Estimation and Characterization of the Digital Divide

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INTRODUCTION

- Given the complexity and nature of the Digital Divide there is no standardized and universally accepted measure for it.

- There have been significant efforts during the last five years to estimate the Digital Divide among nations, regions and social groups.

- There are different approaches to calculating the Digital Divide which involve technological, socioeconomic and political indicators.

Some Reports Dealing with the Condition of the Digital Divide are:

- "Understanding the Digital Divide"; OECD, Paris, France.

- "Spanning the Digital Divide: Understanding and Tackling the Issues", The Bridges Network, Cape Town, South Africa.

- "Global Bridges: Digital Opportunities", DOT Force, Intergovernmental Organization (G-8).

Some Reports Cont.

- "Knowledge Assessment Matrix; The World Bank, Washington, D.C.

- "The Digital Opportunity Initiative, DOI", The Markle Foundation, N.Y., N.Y.

- "Competitive Index for Latin American Countries in the Context of the New Economy", Universidad del Desarrollo, Chile

Some Reports Cont. 2

- "Information Society Index" UNESCO, Paris, France.

- "The Digital Divide: Myths and Reality", Teleddes Foundation, Ensenada, Baja California, México.

O E C D Indicators

- Development of Infrastructure

- Regulatory initiatives to increase competition in networking service provision

- Internet access in schools

- Internet access in public agencies

- Vocational education and training

- Support for small businesses in the application and deployment of information and communications technologies (ICT's)

- Development programs for rural areas

- On-line governmental services

- The Government as model for the use of ICT's

Bridges Network Indicators

- Computer penetration.

- Telecommunications infrastructure.

- Education and training.

- Status of ICT service provision in the country.

- Condition and distribution of poverty.

- Demography (geography, race, gender….etc.)

DOT Force Indicators

- Teledensity
- Public telephony penetration
- Mobile telephony penetration
- Internet hosts
- Internet users
- Computer penetration
- Telephone service cost as percentage of GDP per capita

- Telecommunications investment
- Literacy
- Education budget as percentage of GDP
- Health
- Foreign investment
- Import/export balance

DOI Indicators

- Poverty and income
- Nutrition indicators
- Health and mortality rate
- Provision of basic resources (water, electricity, etc.)
- Education
- Gender equality
- Environmental issues

ICNE Indicators

- Human Capital
- Globalization indicators
- Macroeconomic Indicators
- ICT Infrastructure
- Technology innovation

Position	Country	Index
1	Chile	90.05%
2	Argentina	78.30%
3	Brazil	64.83%
4	Mexico	61.77%
5	Venezuela	47.22%
6	Colombia	42.58%

Information Society Index Indicators

- Compulsory education statistics
- Education and training
- ICT penetration (computers, Internet, TV, radios, etc.)
- Press freedom
- Civil liberties

Country	Position
Chile	32
Brazil	36
Colombia	38
Venezuela	39
Costa Rica	40
Mexico	41
Ecuador	42
Panama	43
Peru	48

Teleddes Foundation Indicators

Premise:

The Digital Divide is not a technological issue only, it is a Human Development concern". In order to reduce the Digital Divide it is necessary to acquire a new and more comprehensive vision of sustainable development that includes both the moral and intellectual leadership of the community.

- Equity and justice
- Gender equality
- Trustworthiness and moral leadership
- Socioeconomic development condition
- Education
- Environmental awareness
- Governance and community participation

Stages in the process of understanding the nature of the Digital Divide:
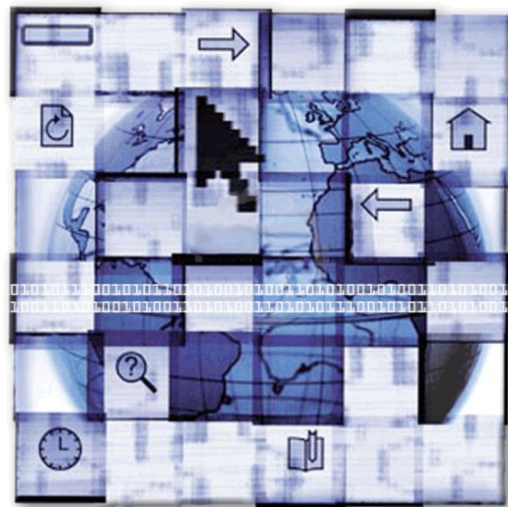
- Focus around connectivity and infrastructure provision.

- Incorporation of applications and training for the communities.

- Sustainability and grassroots participation.

- Integration of the three stages.

- Development of indicators for success and crosspollination.

CONCLUSIONS

- There is enough evidence today that ICT's could play an important role in sustainable development as long as they are integrated with social and economic initiatives from the grassroots.

- There is consensus that socioeconomic and human development indicators define the condition of the Digital Divide. Technology is the vehicle -not the objective- for achieving a greater level of prosperity.

LA BRECHA DIGITAL

MITOS Y REALIDADES

SERRANO • MARTÍNEZ