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Gender Overview



- Total Female Population: 49%
- Female Literacy: 24.2% (75.8 have no formal education and are illiterate)
- Primary & Secondary School Enrollment: +3m
- Public University Enrollment: +63k
- Women's Life Expectancy: 64 years

National Programs/Priorities



- Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF I & II)
- WEE- NPP (National Priority Program)
- Afghanistan Sustainable Development Goals (A-SDGs)

ICT Stakeholders



Government

MCIT, ATRA, Afghan Telecom and National ICT Council

Private Sector

NGOs, 5+ Network Operators, 40+ ISPs, 500+ ICT Solution Companies

Technical/Independent Groups/CSOs

ISOC Afghanistan, NITPAA, Innovation and Technology Research Center for Afghanistan (ITRCA) & iHub Afghanistan

Academia

Public Universities (25) & Private Universities (70+)

International/Donor Agencies

USAID, UN Agencies, WBG, ADB & EU

Women Specific Initiatives/Programs



- Afghan Girls in ICT (AGinICT)
- Womanity Foundation: Girls Can Code (GCC)
- TechWomen Afghanistan
- Afghan Girls Robotics Team
- UN Women: Code for Peace
- Afghan Girls Animation Team
- Code to Inspire
- ITUs' International Day of Girls in ICT (AGinICT, ATRA, MCIT and TechWomen Afghanistan)

Women in ICT



There are 4 reasons:

1. UN SDG 5: Gender Equality;
2. Opportunity;
3. Capacity; and
4. Understanding.

2 Important Terms



- Women/Gender Equality in ICT
- ICT for Women/Gender Equality

Why Women in ICT?/ The Need



ICT sector needs more girls and women because:

- Technology is playing a key role in all kinds of careers;
- The jobs of the future will be driven by technology and innovation;
- ICT as a powerful means to advance women's rights, empowerment and gender equality;
- Self-generated income from ICT businesses can give women greater power to close the gender wage gap;

Cont....

- ICT is making education accessible to women and girls with possible large impact on improved quality;
- To end violence against women, mobile phone apps to report safety risks;
- To advance women's leadership and participation, an online platform for women across the globe;
- To enhance women's economic empowerment, global Knowledge gateway to empower women with knowledge, resources, networking and training;

Cont....

- An Information system can provide women farmers with real time information on markets, policy environment and connect them to each other for learning and support;
- Social media can boost the presence of women politicians;
- ICT can help women doctors by providing tools, learning platforms and skills for using the technologized systems and machines.

Why it matters?



- Gender equality matters;
- Women empowerment matters;
- A country's development matters;
- ICT can help women to get knowledge and skills to improve their lives, their society and finally the country;
- The ICT Sector development matters;
- More women & Girls more innovation and creativity in the sector and finally the sector develops;
- E-Governance initiates.

What we do



- Awareness Raising;
- Skills Development & Coaching;
- Employment;
- Promoting Women Leaders in ICT; and
- Helping Business Women in ICT to Change their Dreams into Reality.

Our Achievements



- Membership Campaign and Recruitment;
- Celebration of International Girls in ICT Day, April 2018, 2019 and 2020;
- Equipping Computer Lab of a Public School;
- Digital Literacy Training;
- Workshop on Women, ICT and Business in IGF Afghanistan 2019;
- Appreciating Around 15 Women Role Models;
- Consulting AoP on the First Women in IT Consensus;
- Participation in the Global IGF 2017, 2018 and 2019 ;
- Awareness Workshop on Online Harassment and Abuse;
- Employment opportunities for tens of fresh university graduates.

The Challenges



- Women think it's a challenge;
- Lack of female role models in the industry;
- Lack of FAMILY support;
- Gender pay gap;
- Lack of access to educational and exposure opportunities;
- Lack of self confidence;
- Lack of high level government support;
- Lack of employment and career development;
- Lack of presence of supportive networks and platforms.

The Opportunities/ Benefits



- Future jobs are in ICT field;
- Online freelancing;
- Women Coding/ Programing VS Men Coding/Programing
- ICT works as a powerful tool for women empowerment and positive change;
- Contribution to the sector development;
- Social change & economic improvement;
- Contribution to other sector development.

2 Important Terms

- ICT for Gender Equality
- Gender Equality in ICT



Best Practices From Other Countries



- Created a national strategy for women encouragement in ICT ;
- National level initiatives and programs;
- Promoted women in high level government positions within the industry;
- National level, gender-balanced composition for digital matters;
- Capacity & skills building programs in workplace;
- Supporting POLICIES.



Thank you.



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