**Module 2: ICT Policies and Safety Issues in Teaching and Learning**

**NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ICT POLICIES IN TEACHING AND LEARNING**

1. **Definition of ICT Policy**: Policies outline actions pursued by governments and organizations for effective ICT use.
2. **Philippine ICT Policies**:
   * **DICT Roadmap**: Guides ICT use across agencies for education and development.
   * **ICT for Education (ICT4E)**: Supports infrastructure, resources, and training for ICT integration.
   * **Policy Initiatives**:
     + **ICT in Education Masterplan**: National plan for faculty development and ICT use.
     + **Open Content in Education Initiative (OCEI)**: Converts DepEd materials into interactive content.
     + **PheDNET**: A secure online network hosting educational content.
     + **eSkwela Program**: Provides ICT-enhanced education for out-of-school youth (OSY).
     + **eQuality Program**: Improves ICT in tertiary education through partnerships with state colleges and universities.
     + **Digital Media Arts Program**: Develops media skills using open-source tools.
     + **ICT Skills Strategic Plan**: Identifies policy strategies to meet ICT skill demands

**ISSUES ON ICT AND INTERNET POLICY AND REGULATIONS**

**Global Issues**

ICT and Internet policies face several global issues, particularly in terms of access and civil liberties. These challenges are critical in modern society as they directly relate to human rights and freedoms, including freedom of expression, the right to privacy, and intellectual property rights.

**1. Access to the Internet and ICT**

* **Definition**: Access refers to the ability of all individuals to use the internet and other forms of media.
* **Global Inequality**:
  + In wealthier nations, internet access is widespread, often featuring high-speed broadband connections.
  + In contrast, many countries still struggle with basic internet access, creating a digital divide.

**2. Infringement on Civil Liberties or Human Rights**

**Issue No. 1: Freedom of Expression and Censorship**

* **Definition**: Freedom of expression, guaranteed under international human rights conventions, ensures individuals can freely communicate their ideas.
* **Modern Context**:
  + Communication has shifted from traditional means (letters, newspapers) to electronic platforms (email, social media, blogs).
  + This evolution raises new challenges in balancing freedom of expression with censorship.
* **Censorship**:
  + Involves blocking or filtering information, often restricting the free flow of ideas.
  + Example: Individuals may lose certain rights by merely accessing electronic networks, as governments or organizations impose monitoring or restrictions.

**Issue No. 2: Privacy and Security**

* **Privacy Policies**:
  + Many commercial websites require users to accept terms of service (e.g., clicking an “I agree” button).
  + By agreeing, users often unknowingly give consent to share personal information with third parties.
* **Personal Privacy**:
  + The right of individuals to maintain their personal and private lives without interference.
  + Concerns arise when personal data, such as home addresses or daily activities, is accessed or exposed without proper safeguards.

**Issue No. 3: Surveillance and Data Retention**

* **Indirect Surveillance (Dataveillance)**:
  + Dataveillance refers to using personal information to monitor an individual’s activities.
  + Example: Social media, online shopping, and communication systems store extensive data on user behavior.
* **Data Retention**:
  + Involves collecting and storing user information from communication systems, often for analysis or future use.
  + This practice raises ethical and privacy concerns, particularly when data is retained without consent.

**Issue No. 4: E-Pollutants from E-Waste**

* **E-Waste**:
  + Refers to discarded electronic devices such as computers, laptops, mobile phones, and peripherals (e.g., printers, scanners).
  + ICT generates significant e-waste, which, if unmanaged, poses severe risks.
* **Environmental Impact**:
  + E-waste contributes to climate change and harms human health.
  + Overloads landfills and worsens pollution due to hazardous materials in electronic devices.
* **Role of Educators and Learners**:
  + Teachers and students must remain mindful of proper e-waste disposal.
  + Efforts should be made to reduce, reuse, and recycle ICT equipment to minimize environmental damage.