Information poverty – a critical analysis

Johannes Britz
The ideal information-rich society
[within this new paradigm]

Knowledge about Knowledge
Attribute Knowledge
Know how
Knowledge: People

resource
create
capture

Content

SEP
Inf Tech

Physical infrastructure

Infostructure
Info-policies
Packaging of inf

'Unified'
Contributing factors to information poverty

Knowledge about Knowledge
Attribute Knowledge
Know how

Knowledge: People

Capture
Resource
Create

Content

Carrier

Infostructure
Info-policies
Packaging of info

Physical infrastructure

Inf Tech

SEP
The measurement of information richness

Knowledge about Knowledge

Attribute Knowledge

Know how

Knowledge:

People

Resource

Carrier

Infostructure

Info-policies

Packaging of inf

Physical infrastructure

SEP

Inf Tech
Understanding the issue... everything is information... ICT ‘unbundle’ information

Introduced a radical new economic model.... with socio-political implications

The new information paradigm versus The old information paradigm

Reach

bandwidth
customization
interactivity
control
update
reproduction

Richness

customization
interactivity
bandwidth

Impacted nearly every aspect of human activity
information economy - developing world

- No/limited services
- No/limited/products
- Africa
- Café on corner

- Most services
- Products (limit)
- Retail
- 80/20 economy

- Most services
- Products (many)
- libraries
- banking
- airline
- education

- 'All' services
- 'All' products
- Music (long tail)
- education
- Libraries?

The need to be reached

4 categories

infostructure

Physical Infrastructure
Redefine communication and access to information

Infostructure

Physical Infrastructure

To hold opinions
To express ideas
To have access to media
To seek and receive information

Not only to hear and talk, but also to do…

Access to information is instrumental to all human activities – basic human right

Infostructure instrumental to achieve our human wellbeing (Sen)

Opportunities and freedom of choice
Framework to analyze the moral issues

Interpret within the

• new economic paradigm,
• international trends,
• role of ICT in human development

Acknowledge the right, but not enable the right

Economic inequality at expense of basic rights (Second principle overrides first principle)

Distributive justice: focus on the fair allocation of burdens and benefits in society.
Contributive justice: focus on duty and responsibility to one another in society.
Commutative justice: focus on fair contractual agreements that define relationships, outline benefits and burdens, and specify obligations and responsibilities to one another.
Transformation justice: correct past injustices.
Justice as enablement: human development (interaction and social isolation, voiceless).