D:
- *Gender and ICT4D-Concluding Observation of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against women* (CEDAW/C/KHM/CO/4-5 A , Geneva 18 October 2013)
- Article 19. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (CEDAW/C/KHM/CO/3, para. 18) and recommends that the State party:
- **(c) Explore the use of information communication technologies, including social media, in the dissemination of information on women's rights and gender equality;**

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4. Overview of ICTs Media and gender in the country (cont.)

- Women & ICT in Education (MoWA Research 2010)

The total of female who get the bachelor degree of ICT in the last four years'2005 to 2009' was 12.4% of total student in ICT if comparing with 8.4% of the proportional of female students who has been studying ICT of the 1st year to the 4th year of the year 2009-2010 .

- Women & ICT in Employment

Women & ICT in The proportional of women in ICT' jobs:

- The percentage of women can use ICT in civil society is 44.4% of total staff
- In government and ministries is 15.5%,
- Internet Provider is 32.5% and Education institution is 33.3%.

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4. Overview of ICTs Media and gender in the country (cont.)

Result of the Research (MoWA 2010).

Only less than 1/4 of NGOs (22.5%), 9% of HE institutes, 14% of ISPs and 35% of government ministries have a policy implemented to encourage women to build their own capacity in the ICT sector.

This status will not have much changed in the near future because for the rest of them, there are only 23% of NGOs, 41% of government ministries, 21% of ISPs 21%, and 21% HE institutes are willing to design a policy to encourage ICT skills & capacity building for women (MOWA et.al 2010).

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Consultative meetings of NGOs to promote the integration of Gender Perspective in ICT Policy Development.



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5. Case Analysis:



• Story Telling 1



Ms. Chea Sipheng, Second Assistant of Chief of Kor Ki Sangkat, Phnom Penh had commitment to learn how citizen journalist and ICT were interested in her work.

She initially engaged political activists of Human Rights to help people to solve problems so it made her more popular in politics until she became the Second Assistant to the Chief Commune. During the election she was battled by many men's advocacy efforts, but she still received her position as intended. She was delighted that Open Institute provides the opportunity to attend training and added that she was not aware of media practices and did not know how to write news any way until she received the appropriate training.



5. Case Analysis: (Cont.)



• Story Telling 2



1. Miss. Keang Hy, became a strong facilitator in a youth club

My name is Keang Hy, 26 years old; I live in house number 20D, Street Veng Sreng, Sangkat Choam Chao, Khan Dangkor, Phnom Penh.

After I got involved with Open Institute, "it made me got well communication with the other, improve and building my ability, participate in helping social, could sharing information through the use Facebook and email, knew about social accountability meaning...". I have become a facilitator at in National Youth Senate's KYSD.



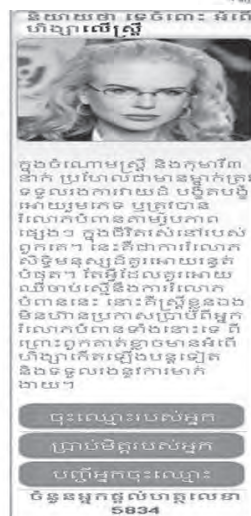
Take Back The Tech
model to use ICT
for discussion and
dissemination of
information on
women right and
eVAW

Media monitoring for ending VAW

The Integration of gender sensitive in the draft of National ICT Policy 2015.
Integration of the promotion of the use of ICT and media in Neary Ratanak
and National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women (NAPVAW).

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អំពើហិង្សាទាក់ទងនឹងយេនឌ័រ

អំពើ (ស្ត្រី)

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7. Major Obstacles to reduce gender gaps in access to ICTs and to overcome gender-bias in the media

- 7.1. The challenges of women in ICT4 development:

Family responsibility such as take care husband, children, elderly person in family (66%).

Female get less opportunities than male in getting chance to study more (64%).

State policy and sectoral implementation (60%), Language (57%).

Infrastructure (53%), High cost of Internet (52%)
- 7.2. Challenging: VAW&ICT:

However, Women are concerned about the new form of VAW:

Some groups of people have been using ICTs for other purpose that against women rights. Negative portrayal of women.

The growth of Internet tends to push the limits of a society's attitudes towards acceptable media images.

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7. Major Obstacles to reduce gender gaps in access to ICTs and to overcome gender-bias in the media

- 7.2. Challenging: VAW&ICT: (cont.)

Technology is moving across boundaries faster than the law can address. This is a blurred line between freedom of information and cultural preservation

- 7.3. Government Policy

Since 2005 the Ministry of Information has set some rules for all media organizations advising and reminding them to respect the press law Chapter 2, Article 7 that states “Publication of obscene texts or pictures or graphically violent materials is prohibited.”

During the Annual Cambodian National Council for Women Meeting (NWC) in 2007, the Prime Minister recommended that the Ministry of Interior close facilities which show or sell obscene films.

Advocacy for improving the portrayal of women in the media should be stepped up and continued, as there is still much progress to be made

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8. Conclusion and Policy Recommendations



- Stronger commitment of the government, donor agencies and civil society for supporting consultative meetings for the integration of gender sensitiveness in National ICT Policy 2015 and beyond; as well as support for the development of sectoral ICT Policy.
- Stronger commitment of government in nomination more women to take decision maker post in ICT development sector.
- Stronger commitment of the government and donor support for the integration of women in ICT development in national policy and action plan such as Neary Ratanak, National Action Plan to Prevent VAW, National Strategy Development Plan.

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8. Conclusion and Policy Recommendations



- To add “women in ICT development” in Joint Indicator Matrix of Cambodia Development Council.
- Stronger cooperation between the government and UN Women and with other donor agencies for the implementation of the UN CEDAW Concluding Observation point 19 c. about “...to explore the use of ICT for women rights and gender equality.”
- Stronger commitment of the government and donor countries for the implementation of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing 2004) about Women and Media.

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Thank you!



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Chapter 3 Report from India

1. Introduction:

As the seventh largest country with a population of 1.2 billion, India is a land of contradiction; while on one hand fewer girl children thrive, as compared to their male counterparts (Sex ratio of 940 women for every 1000 men, and even lower child sex ratio of 914 girls children per 1000 male children), on the other life expectancy for women is more than men (women=62.7 years; men = 61 years)¹. On one hand India is increasingly seen as an economic force to reckon with, on the other girls/women still face discrimination in their access to education (female literacy= 65.5%; male literacy= 82.1%) and participation in workforce, as only approximately 24% of women are included in workforce. Although as per constitutional amendment (2010), women's representation is stipulated in parliament and state assemblies, only for 11% of the total representatives in upper and lower houses of Parliament are women.

Information Communication Technology (ICT) sector's contribution to the nation's GDP has shown an increase of 4.1% from 2001 to 2012. The benefits of the IT boom however are unevenly distributed among men and women. The situation of women in ICT-sector employment in India mirrors the trends at the global level, where women have been found to account for, "30 per cent of operations technicians, only 15 per cent of managers and a mere 11 per cent of strategy and planning professionals"²

While overall penetration of telephones quite high, the distribution is skewed. It is to be noted that while 68.8% of Indians live in rural areas, the reach and use of ICT favours urban locations and men in particular³. A mere 30% of the 893.3 million mobile subscribers are women, another 20% are "borrowers" of mobile through family and of the 238.7 million

¹ Census of India 2011

² Tandon, N. (2012) 'A Bright Future in ICTs: Opportunities for a New Generation of Women'. Information Telecommunication Union Girls in ICT, Retrieved: http://girlsiniict.org/sites/default/files/pages/itu_bright_future_for_women_in_ict-english.pdf 4 October 2014

³ Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, 2010 <http://www.trai.gov.in> accessed August 1, 2014

internet subscribers a meager 10% are women⁴. The disparity in ‘connectivity’ accessible to Indians is unequal, which can be said to be a reflection of need for infrastructure development and shifting priorities. Overall the International Telecommunications Union, in its 'Measuring the Information Society' Report of 2013, places India in the category of the World's 'Least Connected Countries' based on a composite measure of ICT access, ICT use and ICT skills.

2. Media and Gender

The Census of India, 2011 reveals that 47.2% households have and use television sets, only 19.9% use radios. Thus television is preferred source of information for most. The Indian print media currently include over 69,323 registered newspapers and periodicals, according to the latest figures on the website of the Registrar of Newspapers for India (updated up to 31 March 2008⁵). The total circulation of newspapers in 2007-08 was over 200 million copies (207,108,115). Indian publications appear in as many as 101 languages and dialects. There are over 500 registered television channels in India (503, according to the January-March 2010 quarterly report of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India⁶ . At least 100 more are reportedly awaiting permission to uplink or downlink. As mentioned earlier, radio news is still restricted to the state/public broadcaster, All India Radio, since the government does not permit other radio service providers – private or community based – to broadcast news and current affairs. The growing private FM radio sector is at present almost exclusively devoted to entertainment (largely popular music) and community radio is still in the process of establishing itself in the media environment.

A comparative analysis of portrayal of women in media across 15 countries including India found that in India on any given day, women constitute only 22% of the news subjects across all topic categories. Women featured in only 18% of the subjects in political stories and an abysmally low 10% in stories relating to the economy. Whereas just five percent of news stories highlighted gender equality/inequality related stories. Nearly two

⁴ GSMA Development Fund and Cherie Blair Foundation for Women. (2010). Women and Mobile—A Global Opportunity: A Study on the mobile phone gender gap in low and middle-income countries. London: GSMA.

⁵ Website of the Registrar of Newspapers for India: <http://rni.nic.in/>

⁶ Website of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India: <http://www.trai.gov.in/> accessed June 10, 2014

thirds (63 per cent) of the news stories from the Indian media reinforced gender stereotypes while only nine per cent challenged them. In contrast, globally less than half (46 per cent) of the news stories reinforced stereotypes. Men vastly outnumbered women among reporters across all media and all news topics.

Less than half the presenters and announcers on Indian radio and television were women. About a third (34 per cent) of the news stories in the print media and less than half (43 per cent) of the stories on TV were reported by women. Similarly, several popular television programs and television advertisements reinforce stereotypical gender roles for women. For example women are often portrayed as being “Naari” (faithful, obedient, non-assertive woman), the virtue of being “fair” is over emphasized in numerous advertisements. Compared to men, women appear more often for household products and personal or beauty products and were less likely to be shown as being employed than men.⁷

With the increasing access to internet, women have greater opportunity to connect to the global world, learn about opportunities, socialize with others, using social media such as Facebook, Twitter etc. However, this has also led to increased vulnerability of women to be victims of cyber violence against women have been reported in media in the form of cyber stalking, phishing, issuing threats of violence and revenge porno etc. Cybercrime against women in India is relatively a new concept. There are yet no reliable estimates of rates of cybercrimes against women, as fewer women report such crimes, as most of the cybercrimes remain unreported due to the hesitation and shyness of the victim and her fear of defamation of family’s name. Many times she believes that she herself is responsible for the crime done to her. The women are more susceptible to the danger of cybercrime as the perpetrator’s identity remains anonymous and he may constantly threaten and blackmail the victim with different names and identities. Historically, when India started ventured in the field of Information Technology, the primary security concern addressed under the Information Technology Act, 2000 was the protection of electronic commerce (e-commerce) and communications, whereas cyber socializing communications and related human rights violations haven’t been addressed.⁸

⁷ *Who Makes the News* : India Global Media Monitoring Project-National Report. 2010).

3. Policies and Laws on ICTs

The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Constitution of India. National Commission of Women was set-up by an Act of Parliament in 1990 and a further amendment led to their increased participation in decision making at various levels. Taking a step further India has ratified the CEDAW in 1993.

The National Commission for Empowerment of Women was set up in 2010 with the following objectives in mind:

- To eliminate violence against women (VAW)
- Social empowerment of women with emphasis on health and education
- Gender mainstreaming of policies and programs
- Create awareness amongst beneficiaries
- Work on advocacy

The current 12th Five Year Plan (2012-2017) includes a Working Group on Information Technology Sector which has identified e-learning, ICT skill development, development of rural connectivity infrastructure, development of local language content, ICT-enabled health services and financial inclusion through ICT technology as key elements for utilizing the ICT potential for social inclusion.

Although India does not have a comprehensive ICT policy, ICT is well ensconced in the various initiatives undertaken across ministries as well as by many Non-government Organizations; these have been either as Public Private Partnerships (PPP) or standalone initiatives. Successful examples of which are seen in the sectors of health, governance, education etc.

⁸ Jeet, S., (2012). Cyber crimes against women in India Information Technology Act, 2000. *Elixir Criminal Law*, 48, pp. 8891-8895.

Laws on ICTs

The legal provisions which are presently available to challenge acts of violence are “strongly influenced by existing laws on indecency and obscenity, ill-defined as they are”. These include the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, and Section 67 A and Section 67 B of the Information Technology Act that deal with cyber-pornography and child pornography respectively. Additionally, Section 66 A of the Information Technology Act provides for punishment for communication made via computer or other devices which may be “grossly offensive,” have a “menacing character,” or even cause “annoyance or inconvenience”.

4. Best Practices

India has acknowledged the potential of ICTs in development and has initiated many programs that use ICT to leverage access and usage of services. These programs fall largely under the areas of health, e-governance, education and economic empowerment. A few examples are cited in the following sections:

4.1. E-governance:

The National E-governance Plan (NeGP), through its 31 Mission Mode Projects, aims at developing a country-wide infrastructure reaching to the remotest village, for facilitating single-window, one-stop, public service delivery to all citizens and the large scale digitization of records, to enable easy interaction between citizens and government, over the Internet. The connectivity infrastructure envisioned by the NeGP consists of a country-wide network of ICT enabled kiosks called the 'Common Service Centers' under which ICT-enabled single window service delivery centers are proposed to be set up in every *Gram Panchayat* (the smallest unit of local governance in India) of the country through a public private partnership model involving various kinds of partnership agreements between village level entrepreneurs, private companies and government agencies; as well as Electronic Service Delivery Gateways⁹ and State-Wide Area Networks. This connectivity infrastructure is envisioned as a platform for digitized public service delivery, the back-end for which is

⁹ See <https://nsdg.gov.in/administration/aboutus.jsp> for details.

expected to be a readied by a range of Central, State-Led and Integrated Mission Mode Projects¹⁰.

With the efforts of the Department of Information and Technology, Government of India the following initiatives have been rolled out under the NeGP:

- a) The Launch of Mobile Seva: An Unique Country-wide initiative to provide public services to citizens through mobile phones and hand-held devices, through which 200 different services of 444 departments have been offered.
- b) Pilot project covering 59 panchayats in three blocks in three states on using the hi-speed connectivity of National Optical Fiber Network (NOFN) for delivery of public services
- c) The launch of the 'Open Government Platform' developed in collaboration with the United States, intended to enhance access and use of government data for innovation; government transparency, accountability and public participation.
- d) The launch of 'Data Portal India' to function as a single access point for open government data sets across the country in multiple topics.

The CSC schemes have been used as a means to address women's empowerment, where women are encouraged to operate the CSC kiosks. For example, in the state of Kerala, the CSC scheme, is operated by women who are Village Level Entrepreneurs to run the single window service delivery centers. While studies have found that this model of integrating gender in e-governance has significant gains for the women entrepreneurs, it could not address issues of gender barriers to access CSCs.

