From the Digital Divide to Digital Justice in the Global South

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The Changing ICT—Development Paradigm

Rethinking Technology, ICTs and Development: Why It Is Time To Consider ICT4D 3.0

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

ICT4D 3.0? Part 1—The components of an emerging “digital-for-development” paradigm

Richard Heeks
Digital Inequality: Digital Divide

Digital Divide Dimensions:
- Income
- Gender
- Education
- Age
- Ethnicity
- Disability
- Geography
- Etc.

Adding Adverse Incorporation to Exclusion

Digital Divide: Exclusion

Adverse Digital Incorporation

Digital Systems

Digital Systems
The Flow from Digital Exclusion to Inclusion

Adverse Digital Incorporation

Inclusion in digital systems that provides unequal returns to participants; accruing more to those with greater power to control or benefit from those systems.
Adverse Digital Incorporation: Digitalised Global Value Chains

“Exclusionary digital barriers were akin to those from the digital divide literature. Internet access is now viable for small firms, but a wider set of capacities (i.e., skills, finance, systems) digitally excludes them from playing a more substantial role in GVCs”

“Even when firms were able to digitally integrate, more flexible GVCs, driven in part by the emergence of platforms and information systems, entailed reduced profits among East African actors, since their goods and services are more easily replaced. In more flexible GVCs lead firms might move to alternative suppliers when unfavorable conditions emerged.”

Adverse Digital Incorporation: The Gig Economy

50% of delivery drivers earn less than minimum wage after costs

55% of delivery drivers work more than 80 hours per week

No: sick pay, holiday pay, pension, health or other insurance

“Independent contractors” not workers

No recognition of worker associations or unions

Adverse Digital Incorporation: State Surveillance

Tracking:

• Location
• Contacts
• Online Activity

Adverse Digital Incorporation: Gender Inequality

“Examples include ICT-related violence against women such as that reported in Zambia by male partners in arguments around use of ICTs; ICT-enabled harassment of women including trolling, cyber-stalking and revenge porn; and ICT-enabled control of women such as use of spyware by men in Cambodia to track and watch female partners”

Digital Equity I

Bridging the Digital Divide

Availability → Accessibility → Adoption (Affordability, Acquisition) → Application (Appropriation, Action)

Digital Equity II

Counter-Adverse Digital Incorporation

Advantageous Digital Incorporation
Adverse Digital Incorporation

Inclusion in digital systems that provides unequal returns to participants; accruing more to those with greater power to control or benefit from those systems.
From Digital Equity To Digital Justice

1. Inequality
   Unequal access to opportunities

2. Equality?
   Evenly distributed tools and assistance

3. Equity
   Custom tools that identify and address inequality

4. Justice
   Fixing the system to offer equal access to both tools and opportunities

A Model of Digital Justice