

Access and penetration of ICT in the socio-economic aspects of rural community (Case Study: Rural Ghale Ghafee, Minoodasht County)

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Extended Abstract

Introduction

Information and communication Technology refer to information and communication systems for the processing, storage, transmission and processing of digital files that are in use. These are files which can contain text, picture and sound, still and moving. Individuals, groups and organizations have different perceptions about the use of new technologies in improving human performance and quality of life. In developed countries, information and communication technology revolution has affected all living spaces and lead to huge benefits for individuals. For example, in India, exchange of information by electronic media has revived the role of promoting and developing services in providing information, education and decision aids to agricultural producers. The use of ICT can complement traditional methods for agricultural development in rural areas in developing countries.

This study examines the penetration of ICT tools and uses them in the rural community Qafh Castle District, the Minoodasht city in Golestan province.

methodology:

The present study with respect to aim is applied and in view of the nature and method is descriptive-analytic. Research stages consist of data collection, sorting and organizing data, analysis and conclusion. To gather data, online searches and library research and empirical data from field studies through questionnaires, interviews and direct observation were used.

Data analysis tools were software SPSS and Excel. In this study, information and communication technology tools are the old tools such as TV, radio and new tools including mobile, landline and

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internet. The research investigates influence rate and using the ICTs in 17 villages at Rural Ghale Ghafee , Minoodasht County where the ICT considered consists of fixed- line telephone service, mobile telephone service, public telephones, computers, and Internet service. Rural communities in the research are located in Ghale Ghafee area. The sample included 303 individuals who were selected by stratified random sampling method. Survey method was used, and data was analyzed by Excel and SPSS software.

Results and discussion

The development of ICT in rural areas as a catalyst for rural development will be considered. This requires the influence and also the use of ICT. Because now the influence of ICT tools in the rural community is at an acceptable level, but usage is low. Among the main reasons, unawareness of information technology and communication capabilities can be mentioned. The study concludes that most of the farmers and villagers are illiterates and low literates that in line with their capabilities level, they used certain ICTs. In this regard depending on level of individual capability, fixed telephone, mobile telephone and television have more effects for connecting to supplies providers, production buyers as well as learning the new farming methods on rural communities. It should be noticed that most of the participants were unfamiliar with the potentials of the new ICTs such as internet and computers, so they need more training.

Conclusion

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Key words: ICT, Access, influence, rural development