



The Role of ICT in the Achievement of MDGs in Education

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Abstract

The Millennium Development Goals are the world's time-bound and quantified targets for addressing extreme poverty in its many dimensions – income, poverty, hunger, disease, lack of adequate shelter and exclusion –while promoting gender equality education, and environmental sustainability. They are also basic human rights - the rights of each person on the planet to health, education, shelter, and security as pledged in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and UN Millennium Declaration. At the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000, the global community adopted eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to guide and measure our development efforts. The MDGs cover a broad range of concerns, namely: poverty and hunger, primary education, gender equality, child mortality, maternal health, HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, environmental sustainability, and global partnerships. In adopting these goals and ambitious targets for each, we have made a commitment to achieving more developmental progress in less time than ever before. One such set of tools is Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). These technologies have transformed our world, and in the process, our belief in how we can address its challenges. The UN Millennium Declaration (8 September 2000) contains a commitment to, “ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies... are available to all”. While access to ICTs can educate, entertain and enrich our lives, ICTs together with other tools can also play a part in helping to achieve the much broader goals of the Millennium. ICT can provide various channels to bring educational options to those who have historically been excluded including populations in rural areas without schools, woman facing social barriers that limit their access to education, students with disabilities or with specific vocational training needs ICT crosses all sectors, bringing increased efficiency and new opportunities to areas from small enterprise development and international trade, to education and healthcare. This paper provides an insight into the importance of ICT in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. This paper also discusses the challenges of digital information divides and provides recommendation on the way forward. .