Topic: Access to information and communications technology (ICT)

Instructions:

* Need minimum 400 words initial post
* Need 3 APA references
* Need 3 Responses (Each response 150 words minimum)
* Use uploaded document to see other student posts

Initial Post 1:

Digital divide is a term that refers to the gap between demographics and regions that have access to modern information and communications technology, and those that don't or have restricted access. This technology can include the telephone, television, personal computers and the Internet. The digital divide typically exists between those in cities and those in rural areas; between the educated and the uneducated; between socioeconomic groups; and, globally, between the more and less industrially developed nations. Even among populations with some access to technology, the digital divide can be evident in the form of lower-performance computers, lower-speed wireless connections, lower-priced connections such as dial-up, and limited access to subscription-based content (Friemel, T. N., 2016).

The reality of a separate-access marketplace is problematic because of the rise of services such as video on demand, video conferencing and virtual classrooms, which require access to high-speed, high-quality connections that those on the less-served side of the digital divide cannot access and/or afford. And while adoption of smartphones is growing, even among lower-income and minority groups, the rising costs of data plans and the difficulty of performing tasks and transactions on smartphones continue to inhibit the closing of the gap. The digital divide has been a central topic in tech circles for decades with researchers, advocates and policymakers examining this issue (Pick, J. B., & Sarkar, A., 2015). But even as many aspects of the digital divide have narrowed over time, the digital lives of lower- and higher-income Americans remain markedly different. The idea that some information and communication technologies are vital to quality civic life is not new. Some suggest that the Internet and other ICTs are somehow transforming society, improving our mutual understanding, eliminating power differentials, realizing a truly free and democratic world society, and other benefits. In many countries, access to the telephone system is considered such a vital element that governments implement various policies to offer affordable telephone service (Pick, J. B., & Sarkar, A, 2015). Unfortunately some countries lack sufficient telephone lines.

Initial Post 2:

The digital divide continues impressive growth in scaling information and communication technology (ICT)-enabled possibilities for practical management and growth in nations lagging behind. This arrangement depicts a connection also demand for bridging existing digital gap within and across nations in global context. In a country like Nigeria, leadership and development challenges usually connect on the absence of adequate coordination useful of eParticipation. eParticipation should be made available by global centers of enterprises in further developed nations, to improve vertical and horizontal coverage over the world; Local efforts in eGovernance should continue to be enhanced by less refined nations through fundamental and regular eParticipation at the individual, local, state, local and global levels; Individual citizens, especially government officials, should be supported and equipped with eParticipation trades for enhanced appearance and general progress of society (Janssen, 2015).

The spirit of connecting the digital divide, therefore, holds on the systematic application of ICT capability structure through eParticipation. The difficulties and opportunities in managing this provide the reason for this work. The digital divide, based on accessibility to data and communication technology (ICT), rests difficult in scaling possibilities for nations lagging behind (Heeks, 2001). The usage of eParticipation provides an avenue for development, application and utilization of ICT, as a subset of eGovernance, in the range of eDemocracy. This divide results from the technological backwardness of growing countries in opposition with advancement in advanced countries. A revolutionary call for the acquisition and application of technology for societal structure and development came of Ernesto Che Guevara de La Serna.

Initial Post 3:

eParticipation and simulation exercises are relatively new concepts in the sphere of policy design and yet have shown a greater potential to introduce efficiencies in the communities that they have been implemented. The case study in the textbook is based in Nigeria and the findings show how there have been massive benefits across the board for stakeholders as well as investors. This post is aimed at understanding the frameworks involved and the principles behind eParticipation and the measures to evaluate their effectiveness.

The first part of the framework involves the tools needed for eParticipation and their integration into the community. These tools are the means to gather information and can range from online surveys to data analytics. The goal for these tools is to extract meaningful data from the community and present it to be considered during policy design. The manner of implementation and the range of implementation of these tools determine the amount of impact and robustness of the policy.

The next aspect is to understand, analyze the data from these tools collected in the field and then incorporate them into the framework of the policy decision tree. Here it is important to note the amount of social acceptance that each iteration of eParticipation has enjoyed since that directly correlates to the favorability of the policies. More essentially, there should be a greater diversity of opinions coming through the eParticipation modules. This helps the policy-makers understand the various nuances that the policy should aim to cover. It can be thought of as the policy having stakeholders in different communities and considering people from different walks of life. Often this is where eParticipation falls short since a lot of the folks who do not have access to Informations & Communication Technology (ICT) do not have access to these eParticipation tools.

To sum up, while we do see a great benefit of eParticipation in the design of policies for communities, it is important to note that these modules should be available to a diverse and exhaustive group of people. The challenge here really distills down to making ICT technology available to everyone including folks living in developing countries.