

عنوان مقاله:

Role of ICT in Rural Development and Local Governance in the Asia-Pacific Region

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خلاصه مقاله:

Information and communication technology (ICT) can help developing countries tackle a wide range of health, social and economic problems. By improving access to information and by enabling communication, ICT can play a role in reaching Millennium Development Goals such as the elimination of extreme poverty, combating serious disease, and achieving universal primary education and gender equality. ICT is any technology that enables communication and the electronic capture, processing, and transmission of information. Radio, television and print media are vital in many developing countries. In recent years 'new' ICT, such as mobile phones and the internet (and associated applications such as 'VOIP', transmitting telephone calls over the internet) have become available to growing numbers worldwide. The most rapid growth is in mobile phone usage. Total (fixed and mobile) telephone access in developing countries increased from 2% in 1991 to 31% in 2004. Internet usage has also grown rapidly: from 0.03% of developing country inhabitants in 1994 to 6.7% in 2004. However, there are wide disparities between developing countries. The benefits of ICT are not fully realized in many countries: ICT is often out of reach of the poor and those in rural areas. This Paper discusses how this problem is being addressed by the countries in the Asia – Pacific region especially in the CIRDAP Member countries, focusing on new ICT such as internet and mobile phones.

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