Another model to overcome the barriers aforementioned, was overcome in an innovative model of integrating gender in CSCs is in Delhi. In this model, a government-NGO-community partnership model was tested, wherein the State Government of Delhi, local NGOs with grassroots presence and urban slum communities focuses on

¹⁰ Prime Minister's Office (2013), PM Reviews National e-governance Plan, Retrieved: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=96938> 13 April 2014 ;and <http://ogpl.gov.in/>; <http://www.futuregov.asia/articles/2014/feb/20/india-launches-improved-open-government-platform/> on 2nd August 2014

targeted service delivery through a network of pre-existing gender resource centers managed by the NGOs on the ground. The rationale guiding the project was that the NGOs operating the Gender Resource Centers were already sensitive to the local context, aware of gender barriers and needs to overcome these and therefore were more invested in addressing community needs. The choice of these gender resources centers ensured smooth processing of information requests and entitlement claims and enables women to access CSCs.¹¹

4.2. ICT- in Health:

Although the economic prowess of India is growing consistently, still India's ranking is among the bottom five countries, with the lowest public health spending world over, accounting for nearly 21% of the global disease burden. A World Bank report published in 2010 estimates that India is annually losing over 6% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) due to the premature deaths and preventable illnesses. Indian healthcare sector is still suffering on account of underfunding and poor governance, which have led to substantial inequities in basic healthcare provisions. Following women centered innovations and interventions are just a few that have been planned both by Government and its partners to improve the health parameters of women.

4.2.a. Mother and Child Tracking System (MCTS): Mother and Child Tracking System (MCTS) is a name based tracking system, launched by the Government of India in 2009 as an innovative application of information technology directed towards improving the health care service delivery system and strengthening the monitoring mechanism for women's health. MCTS is designed to capture information on and track all pregnant women and children (0-5 Years) so that they receive 'full' maternal and child health services and thereby contributes to the reduction in maternal, infant and child morbidity and mortality.

A total of 2,18,22,364 pregnant women have been registered in MCTS during 2013-2014 (as on 11th June, 2014) which indicates a registration of 73 % as against

¹¹ Gurumurthy, A., & Chami N. April 2014- Digital Technologies and Gender Justice in India- An analysis of key policy and programming concerns Input to the High Level Committee on the Status of Women in India

estimated number of pregnant women in 2013-2014. A total of 1,80,67,874 children have been registered in MCTS during 2013-2014 as on 11th June, 2014, which indicates a registration of 67% as against estimated number of infants in 2013-2014.

The MCTS software sends reminders to the Auxiliary Nursing Midwives (ANMs) or ASHAs (Accredited Social Health Activists) on the various treatments to be availed by the expecting mothers having mobile phones. Once a mother receives her immunization, ANMs have to send the details to the MCTS service through an SMS. After the enrolment, every expectant mother receives SMS regarding their next immunization and checkup dates. It is absolute essential that all ANMs start upload the service delivery data in near real-time. In order to facilitate this near real-time data updation by ANMs “Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD)” based service has been enabled for MCTS data updation .

4.2.b. Mobile Kunji : Mobile Kunji is a unique model AV job aid designed for the Frontline Health Workers (FLHWs). Forty phone –sized card are illustrated with key messages on family health, family planning, pregnancy, post-natal care and childcare up to two years of age. The number of cards is flexible and can vary with the State’s specific health needs. Each of these messages is accessible by a unique toll free seven digit mobile code that can be dialed directly by the FLHW from her mobile to share the information with the beneficiary. It can be carried at all times and does not need a smart phone to access this service, thus making this a low end technology for high-end gains project. This project is run as a partnership between State Government, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and BBC Media Action. Since its inception in 2012, 89171 users have accessed 21,32,420 minutes of information on the mobile phone. Under the program, 200.000 FLHWs have been trained use of this mobile application. It is currently running in large parts of three states of India. Government may plan to scale-up this intervention in the coming year if the intervention shows positive results.

4.2.c. Mobile Academy: Mobile Academy is an innovation to use mobile technology that is handset independent; audio based, accessed via a simple voice call and helps to train FLHWs to deliver life-saving information to beneficiaries. It is a highly subsidized, but paid initiative that costs FLHWs a mere Rs 100 (¥200 approx) for the entire training. It is an IVR based programme providing voice lectures and quizzes over 190 minutes for knowledge enhancement of the FLHWs. The training broadly covers topics on: maternal

health, family planning, child health, immunization to name a few. On successful completion of the training, FLHWs take a tele-exam and are awarded a ‘Certificate’ by senior government officials, which go a long way to improve their self-esteem and position in their community. To date more than 39,000 workers are trained and have received certificates under this program.

5. Issues and Challenges:

ICTs have been acknowledged as potent tools for development, but there are multiple challenges to successfully use ICTs for gender and development. These issues and challenges range broadly from contextual factors like unequal gender-norms that hinder women’s access and control of ICTs that make it difficult for ICTs to be maximize its reach and effectiveness, to policy level issues like absence of comprehensive policies to make provisions of infrastructure development to facilitate penetration of ICTs. Some specific issues and challenges are pointed below:

- Lack of a clear National Policy for promoting ICT for development of women.
- Setting up and maintenance costs of ICT structures are major deterrents in its nation-wide expansion
- Poor ICT infrastructure: given the magnitude of need for ICT, adequate infrastructure in form of availability of computer systems, affordable internet, and low bandwidth are not available.
- Lack of trained personnel to manage and use ICT in terms of numbers and quality
- Lack of basic infrastructure like electricity, telephone lines etc.
- Poor female literacy, combined with poverty, skewed gender roles makes access to ICTs a major stumbling block for women
- Women are perceived as mere ‘consumers’ of ICT rather than producers or decisions makers in ICT sector
- Being a patriarchal society decisions and access regarding women’s participation in ICT initiatives are often controlled by the ‘others’ in their family.

6. Policy Recommendations:

While the need for a comprehensive ICT policy foregrounds all ICT interventions, keeping women and gender issues central across all ICT based development programs needs to be underscored in all policy and programs using ICTs.

- Government to frame a national ICT Policy with special focus on inclusion of women as active agents of change.
- Review existing ICT related laws from a gender perspective to ensure protection of women, as well as safe guard their interests and rights.
- Policy measures to outline guidelines for data sharing, storage, access and confidentiality in various ICT and development interventions.
- Government to advocate proportionate representation of women at all levels in ICT sector aiming at increase in uptake of ICT-related education and employment.
- Government to felicitate successful women-led ICT initiatives on a National/State level to inspire more women-led entrepreneurial innovations.
- Government in collaboration with women's groups to develop gender sensitive content for ICT initiatives in various ministries/departments
- All ICT interventions to be made available in the vernacular languages to increase access and use.
- Government to formulate policy to carry out continuous media surveillance to monitor harmful effects of stereotyping of women.

ICTs have tremendous potential to strengthen women's political and social identity and stimulate far-reaching ICTs-induced structural transformations. The responsibility and opportunity to exploit the potential of ICT and gender, rests equally with governments and policy makers of the country by making gender inclusive policies and with existing national women's machineries and women's groups to acquaint themselves with digital environs and ensure that ICTs do not become 'tokenistic' but are transformative to lives of women.

Gender in Context

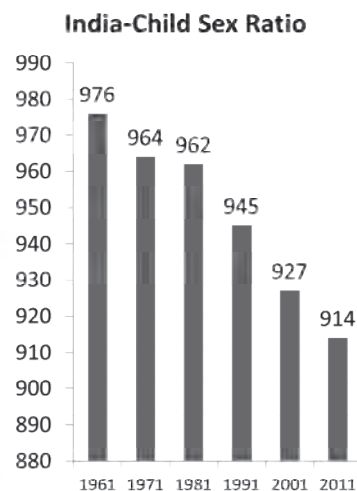
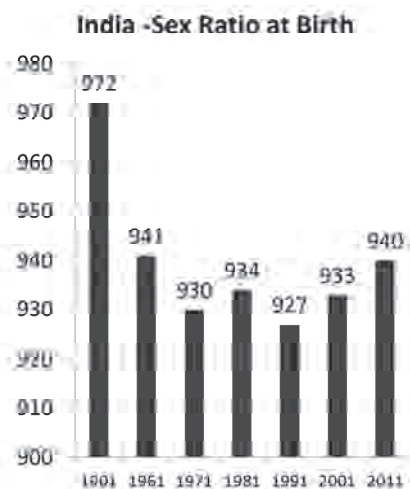
- India is a predominant patriarchal society with hegemonic norms around gender roles, socialization of men and women and rigid expectations from each gender.
- India has in recent years witnessed rapid economic growth with concomitant rise in urbanization and shifts in values and norms relating to marriage, relationship and women's status in particular.
- Yet we contradictory trends.

For eg Khap Panchyat

3

Country Profile contd

India is home to 1210 million people; of which women are approx 587 million



Source: www.censusindia.gov.in/

4

2. Gender Equality Policy

- Creating a suitable environment for women through positive economic and social policies .
- The *de-facto* enjoyment by women of all human rights and fundamental freedom in all spheres – political, economic, social, cultural and civil
- Equal access to participation and decision making
- Equal access for women to health care, education, career and vocational guidance, employment, social security and public office etc.
- Strengthening legal systems –elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girl child
- Changing societal attitudes and community practices
- Mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development process
- Building and strengthening partnerships within civil society

5

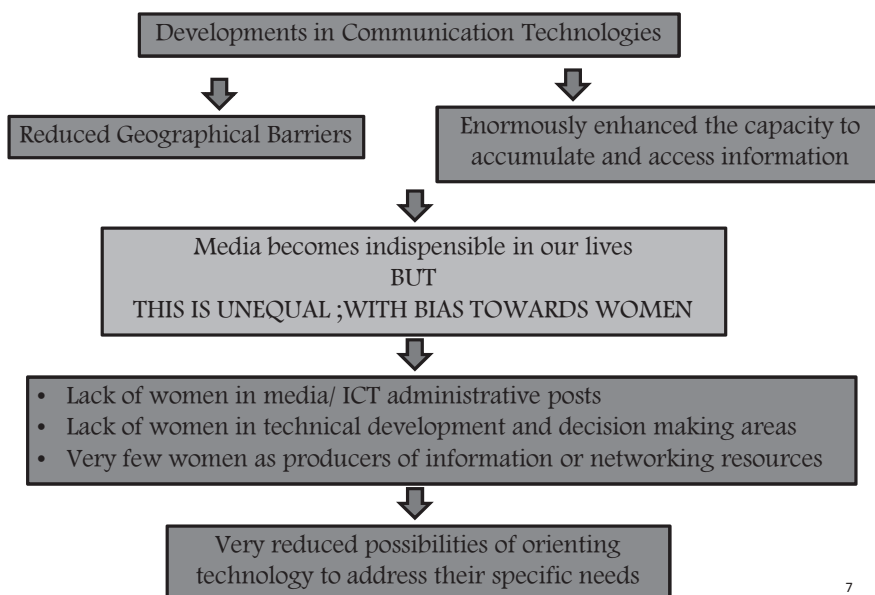
3.Current Situation of Gender Equality in the county

- India is home to more than 1.2 billion people (women make up almost a half (48.4%))
- Life expectancy for women is 62.7 yr as compared to 61yr in men
- Literacy Rate for women is 65.5% while for men it is 82.1%
- The Gross Enrolment Rate for Sec and Higher Sec School is 41.4%
- In 2009–10 Universities had 41.4% students as girls
- Women make up 25–30% of the workforce in the rural and 15–18% in the urban settings.
- Representation of women in *Village Panchayats* is 37%
- India ranked 111th with 62 women parliamentarians sitting in the Lok Sabha, a small 11.4 per cent of the total 545 MPs**

Source: www.censusindia.gov.in/

6

4. Overview of ICTs • Media and Gender in the country



Overview contd

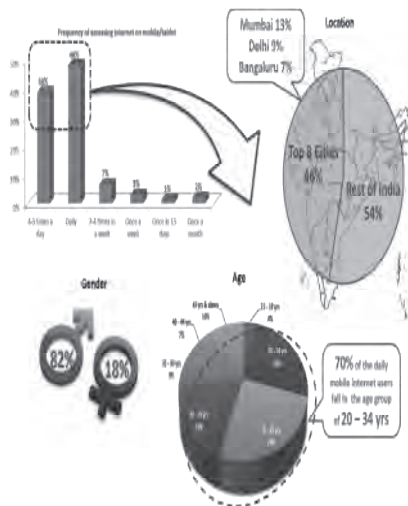
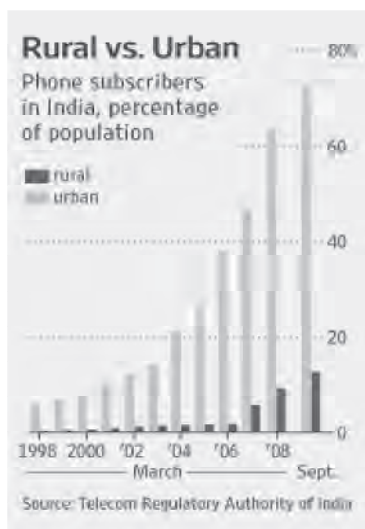
- ICT industry has contributed to India's economic growth
ICT sector's contribution to India's GDP grew from 3.4 % in 2000–01 to 5.9% percent in 2007–2008
- Number of phone users in India is high
63.2% of homes have a telephone and 53.2% have a mobile phone.
- Disparity in access to computers and internet (urban and rural)
Just 6.3% of households owned a computer without Internet connections.
3.1% of households had a computer and Internet access.
8.7% of urban households own computers with Internet access compared with just 0.7% of rural households.
- Media (usage of print/television/radio)
47.2% households —television sets, only 19.9% use radios
- Television is preferred source of information for most

8

- Recent survey by GSMA Development Fund and the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women provides a gendered breakdown of mobile phones users and owners in India (GSMA and Cherie Blair Foundation for Women (2010))
- Only 28 percent of women own a mobile phone compared to 40 percent of men.
- Another 20 percent of females were found to be “borrowers” of mobile phones through family or friends.
- Access and use among women still favors those with higher education and income levels, as well as those who live in urban areas.

