



Engendering Empowerment through ICTs: The Gender Questions

Dr. Ashalekshmi B.S

Assistant Professor, Department of Public Administration and Policy Studies,
Central University of Kerala, Kasargod, Kerala, India.
Email: ashalekshmi@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Information and Communication Technology has revolutionised the global society as well as transformed countries and institutions in a big way in this globalised era. It has made significant impact in government, especially by accelerating the pace of service delivery. Just like the developed countries, the developing countries are not left out in this technological phenomenon. The ICTs revolution, especially the rise of the Internet, has facilitated the emergence of a transnational public sphere. It has opened up spaces for self-expression, exchange of views, dialogue and debate that are free from the control of nation-states. In the developing world, it seems that the majority of women are not getting the access to ICTs in the same degree as men and, even if computer and the Internet is available, women are not necessarily using it. The gender digital divide – the gap between women and men in terms of access to ICTs – can itself emerge as a new factor of gender-based exclusion in governance systems. This paper seeks to analyse the possibilities and challenges concerning women in terms of the adoption of Information and Communication Technologies.

Key words: Discrimination, Women, Gender, Empowerment, digital divide

Introduction

Information and Communication Technology has revolutionised the global society as well as transformed countries and institutions in a big way in this globalised era. It has made significant impact in government, especially by accelerating the pace of service delivery. Just like the developed countries, the developing countries are not left out in this technological phenomenon. In the context of public administration, in an era of good governance, e-governance is often being perceived as a panacea for many administrative ailments. The socio-economic development of a nation can very well be accomplished with