



INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION
Telecommunication Development Bureau
Telecommunication Statistics and Data Unit

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ICT Gender Statistics

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Background

“More and more concern is being shown about the impact of those left on the other side of the digital divide—the division between the information “haves” and “have nots.” Most women within developing countries are in the deepest part of the divide further removed from the information age than the men whose poverty they share. ... It is essential that gender issues be considered early in the process of the introduction of information technology in developing countries so that gender concerns can be incorporated from the beginning and not as a corrective afterwards.” —*Gender, Information Technology, and Developing Countries: An Analytic Study*

Current situation

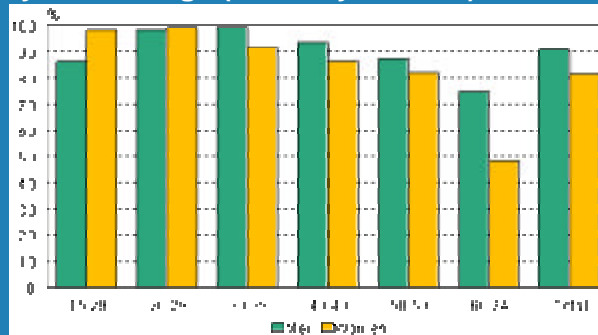
- The availability of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) statistics showing a breakdown by gender at the country level is limited, indeed almost non-existent.
- Examining the availability of overall ICT statistics helps explain this:
 - Many government organizations do not even collect overall national ICT statistics in a consistent and regular manner.
 - ICT statistics are either obtained from government organizations or operators. These organizations have their own analytical reasons for maintaining the data and gender is often not one of them.
 - In some cases, gender disaggregated statistics are not intuitively logical. Where disaggregation is available, it is usually by sector rather than sex (e.g., business, government, home or education).
- Therefore, it is safe to say that until primary ICT data collectors see market value in obtaining gender disaggregated statistics, the data will not be widely available.

ITU experience

Results of collecting gender-based telecommunication staff	1999	2000	2001
Number of countries reporting total telecom employees	202	190	235
Per cent of total	87%	82%	73%
Number of countries reporting female telecom employees	73	66	59
As a percent of those reporting total telecomm employees	36%	35%	35%
Percentage of telecom employees that are female (weighted average)	27%	27%	27%
Percentage of telecom employees that are female (simple average)	29%	30%	31%

National statistical agency - Statistics Finland

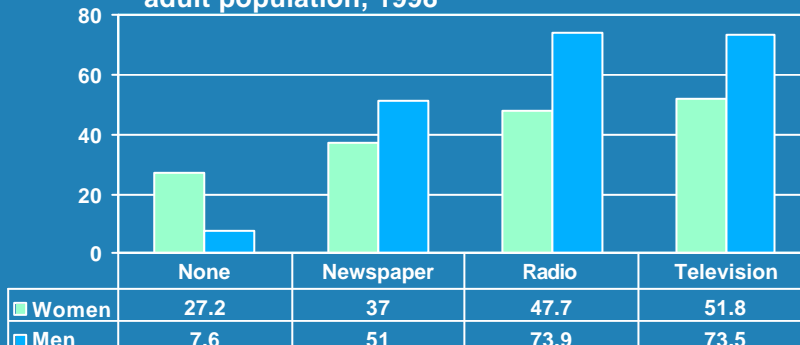
Possesses mobile phone in November 2001,
by sex and age (15 – 74 year-olds)



www.stat.fi/tk/yr/tietoyhteiskunta/matkapuhelin_oma_kuvasivu_en.html

National statistical agency - Cape Verde

Cape Verde: Exposure to mass media, %
adult population, 1998



Source: INE, IDSR 1998

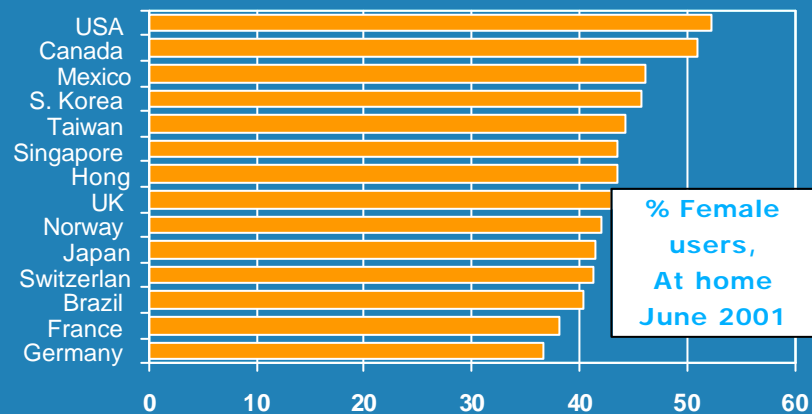
Internet organization -CNNIC

China: Internet users, by sex, July 2002)



www.cnnic.net.cn/develst/2002-7e/5.shtml

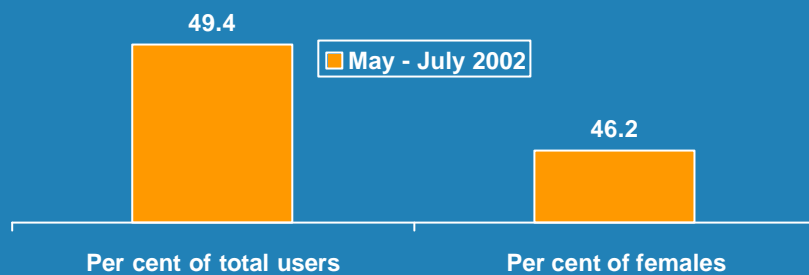
Research surveys -Nielsen//NetRatings



www.nielsen-netratings.com/pr/pr_010725_eratings.pdf

Total versus group share

Hong Kong: Persons aged 10 years and over who had used Internet service in the past twelve months by sex



Source: Hong Kong Census and Statistics Department

Conclusions

- Much discussion about ICT gender statistics, but few concrete and realistic indicators proposed
- Possible indicators:
 - Internet users
 - PC users
 - Mobile phone subscribers
 - Female ICT personnel
- Best solution lays with national statistical agencies through household surveys