9

Urban-rural Disparity In Access To ICT-data



10

ICTs, Gender and Development

- E-governance
focus on establishing one-stop-shop for people to access government schemes/documents/certificate, file complaints etc.
- Economic empowerment
ICT as an industry and as a tool
- Health
ICTs used to remind women of vaccination schedules, disseminate information on health
- ICT for women's safety
very recently, new mobile apps have been launched for safety of women

11

5. Case Analysis



Mobile Kunji

- An AV job aid designed for front-line health workers (FLHWs).
- The 40 phone-sized cards are illustrated with key messages on family health and planning, pregnancy and postnatal care for children up to two years of age.
- Each card has a unique seven-digit mobile short code that can be dialled on the FLHW's mobile phone.
- Partnership between a State government, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and BBC Media Action (India).
- 89,171 users have accessed 21, 32,420 minutes of information since the start in 2012.
- 200,000 health workers have been trained on the mobile application
- Enhanced interpersonal communication has resulted to improve the quality of home visits (plan to scale up by 2015)

12

5. Case Analysis contd

Kilkari

- Phone call to registered mothers as a family timeline service
- Automated IVR calls sent as a pre-recorded call made to the registered phone of families who have subscribed to it.
- Provides time sensitive information related to pregnancy, child birth and child care.
- Used as a pilot in a state in India

Mobile Academy

- Place to train FLHW to deliver life saving information to millions of families
- IVR based Certificate programme providing voice lectures and quizzes over 190 minutes for knowledge enhancement
- More than 39,000 workers trained till now
- Being piloted

13

6. Best Practices : to enhance inclusion of women and girls in information society (by MoHFW, India)

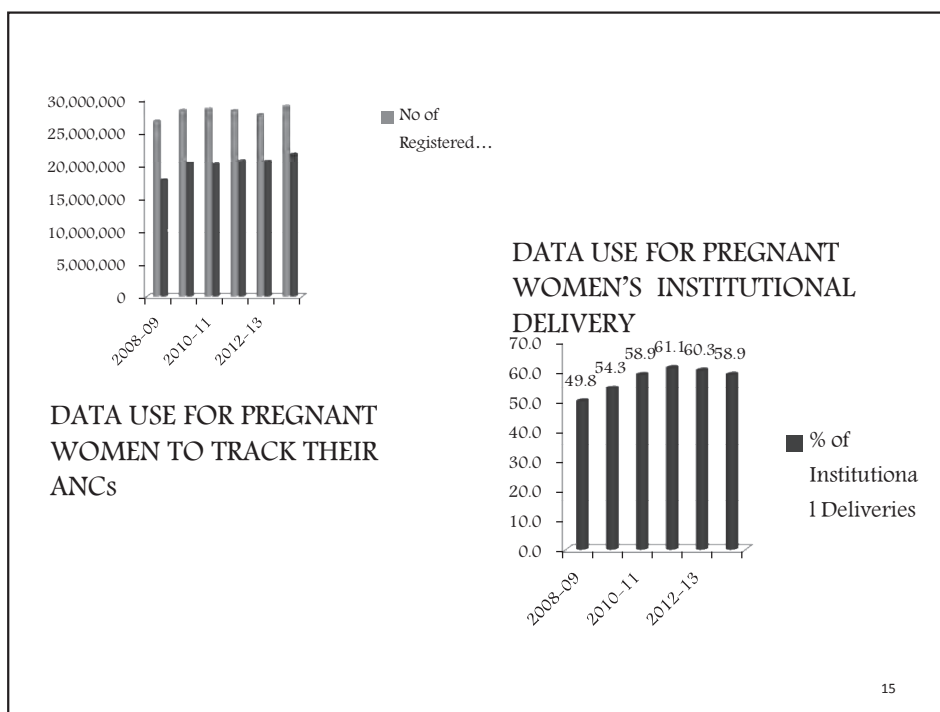
I. Mother and Child Tracking System (MCTS)

- Captures information on and track all pregnant women and children (0-5 Years) so that they receive 'full' MCH Services
- 2,18,22,364 pregnant women and 1,80,67,874 children were registered in MCTS during 2013-2014 as on June, 2014(73 % & 67% against estimated number)
- ANMs upload this service delivery data in near real-time

II. Health Management Information System (HMIS)

- To monitor and evaluate the impact of the various health programmes and interventions being run in all states.
- Capture facility-level statistics/details on health indicators and health facilities for M&E of the impact of initiatives under NHM
- Has analytical and reporting capabilities soon to be along with GIS Integration
- Gender/ age wise data can be enumerated for planning purposes.

14



ICT: Media and gender-India

- Portrayal of women in news (Global Media Monitoring Project, 2010)

In India women constitute only 22% of the news subjects across all topic categories.

In India women account for only 18% of the subjects in political stories and an abysmally low 10% in stories relating to the economy.

Only 5% of the news stories highlighted gender equality /inequality.

- Portrayal of women in television ads and programs.

sexist images combined with ideal 'Naari' -dedication to husband and family and children

Women and girls are expected to perform equally well with men in the office and work spaces and yet continue to excel in their ideal woman's role that looks after the children, husbands and families.

7. Major Obstacles to reduce gender gaps in access to ICTs and to overcome gender-bias in the media

- Lack of a clear National policy for promoting ICT for women's development.
- Poor ICT infrastructure, lack of electricity in many remote, far-flung areas, and frequent power cuts.
- Poor literacy among women and inadequate computer skills
- Unaffordable costs of computer hardware and software, maintenance and connectivity.
- Little awareness of the full range of opportunities offered by ICT other than access to information
- Limited online information in vernacular languages.

17

Obstacles contd

- Women seen merely as consumers of media and ICTs
- Market driven motives
- New gender norms to be created and supported by greater engagement of men and boys.
- Inefficient telephone services along with absence of favourable bandwidth and connectivity for smooth operation
- Financial powers do not wrest with women usually nor can she decide for herself.

18

Conclusion & Policy Recommendations

- ICT can influence changes and restructure the prevailing power equations both in and out of family.
- Government of India is running schemes in the various ministries to empower women and girls by providing them trainings in the field of technology and supporting them through their ventures.
- Computer labs are set up in senior secondary schools and colleges to provide free IT education to girls.
- Schemes provide subsidized or free trainings to girls and even provide financial incentives for completion of course and establish them with low or no interest loans from cooperative societies and banks.

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Conclusion & Policy Recommendations

- Creating an enabling environment for women to support and encourage strategies which promote equal access to and opportunity to benefit from ICT projects
- Developing content which speaks to women's concerns and reflects their local knowledge, and is of value in their daily lives, business enterprises, or family responsibilities
- Promoting increased employment and representation in the IT sector for women and the use of ICTs for women's SMEs
- Institution of scholarships and awards, with incentives, to promote the enrolment of girls and women in ICT programmes.

20

Conclusion & Policy Recommendations

For social development and gender equality changes must take place in a context which consists of following components:

- Implementing e-governance strategies which are accessible to women; and promoting women's lobbying and advocacy activities.
 - Need for continuous surveillance of media to monitor harmful effects of stereotypical portrayal of women
 - Programs and policies need to critically examine whether ...
- Use of ICT to empowerment seeks to serve 'market needs' of consumption or

Are ICT and media used to reinforce gender stereotypes of
Are ICT and media are transforming and challenging gender
norms

21

Chapter 4 Report from the Philippines

1. Introduction: Country Profile of Gender and ICT

With a population of more than 92 million,¹ the Philippines is the second most populated country in Southeast Asia, the 7th in Asia, and the 12th in the world. There is almost parity of sex ratio – men at 51% and women at 49%. Life expectancy at birth is higher for women at 73.1 years compared to 67.6 years for men. The Philippines has a basic literacy rate of 96.1 % for women and 95.1 % for men. Women have a 49.7 percent labor participation rate compared to men's 78.3%. Women occupy 18.4% of elective posts in the country.² It has had two women Presidents and at present has a woman Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. In 2013, the Philippines ranked 114 in the Human Development Index.

The last few years has seen the development of technology. Information and communications technology (ICT) have started to play a big role in many countries, including the Philippines. The proliferation of ICTs is transforming various aspects of our lives, including our culture, and Filipinos have adapted and embraced its various uses.

The telephone has changed the way people communicate, but with the advent of mobile phones, more Filipinos found a better way of communicating. According to the Philippines' National Telecommunications Office, telephone subscription grew by 8.4 per cent in 2006 compared to 33.6 per cent in cellular phone subscription. Today, more than 100 million Filipinos have access to mobile phones.³ Ten per cent of global short messaging system (SMS) traffic is from the Philippines, with the average Filipino sending about 600 text messages in a month, according to studies conducted by various agencies.⁴ It is no wonder therefore that the Philippines is called the texting capital of the world. Recently, the Philippines has also been tagged as the “selfie” capital of the world, because of the volume of selfies being shared by Filipinos.

¹ Per 2010 population census. In NSCB Fact Sheet in <http://www.nscb.gov.ph/gender/FS%20on%20WAM%2018mar2013.pdf>

² NSCB Fact Sheet, 2013

³ 2012 State of Broadband

⁴ 2009 researches conducted by Reuters, Portio research, NY Times, CTIA.org

When the Internet was introduced in the Philippines in 1994, there were only about 4,000 users.⁵ This has steadily grown and by the year 2000, some 2 million Filipinos were said to have accessed the Internet.⁶ This figure grew to 7.8 million by 2005,⁷ and today, the Information and Communications Office (ICTO) reports that 35 per cent of the population or about 33 million Filipinos have access to the Internet.⁸ Latest figures from the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) show that Internet penetration has reached 41% or roughly 44,000,000.⁹ Although a large portion of the population has not yet accessed the Internet, those who do, use the Internet in their work, in school, to do research, and to communicate with other people.

The Philippines is in the top 20 countries with the highest number of Internet users in the world. According to the 2013 South East Asia (SEA) Digital Future in Focus, the Philippines has the highest social network access among SEA countries.¹⁰ The top social network preferred by the Filipinos is Facebook (FB), with 92 per cent of the social network users having an FB account. This is followed by Twitter, Tumblr, and LinkedIn. The same study also said that males spend more time online, although when it comes to using social networks, the women are more active.

Young people are the biggest consumers of ICTs. According to a study by comScore in 2013, 71% of the online population in the Philippines falls under the age group 15-34 years old.¹¹ Data from the 2013 Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality (YAFS) survey corroborate the comScore study. According to the YAFS survey, 6 in 10 young people aged 15-24 years old are regular internet users, and that more than half have social network and email account, and 78 percent have mobile phones.¹² On the average, they spend 6 hours a

⁵ In www.itu.int

⁶ Ibid

⁷ CI Almanac

⁸ Statement of DOST Undersecretary Louis Casambre on internet penetration in the Philippines. In <http://www.philstar.com/business/2013/02/02/903770/internet-penetration-rises-35>

⁹ <http://www.internetworldstats.com/stats3.htm>

¹⁰ In comScore.com

¹¹ comScore Media Users, March 2013.

¹² Findings are based on a national survey of about 17,000 young adults for the 2013 Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality survey conducted by the University of the Philippines Population Institute.

week online, some logging in as much as 35 hours of internet use. Females, the younger youth and those from economically better off regions show higher social media consumption than males, older youth and those coming from poorer regions.

As subjects of news, women fare low. According to the 2010 Global Media Monitoring project (GMMP) Philippine findings on news subjects, 31% are women and 69% are men. 76% of stories reinforce stereotypes, while only 18% challenge stereotypes and only 8% highlight issues of gender inequality.¹³ This just shows that women are virtually invisible in the news. The Internet, in many ways, has replaced traditional source of news, but the way women are portrayed and talked about in the news have remained almost the same in the online world.

In terms of employment in media, findings from the International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF) Global Report on the Status of Women in the News and media (2008-2010) shows that in the Philippines men outnumber women in media management. In middle management, half are women, 34.5% are in top level management, and 10.3% are board members.

Business process outsourcing (BPO) in the Philippines grew as a result of developments and demands in ICT. It is a growing industry. In 2010, BPO activities have generated almost 213,000 employment. Bulk of the jobs were in call centers which employed more than three fourths of the total BPO workforce. It is followed by data processing, and computer programming activities.¹⁴

More than half of the total workforces were female workers (54.9%). They were mostly engaged in data processing, application hosting services, customer relationship management activities, and medical transcription activities.

In special economic zones,¹⁵ that host industries mainly for export, the proportion of women working is much higher than the over-all female labor force participation rate. 64

¹³ See pages.cmns.sfu.ca/Kathleen-cross/files/2010/11/GMMP-global.pdf

¹⁴ 2010 Annual Survey of Philippine Business and Industry (ASPBI)

¹⁵ Philippine economic zones (ecozones) are collections of industries, brought together geographically for the purpose of promoting economic development. These ecozones

percent of the 660,600 workers employed in ecozones are female, and this percentage is higher in certain industries such as electronics.¹⁶

Government media institutions are active partners in advocacy against negative portrayal of women in media. Since May 2009, the Bureau of Broadcast Services, in partnership with PCW has been airing the weekly interactive radio program, “*Tinig Ng Kababaihan!*” (Women’s Voices!) to raise public awareness on government’s efforts to promote gender equality and uphold women’s human rights, including those guaranteed under the UN CEDAW. Several media agencies have developed and produced IEC materials on anti-VAW related laws in comics, pamphlets, brochures and flyers; and conducted orientation/briefing on various gender and development topics, including but not limited to gender fair media practice and the Anti-Violence against Women and their Children Act.

Other government agencies have also been supporting advocacy efforts. The Tourism Promotions Board (TPB) directed its advertising agencies to produce marketing campaigns and promotional products that are gender sensitive and do not portray discrimination against either men or women in text or visual renditions. The directive stressed that under no circumstances should these materials promote (implicitly or explicitly) sex tourism or the commodification of women. The National Council for Children’s Television also conducted two dialogues in December 2009 and May 2010 to promote a child-friendly culture, correct the discriminatory portrayal of women and men in certain situations, among others. The local government unit of Quezon City, with the initiative of its City Mayor and its GAD Resource Coordinating Office and through its City Council passed a resolution providing funds for a yearly Gender and Development (GAD) Award for the Most Gender-Sensitive Film submitted to the Metro Manila Film Festival.

2. Policies and Laws on Gender and ICTs

were established through Republic Act No. 7916, otherwise known as "The Special Economic Zone Act of 1995" as amended by Republic Act No. 8748

¹⁶ In Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Gender and Development survey 2009 in Fostering Women’s Economic Empowerment through Special Economic Zones, 2011. Available in <http://herproject.org/download/sez-and-women-global.pdf>

The Constitution of the Philippines says that “The State recognizes the role of women in nation-building and shall ensure the fundamental equality before the law of women and men (Art. II, Sec. 14).” The country in fact, ranks high when it comes to gender equality.¹⁷ It has signed several human rights conventions, and has ratified the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1980. In 2012, Republic Act (RA) 9710, otherwise known as the Magna Carta of Women was passed into law. This is the local translation of CEDAW in the country. Under the Office of the President is the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), formerly known as the National Council on the Role of Filipino Women, the primary policy-making and coordinating body of the women and gender equality concerns.

Republic Act 9710 provides for the “non-discriminatory and non-derogatory portrayal of women in media and film. Its Implementing rules and regulations (IRR) called on the Philippine Commission on Women and the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) to form the Media and Gender Equality Committee (GEC). A milestone in the advocacy in eliminating gender stereotyping of women in media, the MGEC is composed of the Office of the Press Secretary, Philippine Commission on Women, and various self-regulatory bodies and the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB), Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP), Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP), Optical Media Board (OMB), from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), and representatives from women’s media NGOs. The Committee produced the Code of Ethics for Media, Gender Equality Guidelines, and Media Guidelines to Protect Women against Discrimination in Media and Film, which were launched in March 2013 for government media, self-regulatory bodies, schools of journalism, information and communication, and national federations and associations to make media more gender sensitive while respecting media’s self-regulation. The Executive Secretary of the President also issued a Memorandum Circular (2013) “directing all concerned government agencies to adopt the gender equality guidelines in the development of their respective media policies and implementing programs in order to promote gender mainstreaming.”

