

Using Information Technology To Eradicate Poverty And Empower Women In The Changing World: Opportunity, Challenges And Prospects

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Introduction

- Information Technology has become a potent force in transforming social, economic and political life globally.
- Around the world SME's have adopted ICT in their commercialization, marketing and industry process so does governments, they have resorted to e-government to ease service delivery to clients.
- Women empowerment involves assessing their needs and designing programmes to address those needs

Women in ICT

- 30% of over 7 million people working in the information and communication(ICT) sector are women.
- They are under-represented at all levels in the ICT sector, especially in decision-making positions.
- For too long, discrimination and stereotyping have prevented women and girls from realizing their potential and this has also deny world the ingenuity and innovation from half of its population.
- Technologies are socially constructed and thus have different impacts on women and men.
- Women capacity to exploit the potential of the new ICT as tools for empowerment is constrained in different ways.

Why women Need to be empowered with ICT

- Closing the male and female employment gap is good for economic growth.
- There is an overall increase in demand for technical skills
- Gender diversity in leadership positions is good for business performance
- As technological consumers, women are important market influencers

Opportunities

- Small Business
- Out-Sourcing: Teleworking and Teleservices
- Data entry
- Self-Employment and job creation
- Women and Health Care Delivery
- Education and indigenous Knowledge

Challenges

- Some constraints are linked to the factors, including
 - Gender discrimination,
 - Language barrier,
 - Low literacy,
 - Lack of time and money
 - Tradition,
 - Culture, norm, misinterpretation, insecurities

Suggested Solutions

- Knowledge Acquisitions
- Changing Attitudes
- Female Role Models
- Incentives to girls in high schools should be given to counter the myth with un-technical minds; this can be achieved by providing technical material, providing new technology tools for them to have in their possession.
- Organizing school project, girls ICT clubs, technical camps, awards and other competitions aimed at spurring interest in this sector.

THANK YOU