



## **ICT, Literature and Education: Designing a New Gadget to Close the Social Divide**

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### **Abstract**

WHO statistics show that more than 15% of world population - at least 1 billion people -, live with a disability, which implies lower educational attainment: these children and adults can hardly access a school, and a lot less higher education. In fact, according to UNESCO, in 2010 776 million adults and 122 million youth were illiterate -16% and 8%, proof of social exclusion in old age. Mostly of them are among the poorest of the poor, while people living in poverty are most at risk than others to become disabled. It means that they are part of those 3.5 billion people, more than 50% of world population living in poverty - less than USD \$2 a day - or extreme poverty - less than USD \$1 a day - in the world, being this two-way link disability-poverty a vicious circle.

Inclusive education is fundamental to achieve welfare, true socioeconomic development. But around the world, self-called "inclusive" projects are really exclusive: companies and institutions sell goods and services oriented to fulfil the needs of separate small groups: the deaf, the blind, the people with Down syndrome or Alzheimer's disease, etc.

It is important to understand that same education has to be taken to everybody, no matter their disability, disadvantage, or socioeconomic condition, so that successful inclusion would happen.

Helped with ICT we have enormous possibilities to make this real. My research on digital divide, culture, education and information economy has led me to conclude that it is possible to design a technological device which takes education and literature to everybody, a gadget with suitable accessories and applications that allows true inclusion where the handicapped, the disadvantaged, the gifted, the elder, the poor, and everybody no matter their language or any cultural, social or economic condition can access the same education and lifelong learning wherever, whenever and however they need it, factors required for knowledge to be useful, and social divide to be closed.

This paper will present an innovative project which is imperative to best perform; many scattered efforts can be congregated at once, international multidisciplinary cooperation can help to grant expeditious success and a significant social impact.

### **References**

[1] This essay is part of my underway book *Aprendizaje en la economía del conocimiento útil*.