¹⁷ In 2013, the Philippines ranked number 5 among 136 countries in the Global Gender Equality Gap, and number 9 among 142 countries for 2014.

In 2012, MGEC launched three books for media – the Code of Ethics for Media (Book 1); Guidelines to Protect Women from Discrimination in Media and Film (Book 2); and Gender Equality Guide (Book 3).

In 2011, the Philippines came up with a Philippine Digital Strategy (PDS), to build a citizenry that is not just knowledgeable in ICT but adept in it, as it positions itself at the forefront of the digital revolution.¹⁸ There is a need to review the PDS though, considering that cross cutting issues such as gender and ICT have not been seriously considered.

Other than the PDS, there are specific laws that have been passed, in relation to ICT. The more relevant ones that consider women and children issues include the following:

1. The Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2009 (RA 9775) extensively recognizes the role of ICT in the production, advertising and promotion, sale and distribution, purchase and access (even for personal use) of pornographic materials, albeit only where the pornography involves children, and punishes those responsible for these acts.

This law considers a *child* as a “computer-generated, digitally or manually crafted images or graphics of a person who is represented or who is made to appear to be a child” [Section 3(a)(2)]. The age of the person is immaterial, so long as he/she is presented, depicted or believed to be a child as defined by the law [Section 3(a)(1)].

The law penalizes *child pornography*“ as “any public *or private* representation, by whatever means, of a child engaged in real *or simulated* explicit sexual activities *or any representation* of the sexual parts of a child for primarily sexual purposes: [Section 3(b)]; Child pornography materials may be in the form of visual depiction, audio representation (including real-time internet communications), or written text [Section 3(c)].

2. RA 9995 or the Anti-photo and video voyeurism act of 2009 defines photo or video voyeurism as the “act of taking photo or video coverage of a person or group of persons performing sexual act or any similar activity or of capturing an image of the private area of a person or persons without the latter’s consent. It also includes the act of selling, copying, reproducing, broadcasting, sharing, showing or exhibiting the photo or video coverage or recordings of such sexual act or similar activity through

¹⁸ Philippine Digital Strategy, 2011-2016

VCD, DVD, internet, cellular phones and similar means or device without the written consent of the persons involved.

3. RA 10173 or the Data Privacy act was passed in 2012 to safeguard and protect individual and personal information in information and communication system in the government and the private sector. Under this Act, the data subject has the right to know if their personal information is being processed, and how it is being used. Those processing the information must also ensure that security measures are in place to protect the information that they process.
4. In 2012, RA 10175 or the Anti-cybercrime was passed with the aim to prevent and combat crimes occurring in cyber space. The law defines and punishes certain acts, generally classified as:

(a) Offenses against the confidentiality, integrity and availability of computer data and systems; (b) Computer-related Offenses; and (c) Content-related Offenses. The said law, passed in 2012, is at present under temporary restraining order following complaints by groups with the Supreme Court of its unconstitutionality.

Last year, just a few days after RA 10175 was signed into law, the Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order after fifteen (15) petitions to stop its implementation were filed by journalists, civil society groups, non-government organizations, and even several congressmen and one senator (see sc.judiciary.gov.ph/microsite/cybercrime). The Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), in its consolidated Answer to these complaints, identified in the law a total of 20 provisions being assailed as constitutionally invalid while conceding as constitutionally infirm Section 19, i.e., the “take-down” provision.

Feminist organizations opposed the enactment of the said law. Specifically, they rejected the cybersex provision of the law for its vagueness and overbroadness. In a statement signed by several groups, it said that

While the law presumably addresses sexual violence committed online, which are exploitative and harmful particularly to women, the vagueness and overbroad of cybersex as content-related offense creates a different impact on women, who will be the ones caught up in its wide web and targeted for criminal prosecution.

Moreover, the elements of the crime under the cybersex provision are not well defined, therefore the law poses more harm to women who are usual victims of sexual violence in cyberspace. The law fails to concretely define what constitutes the violation under the cybersex provision of the law. If the intent of the law is to suppress the occurrence of syndicated and exploitative cybersex, the measure may be ineffective as it fails to consider the transnational nature of sexual violence in cyberspace where site owners or operators and the buyers are beyond the jurisdiction of the Philippines.¹⁹

On February 18, 2014, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of most of the provisions of RA 10175, including the cybersex and cyber libel provisions, while the following were voted down as categorically unconstitutional:

- Section 4 (c)(3) which pertains to unsolicited commercial communications
- Section 12 which pertains to real-time collection of traffic data, and
- Section 19 which pertains to restricting or blocking access to computer data²⁰

3. Best Practices

3.1. Gender Mainstreaming Monitoring System (GMMS)

The GMMS is a system for managing the gender and development (GAD) profiles, GAD Plans and accomplishment reports of agencies and local government units (LGUs). It can also help generate related reports.

The system is also intended to be a tool for the technical officers of PCW in the provision of technical assistance to agencies and LGUs. Using the system, technical officers can profile each agency/Local Government Unit (LGU) which includes among others the organizations' vision, mission, description, information available on GAD, including statistics, and other issuances related to GAD. As such, it becomes easier to monitor agency

¹⁹ Delete, Undo, retrieve: Statement on the cybercrime Prevention act of 2012, drafted by the Women's Legal and Human Rights Bureau

²⁰ "Cybercrime law constitutional – Supreme court," in <http://www.rappler.com/nation/special-coverage/cybercrime-law/51197-full-text-supreme-court-decision-cybercrime-law>, accessed on 24 February 2014

and LGU progress in related to gender mainstreaming, as well as monitor government compliance to the Magna Carta of Women, CEDAW, BPfA, and other related instruments.

3.2. VAW Documentation System

The VAW Documentation System (VAW DocS) is a secure web-based documentation system that facilitates and integrates the collection and standardization of information from concerned government agencies and other service providers dealing with VAW. VAW statistics which are systematically gathered can be used to guide national policies, such as lobbying for anti-VAW legislation. Data from the VAW DocS can also be used to gauge the magnitude of the problem which is useful in programming and budgeting as well as improving service provision, i.e. in a locality.

VAW DocS is still in its pilot stage but has shown its potential. When done regularly, it can be used as basis for monitoring the Philippine progress in addressing VAW.

3.3. Mobile Applications for women

With support from the Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID), the PCW launched a contest for college and university students, both from public and private, to develop an Android-based mobile apps based on the Republic Act 9710 or the Magna Carta of Women (MCW). This aims to raise public awareness and popularize the provisions of the MCW and to promote women's empowerment and gender equality. To date, a free application called Magdalena is downloadable at Google Play apps. The said application provides the user with basic background and information on the MCW.

3.4. Take Back the Tech! Campaign

In 2009, the Association of Progressive Media (APC) launched the Take Back the Tech campaign in the Philippines with the Foundation for Media Alternatives as its country partner. The objective of the campaign is the elimination of VAW by using technology, with the end in view of documenting, denouncing and transforming the reality of violence against women in online spaces and those that are perpetuated using various forms of ICT. Women and girls are encouraged to own technology and use it for gender-based activism. The

campaign utilizes the Ushahidi mapping technology²¹, to document cases of ICT-related violence against women and girls. Reports generated through the map are then used as evidences to back up campaigns for policy changes.

In the Philippines, a total of 68 cases of technology-related VAW have been reported in the website ph.takebackthetech.net from late 2012 to October 2014. The most common violation reported is online harassment, followed by the uploading of photos/videos without consent. In fact, of late, there have been frequent reports in media of sex video scandals involving local celebrities.

As part of the campaign, FMA also conducts awareness raising on the issue of technology-related violence against women in schools, as well as in communities in partnership with women's rights organizations and local government units. FMA likewise holds digital story telling workshops with women so that women's stories and experiences are shared. Trainings on secure online communication are also provided to individual and groups of women, to teach them about their rights online and to protect these same rights. Through online spaces, women are also taught how to do campaigns and digital activism.

4. Issues and Challenges

Indeed, ICTs have provided women with a lot of opportunities and benefits. ICTs are powerful tools and platforms for advocacy and organizing. Individuals and women's rights groups utilize various forms of ICT to amplify women's voices and help publicize women's experiences and perspectives, disseminate rights based information, build women's capacity and promote gender equality through networking and advocacy.²² But despite the gains, there are still issues and challenges that the country has to address, in relation to gender and ICTs. These include the following:

In media, whether it be in print, photos, television and radio programs, advertisements and films, women are still stereotyped and at worst, they are portrayed in

²¹ The Ushahidi technology is an open source project that allows users to crowd-source crisis information to be sent via mobile, or online. In www.ushahidi.com

²² AnitaGurumurthy. Gender and ICTs: Overview Report. IDSS, 2004

derogatory ways. There are television advertisements, for instance, that portray women as working mothers and yet when they get home, they are still supposed to cook, take care of the children and the family.

Despite the guidelines developed by the GEC, there remains a low level of awareness and appreciation of media practitioners to the problems related to the negative or inequitable portrayal of women and men. A case in point is when a media personality held a show and trivialized the issue of rape. This has resulted in the MTRCB calling the attention of television shows and conducting gender-sensitivity training among the employees and production staff.

While there had been initiatives to address stereotyping and derogatory portrayal of women in media, there are difficulties in implementing the policies relating to gender issues because of the lack of criteria for gender neutral programming. The absence of structural mechanism to monitor this concern compounds the issue. However, the most alarming emerging gender issue recently is the use of information and communication technology (ICT), specifically the internet, on ICT-related violence and other forms of cyber harassments. These issues call for the establishment of structured criteria for gender fairness in media coupled with the creation of monitoring mechanism on this concern. Sustained interaction and coordination among various government agencies and NGOs and cooperation of private media entities should be promoted to advance this advocacy. Participation of women's group in the formulation, review and enhancements of ICT policies should be ensured.²³

According to a report of the thematic working group on discrimination against women in public spaces in 2013, "The internet has become a site of diverse forms of violence against women, in the form of pornography, sexist games and breaches of privacy."

Below are some of the emerging forms of VAW as a result of technology:

Cyber harassment. This refers to online harassment of women, which includes rape threats, doctored photographs portraying women being strangled, postings of women's home addresses alongside suggestions that they are interested in anonymous sex, and technological

²³ BPfA+20: Philippine Progress Report on the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 2014

attacks that shut down blogs and websites.²⁴ Examples of cyber harassment include threats of sexual violence, doctored photographs of women, postings of women's personal information, technological attacks that shut down feminist blogs and websites, and emails to forward unwanted proposals, to name a few.

Revenge porn. It is a form of sexual assault that involves the distribution of nude/sexually explicit photos and/or videos of an individual without their consent. Sometimes called cyber rape or non-consensual pornography, revenge porn is usually posted by a scorned ex-lover or friend in order to seek revenge after a relationship has gone sour.²⁵

Cyber pornography. This refers to acts of using cyberspace to create, display, distribute, import or publish pornography or obscene materials.

Cyber trafficking. This includes fake online "marriage agencies" or websites advertising non-existent work of study opportunities, as well the commercialization of private home videos.

Technology-related violence against women, although something which many people may consider as trivial because it occurs in 'virtual' or cyber space, is still violence. New forms of VAW violate women's right to privacy, bodily integrity, freedom of association, and freedom of expression. Although the more common experiences relate to psychological harm caused by these new forms of VAW, it is something that can escalate into physical violence.

What differentiates the new forms of VAW from what we know as VAW are the following:²⁶

Anonymity. An abuser may remain anonymous because of digital technology.

Automation. With the use of ICTs, information may be distributed to a large number of people; surveillance or monitoring can be done without too much time and effort.

²⁴ Citron, D. "Law's Expressive Value in combating Cyber Gender Harassment," in *Michigan Law Review*, Vol. 108:373. December 2009.

²⁵ www.endrevengeporn.org

²⁶ APC. *Voices from digital Spaces: Technology-related violence against women*, 2011.

Action at a distance. ICTs allow people to abuse or harass others anywhere in the world.

Affordability. The cost of gadgets and other technological tools have gone down and this has allowed more people to make use of new technology. There are also many free applications and platforms that people share, which they do not have to pay for.

Propagation. Once something has been shared or uploaded in the Internet, it is recorded and easily shared. The propagation of violative texts and images can lead to the re-victimization of women.

We also have to take note of the gender and sexuality issues in relation to ICTs, specifically internet content regulation, monitoring, surveillance and privacy which limit the rights to freedom of expression, information and privacy on the net.

With the emerging new forms of VAW committed through ICT, there is also the need to identify and define ICT-related VAW within national legislations, as well as provide protection and access to justice of women who have been victimized online.

Government says it will address the physical infrastructure to address access and connectivity. Knowing how to use devices is not enough. Women should be taught how to use ICTs strategically for their empowerment, for them to be informed, to avail of opportunities, to learn and to earn. Thus, there is also a need to review the government's digital strategy in order to address issues in relation to women's empowerment through ICTs.

5. Policy Recommendations

Based on the above, the following are our policy recommendations:

- Need to have sex-disaggregated data especially those coming from government agencies. While the MCW stipulates this, there is a need to monitor its implementation.
- Intensify monitoring of the implementation and compliance of the Gender Equality Guidelines as well as women-related laws especially those that perpetuate VAW through ICTs (R.A. 995, R.A. 9775)

- Media practitioners need to be capacitated to use gender sensitive language and images in print, photos, television and radio programs, advertisements and films.
- Women should be represented in all decision-making structures in the ICT sector in order to push for decisions and innovative projects, policies and standards in the ICT sector that will help empower women.
- Need to increase the level of understanding and awareness of the opportunities that ICTs could provide for women as this will be one of the ways in bridging the gender digital divide and towards transforming it into digital opportunity. Infrastructure development is needed to address the digital divide, and corollary, the gender divide
- Education and human resource development to promote ICT awareness
- Inclusion of women's rights perspective for the development of internet and ICT policies; direct participation of women in the development of the policy where the needs of the poor and the marginalized are heard.
- Ensure women's access to justice, not just offline but also online, by not merely focusing on protectionism and criminalization but through concrete programs to prevent VAW in cyberspace.



