

A young girl with dark hair in pigtails is smiling and looking towards the camera. She is holding a wooden structure, possibly a chair or a frame, in front of her. The background is dark and out of focus.

# HISTORY, POLITICS AND GENDER

Class Discussion and  
Presentation

**Technology for International  
Development** Fall, 2010 94-812

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# Agenda



- History
- Politics
- Gender



# HISTORY

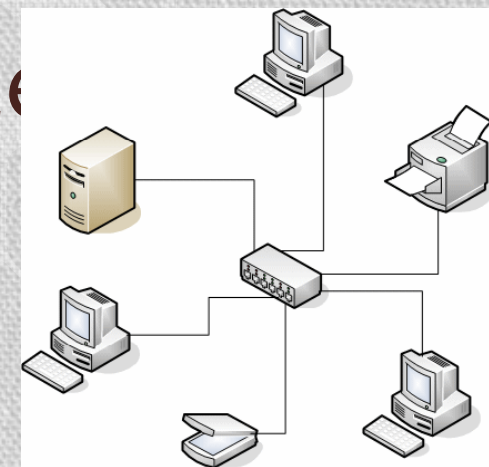


# What is **ICT**?

## **I**nformation and **C**ommunications **T**echnology

ICT is the study of the technology used to handle information and aid communication. In addition to the subjects included in Information Technology (IT), ICT encompasses areas such as telephony, broadcast media and all types of audio and video processing and transmission.

In other words,... computers  
and more!



Computer Network

<http://www.functionx.com/networking/Lesson01.htm>

# What is **ICT4D**?

## **I**nformation and **C**ommunications **T**echnology For (**4**) **D**evelopment

How Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) can be used to help poor and marginalized people and communities make a difference to their lives. Development is primarily seen as being concerned with economic growth.

In other words... *technology used to make a difference!*



Source: Unwin Tim, ICT4D, Introduction

One Laptop per Child in Cambodia  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Olpc2\\_cambodia.JPG](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Olpc2_cambodia.JPG)

# Current Situation

- ICT spending 7.5% of GDP worldwide<sup>1</sup>
- ICT expected to grow worldwide
  - Increased spending by 2.9% expected in 2010
- Spending on ICT can increase growth
  - ICT enables greater access to services in society
  - Examples:
    - Epic Change
    - Turkish VAT



Epic Change.org:  
School in Tanzania

**Source:** <sup>1</sup> World Bank Database. Public Technology.net: <http://www.publictechnology.net/sector/central-gov/global-ict-public-sector-spend-outstrips-market> Intel: Economic Benefits of Strategic ICT Spending: [http://govtech.firstlightera.com/ERA/ResourceHandler.ashx?b62f538e-9e7b-4f96-ba9b-ad7ad861345d;iWA\\_1\\_Economic\\_Model\\_Impact\\_of\\_Gov\\_Stimulus\\_1264280172.pdf](http://govtech.firstlightera.com/ERA/ResourceHandler.ashx?b62f538e-9e7b-4f96-ba9b-ad7ad861345d;iWA_1_Economic_Model_Impact_of_Gov_Stimulus_1264280172.pdf) | Image: <http://epicchange.org/>

# ICT4D - where did it come from?

- 1700's enlightenment

- “We can use our rational argument and our technological skills to end absolute poverty.”

- 1800's Industrial Revolution

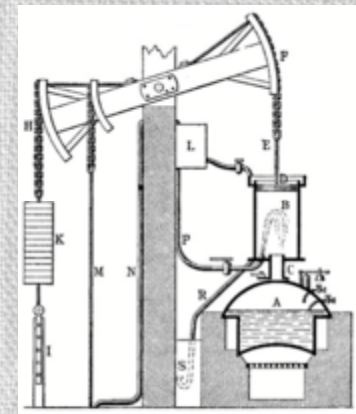
- “Technology or science is at the heart of causes for development.”

