

Exemplary Experiences of the Digital Divide

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Outline

- ✦ DEFINITION & CHARACTERISTICS
 - THEORETICAL LENSES
- ✦ ICT INITIATIVES IN EDUCATION
- ✦ LOCAL EXAMPLES
- ✦ RESULTS
- ✦ CONCLUSION

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Definition

- ✦ "The gap between individuals, households, business and geographic areas at different socio-economic levels with regard both to their opportunities to access ICT and to their use of the Internet for a wide variety of activities" (OECD, 2001)
- ✦ "Before there was a 'digital divide' there were the 'information haves and the have-nots.'" (Compaine, 2001)

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The A,B,C,D,E of the Digital Divide

Access
Basic skills
Content
Desire
Engagement

- Infrastructure, costs, competition/regulation
- Basic education, vocational training, entrepreneurship
- Local value, languages
- Local will to reform
- Commitment of all components of society

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Classification of Digital Divide

✦ Multidimensional phenomenon (Norris, 2001)

- *Global divide*: The divergence of Internet access between industrialized and developing societies.
- *Social divide*: The gap between information rich and poor in each nation.
- *Democratic divide*: The difference between those who do and don't use digital resources to engage, mobilize and participate in public life.

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A World of Contrast

Knowledge
Prosperity
Globalization
Inclusion

Knowledge Divide or Digital Divide

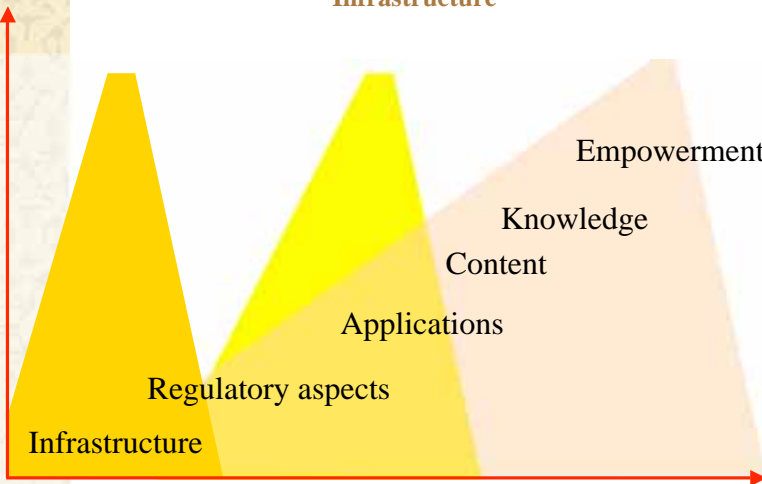
Ignorance
Poverty
Marginalization
Exclusion

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Missing Link

Global Information
Infrastructure

Digital Divide



Shedding different lights at a complex set of issues

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Theoretical Lenses

✦ Different paradigms:

- *"Digital optimists"*: An opportunity to "leapfrog" stages of technological development and compete on more equal terms

Wurman(1989), Toffler(1990), Negroponte(1995)

- *"Sceptics"*: Little difference

- *"Digital pessimists"*: Digital divides likely to grow over time (exacerbate) as ICTs become pervasive while developing countries, particularly lack the expertise to follow

Schiller(1996), Wresch(1996), Castells(1999)

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ICT INITIATIVES IN EDUCATION

- ✦ WorLD- World Links for Development
- ✦ GeSCI- Global e-Schools and Communities Initiative
- ✦ Enlaces

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World Links

- ✦ Internet connectivity
- ✦ Training
- ✦ Partnerships
 - School-to-school
 - Public, private, and non-governmental organizations
- ✦ Telecommunications policy advice
- ✦ Monitoring and evaluation

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World Links

- ✦ Lessons taken (1) (*Hawkins, 2002*):
 - Worth spending the time and money
 - Technical support
 - Competitive telecommunications infrastructure & policies for connectivity and sustainability
 - Wireless technology
 - Involving the community

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World Links

- ✦ Lessons taken (2) (*Hawkins, 2002*):
 - Private-public sector partnerships
 - Link to broader education reforms
 - The professional development of teachers
 - Empowering girls
 - Motivating students and energizing classrooms

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GeSCI

✦ Key considerations:

- Focus on educational objectives- ICTs not an end in themselves
- Part of an integrated, comprehensive and on-going system
- Benefits, feasibility and long term costs