FY 2014 Seminar for Gender Equality Officers and Women Leaders in the Asia Pacific Region

Philippines Country Report

Vichel Rse E. Juguilon
Philippine Commission on Women (PCW)
&
Liza S. Garcia
Foundation for Media Alternatives (FMA)

1. Country Overview

- ☐ Consists of 7,107 islands
- ☐ Capital city is Manila
- ☐ Approximately 300,000 square kilometers (115,831 sq mi) and the 64th largest country in the world.
- ☐ With a population of at least 99 million people, the Philippines is the 2nd most populated country in South East Asia, 7th in Asia and the 12th in the world.
- ☐ GDP: US\$250.2 B (World Bank, 2012)
GDP per capita: US\$2,587
Poverty line (% of pop'n): 25.2%
Unemployment rate: 7.2%
- ☐ Human Development Index: 114 (UNDP, 2013)



2. Gender Equality Policy

- “The State recognizes the role of women in nation building and shall ensure the fundamental equality before the law of women and men.” (Art. II, Sec. 14 of the Philippine Constitution)
- Ratified the United Nations *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)* in 1980
- Passed into law **RA 9710**, otherwise known as “*The Magna Carta of Women*” which is the local translation of CEDAW
 - *Philippine Commission on Women* is the primary policy-making and coordinating body of the women and gender equality concerns under the Office of the President



3

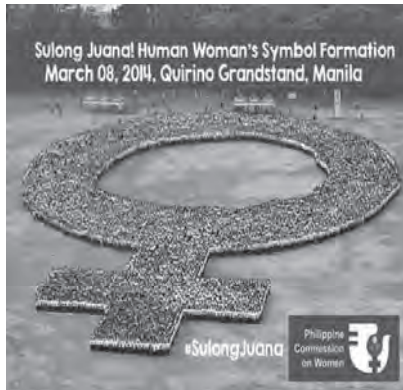
2. Gender Equality Policy

Aside from RA 9710, the Philippines is implementing the following laws:

- RA 7192- Women in Nation Building and Development Act (1992)
- RA 7877- Anti-Sexual Harassment Act (1995)
- RA 8353 and 8505- Anti-Rape Law (1997) and Rape Victim Assistance and Protection Act (1998)
- RA 9262- Anti-Violence against Women and their Children Act (2004)
- RA 9775 - Anti-Child Pornography Act (2009)
- RA 9995 – Anti Photo and Video Voyeurism Act (2012)
- RA 10354-Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act (2012)
- RA 10364- Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act (2012)
- RA 10398-National VAW Consciousness Day for the Elimination of VAW (2013)

4

3. Current Situation of Gender Equality in the county (statistics and salient features)



- ❑ In the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2013, the Philippines ranked 5th out of 136 countries, making it the only Asian country to enter in the top ten since 2006.
- ❑ The Philippines ranks number 8 in the list of "Best Countries for Women to Live In" and is also dubbed as "The Best Place in Asia for Women"

5

3. Current Situation of Gender Equality in the county (statistics and salient features)

- ❑ The Philippines also had 2 women Presidents and women now hold the following positions: Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Secretary of Justice, Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, Commissioner of Audit and Commissioner of Internal Revenue



6

3. Current Situation of Gender Equality in the county (statistics and salient features)

Indicator	Women	Men
Functional Literacy Rate (%) (10-64 years old)	88.7	84.2
Basic Literacy Rate (%) (10 years and over)	96.1	95.1
Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100,000 live births)	221	-
Life Expectancy at Birth	73.2	67.6
Labor Force Participation Rate (%)	49.8	78.1
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.9	6.8
Proportion of Occupied Elective Positions (%)	20.0	80.0

7

4. Overview of ICTs in the Philippines

- Internet penetration (2013): 33.6m of population (based on 2012 est. of 92.3m)
- Penetration based on age
 - 15-24 years old (40%)
 - 25-34 years old (31%)
 - 35-44 years old (16%)
 - 45-54 years old (9%)

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4. Overview of ICTs in the Philippines

- Female share of the Internet population: 49% (ComScore, 2013)
- Women spend an average of 15.6 hours per month on the internet. They are likely to visit sites that relate to family, home and retail
- FB usage: 92.2%
 - F : 51.9%; M : 48.1 (2010)

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4. Overview of ICTs - Media and Gender in the country

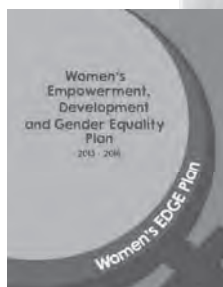


Indicator	♀	♂
Own a cellular phone	81.0	76.0
Use the internet	61.0	57.0
Have an email account	55.0	49.0
Have a social networking account	56.0	50.0

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4. Overview of ICTs - Media and Gender in the country

- Magna Carta of Women Section 19 provides for Non-discriminatory and Non-Derogatory Portrayal of Women in Media and Film
- Gender Equality Guidelines: Guidelines to Protect Women against Discrimination in Media and Film, and Code of Ethics for Media was formulated by the Media and Gender Equality Committee (MGEC)
- The Women's EDGE Plan 2013–2016 seeks to address the persistent negative portrayal of women in popular media, especially in film, television, print, and Internet sites.



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5. Case Analysis: PCW

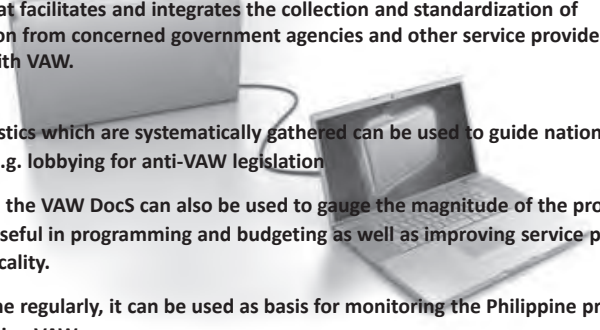
VAW Documentation System (VAW DocS)

The VAW Documentation System (VAW DocS) is a secure web-based documentation system that facilitates and integrates the collection and standardization of information from concerned government agencies and other service providers dealing with VAW.

VAW statistics which are systematically gathered can be used to guide national policies; e.g. lobbying for anti-VAW legislation

Data from the VAW DocS can also be used to gauge the magnitude of the problem which is useful in programming and budgeting as well as improving service provision, i.e. in a locality.

When done regularly, it can be used as basis for monitoring the Philippine progress in addressing VAW



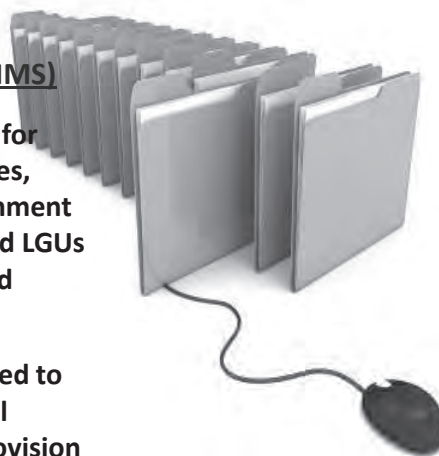
12

5. Case Analysis: PCW

Gender Mainstreaming Monitoring System (GMMS)

The GMMS is the system for managing the GAD profiles, GAD plan and accomplishment report of the agencies and LGUs and for generating related reports.

The system is also intended to be a tool for the technical officers of PCW in the provision of technical assistance to agencies and LGUs.



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5. Case Analysis: PCW

Gender Mainstreaming Monitoring System

- Profile each agency/Local Government Unit (LGU) which includes among others the organizations vision, mission, description, information available on GAD, including statistics, issuances related to GAD, etc.
- Manage the GAD Plan/ AR submission of each agency and its bureaus, regional offices and attached agencies, and LGUs
- Monitor agency/ LGU progress in gender mainstreaming ;
- Monitor government compliance to the Magna Carta of Women, CEDAW, BPfA, etc;
- Generate related reports.

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5. Case Analysis: FMA

TECHNOLOGY AS A SPACE FOR EMPOWERMENT



Take Back the Tech! campaign

- Calls on all ICT users, esp. women and girls, to take control of technology and strategically use any ICT platform at hand for **ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**



6. Best Practices : How to make media gender-responsive and to enhance inclusion of women and girls in information society

GENDER EQUALITY GUIDELINES

Launched by the Gender Equality Committee (GEC) for Media, this kit contains three books which are: Code of Ethics for Media (Book 1); Guidelines to Protect Women from Discrimination in Media and Film (Book 2); and Gender Equality Guide (Book 3).



6. Best Practices : How to make media gender-responsive and to enhance inclusion of women and girls in information society



MCW Mobile Application

A contest for college and university students both public and private with support from the Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID) to develop an Android-based mobile apps based on the Republic Act 9710 or the Magna Carta of Women (MCW).

This aims to raise public awareness and popularize the provisions of the MCW and to promote women's empowerment and gender equality.

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7. Major Obstacles to overcome gender-bias in the media



Stereotyping of women in media may it be in print, photos, television and radio programs, advertisements and films is still pervasive.



Low level of awareness and appreciation of media practitioners to the problems related to the negative or inequitable portrayal of women and men



The Internet as a means to perpetuate violence against women is of increasing concern. It is utilized to accelerate the sexual exploitation of women and children.

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7. Major Obstacles to reduce gender gaps in access to ICTs



Physical infrastructure, connectivity



Lack of access and skills



Gender-blind ICT policy, and there is no clear direction on how to address ICT gender-related issues

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7. Major Obstacles to reduce gender gaps in access to ICTs



Gender and sexuality issues in relation to ICT, specifically internet content regulation, monitoring, surveillance, and privacy which limit the rights to freedom of expression, information and privacy on the net



Identifying and defining ICT-related VAW within national legislations, in clarifying issues of jurisdiction and in terms of providing protection for women against these forms violence.

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8. Conclusion and Policy Recommendations



Intensify monitoring of the implementation and compliance of the Gender Equality Guidelines as well as women-related laws especially those that perpetuate VAW through ICTs (R.A. 995, R.A. 9775)



Media practitioners need to be capacitated to use gender sensitive language and images in print, photos, television and radio programs, advertisements and films.



Women should be represented in all decision-making structures in the ICT sector in order to push for decisions and innovative projects, policies and standards in the ICT sector that will help empower women.

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8. Conclusion and Policy Recommendations



Need to increase the level of understanding and awareness of the opportunities that ICTs could provide for women as this will be one of the ways in bridging the gender digital divide and towards transforming it into digital opportunity.



Infrastructure development to address the digital divide, and corollarily the gender divide



Education and human resource development to promote ICT awareness

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8. Conclusion and Policy Recommendations



on of women's rights perspective for the development of Internet and ICT policies; direct participation of women in development of the policy where the needs of the poor and the marginalized are heard.

Ensure women's access to justice, not just offline but also



by not merely focusing on protectionism and criminalization but through concrete programs to prevent violence in cyberspace.

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SALAMAT PO!

Philippine
Commission
on Women



*“National Machinery for the Advancement of
Women”*

www.pcw.gov.ph

facebook.com/philippine.commission.on.women

Twitter: @PCWgovph



Foundation for Media Alternatives

www.fma.ph

facebook.com/takebackthetechPH

Chapter 5 Report from Thailand

1. Introduction: Country Picture of Gender in ICT Era

Thailand is a country at the center of the Indochina peninsula in Southeast Asia, with the population around 64 million people (male 31 million; women 33 million).¹ Thailand was ranked by Gender Inequality Index (GII) in No.66 (0.36), because of the proportion of women's participation in the politics was still lower than the mean of GII, and in No.103 (0.69) of Human Development Index (HDI).

Computer and Internet Skill

In 2014, Survey of the use of information technology and communication (household) of the National Statistical Office found that computer and internet skills of population in 6 years and above have increased consistently. Women with computer and Internet skills were 26.6%, 29.1% and 34.9% in 2012, 2013 and 2014, respectively, compared to 26.3%, 28.8% and 34.9%, respectively for men over the same period. Computer users were 23.8 million people or 38.2%, internet users were 21.7 million people or 34.9%, and mobile users were 48.1 million people or 77.2%. Computer user steadily increased from 30.9 to 38.2 in 2010-2014, internet user increased from 22.4 to 34.9 in 2010-2014 and mobile user from 61.8 to 77.2 in 2010-2014.

Bangkok had the highest computer user rate, followed by the Central. Computer, Internet and Mobile user among women were approximate to men in almost every year from 2010 to 2014. The proportion of men's Internet user increased from 21.9 to 34.9 and women's Internet user increased from 22.8 to 34.9.²

ICT is still very much the men's world.

The working in ICT sector are classified as high-skilled, e.g. computing and computer associate professionals, optical and electronic equipment operators, and low-skilled, e.g. electrical and electronic equipment mechanics and fitters. Despite women's ICT skills,

¹ Prediction of Thai population as of the middle of the year 2014

² National Statistical Office: The Survey of Use of information and Communication Technology in Household, 2014

they constituted a small part of the ICT workforce, especially in the low-skilled group. In the high-skilled group, women accounted for only half of men.³

2. Policies and laws on ICTs

2.1. Policies on Women

After Thailand was a member of the global community and has been committed to the international agreements on women and the promotion of gender equality, such as the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) that ratified in 1985 and the 2000 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and MDGs Plus (MDGs+) and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPFA). These agreements also had the goal to advance of gender equality concerns of women and emphasized gender mainstreaming.

The Thai government has taken actions to implement relevant international obligations through collaborative efforts of government agencies, by attached to mainstreaming gender in national policies and coordinated with other organizations. This is the mainstreaming gender in national policies in the following sections:

2.1.a. The Women's Development Plan under the National Economic and Social Development Plan

Thailand has incorporated women and gender issues into 5 years National Economic and Social development plans, through the Women's Development Plans, starting from the 3rd National Development Plan (1972-1976).

In the present, Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development (OWF) is implementing the Women's Development Plan during the 11th under the National Economic and Social Development Plan (2012-2016).

The principle aim of this plan is promoting the right attitudes, as well as to adjust negative traditional attitudes towards women in Thai society. There are also 5 strategies to capacity building of women, including:

³ National Statistical Office and the Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development, on the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP Thailand): Gender Development: Similarities and Differences, 2008

- To promote and establish of positive attitudes on gender equality : Recognizing the roles of family, schools and the media in cultivating the right attitudes towards the issue of gender equality, this strategy aims at promoting knowledge on gender roles, recognition of human dignity, and the importance of gender equality for the creation of balance, healthy and sustainable development among family members as well as through educational courses, programmes and the media, while correcting traditional prejudices regarding women's roles in the family and the society.
- To create justice and fairness between men and women: As the best way to assure that national policies and programmes be truly beneficial for women is to let women be in the position to make decisions, as well as to voice their concerns on matters that affect their way of life and status in the society, this strategy focus on the promotion of women's potentiality to participate in politics and administration. Also, it seeks to distribute equal opportunities among women and men to access resources, public services, and to create appropriate legal mechanisms and measures to support women's participation in politics and administration.
- To improve women's health, sanitation, security and quality of life: Good health enables women to work, And to realizing the best of their potentiality. This strategy, thus, seeks to promote women's physical, mental and reproductive healthcare as to ensure that women are not prevented to engage or benefit from the country's course of development because of their health issues. Furthermore, it emphasizes that women participate in all processes of healthcare policy-making and implementation, and that women, particularly rural women, old women and those in high-risked groups, have accesses to sufficient and quality healthcare services.
- To develop women's capability and opportunity: For many poor and disadvantaged women, violence against women (VAW) has loomed as life threats and barriers against their development in many potential aspects. This strategy, therefore, proposes to promote security in women's life and body, in

order to ensure that women can live their life with freedom from fear and violence.

- To strengthen and develop women's mechanism: Realizing that any women are poor just because they are denied accesses to economic opportunities, participation in making economic decisions and deserved benefits, this strategy propose to solve the problem by promoting knowledge and information for women, especially regarding their rights, as well as accesses to economic resources, services, and market so that they may enjoy economic security.⁴

2.1.b. The master plan on gender statistical:

The National Statistical Office (NSO), the central statistical organization, developed a statistical master plan for all government agencies to ensure that Thailand's statistical development supports national policies and development plans. In collaboration with all line ministries, has therefore developed Thailand's first Statistical Master Plan (TSMP) 2011-2015. The drafting process was based on participation of line ministries and consultation with other stakeholders.

