

## **Why E-Readiness?**

There are many of factors that promote the countries to be e-ready:

- The enormous advantages that ICT will bring along by. It will not only lead to a Simple, Moral, Accountable, Responsive and Transparent (SMART) Government, it will also lead to making the citizens life easy. ICT promises various social and economical benefits as well.
- Secondly, the countries are facing a threat of being left behind.
- Third, international leaders, foreign donors, and lending agencies are integrating ICT into development and aid programs.
- Again ICT is a key weapon in the war against world poverty. When used properly, it offers a tremendous potential to empower people in developing countries to overcome development obstacles; to address the most important social problems they face; and to strengthen communities, democratic institutions, a free press, and local economies.

An e-readiness assessment, when properly applied in a larger process of evaluation, is a first step towards converting good intentions into planned actions that bring real changes to people's lives. E-readiness assessments are meant to guide development efforts by providing benchmarks for comparison and gauging progress. This is an old process adapted to today's technology realities; determining the current situation in order to plan for the future and advocate specific changes.

E-readiness assessment can also be a vital tool for judging the impact of ICT, to replace wild claims and anecdotal evidence about the role of ICT in development with concrete data for comparison.

## **E-READINESS OBJECTIVE**

**E-Infrastructure:** If the objective is on E-Infrastructure then the focus should be on institutions, hardware and software Here e-readiness equals computers and access –computer hardware and network access are required to be e-ready and bridge the digital divide, and government and private initiatives should supply them.

**E-Economy:** If the objective is on e-commerce then the focus should be on ICT Business. Here e-readiness equals computers, access, and economy – computer hardware and network access are required for e-readiness, but the market will solve this problem on its own.

**E-Society:** If the objective is on the society then the focus should be complete population. Here e-readiness requires basic literacy, poverty, health and other social issues to be addressed first – computers are useful, but nothing will make

a society e-ready and bridge the digital divide until basic literacy, poverty, and healthcare issues are addressed.

E-Governance: If the objective is E-Governance then the focus should be on Government Process Reengineering and faster and transparent means of delivering government services to the citizens. Here e-readiness equals computers, access, and effective usage of computers – hardware and access are not enough for real e-readiness, there must be extensive training programs, locally relevant content, and a local ICT sector; and a Business Process Reengineering along with.

## **E-readiness Assessment Background:**

The e-readiness assessments are very diverse in their goals, strategies and results. E-readiness assessments are designed to evaluate organizational capabilities, access and opportunities offered through e-government initiatives. They have emerged as opportunities to collect, organize, share and manage ICTs related data. E-readiness has this diversity in order to offer different uses in different manners.

Many researchers have classified e-readiness according to its economic or social perspectives. From the perspective of e-society, the society benefits from using the ICT when it is related to social objectives like social inclusion, individual property rights and population density. On the other hand, e-readiness will be under the perspective of e-economy since its role related to the economy and in specific business potential to benefit from integrating ICT in its environment.

Also, governments should prepare innovative and practical e-government projects in line with the private sector, which has to be encouraged in adapting e-commerce as to provide online services. Therefore, such initiatives and general assessment tools are fundamental to achieve substantial progress and they are needed to identify the basic concerns for social actions towards the information society that is based on e-government, e-commerce, e-education, e-health and e-science etc.

## **E-readiness Assessment Technique:**

- Information & Telecommunication Infrastructure
- Telecom Regulations
- Network Economy and its society
- Network Affordability and Availability
- Social and cultural environment
- Business environment