

# Poverty Eradication and the Role of ICTs

Media, Education and the  
Marketplace

# Dilemma's of Developing Nations

- Healthcare
  - HIV/AIDS, Malaria, TB etc.
- Education
  - Poor/limited resources
- Gender Equality
  - Women remain underrepresented
- Governments
  - Corrupt and not representative

# Can ICTs help?

- ICTs can play crucial roles in
  - Governance
    - Access to knowledge creates political empowerment
  - Productivity
    - Cost effective and scalable solutions
  - Information Flow
    - Dissemination of content
  - Technology transfer
    - Collaboration between developed and developing nations

# There is more

- Capacity building in
  - Environmental solutions: cleaner water, energy conservation etc.
  - Wildlife conservation and research
  - Policy and decision making
  - Other low cost alternatives

# Some challenges

- Poor infrastructure
- Restrictive laws
- Science and engineering curriculums
- No expertise
- No incentives for private sector
- Foreign investments limited

# ToDo List

- Educate governments
- Encourage innovation
- Create technology platforms that have wide applications
- Leverage existing technologies: mobile networks
- Include developing nations in ICT initiatives
- Collaboration with developed world

# Who is Responsible

- United Nations
- Governments
- Private Sector and Multinational Corporations

# Conclusion

- We are very far away from poverty eradication but with a few critical steps, ICTs can provide sustainable and scalable solutions. Today, ICT cuts across all fields of life and governance. Therefore it is imperative to address the digital divide using affordable and appropriate technologies



MIT OpenCourseWare  
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

21G.034 / CMS.930 Media Education and the Marketplace  
Fall 2005

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.