The TSMP 2011-2015 is based on the following vision "Thailand's statistics represent a joint effort of all government agencies that are driven by a shared goal to develop Office Statistics to guide and support national development".⁵

The coordination with other government agencies, the NSO appointed the Committee of Thailand' Statistical System Administrative in Economic, Social, Natural Resources and Environment to conduct the plan into action, and The Committee of Thailand' Statistical System Administrative in Social branch, also appointed the Subcommittee of Gender Statistical, which was the mechanism to provide The gender statistical development plan under the Thailand' Statistical Master Plan for 5 years.

⁴ Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development: The Women's Development Plan during the 11th under the National Economic and Social Development Plan (2012-2016).

⁵ The National Statistical Office: Executive Summary of Thailand's Statistical Master Plan (TSMP) 2011-2015.

3. Policies on ICTs

3.1. Thailand Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Policy Framework.

Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) had provided the Thailand Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Policy Framework since 2001. The first was Thailand Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Policy Framework (2001-2010) or IT 2010 has guided the development of Thailand's ICT in the first decade of the 21st century until the present. IT 2010 flagships, was the “5 e’s strategy”, e-Government, e-Industry, e-Commerce, e-Education and e-Society, which aiming to enhance the economy and quality of life of the Thai people and lead Thailand towards a knowledge-based economy and society.

Since the IT 2010 was finished, the MICT has developed the ICT 2020 Policy Framework for the next 10 years (2011-2020). In drafting the ICT 2020 Policy Framework, the working group has taken as important inputs the previous policy framework and the current status as well as limitation of ICT development of the country. In addition, analysis was conducted on the context and overall development direction of Thailand, along with various challenges that will be faced by the country in the 10-year span of the policy framework. This will allow the needs and role of ICT in the future to be anticipated. Furthermore, the development of the policy framework has also considered the technological changes that will occur in this period, in order to assess the impacts of these technological changes on individuals, economy, industry and social transformation in the country.

The development of the content of this policy framework is founded on the following principles:

- Use the key concept of sustainable development which has to consider balanced development in three dimensions, namely, the social dimension, the economic dimension, and the environmental dimension. Furthermore, both quantity and quality of development should be considered, along with social justice, in order to ensure sustainable and stable development.
- Use ICT in reducing inequality and providing opportunities for people to benefit from development in an equitable manner.

- Adhere to the “sufficiency economy” philosophy, that is, to focus on economic that allows the country to keep up with modern times, while, at the same time, being mindful of sufficiency and moderation that is commensurate with national capacity, reasonable and has immunity from internal and external changes.
- Ensure linkage and continuity in policy and strategy with previous policy frameworks and master plans, in order to sustain momentum.
- It is assumed that public sector financing by itself will not be adequate, therefore, the private sector involvement is highly desirable⁶

4. Best Practices

Thailand had tried to enhance the potential of ICT in development and initiated many program for use ICT to access and usage services for empowering women and men. There were some programs which focused on gender issues, such as gender statistical to show and highlight the situation and trend of women and men’ development. The examples were cited in the following sections:

4.1. Thailand’s Gender Information Center

Office of Women’s Affairs and Family Development (OWF) had established the website www.gender.go.th for the center of gender information, such as policies and act for women’s empowerment, publication, Gender statistical which are concern of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, including:

- a. Women in Poverty.
- b. Education and Training of Women.
- c. Women and Health.
- d. Violence against Women.

⁶ Executive Summary Thailand Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Policy Framework (2011-2020): ICT2020, Ministry of information and Communication Technology.

- e. Women and Armed Conflict.
- f. Women and the Economy.
- g. Women in Power and Decision-making.
- h. Institutional Mechanism for the Advancement of Women
- i. Human Rights of Women.
- j. Women and the Media.
- k. Women and the Environment.
- l. The Girl-Child.

The website (www.gender.go.th) was the way to communicate to the society about the situation of women and men. However, there was a limitation for gender statistic in the website, because of OWF wasn't the primary organization to collect the data, OWF only use the data from the other government agencies and private sector and bring to analyze on women and gender issues, so OWF couldn't control the other organization to provide sex disaggregated data continuously.

From this problem, OWF try to cooperate with another organization such as international and regional organization to emphasize and indicate the importance of gender statistical to the government agencies and Thai society.

These are the examples of the cooperation with the government agency, international and regional organization for the gender statistical in the following below:

4.2. Gender Statistics

- Gender - related Development Index Plus : GDI Plus,

In 2009 Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development (OWF), with the support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP Thailand) developed composite index Gender - related Development Index Plus: GDI Plus.

GDI plus was inspired by the concept and based on the methodology of UNDP's Gender-related Development Index (GDI). The components and the indicators were expanded and adjusted to fit the Thai context, and to accommodate data constraints. GDI

Plus aimed to reflect gender development at the provincial level, which was the strategies focal point at the policy and implementation levels.

GDI Plus consisted of 6 components and 21 indicators that reflect various aspects of human lives and social activities, including participation and leadership. The indicators also reflected the distribution of development gains by women and men. The 6 component are health, education, employment, income, participation, and leadership.

GDI Plus was a composite index that reflected the level of human development that took into account gender equality at the provincial and regional levels. It could only a general representation. In reality, there were many dimensions and complicated dynamics in human and gender development which cannot be fully captured by any composite index.⁷

- The report of “Gender Development: Differences and Similarities”

In 2008, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP Thailand) support the National Statistical Office (NSO) cooperation with the Office of Women’s Affairs and Family Development (OWF) prepared the report of “Gender Development: Differences and Similarities”. The report presented the NSO’s survey data and administrative (back office) data from many government agencies.

This report presented an analysis of gender-disaggregated data on the role and development of women and men in 7 aspects:

1. Health
2. Education
3. Employment
4. Income and poverty
5. Family life and reproductive health
6. Violence

⁷ Office of Women’s Affairs and Family Development (OWF), with the support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP Thailand); Gender - related Development Index Plus : GDI Plus, 2009

7. Leadership

The aim of the report was to highlight the differences in terms of opportunity, role, and gender equality, sex-specific behaviors. For example, the ratio of women's and men's income in waged employment in non-agricultural sector was 0.92. Women had higher computer literacy rate, but constituted a small part in ICT employment; the female/male ratio was only 0.13. More women became victim of sexual violence. Women outnumbered men in the civil service, but a very small number managed to reach high-level executive positions. These data clearly reflect the gender situation and gender equality in the Thai society.⁸

4.3. Center for learning ICT; Thai Community ICT Learning Centers

The concept of Thai Community ICT Learning Centers was founded in Thailand in 2001-2002. The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) policy emphasized to develop Thailand to be the Knowledge Base Society. There were also projects launched continually on one temple one learning center (OTEC) and Information Community (I-Community). Thai Community ICT Learning Center had been established in 2007 with the support of the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT). From 20 centers in the beginning, the Center had expanded throughout the country with almost 2,049 in 2014.⁹ These centers were located in four regions in North, Northeast, Central, and South regions of Thailand.¹⁰

Thai Community ICT Learning Centers served as a center for learning and development of skills and capabilities in information technology, where community's members can find resources and seek self-improvement through the internet. They promote the concept of lifelong learning and the creation of knowledge-based society. Gender perspectives were applied in conceptualizing the centers, focusing on, for example, women's

⁸ National Statistical Office and the Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development, on the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP Thailand) : Gender Development: Similarities and Differences, 2008

⁹ <http://www.thaitelecentre.org/main/index.php/2013-05-17-10-39-27>, October 24, 2014

¹⁰ Learning Management in Enhancing Potential of Thai Community ICT Learning Center Project for ICT Development and Utilization; Narong Sompong, Nattapon Rampai, Cherdpong Kheerajiti, www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1877042813038196 October 24, 2014

participation and the usefulness of the centers for different groups/housewives. The centers have more women visitors than men visitors. In 2010, there were 963,202 women visiting the center compared to 415,876 men.¹¹

Gender and Media

Thailand is now have the media organization, Thai Public Broadcasting Service (ThaiPBS), which is the private sector of public media that focus on gender equality and women's potentiality in mass media for vision "Public Media and Promotion of Gender Equality". ThaiPBS produces and created the television programs, drama series which based on gender issues and gender perspective, such as "Khon La Dao Deawe kun" the variety game shows, that focused on the differences of attitudes and feeling in various kind of problems' condition of women and men, the drama series which mentioned on the situation of gender equality in Thai's society. However ThaiPBS is now the only one clearly of mass media organization which specific focuses on gender equality and women's potentiality in Thailand.

5. Issues and Challenges

Since the information and communication technology (ICTS) was spread rapidly to the social, there were many problems occurred with women and children, such as sexual exploitation, pornography, seduction on social network. However, ICTs were still regard as the valuable tools and the best way to communicate and disseminate the information thoroughly. The challenges to success for use ICT to empower women and gender equality, wasn't only know and have the skill on how to use the technology, but also realize on the usefulness and bad effect of the information technology too. This is the importance thing, which the government agencies and related organization should to aware. Some issues and challenges are below:

- The government agencies and the media associations don't have measures to curb and control all kinds of violence against women in all types of media.

¹¹ Draft of Thailand's sixth and seventh Reports on the Implementations of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (Combined); Office of women's Affairs and Family Development

- Almost the media organization don't emphasize on gender responsive such as women's right and human dignity when disseminate the information about women to public.
- Almost media and computer network vocational lack knowledge of gender awareness to disseminate or report the information about women.
- The government agencies don't emphasize and understand the importance and the advantage of gender statistical that can show the situation and problem of women and men.

6. Policy Recommendations

- Promote the Government and related organization to give precedence to collect and provide gender statistical.
- Identify and promote good practices and lesson learned on the use of gender perspective and gender statistical in policy-making as well as developing targets and indicators to track the progress of women's and girl's empowerment.
- Capacity-building towards gender equality in media and social network.
- Develop research on ICTs and Women's Empowerment for the way to integrate gender responsive and perspectives in all ICTs initiatives.
- Integrate gender perspectives in all ICT initiatives.
- Promote gender issues in social media.



FY2014 Seminar for Gender Equality Officers and Women Leaders in the
Asia Pacific Region

Thailand Country Report ICTs and Women's Empowerment

Mrs. Natthita Vijittrakarnkul
Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development
Ministry of Social Development and Human Security

Country Overview



- 514,000 square kilometres
- Population: 64,871,000*
 - Female: 33,329,000
 - Male: 31,542,000
- *Prediction of Thai population as of the middle of the year 2014
- GII: 0.36 (ranked no.66)
- HDI: 0.69 (Medium human development / ranked no.103)

Country Overview (cont.)



Politics: Temporary Junta
with



Religions: Buddhism



Economy: Agriculture

3

Gender Equality Policy



➤ Women's Development Plan during the 11th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2012–2016)

- Principle aim :
To promote the right attitudes, as well as to adjust negative traditional attitudes towards women in Thai society.

4

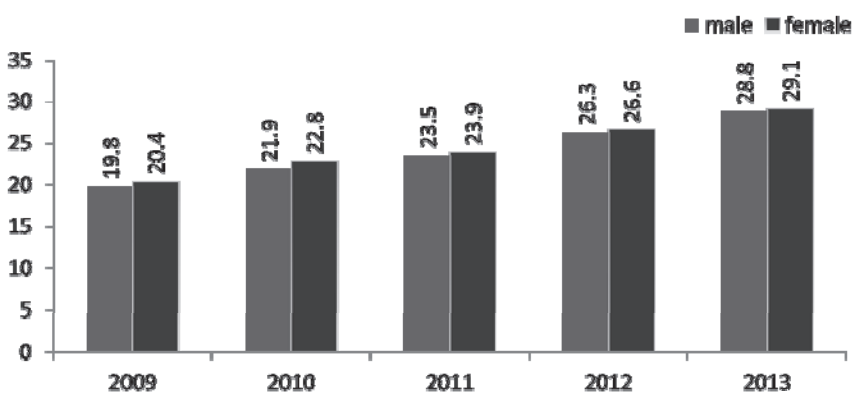
Gender Equality Policy (Cont.)

Strategies:

- To promote and establish of positive attitudes on gender equality.
- To create justice and fairness between men and women.
- To improve women's health, sanitation, security and quality of Life.
- To develop women's capability and opportunity.
- To strengthen and develop women's mechanism.

5

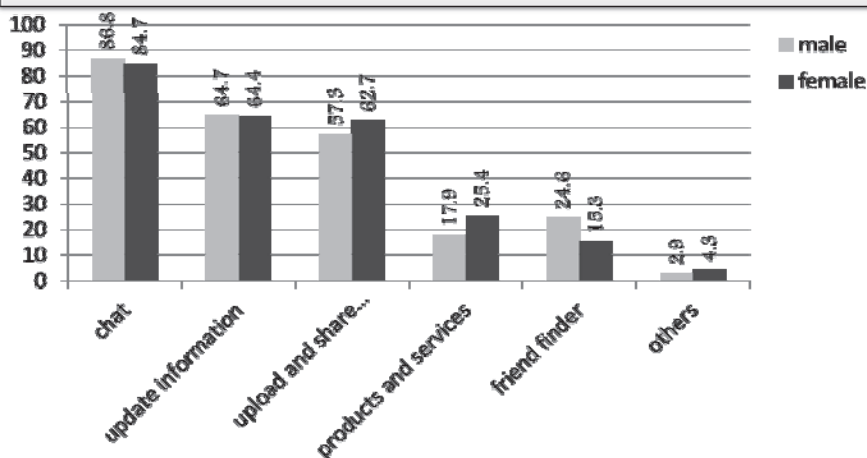
Current Situation of Gender Equality in the country Population 6 years and over who use the internet by sex, 2009–2013



Source: Survey of the Internet users in household year 2013, National Statistical Office,
Ministry of Information and Communication Technology.

6

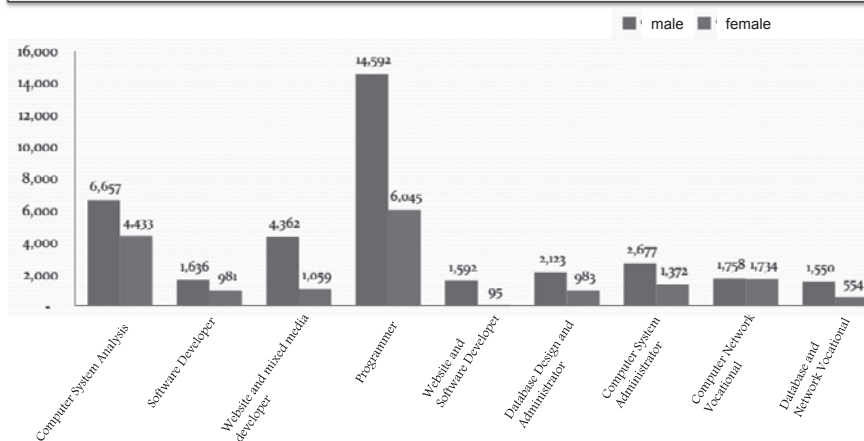
Current Situation of Gender Equality in the country Social media Users compare with activities by sex,2013



Source : Thailand Internet User Profile 2013, Electronic Transactions Development Agency (Public Organization) Ministry of Information and Communication Technology

7

Current Situation of Gender Equality in the country The number of ICT Workers classify by job description, 2012



Source : Survey of home workers, National Statistical Office

8

Overview of ICTs

- Women had higher computer and internet user, computer literacy of population 6 years and over steadily increased from 26.6% in 2012 to 29.1% in 2013.
- Bangkok had the highest computer literacy rate, followed by the North.
- Internet literacy was higher among women in almost every part of the Country.
- Southern men had the lowest computer and internet literacy rate.