- mid 1900's Green Revolution

- “alternatives to development”
- Political Development – fall of Iron Curtain, Berlin Wall
- Free-market ideology | Globalization

- late 1900's Technology

- 1990's Growth of Internet
- World Bank and IMF



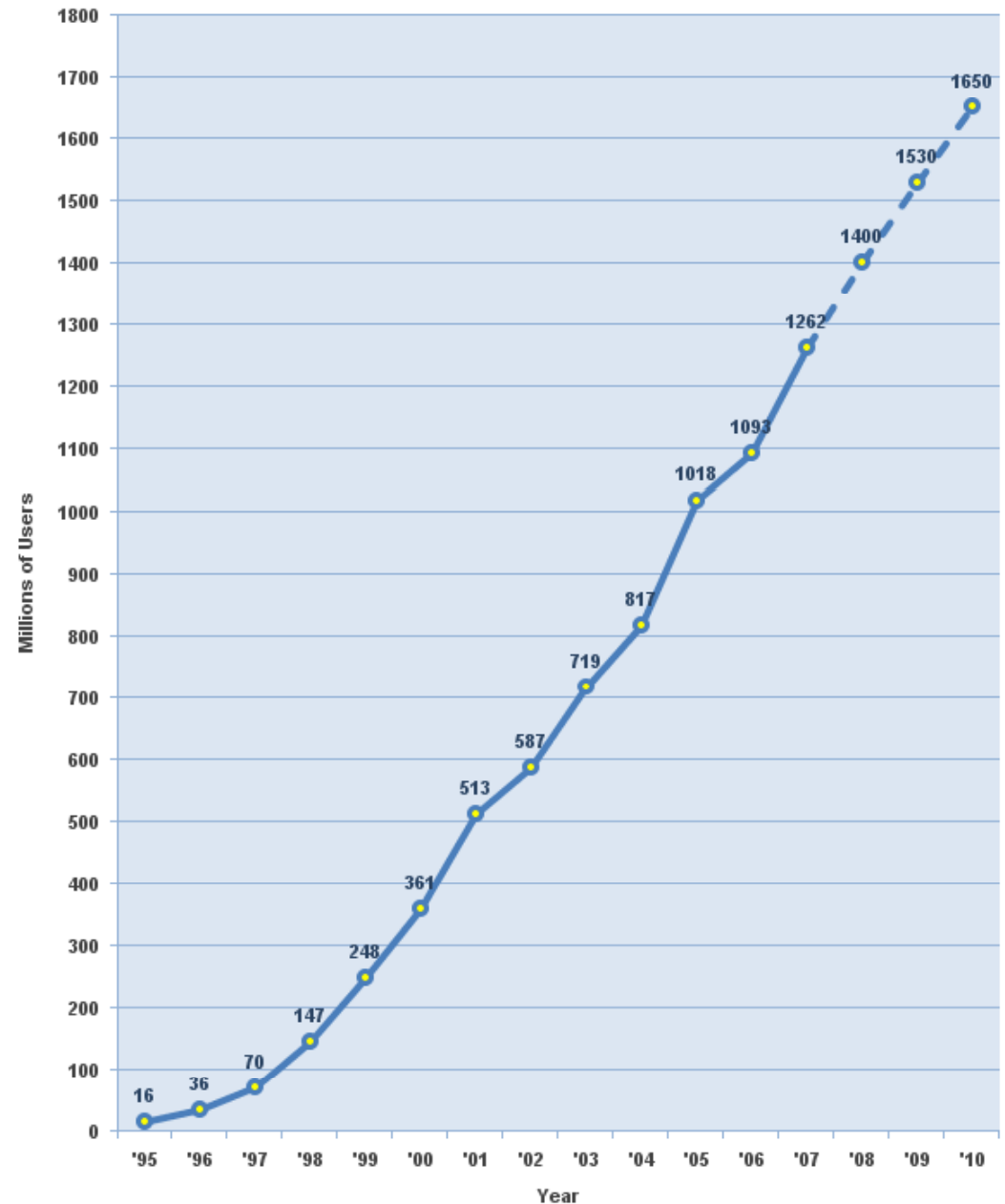
Steam Powered Engine

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Industrial\\_Revolution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Industrial_Revolution)

# ICT4D - where did it come from?

Date	# of users	% World Population
Dec 1995	16 million	0.4%
Dec 2000	361 million	5.8%
Sept 2010	1,971 million	28.8%

Internet Users in the World  
Growth 1995 - 2010



Source: <http://www.internetworldstats.com/emarketing.htm>

Source: www.internetworldstats.com - January, 2008  
Copyright © 2008, Miniwatts Marketing Group



