
Empowering women and girls through ICTs

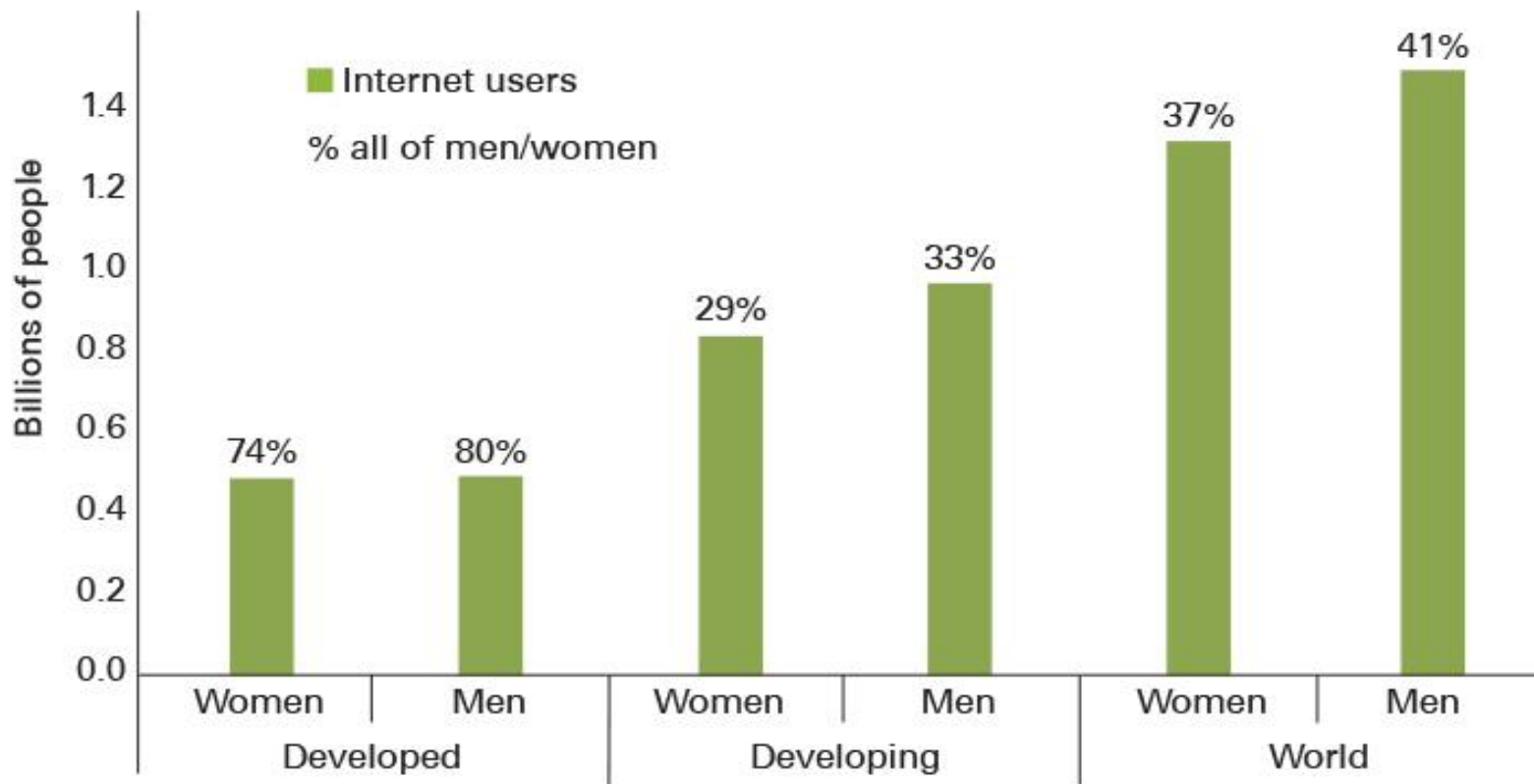
Digital Strategies for Development Summit 2015

Cebu City, the Philippines
22 September 2015

Susan Schorr, Head Special Initiatives Division, ITU



More men than women are Internet users



Source: 2013 ITU World Telecommunication /ICT Indicators database

- **200 million fewer women online than men**
- **16% fewer women than men use the Internet in developing countries**
- **2% fewer women than men use the Internet in developed countries**

WTIS-15

13th WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION

ICT INDICATORS SYMPOSIUM

30 NOVEMBER - 2 DECEMBER 2015
HIROSHIMA, JAPAN



www.itu.int/wtis2015



TELECENTRE WOMEN: Digital Literacy Campaign Empowerment through Technology



Women whose lives have been changed by ICTs, including those who have been trained in digital literacy under this campaign.



Over 1,000,000 women at the bottom of the pyramid are now digitally literate!

ITU-Telecentre.org
"Telecentre Women:
Digital Literacy
Campaign"





**GIRLS IN
ICT DAY**
28 April 2016

ITU Plenipotentiary Resolution 70 backed by all ITU Member States calls for the celebration of International Girls in ICT Day on 4th Thursday of April every year

Over **5,300** events in **150** countries, empowering more than **177,000** girls and young women globally.

www.girlsinict.org

International Girls in ICT Day





Why we need International Girls in ICT Day?

Women are vastly under represented in the ICT sector

Estimated shortfall of over two million skilled ICT professionals worldwide.

Digital literacy has become prerequisite for employment opportunities in nearly all sectors

ICT creators are shaping our societies

Women's under representation

- ✓ **Less than 30%** of the ICT workforce are women
- ✓ **19%** of ICT entrepreneurs are women
- ✓ **9%** of app developers are women in Europe
- ✓ Only **20%** of European women aged 30 with ICT-related degrees work in ICT sector
- ✓ **19%** of ICT managers are women
- ✓ **4%** of senior management positions in technical/R&D departments are held by women in Silicon Valley
- ✓ **10%** of corporate officer positions in Fortune 500 technology companies are held by women
- ✓ **5%** of IT patents are held by women in the US

...but that's where the jobs are!

International Girls in ICT Day activities

- Hands-on workshops
- ICT career fairs
- Field trips to ICT companies or institutions
- Meeting and hearing from role models
- Competitions





Hands on workshops

Diplomatic involvement



Speed mentoring



Girls in ICT Day ASP Region



Expanding horizons, changing attitudes



“This event was so inspiring to me! I feel more encouraged to do ICTs”
- Oracle Academy,
India 2014



“I don't have to limit myself - that I can do anything a boy can do. That basically ICT can take me anywhere!”
-Girls Invent Tomorrow,
South Africa 2013

“To be honest, I didn't know much about IT, and computers and internet, but then when I came here I found out that the world actually revolves around technology.”
- Cisco, Dubai 2014



Taking measures

- ✓ Improving relevance of educational curricula
- ✓ Change the way we teach computer science
- ✓ Create communities of girls and women in ICT
- ✓ Provide female role models
- ✓ Targeted financial and STEM educational programs
- ✓ Funded internships, apprenticeships and training opportunities like after school coding clubs





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Expanding horizons
Changing attitudes

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ITU Girls in ICT



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#GirlsinICT

www.girlsinct.org

International Girls in ICT Day



Thank You!

For more information:

ITU Special Initiatives Division (SIS)

www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Digital-Inclusion

www.girlsinict.org

www.women.telecentre.org

Contact: girlsinict@itu.int