9

Overview of ICTs (cont.)

- ICT was still very much the men's world.
- Working in ICT sector are classified as high-skilled e.g. computing and computer associate professionals, optical and electronic equipment operators, and low-skilled, e.g. electrical and electronic equipment mechanics and fitters.
- Women accounted for only half of men in the high-skilled group.

10

Case Analysis



- The report “Gender Development: Differences and Similarities” in cooperation with The National Statistical Office and the Office of Women’s Affairs and Family Development, on the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP Thailand), 2008

11

Case Analysis (cont.)

- Report of gender disaggregated data on the role and development of women and men in 7 aspects:
 1. health
 2. education
 3. employment
 4. income and poverty
 5. family life and reproductive health
 6. violence
 7. leadership

12

Case Analysis (cont.)



- Gender- related Development Index Plus : GDI Plus, consists of 6 component and 21 indicators.

- The 6 component are health, education, employment, income, participation, and leadership, (2009).



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Best Practices

- Thailand's gender information center (www.gender.go.th)



14

Best Practices (cont.)

- The Subcommittee of Gender Statistics under the Committee of Thailand' Statistics System Administrative in Economic, Social and Natural Resources and Environment.
- The gender statistics development plan under the Thailand' statistics master plan for 5 years.

15

Best Practices (cont.)



➤Community ICT learning centers under the supervision of the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology .



16

Best Practices (cont.)

- Promote the positive attitudes toward issue of gender equality to public and media vocational.
- Promote knowledge on gender roles, recognition of human dignity, and the importance of gender equality for the creation of balance through education courses, programmes and the media.
- Thai Public Broadcasting Service (ThaiPBS) is the private sector of public media which focus on gender equality and women's potentiality in mass media for vision "Public Media and Promotion of Gender Equality"

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Major Obstacles to reduce gender gaps in access to ICTs and to overcome gender-bias in the media

- The government organization don't emphasize the importance and the advantage for provide sex disaggregated data.
- The government and media associations don't have measures to curb and control all kinds of violence against women in all types of media.
- Almost media don't emphasize on gender responsive such as women's right and human dignity when disseminate the information about women to public.
- Almost media and computer network vocational lack knowledge of gender awareness to disseminate or report the information.

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8. Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

- Promoting the Government and related organization to give precedence to collect and provide sex disaggregated data.
- Identifying and promoting good practices and lesson learned on the use of gender perspective and gender disaggregated data in policy-making as well as developing targets and indicators to track the progress of women's and girl's empowerment.
- Capacity-building towards gender equality in media and social network.
- Developing research on ICTs and Women's Empowerment for the way to integrate gender responsive in all ICTs initiatives.

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Thank you



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Chapter 6 Report from Viet Nam

1. Introduction of Gender in ICT Era

In Vietnam, the ICT sector is mainly dominated by men, but there is some notable progress. In 1996, only 10% of all university computer graduates were female. In 1998, 21.6% of all students enrolled in IT facilities were female. ICT is the first Vietnam tertiary education sector which has set up a scholarship program for excellent female students and professors. ICT tertiary sector promise that women's participation in IT sectors will grow in coming years.

Existing Gender Division of Labor

In general, Vietnamese women face specific barriers in entering ICT professional labor force and the opportunity to get benefits from ICT applications are much more limited and fragile than that of men. Overall in IT sector women work in lower skilled and lower paid positions than men. Many IT companies do not hire women as IT professionals. Among female IT professionals, 85% work as programmers and only 15% are software designer.

The barrier for women's carrier in the IT sector is reinforced by a gender prejudice which is quite strong in Vietnamese society that men are technically more competent than women. Women are often fired for sale, marketing and administrative positions even when they bear same degrees as men's in software for hardware.

Low Representation of Women in Decision-making in ICT Sector

In general, women's role in planning, policy making or management of ICT sector at all levels is not clear compared with men. Little attention has been paid on women's empowerment in this sector. Moreover, a number of human resource development and management policies tend to work towards limiting women's representation in decision making level. Women's representation in leadership of all agencies is low compared with their contribution in the labor force. Moreover, most female representatives often hold vice than chief management position; therefore their voice among decision makers is very weak.

Lack of gender awareness and sensitivity in ICT development

Although progress has been achieved in fostering gender equality and improving women's status, there remains insufficient gender awareness and sensitivity of decision

makers, public service providers and professionals in the country in general and those responsible for technology development in particular. This may cause gender discrimination to be ignored or efforts for gender equality to be difficult.

2. Policies and Laws in ICTs

In comparison to many other countries in the worlds, Vietnam has enacted many policies to support gender agenda, such as Law on Gender Equality (2007), Domestic Violence Prevention Law (2008), etc. Through laws, the Government has recognized and affirmed men's and women's equal rights in both the society and the family.

In ICT sectors, the Government of Vietnam considers communication and the media as key tools through which to realize gender equality and the advancement of women. This is reflected for example in Decree 70/2008/ND-CP, Decree 48/2009/ND-CP and Decree 55/2009/ND-CP, all stipulating various articles, measures and penalties regarding the Law on Gender Equality.

In 2010, The Government approved the National Strategy on transforming Vietnam into an advanced ICT country which defines strategic mission to accelerate the IT industry of Vietnam. There is also strategy on development of human resources of Vietnam during the period 2011-2020 which encourage girls to study on ICTs sector.

In order to promote people in rural areas, remote areas to use computer and access internet, the Government established the project on improvement of computer usage and public internet access ability in Vietnam 2011-2016.

Recently, on 1st July 2014, the government established resolution for promoting ICT to response to sustainable development that creates equal environment access for both men and women.

3. Best Practices

Since 1996, The National Committee for Advancement of women (NCFAW) has been publishing the bulletin "Women in Progress" on a quarterly basis. This is distributed to the Committee for Advancement of women in all sectors, provinces and cities, as well as to individuals and organizations working on gender equality and the advancement of women.

NCFAW's website (<http://genic.molisa.gov.vn>) in Vietnamese and English has been upgraded and maintained, and has received almost 1000 visitors per month.

Since July 2009, capacity building around gender mainstreaming for the Ministry of Information and Communication (MIC) using television and printed media has been implemented within the framework of the UN – Vietnam joint program on gender equality.

The MIC organized the World IT Forum in 2009 with a session dedicated to discussing gender in information technology. Issues discussed included the obstacles faced by women in accessing IT as well as policy recommendations and solutions for improving their access.

Information and communication technology development, particularly the internet, has created opportunities for information exchange to promote the empowerment of women and girls, and created conditions for women to share their knowledge, to develop networks and engage in e-commerce. The Vietnam Women Union support women's access to IT at different levels. So far, all of the vocational training centers and establishments run by provincial Vietnam Women Union have been provided IT vocational training for hundreds of thousands of women, particular young women.

Increasing numbers of media agencies are promoting women's participation and broadcasting positives images of women in mass media. Vietnam television (VTV) and the Radio of Vietnam run programs especially for women such as "New Energy" (broadcast on daily basis), "Women and Life" with eight 15 minutes broadcast per month and communication messages from the Center for Applied Science on Gender, Family and Adolescents (CSAGA).

The Ministry of Science and Technology collaborates with Young Union to organize an annual ceremony for the "Award for outstanding female Students in IT". Since 2011, nearly 500 outstanding female students in the IT sectors have received the award. This is an effort to encourage young female IT students to make a greater contribution in the IT sector in Vietnam.

The percentage of female workers in the telecommunication sector is increasing with their improved capacity and qualifications. The statistics from Vietnam Post and

Telecommunications (VNPT) show that women account for 42% total labor force the sector, with 38.37% having university and other higher education qualifications.

Women engaged in IT teaching at universities in on the increase. According to data from 17 IT faculties of universities nationwide, female lecturers account for 26% of IT lecturers. There are 20 IT lectures holding PhDs.

The percentage of urban women having access to mass media is higher than that of rural women. For instance, 38.8% of urban women have access to three basic types of media, while only 15.5% of rural women do so.

Much progress has been made in combating the broadcast of negative images of women through professional guidance, proactive implementation and support of broadcasting images on gender equality and using non-sex-discriminatory language in communication programs.

4. Issues and Challenges

The percentage of women in leadership positions in the information and culture sector remains low.

Women have less access to IT than men, due in part to the lack of time, burdens of work within the family and limited education levels.

There are still negative images of women including gender stereotypes in various forms of media using modern communication technology.

There has not yet been a large-scale study on images of women and gender equality in the media in Viet Nam

5. Policy recommendation

It is very clear that improving ICT infrastructure may increase the number of people access to ICT. Therefore, the Government's investment in IT infrastructure has assisted women in improving their access to IT.

Currently, the policies, projects and programs often lack of gender sensitivity. Government should manage mechanism of gender mainstreaming in all steps of policy making.

Many scholars find out that women are lag behind since their low knowledge to recognize rights of themselves. The Government should Improve women's IT knowledge and facilitate women's equal access to IT education and training opportunities.



FY2014 Seminar for Gender Equality Officers and Women Leaders in the Asia Pacific Region

Country Report

Name: Nguyen Thi Nga
Nguyen Thi Hoang Bich
Viet Nam
MOLISA & VWU

1. Country Overview

- The socialist republic of Viet Nam
- Capital: Hanoi/ population: 90 million (2013)
- Major language: Vietnamese
- Monetary: Viet Nam Dong
- Location: in South East Asia, share border with China, Lao, Cambodia.
- Weather: Vietnam lies entirely within the tropics
- People: there are up to 54 different ethnic groups in habiting in Viet Nam (Kinh: 86% and ethnic minority groups: 14%)



2. Gender Equality Policy

- Governmental managing gender equality: Gender equality Department – Molisa
- 2013 Constitution
- Gender Equality Law (2006): to stipulate gender equality in all aspects of life
- Marriage and Family Law (2007)
- National Strategy on Gender Equality 2011–2020 mentions some national targets in terms of gender equality in Viet Nam by 2020

3

2. Cont.

- National Program on Gender Equality 2011–2015
Build some projects and models to promote gender equality in many fields: employment, politic, economy, etc,...
- Resolution 11-NQ/TW of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Vietnam dated 27/4/2007 on the Work for Women in the Period of Accelerating Industrialization and Modernization
- The Decree No. 56/2012/ND-CP, prescribing responsibilities of ministries, sectors and People's Committees at all levels for ensuring the participation in the state management by the Vietnam Women's Union at all levels

4



"With their heartfelt efforts, our women - both young and old - have built and woven the country of Vietnam to make it ever more beautiful!"
— President Ho Chi Minh

Vietnam Women's Union

- A political – social organization
- Founded in 1930
- Members: over 15 million
- Operating through out Vietnam at: central, provincial, district and commune
- Mandated to take care women rights and promote gender equality
- VWU's mission is to take care women's spirits and promote equality for women

3. Current Situation of Gender Equality in the county

(Gender Inequality Index and salient features)



The trend of GII in Viet Nam

Source: UNDP

Labour force

	Women (%)	Men (%)
Literacy	92.2	96.2
Secondary school	24.7	28

Cont.

General statistics on women in Vietnam:

Female population	50.52%
Women in leadership	
National Assembly (2011-2016)	24.4%
Provincial Peoples Council (2011-2016)	25.2%
District People Council (2011-2016)	24.6%
Communal People Council (2011-2016)	21.7%
Female entrepreneurs	
25%	
Processing industry, manufacturing	52.3%
Finance, banking and insurance	52.9%
Science and technology	30.8% ⁷

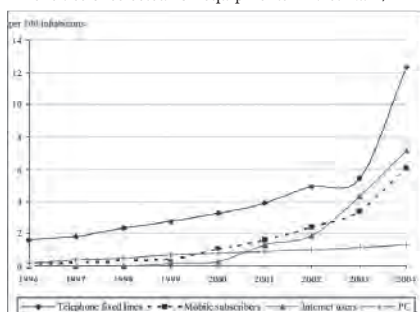
Cont

	Total	Of which	
		Rural area	Urban area
2007	111.6	112.7	111.3
2008	112.1	114.2	111.4
2009	110.5	110.6	110.5
2010	111.2	108.9	112.0

Gender rate of newly born babies
(boys/100 girls)

4. Overview of ICTs • Media and Gender in the country

Densities of selected ICT equipments in Viet Nam,



Source: ITU, 2004

Number of employees in computers, Population Census 2002

Unit: person, except (1)/(2)

	Total	Hardware	Software	Data processing	Other ⁹
Males (1)	2,684	137	724	166	1,657
Female (2)	1,154	55	326	137	636
(1)/(2)	0.43	0.40	0.45	0.83	0.38

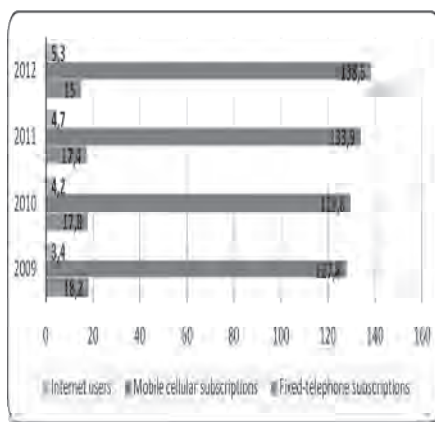
- The percentage of female workers in the telecommunication sector is increasing with their improved capacity and qualification. women account for 42% labor force in this sector with 38,7% having university and other higher education qualifications (Vietnam post and telecommunication – VNPT 2012)
- Women engaged in IT teaching at universities is on the increase, female lecturers account for 26% IT lecturers
- The percentage of urban women having access to mass media is higher than that of rural women. 38.3% of urban women access to 3 basic type of media, whereas 15.5 of rural women do so

9

VWU WITH ICT

- Vietnamese and English website
- Open several training courses on computer
- Provide women access to computer
- Provide computers to women
- E-management of credit program
- Starting e-business transaction

The number of internet users, mobile cellular subscriptions and fixed-telephone subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, 2009-2012



In 2012, Vietnam ranked 83th among 190 countries in the world and 4th in the SEA in terms of e-government development index by United Nations.

In terms of communication and information technology development, in 2012, Vietnam ranked 81th among 155 countries in the world in a study by ITU.

Vietnam is also categorized as one of the top ten countries most dynamic in IT development by ITU.

