

Yves Kimenyi Gatsinzi

Kigali Institute of Science Technologie and Managment

Rwanda



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Information and communication technologies (ICTs) have given rise to new innovation in many parts of life in our society, such as education, social activities, business and research processes. Nowadays, we spend a lot of time using television, radio or Internet in order to be informed very quickly and efficiently. It is this interest that motivates our society to develop and build upon new ICT systems based on the thinking of the new generation.

Traditionally, the way people were communicating was based on natural resources that limited the speed and efficiency with which the information could be sent. During that period, young people were the most concerned on account of their physical ability to transmit the information.

So, in order to be more competitive, many organizations have developed new ICT systems and are investing more in order to offer their potential customers resources that they would otherwise find elsewhere.

Our African continent is not keeping up with this development, and new perspectives need to be taken into account by taking appropriate decisions on areas such as teaching and learning, in terms of their process and organization and their significance for mankind.

Young people must grasp ICTs as a key for promoting their activities, for example by creating Web pages to express themselves, through data design and access in order to organize work, and through online publications against violence and the Aids epidemic.

Even those aspects of ICT development face the problem of poor national telecommunication structures in many African countries, lack of staff, threat to knowledge, linguistic problems, lack of powerful equipment providing fast connection to the Internet, and a low or even below - minimum level of education among many young people in Africa. There is no doubt that the bringing together of ICTs and young people represents a unique opportunity for teaching, learning and research, and that the Internet, if used intelligently by young people, will act as a powerful supplement to their learning methods, as well as to the methods used in teaching them.

This is why it is important that young people the world over must be given equal access to ICT and information highways. It is a priority for organizations such as UNESCO to promote ICT for young people in the south as in the north, in the east as in the west, enabling all regions to deliver their own contributions to global knowledge, the development of research activities and publication facilities.

This can be done by increasing access to information and by ensuring the perfect administration of libraries and e-libraries.

One example is the role of ICT by universities for remote teaching, learning and research. An example of this is the Kigali Institute of Science, Technology and Management (KIST), which, through the African Virtual University (AVU), provides many people with the opportunity to learn languages or basic computer software applications and to participate in seminars on videoconferencing. A further achievement of KIST in the field of ICT has been the establishment of a wireless network for Internet connectivity. Under this project, in which I have participated, we have developed a cheap networking system based on wireless technology and Linux networking facilities. Nowadays, ICT technologies and facilities are used to access information through the World Wide Web, as well as in the organization and management of tuition, monitoring student progress, evaluating applications, etc., in the context of distance tutoring and virtual classes. Following an evaluation of the development and importance of information, there must also be a focus on youth participation. Ultimately, youth comprises a large number of people in secondary schools, universities and educational institutions, all of whom must be prepared for flexible learning and for a role in research activities, locating and accessing large amounts of information online in their field, and increasing their research capacity by sharing equipment and using remote computer resources.