

Cooperation on ICT Research for Effective Rural ICT Project Implementation

Presenters Background

- Currently involved in Business Development and Economic Consultancies
- Also Involved in Rural Project Implementation (Ssesse Islands, Uganda)
- Worked in ICT4Development for the last five years
- Has seen the need for ICT research in the rural setting

Introduction

- ICTs are relatively new to the Ugandan society and active use of ICTs started about five years ago
- One of the ways in which use of ICTs has grown over the years is through the set up of rural ICT projects such as the Rural Communications Development Fund Projects that were set up by the Uganda Communications Commission
- But also the Private sector and NGOs have played a key role in enhancing ICT activities

Introduction Contd...

- The government has also enhanced the growth by introducing the ICT ministry and ICT subsidies
- However we need to consider the fact that a large population of Ugandans lives in the rural setting,
- And also consider the fact that ICT enhances Rural Development if properly implemented
- However Rural ICT project implementation poses many challenges in the developing world

Example

- A typical example of a Rural ICT project is Kalangala Information Center, set up on the Ssesse Islands, Kalangala district.

- Its characterized by:-
 - with no hydro electric power
 - Metered Water hardly available
 - limited transport opportunities
 - One major economic activity which is fishing etc
 - Low levels of education
 - Limited Health Facilities

How would ICTs work?

- Kalangala also has opportunities in tourism, agriculture and other sectors which can be tapped into but giving an example of KIC:-
- Started with 5 Pcs now has 11Pcs
- Has Internet (Wireless link)
- Uses Generator Power
- Income generating activities include photocopying, printing, typing, internet, SMS services and others
- Has sensitisation activities to boost usage of center for sustainability purposes

Why ICT

- Bridge the information gap
- Ease communication
- Cheaper in the long run
- Safety measure (Fishermen)
- Cause development (Through Communication)

Why research

- Effective implementation
- Appropriate implementation
- Sustainability of projects
- Create significant impact
- Replication measures
- Learning lessons for technological development
- Measures for development
- Impact of ICT on the rural community

Way forward

- Welcome parties interested in this type of research
 - Rural setting to start with is available
- Welcome any additional ideas



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