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Gender and ICT statistics: the policy perspective

Nancy J. Hafkin, PhD
Senior Associate
Women in Gender, Science and Technology (WISAT)



Agenda

- Intro to ICT Gender Statistics
- Where we've come, ways to go
- Framework on Gender Equality in the Knowledge Society (GEKS)
- New indicators, Paths for ITU and member States



Intro to ICT Gender statistics

- What are gender statistics?
- Why are they important?
- Why pay special attention to gender in ICT/telecoms, especially in policy?

What are gender statistics?

- Kinds of gender statistics
 - Sex-disaggregated statistics
 - Gender-sensitive statistics and indicators
 - provide a basis for effective development and implementation of gender-sensitive policy

What do ICT/telecoms gender statistics do?

- Identify and document differential access to, use of and impact of ICTs by sex in order to inform national policy and set international policy goals
- Provide insight into use of ICTs for economic and social development

Why are gender statistics important for ICT/telecoms policy?

- To learn how men and women experience ICT/telecoms differently
- To understand the scope and intensity of the gender digital divide
- To ensure economic efficiency and national development
 - Full utilization of human resources especially important in global knowledge society
- Called for in ECOSOC and Marrakesh resolutions

Without data there is no visibility. Without visibility there is no priority

- Observations and anecdotal evidence need to be substantiated.
- We need internationally comparable gender indicators to inform ICT policy makers, analysts and other ICT stakeholders.

Why special attention to gender? Doesn't a rising tide lift all boats?

- Overall ICT/telecoms penetration doesn't guarantee equitable access by gender
- Women's rate of Internet access does not increase in tandem with increases in national rates of Internet penetration
- Social, political, and economic inequalities affect women's ability to access, use and master ICTs
- Differential access and impact M/F call for special attention to gender issues to realize gender equality and full utilization of a country's human potential

Few ICT/telecoms policies reflect gender concerns

- Governments tend to regard ICT policy as a technical issue
- Social and economic concerns often ignored
 - Like all technology, ICT is socially embedded
- Need to look at technical policy areas with a gender lens
- ICT policy does not stand alone. Carryovers to/from education, health, governance, agriculture, finance, science and technology development, all with gender issues.

Differentials and complementarity

- ICTs are not gender neutral; they impact men and women differently
- But gender equality in ICTs (and other realms) allows women to be equal contributors to and participants in knowledge nations
- Desired result: men and women both contributing to the building of national knowledge societies

How far we have come?
Where we are now?
Where do we have to go?

Basic problem: unavailability of gender statistics

- We've come a long way since 2003
- ICT/Telecommunications indicators at that time
 - Female Internet users
 - Number (but not levels) of telecommunications staff by sex

What's being done now

- Training courses on measuring ICT access and use by households and individuals in developing countries
- Collecting data gathered through official household surveys since 2005 thru annual questionnaire on ICT access and use by households and individuals

Through Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, Core ICT indicators by gender

- Individuals who used a mobile cellular telephone
- Individuals who used a computer
- Individuals who used the Internet
- Location of individual use of the Internet
- Internet activities undertaken by individuals
- Frequency of individual use of the Internet

Gaps remaining . . .

- Data on female Internet users still very sparse
 - From sub-Saharan Africa, only Senegal
 - Rest of Africa not representative: Morocco, Egypt, Mauritius
- Major countries missing: China, India
- No data from low-income Asian countries
- More work is needed with Asian and African countries on statistics ICT use and access and gender, especially Internet and mobile phones

Stand-alone national ICT and household/individual surveys

- Few stand-alone national ICT surveys, except in Europe
- Only 23% of developing countries are doing ICT household/individual surveys

Women in Global Science and Society (WISAT) Framework on Gender Equality in the Knowledge Society (GEKS)

What is the GEKS framework?

- A data analysis framework for policy makers to identify economy and society sectors strategically significant to women's full participation in knowledge society
- Access to and use of ICTs are essential and defining inputs to and outputs of the knowledge society, but
 - Women's access to and use of ICTs unlikely to be equitable without consideration of the other realms that affect gender equity.

WISAT Framework on Gender Equality in the Knowledge Society

- Gender inequities to ICT access and use can not be addressed through ICT policy and data alone
- Digital gender gap reflects gender inequalities throughout societies and economies
- A range of socio-economic and political factors affect gender divides

Questions addressed

- What are preconditions for women to become full participants in a national knowledge society?
- What resources and access do they need to achieve this?
- Where and how fast are women making progress?
- Use the results to answer:
 - What policies and programs are most conducive to promoting women's participation?
 - How can a country mobilize its full human resource capacity to become a knowledge-based society?

Organizing the Framework

Input indicators (Base conditions)	Health Social status Economic status Access to resources Agency Opportunity Policy environment
Outcome indicators (Participation and benefits)	Participation in: KS decision making Knowledge economy Science, technology and innovation Lifelong learning

Knowledge society fails to include women equally

Seven country/area studies of emerging knowledge societies (2012)
Brazil, India, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, South Africa, USA, EU

- Women few in STI fields in world's leading economies
 - In studies of math, physics, engineering, ICT
 - Working in scientific-technical labour force, but decreasing almost everywhere
 - At low levels in decision-making and knowledge economy
- It's not enough to increase girls' access to education!
- There must be encouragement to study science and technology

Leaders

European Union	First overall and first or second in every dimension
United States	Second overall , but near the bottom in women's health, agency, and social status and low in enabling policy environment.
Brazil	First in women's participation in science, technology and innovation , with a highly enabling policy environment and effective policy implementation.
South Africa	South Africa leads in women's agency , with the highest numbers of elected and appointed officials, but low in health (HIV/AIDS) and beset with racial inequalities.

Falling behind

Republic of
Korea

First in health and life expectancy, but Intro to ICT Gender statistics, second to last overall.

India

Excellent enabling policy environment for women, but lowest overall among the countries surveyed, as a result of women's low social and educational status.

Absence of any one empowerment factor creates a vulnerability for economies competitive position in the knowledge society

New Indicators, Paths for ITU and member States

What indicators are needed?

- Gender-specific indicators in stand-alone national ICT surveys:
 - Gender-awareness in ICT telecommunications policies
 - Gender issues in technical ICT policy areas
 - Policy encouragement for girls to study science and technology
 - Women's share of leading positions in ICT-industry, government positions in science and ICT
 - Women's participation in telecommunications and ICT decision-making

New indicators: household and individual ICT access and use

- *Mobile ownership (handset and/or SIM card)*
- *Do girls/women have equal access to all the ICTs in the home?*
- Highly desirable for all individual indicators be disaggregated by sex
- Especially re education and labour force participation

Action Paths for action ITU

- Assume leadership in raising all member States awareness of sex-differentiated and gender-sensitive data in telecommunications/ICT data collection
- Encourage reporting of gender statistics
- Get different policy groups talking to each other.
 - Continue work with UN-Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics

Action Path for member States

- Ensure coordination between NSO and national telecommunications policy goals, and between NSOs, ICT policy organs and gender machineries on data collection
- Ensure gender analysis, gender-awareness in all ICT and telecommunications statistics and indicators work

Takeaways, please!

- Gender statistics have to be mainstreamed in national ICT/telecoms statistics and a gender perspective integrated into ICT telecoms/data collection
- Gender ICT statistics efforts have to be coordinated with national planning efforts and gender machineries
- Gender advocates must become knowledgeable about ICT/telecommunications, science and technology
- ICT/telecoms gender statistics have to be seen in context of overall gender equality

Thank you

Nancy Hafkin
nhafkin@gmail.com

For further information on GEKS
www.wigsat.org