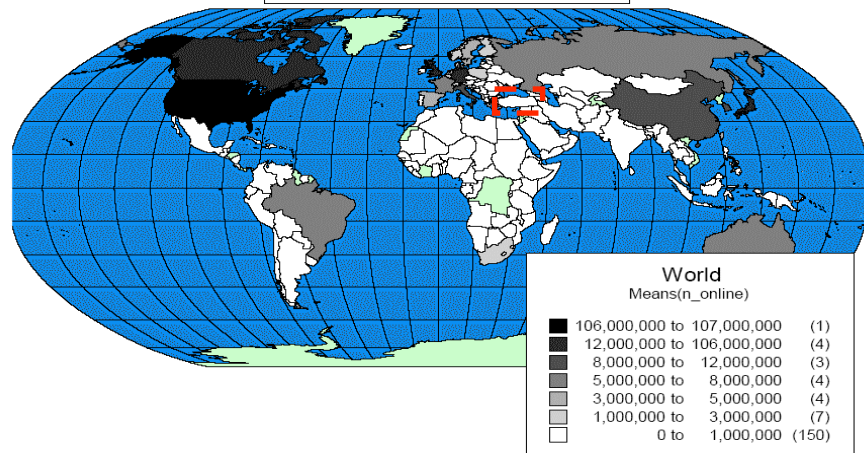
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Enlaces

- ✦ An ICT initiative of the Chilean Educational Reform provide all of the nation's secondary schools with computers
- ✦ No evidence of having impact on students' learning as defined in the national curriculum
- ✦ The opportunity to develop abilities defined as cross-curricular and practise ICT related skills (*Hinostraza, Guzman and Isaacs, 2002*)
- ✦ No universal truth when applying ICT in education
- ✦ Each country's reality, priorities and long-term budgetary prospects and commitment (*Hepp, Hinostraza, Laval, Rehbein, 2004*)

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Number Online

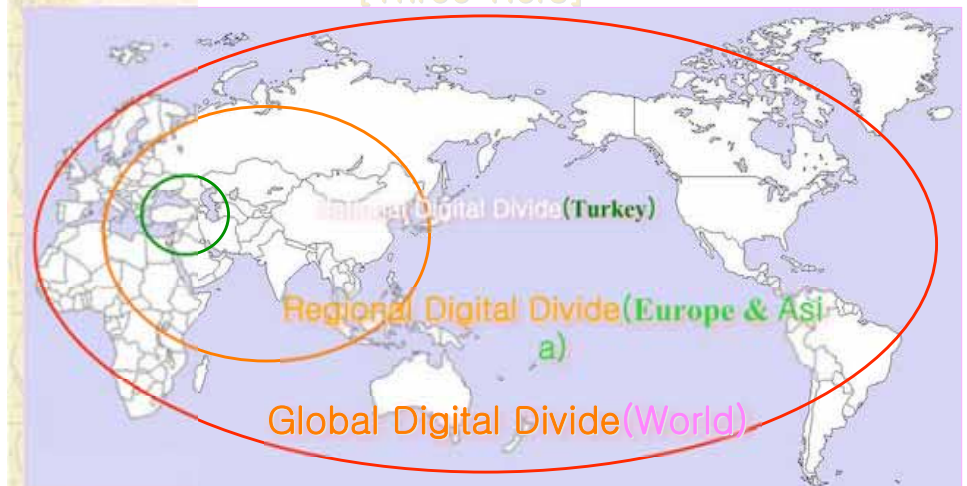


(www.nua.ie)

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The Case of Turkey

[Three Tiers]



ICT Diffusion

Population (millions):	66.2
Adult literacy rate (% ages 15 and over):	85.6
GNI per capita (WVB Atlas method, 2002, \$):	2,500.0
Telephone mainlines (per 1,000 people):	280
Mobile phones (per 1,000 people):	246
Personal Computers (per 1,000 people):	38.1
Internet users (thousands):	30.2
Human Development index rank (out of 173 countries, 2003):	96
National ICT Strategy (Y/N):	No
E-assessments (0,1,2...N):	7 completed

(www.undp.org.tr)

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ICT Initiatives

- ✦ World Links for Development (1998-2005)
- ✦ Turkish Ministry of National Education (MNE) & World Bank: two-phase National Basic Education Program (BEP)
 - ICT literacy for both teachers and students
 - IT classrooms in elementary schools (K-8)
 - An educational web portal site
 - Training of elementary school teachers, principals and supervisors

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ICT Initiatives

- ✦ Ministry of Education Cyber education library (2002- 2003)
 - Coverage of course books via education software

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Results

- ✦ International debates: The global digital divide exists and is diverging (Trujillo, 2000).
 - July 1995: *Falling Through the Net : A Survey of the "Have Nots" in rural and Urban America*
 - July 1998: *Falling Through the Net II : New Data on the Digital Divide*
 - July 1999: *Falling Through the Net : Defining the Digital Divide*
 - Oct. 2000: *Falling Through the Net : Toward Digital Inclusion*

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Results

- ✦ A need to assess the curricula being used or that are being proposed for use on the study of ICTs in education (*Adeva, 2002*)
- ✦ Focus on the social analysis of the use of ICTs (*Adeva, 2002*)
- ✦ A more technical approach, understanding of the underlying causes of the digital divide (*Wijewardena, 2002*)
- ✦ Narrowing the digital divide as a key goal of public policy (*Wijewardena, 2002*)

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Conclusion

- ✦ As Hawkins (2002) states if together this transformation could be begun,

"Schools a hundred years from now will sit at the heart of a learning society and allow youth from any country in the world—rich or poor—to have the same opportunities to create a better world".

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Any Questions ?

Thank you !!!

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