

Impact of Information and communication technology (ICT) on rural development

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ABSTRACT

Old and new communication systems are functioning side by side. Just as there are two social systems - the modernizing cities and the traditional villages – and two economic systems – industrialization and money exchange in the cities, subsistence agriculture and barter in the villages – so also there are two communication systems. There are conflicting demands for the use of radio. Some want it used for entertainment, some for information, some for culture, some for education. The Human Development Report 1999 of UNDP referring to such phenomenal changes has observed “The Information Revolution has only just begun on a world wide scale and its networks are spreading widely every day”. The Remote Sensing Technology has proved to be a valuable source for mapping and monitoring of various natural resources. Remote sensing and data on socio – economic aspects were collected by the District administration and these have been integrated in the Panchayat Resources Information System. The Central Statistical organization at the National level are responsible for collection of data on a wide range of social and economic activities and making them available to the Government at various levels for use in policy formulation, planning and for taking important decisions. In the emerging complex economic scenario every one household, corporate and Government at various levels is eager to take decisions based on an analysis of the situation backed by sufficient data and information.

Key words : I.C.T., Rural development, Remote sensing technology, Communication technology

In many countries, this has been accomplished with great effect, by building “localness” into the communication. Radio becomes “Local radio, newspapers move into the towns and send their reporters into the villages. They abandon the idea that programmes must be produced entirely in the radio or TV studio, films made wholly in the film studio, news found only in the cities or on the news agency wire. They go out to the villages and towns seeking interviews on farm plans and problems, films of what is happening in the villages.

Every citizen of traditional society, faced with basic decisions on values and customs, would rather talk them over than be harangued about them. This is my two – way communication through ICT programmes which helps to encourage development decisions.

We are living in an information Age’ and experiencing information Revolution. Internet and Satellites which were originally, developed for limited application in defence related work, have over application and are now used extensively, in several spheres of economic activity. This transformation along with rapid advancement in the telecommunication from wire line telephone to wireless

telephone (cell phones) and the miniaturization of computer from mainframe to desktop, then to laptop, have vastly changed the process of data / information collection, processing, analysis, transmission from one place to another, storage and retrieval. All these are possible at great speed with accuracy. The Human Development Report 1999 of UNDP referring to such phenomenal changes has observed “The Information Revolution has only just begun on a world wide scale and its networks are spreading widely every day”.

The Ninth Five – year Plan (Government of India) has pointed out that “the evolution of information technology taking place around the world holds the prospect of considerable economic gains for India both in domestic application of IT and in our economic interaction with the rest of the world. The spread of information technology in India is as yet inadequate and urgent steps are needed to create a national network for information dissemination.

Developments of ICT:

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