digital divide, digital disconnect...

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what lies beneath
more talking, less eating?

Relative Growth in Service Sectors from 1990-2003

Communications

Health

Education

Housing, water, electricity, and gas

Recreation and culture

Transport

Alcohol, tobacco, narcotics

Restaurants and hotels

Furnishings, house equipment and maintenance

Food, non-alcoholic beverages

Clothing and footwear

Source: OECD
the newer the technology...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>High income economies</th>
<th>Middle and lower income economies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broadband</td>
<td>216m</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet users</td>
<td>965m</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile phones</td>
<td>2.1bn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed lines</td>
<td>1.3bn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TV sets</td>
<td>1.2bn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>6.5bn</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ITU World Telecommunication Indicators Database.
dev’g world catching up: fixed

The digital divide in 1994: 11 times more

The digital divide in 2004: 4 times more

Source: ITU
shrinking the dev’d/dev’g divide: mobile

Mobile telephone subscribers per 100 inhabitants

The digital divide in 1994: 27 times more

The digital divide in 2004: 4 times more

Source: ITU
beyond infrastructure
it’s not only about infrastructure

- infrastructure in and of itself does not suffice
- important to leverage and capitalize on its availability
- education, education & more education
- training for women & children
it’s about education and partnership

• insufficiency of market mechanisms
• fostering private sector investment
• small-scale entrepreneurship
• regulatory and governmental initiatives
divide, divides
a multiplicity...

- literate/illiterate
- adult/child/teen/senior
- quantity/quality
- user/producer
- global/local
- have/have-not: want/want-not
- techno/social
- ...

...
the “charkha” metaphor

- individual empowerment
- the wheel of knowledge
  - weaving human capital
  - through a common goal
- dignity and self-fulfillment
  - each village matters
  - each villager matters
  - each individual matters
thanks

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