

In Building Information Society Issues from Bangladesh

Introduction

Bangladesh has been identified and addressed how government can address integrating people of all walks of life by facilitating affordable access of information and incorporating people with technology to the community people. It has also emphasized the social responsibility of the corporate sector as well as the development practices of how the employment generation, information access, connectivity etc can be served with a proper attention to the people.

However, **the issues emphasizing** are as follows:

1. Bangladesh has properly emphasizes **connectivity**. It properly gives attention to the growing digital divide in the world and within the country as well. The digital divide has been growing between men and women, between urban and rural, between rich and poor, between literate and illiterate, between social and corporate sector. To reduce the gaps the digital opportunity can properly be utilized. And Bangladesh Government is giving proper emphasize to introduce information and communication technology at all levels.
2. In regarding connectivity, the role of both print and electronic **media** was emphasized. Both the media should play the role promoting and ensuring social responsibility rather than making profit only. The media can play important role disseminating information and communication technology and its benefits to the community because ICT can play vital role generating employment and building human resources.
3. The process also highlights to build up a **Knowledge Society** by facilitating access to information and giving proper training and orientation to build up a skill human resource. It also gives importance to local knowledge and resources mainly concentrating to promote and preserve indigenous knowledge of the community.
4. Community media requires proper attention formulating policies and implementation. Especially, **community broadcasting** e.g. community radio and community tele-centre can be set up at rural levels to ensure participation which will ensure access to information and thus building a knowledge society. Simultaneously, it facilitates accountable governance by participating people at decision-making process, at planning and management level.
5. **Telecommunications** is also an important sector that needs to be decentralized. The monopoly in the sector should be withdrawn and ensure service and facilities properly both at urban and rural levels. According to the ITU convention 10 per cent telephones should be allocated to rural level that government would try to ensure to reduce the gap exists.
6. The poor and **marginalized groups**, ethnic groups, disable and illiterate groups of the society should be prioritized with proper attention including people at all levels.

The Government of Bangladesh is also giving stressed to macro policy issues and has relation to the global players concerning information and communication technology. It has already formulated ICT policy and started implementation. It also emphasizes building skilled manpower to compete with global information technology trend. Bangladesh is properly taken initiatives to reduce digital gap and utilize the digital opportunity. Government also is involved in bi-lateral process to ensuring people's participation in information and communication technology and thus relates society into information age.

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