# ICT4D in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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- Information Age
- September 11
- Twitter - 2006
- Millennium Development Goals
  - Adopted by world leaders in 2000 to be achieved by 2015
  - \* Eradicate extreme poverty & hunger
  - \* Promote Gender Equality
  - \* Improve Maternal Health
  - \* Ensure environmental Stability
  - \* UN Summit in September 2010 adoption of 8 anti-poverty goals by 2015
  - \* Achieve Universal Primary Education
  - \* Reduce Child Mortality
  - \* Combat HIV/AIDs and other diseases
  - \* Global Partners in Development
- Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
  - Each country has a report
  - IMF's way of getting aid to the poorest countries.

# What Motivates People?

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- **Development**

- Cartography 1400 lead to explorations in Africa, Asia and Latin America

- **Capitalism**

- **Religion**

- Religion shapes our understanding of development
- Most sacred texts have at it's basis a duty and responsibility to the poor in our midst
- However, not all religions encourage technological development

- **Politics**

- Promoting Free-Market economy



# POLITICS

## **Identities and Roles of Multilateral Organizations**

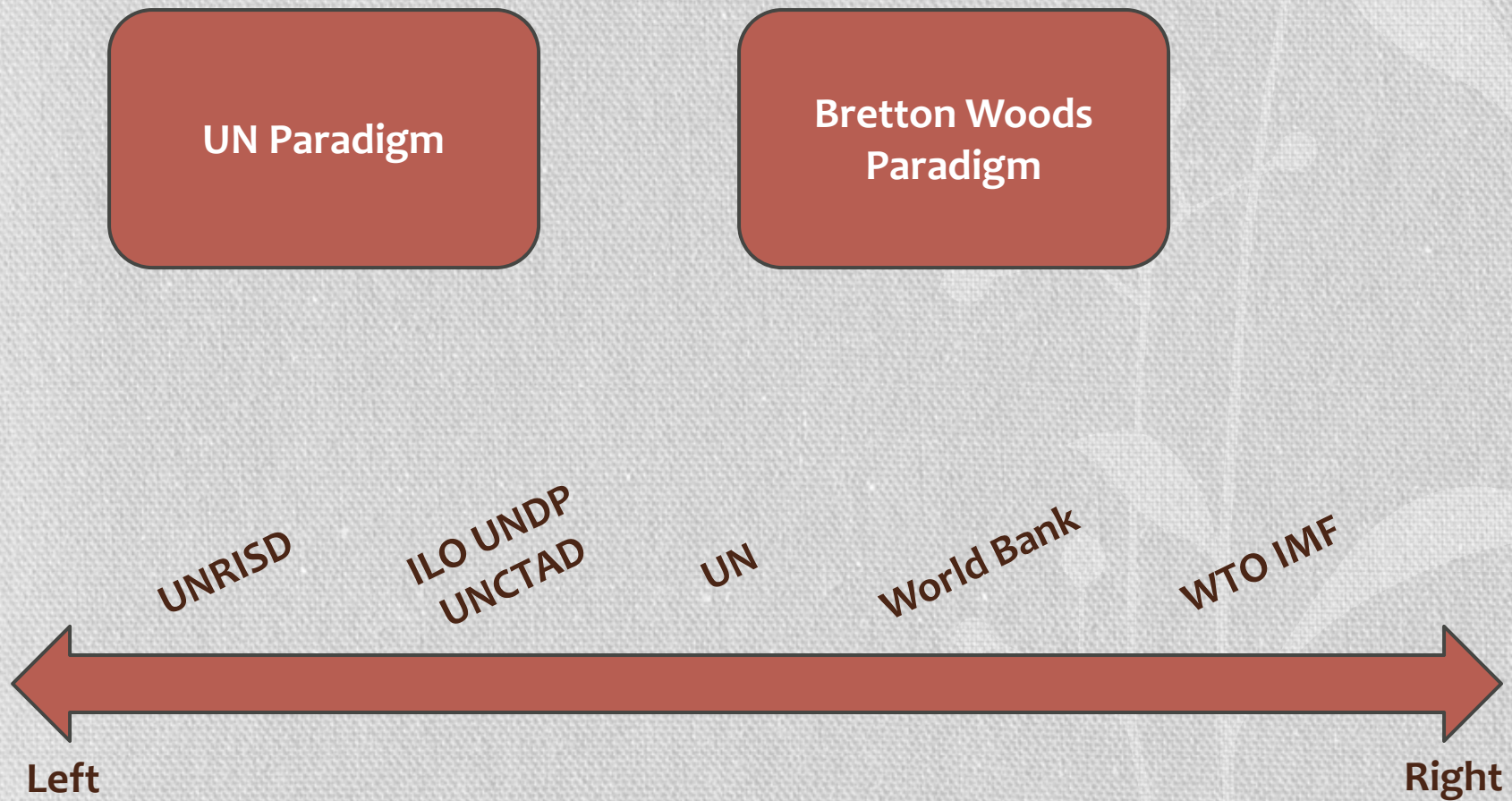
# Constructivism

- .....
  - Social institutions/concepts are not “as given”
    - Contradicts neoliberalism & neorealism
  - Social interaction defines ideas/actors
  - language/rhetoric construct social reality

# Multilateral Institutions

- Plainfield to examine political ideas/discourse in field of development
- Forces of the left vs. forces of the right
- Key agents of global governance
  - Change context of decision making
  - Shape states' interests
  - Play a role in industrial development

# Paradigms



# Convergence of Multilaterals

## Increased cooperation & dialogue

UN	Bretton Woods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Globalization presents opportunities</li><li>•Less hostile towards market forces</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Globalization can engender losers</li><li>•Social development is important</li></ul>

**Prioritization of goals**

# Convergence of Multilaterals

- .....  
New orientation, improved rhetoric
- World Bank
  - Better lending operations
- IMF
  - Higher levels of foreign aid
- WTO
  - Doha trade round  $\Rightarrow$  “Development Round”



# Convergence of Multilaterals

.....  
New orientation, improved rhetoric

- UN Secretariat

- “every UN organization is currently involved in multiform private sector partnerships”

- UNDP

- “result-based management”, “more competitive” services

# Causes of Convergence

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## Bretton Woods Institutions

Asian Financial Crisis

“Center Left”  
administrations

## UN System

liberalization

