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Has the ICT Diffusion been biased in India? Identifying Socio-Economic Factors for Policy at the Household level

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A B S T R A C T

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) possesses a great degree of potentialities to transform the economy, but the path of success is serendipitous. This is due to lack of proICT infrastructure. India presently faces number of challenges in order to reach ICT to the miles. This paper examines the mapping of ICT diffusion and significant socio-economic factors affecting the diffusion. The scope for innovation and parallel socio-economic development have been highly hindered due to the extent of digital divide in India. The analysis is developed with the help of the household level nationalized database of NFHS (National Family Health Survey) - III round, 2005-6, DLHS (District Level Household Survey) 2007-8. The probit regression is applied to derive the significant socio-economic factors of ICT diffusion. The result suggests that the gap between rural and urban areas has actually been widened. The results of Probit regression and interaction term effect suggest that more emphasis should be on human development indicators like education, health, income generation, skill enhancement training, and local content.

KEYWORDS ICT; socio-economic disparities; policy implications

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