2008

Communicator
Vol. XLIII No. 1 Jan.-Dec. 2008

Economic and Social uses of Information & Communication Technologies: Evidence from India

Rajat Kathuria

Telecommunication Services have been recognized to have a positive correlation with socio-economic development of a nation. In the past decade, telecommunication services in India have seen significant growth and are understood to be one of the major enablers for technological advancement, economic and social benefit to society. It has become especially important in recent years because of enormous growth of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and their significant potential for economic growth. Teledensity in India has increased rapidly in the last decade. The mobile telephony especially has seen an exponential growth over fixed line services.

Social Media and Governance in India: Doing it by the Facebook

Sunetra Sen Narayan, Shalini Narayanan and Shashwati Goswami

The last century witnessed a major change in the nature of interactions between communities, regions and nations across the world. This process of change has accelerated in the new millennium. This change is often referred to by the catch all phrase globalization. When we examine different aspects of the media and globalization equation, it becomes apparent that recent changes in technology have impacted media. Changes such as convergence, compression and digitization have implied a rapidly expanding media and telecommunications environment. New media have led to a paradigm shift in the traditional categories of news production, dissemination and consumption. Concepts such as citizen journalism and social media are gaining currency.
This paper intends to explore certain aspects of New Media and Governance. Some issues specific to the Indian context have been considered. Since there is a lacuna in the research regarding this area, this work will primarily seek to establish the contours of new media as community media, with its implications for governance and development in India.

Web Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities : Evidence from India

P.J. Mathew Martin

Websites are today the face of an organization in the virtual world, with a global reach. The Information and Technology (IT) Act 2000 of India, is silent on the subject of web accessibility for persons with disabilities. However, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) guidelines of 2009, which has been ratified by Govt. of India, of which Article 9.2 (g) & (h) lays down that, states should facilitate access for persons with disabilities (PWDs) to new information and communication technologies, especially the internet. A study was undertaken on 3rd December 2009 to analyze the qualities of websites designed by Government Organizations (GOs) and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) working for PWDs in terms of information & dissemination, accessibility, design and interactive participatory features. The main objective of this study is to illuminate the features of websites launched by GOs and NGOs working for PWDs in India.

Cinema Censorship in the Age of Digital Communication in India: A Study

Dr. Pitabas Pradhan

Bollywood's[1] commitment to mirroring social reality has hardly remained untouched by market forces. Despite cinema being born to creatively portray social reality, the drive to link the success of a film to box office returns eventually led to its commercialization. Profit prioritization over its social and developmental goals, obscenity and lewdness have emerged as integral features of Indian cinema. Censorship appeared as an inevitable response, restraint on the public morale being necessary for socio-cultural and political reasons. However, obscenity and lewdness having varying interpretations, Indian censorship decisions were hardly indisputable, and all efforts including judicial pronouncements and expert committee recommendations have fallen short of settling the issue. The ongoing digital communication technology revolution has prompted a debate on the relevance of cinema censorship in India. This paper attempts to examine the moral basis of film censorship in India, in the context of changing pubic moral and social patterns, and the ongoing digital communication revolution.