“mood of resignation”

# Grand Compromise?

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- Bretton Woods Hegemony
- Social Justice, Equality vs. Economic Performance and Freedom
- Globalization
- Different Reform Agendas



GENDER

# Women's Power



- 
- In countries like India, an investment of \$1.41 billion in family planning could lead to a savings of over \$15 billion dollars.

source: <http://msmagazine.com/blog/blog/2010/06/07/live-blogging-women-deliver/>

# Individual Benefits of ICTs for Women



- Empowerment
- Increased self-esteem
- Reduced isolation
- Access to markets
- Access to health information

# Question 1

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- In page 9, the author suggested women's exposure to information about legal rights through internet would contribute to cultural transformation and changing stereotypes about gender and technology.
- Do you think it may happen in the place you have experience of development? If yes, why? Will any cons happen with pros at the same time? If no, why?



# Collective Benefits of ICTs for Women



- Economic growth
- Improved health
- Improved education
- Capacity building
- Cultural transformation



# Objective of the Beijing Platform for Action

- Increase the participation and access of women to expression and decision-making in and through the media and new technologies of communication
- Support women's education, training and employment to promote and ensure women's equal access to all areas and levels of the media
- Promote women's full and equal participation in the media, including management, programming, education, training and research

# Objective of the Beijing Platform for Action

- Encourage and recognize women's media networks, including electronic networks and other new technologies of communication, as a means for the dissemination of information and the exchange of views
- Encourage the participation of women in the development of professional guidelines and codes of conduct or other appropriate self-regulatory mechanisms to promote balanced and non-stereotyped portrayals of women by the media

# Barriers to fully realize benefits

A decorative background featuring a stylized plant with leaves and small circular buds on the right side. A horizontal dotted line with a solid dot at the start is positioned below the title.

- Location, infrastructure and connectivity
- Time and money
- Lack of relevant content
- Low education and literacy
- Social norms and perceptions

## Question 2



- Location is one of the barriers for ICT coverage in some areas. But Why are women less likely to be exposed to ICT in the same location? How to solve this problem?

# Question 3

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- How to improve women's actual living standard through ICT?

# Thank you!



- History - Varvara
- Politics - Samidha
- Gender – Weiru
  
- Questions?

