

WOMEN, GIRLS AND ICT

A VIEW FROM THE RURAL AREAS - PROF DR MIRJAM VAN REISEN & PRIMROSE NAKAZIBWE, MBARARA UNIVERSITY

WE ARE CONNECTED!



BUT IS ACCESS EQUAL?




EDUCATION?



RELATION ICT – WOMEN AND GIRLS IMPACT ON SOCIAL GAPS

Three priority areas

- Rural Agriculture
 - Remittances and Care in Rural Areas
 - Refugees
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1 WOMEN FARMERS



WOMEN FARMERS: HAS ICT CLOSED THE GAP?

Research from Mbarara (Uganda) – practical access constraints

- ICT gadgets are desirable objects – the access to women may depend on the permission of the husband.
- Women lack the financial capacity to acquire gadgets
- Women's income is largely controlled by men who must make decisions on how it must be spent. Where women's use of ICT is not prioritized, it makes it impossible for women to access them.

2 MOBILE MONEY: CHANGING WOMEN'S LIVES?



REMITTANCES AND CARE

Social change resulting from mobile phone and mobile money:

- Increased burden of care – mobile money and remittances have widened the urban – rural split: the elderly, the sickly, the disabled people, people with mental problems looked after in the rural areas.
- Women are taking here the burden of (unpaid) care.



3. REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS




ICT FACILITATION

- Mobile phone facilitates migration routes, but not security for vulnerable refugees
- Mobile money facilitates migration but not security
- Women and girls are vulnerable for extortion and sexual violence facilitated by mobile phone and mobile money (dark side)
- Women and girls often lack information that can help them in the asylum procedure

ADMISSION OF REFUGEES DEPENDING ON ICT RELATED INFORMATION (GOOGLE MAPS ETC)



SHIFTING THE PARADIGM

- Integrating social understanding in technical solutions
 - Shifting the paradigm to inclusive and universal service models
 - Base development on agency of women and girls in local communities
 - Develop easy to use ICT facilities for women which may not require sophisticated knowledge
 - Encourage community based ICT facilities which can be given to women groups for easy sharing.
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THE NEXT GENERATION OF GIRLS IS READY...