Source: MIC

MIC (2013) Information Technology Application Report 2012

5. Case Analysis

- In 2010, MOLISA and MOGEF, The republic of Korea organized a training workshop “Women and friendly environment to access internet and media” at national level for Board of Advancement of women in provinces and ministries:
 - + Raise awareness on the important of ICT for women
 - + Call for attention on women and ICT
- MOLISA, Youth Union and MOST organize a annual ceremony for the “Award for outstanding female students in IT”

6. Best Practices : How to make media gender-responsive and to enhance inclusion of women and girls in information society

- Raising awareness of people in charge of managing ICT about gender equality
- Increasing number of media agencies to create opportunities for women to participate and broadcasting positive image of women
- Having incentives for girls to study in ICT sectors
- Having a training class for women to guide women to use computer, access to internet, etc, especially for rural women and women ethnic minorities
- Gender mainstreaming in making ICT policies, programs, strategies, etc,....
- Proper punishment for any kinds of action to prohibit women and girls access to ICT sectors

13

7. Major Obstacles to reduce gender gaps in access to ICTs and to overcome gender-bias in the media

- The percentage of women in leadership positions in the information and culture sector remains low
- Women have less access to IT than men, due in part to the lack of time, burdens of work within the family and limited education levels
- There are still negatives images of women including gender stereotypes in various forms of media using modern communication technology
- There has not yet been a large-scale study on images of women and gender equality in the media in Viet Nam



8. Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

1. Women should be engaged in ICTs sectors: in ICT labor force; access to media,...
2. Media is crucial tool to change awareness of people in term of gender equality. So, advertisement on internet or on television and other medias should be evaluated under gender lens before releasing
3. The Government's investment in IT infrastructure has assisted women in improving their access to IT.
4. ICT Legal system should be gender sensitive mainstreaming to meet needs of women.
5. Developing budget for ICT and women's empowerment.
6. Networking ICT institutes/organizations in the region.

15



THANK
YOU SO
MUCH!

執筆者プロフィール

Contributors' Profile

カンボジア

CAMBODIA

ケオ・バタナ

Ms. KEO, Vathna

女性省

Ministry of Women's Affairs

TV 放送部長

Chief of TV Broadcasting Office

女性・児童に対する暴力、人身取引、レイプに関する国内のニュースをまとめた日報を作成しています。国内ラジオで放送する前に、ジェンダー主流化に関連する情報を収集しています。公立学校に通う若者たちを対象とした DV 研修を企画し、メディア（地元テレビ、ラジオ、ウェブサイト、ニュースレターなど）を通じた情報発信を担当しています。

I make daily reports from the news related to violence against women and children, human trafficking and rape from the domestic newspapers to the Minister. I provide assistance to ensure about the quality of information on gender mainstreaming before it's broadcasted by the local radio. I also organize the public forum to youth in the public school on domestic violence and am in charge of information dissemination through medias (local television, radio, website and newsletters).

チム・マナヴィ

Ms. CHIM, Manavy

オープン・インスティテュート

Open Institute

代表

Executive Director

20 年以上外務省に勤務の後、現在はオープン・インスティテュートの代表・創設者であり、執行委員委員長を務めています。 <http://open.org.kh/en>.

オープン・インスティテュートでの役割は、以下の通りです。

- ・オープン・インスティテュートのミッションに沿った事業の実施統括
- ・活動戦略の策定
- ・資金調達、運営持続性の確保
- ・女性ウェブポータルと掲示板の編集長として、Women Program and Act の運営

<http://women.open.org.kh/km/contact-us>, <http://women.open.org.kh>

ICTを活用して女性のエンパワーメントにつなげる一連の取り組みは、2013年10月ジュネーブで行われた女性差別撤廃委員会(CEDAW)の第56回UNセッションで、好事例として取り上げられました。

<http://www.apc.org/en/news/committee-elimination-discrimination-against-women>

With over 20 years experience at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I am currently the Executive Director, co-founder of the Open Institute (OI), and Chairperson of the Executive Committee <http://open.org.kh/en>. My responsibilities include:

- Supervise overall progress towards upholding and fulfilling the mission of the OI
- Ensure the organization has a long-range strategy
- Fundraise and ensure the sustainability of the organization
- I created Women Program and Act as Editor-in-Chief of the women web portal and women bulletin

<http://women.open.org.kh/km/contact-us>, <http://women.open.org.kh>

My efforts to advocate the use of ICT for women empowerment have been acknowledged at the 56th UN session of the CEDAW in Geneva October 2013.

<http://www.apc.org/en/news/committee-elimination-discrimination-against-women>

インド

INDIA

リズィヴィ・ゾーヤ アリー **Dr. RIZVI, Zoya Ali**

厚生・家族福祉省

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

副本部長

Assistant Commissioner

国や中央官庁が実施する公衆衛生管理の分野で様々な業務を担当してきました。現在は「青少年健康プログラム」の策定、実施及び広報活動を統括しています。「青少年健康プログラム」は、インド全国の思春期の女子と男子2億5千万人を対象とする意欲的な取り組みです。同プログラムを通じて既存のヘルス・ケア・サービスと協力しながら、予防的ヘルス・ケアの提供を目指しています。保健分野で活動している援助機関とも連携しています。

I have a long and wide experience in the field of public health and health management both at the State and Central Government level. I am currently look after the

planning, implementation and development of communication strategy of the very ambitious Adolescent Health Programme of India which aims to cover more than 250 million adolescent boys and girls spread over 36 states and union territories. We aim to provide promotive and preventive health care along with the already existing curative health care services in the government sector. My responsibilities also encompass interaction with multilateral agencies working in the health sector of India both directly and indirectly.

プラブカテ・プリティ アビジット Dr. PRABHUGHATE, Priti Abhijit

国際女性問題研究センター

International Center for Research on Women

上級技術専門官

Senior Technical Specialist

ソーシャル・ワーカー/研究者の立場で、主にジェンダーと HIV 関連事業の技術支援をしています。ICRW のプロジェクト・リーダーとして、ジェンダー視点に基づいた健康問題（例えば HIV）理解の促進のため、他機関に技術協力を行っています。ICRW では、ジェンダー視点に基づいた、アルコール政策や女性に対する暴力のような幅広い業務を担当し、専門分野を広げることができました。

医療機関へのアクセスや、公共医療政策が女性と男性では異なる影響を与えることについて、データを収集し、ジェンダーと健康の分野への貢献を目指しています。

As trained social worker and researcher, I provide technical assistance to projects primarily involving gender and HIV. I lead projects in ICRW and provide technical assistance to other agencies to enhance understanding on health issues like HIV from a gender perspective. My exposure to various projects in ICRW has helped me to widen my professional horizon to apply my experience to wider health issues like alcohol, alcohol policies and violence against women from a gender perspective. I intend to contribute to the field of gender and health by creating evidence on how access, experience of health services and policies differentially impact women.

フィリピン

PHILIPPINES

フギイロン・ヴィシエル アール エス イー エデン Ms. JUGUILON, Vichel RSE Eden

フィリピン女性委員会

Philippine Commission on Women

企画担当官

Planning Officer II

企画担当官として、ジェンダー主流化、ジェンダーと開発(GAD)、女性関連法に関連したオリエンテーション、講義や研修を担当しています。具体的には、ジェンダーと開発やジェンダー主流化関連法分野での計画・予算策定について、省庁や国立大学、カレッジ、地方自治体などの支援をしています。

PCW のローカル・ジェンダー・プログラム (LGRP)スタッフとして、他省庁と連携しながら、自治体レベルのジェンダー主流化の学習拠点の形成に協力しています。また女性のエンパワーメントと男女平等に関連した、PCW の取組みについて情報提供を行っています。

As Planning Officer, I provide technical assistance on Gender Mainstreaming and GAD Planning and Budgeting to National Government Agencies, State Universities and Colleges, and Local Government Units (LGU) through orientation/lectures and trainings on GAD, Gender Mainstreaming, Laws on Women and other related topics. I am also part of the Local Gender Resource Program (LGRP) of the PCW and provide technical assistance through forging partnerships with other National Government Agencies and identifying LGU Learning Hubs on mainstreaming GAD at the local level. I also represent PCW in meetings to input regarding issues related to women's empowerment and gender equality.

ガルシア・リザ サモンテ

Ms. GARCIA, Liza Samonte

メディア・オルタナティブス財団

Foundation for Media Alternatives

ジェンダーと ICT プログラム・コーディネーター

Coordinator for Gender and ICT

ジェンダーと ICTs のプログラム・コーディネーターとして、テクノロジーとジェンダーの分野で、適切で戦略的な ICTs を活用した、フィリピンの女性団体のエンパワーメントを支援しています。

昨今のデジタル環境の進展のなか、女性の権利の拡張と保護、特にテクノロジーを用いた女性に対する暴力への対応を担当しています。

適切なツールとテクノロジーの戦略的な活用を通して、デジタル環境でジェンダーに関連する権利を守り、市民とコミュニティ、特に女性と女兒のエンパワーメントのために支援をしています。

As Program Coordinator for Gender and ICT, I contribute to the discourse on the underpinnings and intersections of gender issues and technology, and provide assistance in the empowerment of Filipino women and their organizations through appropriate and

strategic use of ICTs. I am in charge of promotion and protection of gender-based rights in digital/electronic environments, especially in understanding and addressing the particular manifestations and impacts of technology-related violence against women. I also provide technical assistance to build the capacity of citizens and communities, esp. women and girls, to protect themselves and defend their gender rights in digital environments, esp. through strategic use of appropriate tools and technologies.

タイ

THAILAND

ヴィジトラッカーンクーン・ナティタ

Ms. VIJITTRAKARNKUL, Natthita

社会開発・人間の安全保障省 女性と家族開発部、ジェンダー平等推進局

Bureau of Gender Equality Promotion, Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development,
Ministry of Social Department and Human Security

社会開発担当職員

Social Development Worker

研究と情報グループの研究開発担当職員としての経験を活かし、統計マスタープランを構築するため、国内のジェンダー統計の整備を国立統計局と連携しておこなっています。また、北京宣言と北京行動綱領に基づき、タイの女性を取りまく現状についてのデータを更新し、ジェンダー問題に関するデータ分析を担当しています。

研究部門のスタッフとして、ジェンダー問題に関して研究計画を策定し、北京宣言と北京行動綱領に沿ったジェンダー研究を総括しています。

省庁（131 機関）を対象にしたモニタリングと評価、ジェンダーの視点の導入、男女平等に関する陸軍士官学校の男子学生の意識調査などの研究を統括しています。

Making use of my experience as social development worker in research and information group, I cooperate with National Statistics Office to develop gender statistics of Thailand to support statistical master plan. In addition, I analyze and summarize data on gender issues for providing Women's Situation Report following the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. As a research unit staff, I prepare research project proposal on gender issues, synthesize and summarize researches on gender issues including researches on women following the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. I also assume responsibilities to conduct research such as monitoring and evaluating the gender focal point among 131 line ministries, working on gender perspectives, and study about attitude of male students of military academy on gender equality.

ベトナム

VIET NAM

グエン・ティ ガー

Ms. NGUYEN, Thi Nga

労働傷病兵社会福祉省男女共同参画局

Gender Equality Department – Ministry of Labour/ Invalids and Social Affairs

職員

Officer

女性と開発の分野で修士号を取得。現職では、ベトナム国内のあらゆる分野で男女平等が推進されるよう、各種業務を担当しています。ジェンダー主流化政策に関する研究を担当しています。加えて、雇用、女性に対する暴力など、さまざまな領域での政策立案をコーディネートしています。さらに、男女平等を推奨する際に、「ジェンダー平等国家戦略(2011-2020 年度)」「ジェンダー平等国家プログラム (2011-2015 年度)」の実施にも従事しています。

I finished my master in women and development. As my office is in charge of managing and promoting gender equality in all aspects in Viet Nam, I often conduct gender related researches in order to mainstream gender perspectives in policies. Additionally, I also coordinate policy-making processes in various areas such as employment and violence against women, etc. Furthermore, I deploy some activities in National Strategy on Gender Equality 2011-2020 and National Program on Gender Equality 2011-2015 in advocating gender equality.

グエン・ティ ホアン ビック

Ms. NGUYEN, Thi Hoang Bich

ベトナム女性ユニオン

Vietnam Women's Union

国際関係部職員

International Relations Department Official

ベトナム女性ユニオンとアジア太平洋地域の女性団体とのネットワーク構築を担当しています。

ベトナムの女性の地位向上を目指し、開発プロジェクトの策定・実施を担当しています。海外諸機関と連携し、ワークショップの企画、セミナーでの情報共有、男女平等の経験・体験の意見交換を支援しています。

女性や女兒に関連した法律や法令の策定には、ベトナム女性ユニオンのコンサルタントとして参画しています。ベトナム女性ユニオンのウェブサイト、ウェブ上の広報、国内でのベトナム女性ユニオンが実施した開発プログラムや国内の女性運動の動向に関す

る記事、各国のジェンダー関連のニュースを収集するほか、記事の寄稿もしています。

I am assigned to maintain and to expand relationships between the Vietnam Women's Union and women's organizations in Asia Pacific region. I am in charge of designing, implementing and managing development projects to promote advancement of women's status in Vietnam. I assist to organize workshop, seminar for sharing information, exchanging experiences on gender equality, that coordinate with Vietnamese and international partners. I serve as consultant to VWU when they draft laws or regulations related to women and girl children. I also contribute articles to VWU website, VWU e-Bulletin, Vietnam Women's News Paper which feature VWU development programs and women's movement in the country, as well as news around the world through gender perspective.

越智 方美

Dr. Masami Helen OCHI

独立行政法人国立女性教育会館 研究国際室

Office of Research and International Affairs, National Women's Education Center

専門職員

Specialist

博士（社会科学）。お茶の水女子大学大学院人間文化研究科博士後期課程修了。上智大学外国語学部フランス語学科卒業後、外資系企業にてマーケティング、人事業務を担当。英国イースト・アングリア大学大学院留学を経て、東京都所轄事業所「東京ウィメンズプラザ」に勤務し、男女平等推進研修の企画業務に従事。2008年9月より現職。国立女性教育会館では、海外の男女共同参画推進機関との連携業務を担当し、社会学の視点から、日本やアジア諸国のジェンダー平等政策について研究をおこなっています。

Ph.D in Social Sciences. Completed the doctoral degree at the Graduate School of Humanities and Sciences, Ochanomizu University, in Tokyo. Graduating Sophia University in Tokyo, Dr. Ochi served as marketing and personnel officer in private sector. She holds an M.A. in Gender Analysis in Development from University of East Anglia in Norwich, U.K. After having worked at "Tokyo Women's Plaza", gender equality center under the jurisdiction of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, she joined NVEC in September, 2008. Her assignments at NVEC include networking with gender machineries and civil society organizations as well as organizing international seminars and forum. She also supervises a

research project on comparative study of gender equality policies in Japan and the South East Asian countries.

本書の内容は、「平成 26 年度アジア太平洋地域における男女共同参画推進官・リーダーセミナー」の報告資料をとりまとめたもので、必ずしも国立女性教育会館の統一的な公式見解ではありません。

本書に記載されている内容は、国立女性教育会館の許可なく転載できません。

This report is based on reports and discussion of “2014 Seminar for Gender Equality Officers and Women Leaders in the Asia Pacific Region” sponsored by NWECC. The views expressed in the report do not necessarily reflect those of NWECC.

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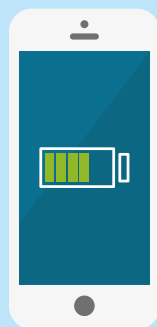
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〒355-0292 埼玉県比企郡嵐山町菅谷 728 番地

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Saitama, 355-0292, Japan

2014 NWECE Leader Seminar Report

Gender and ICT in Digital Age





National Women's Education Center of Japan