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Digital Divide Analysis

People who have access to modern information and communication tools, like cell phones, computers, and the Internet, have more chances and benefits than people who don't. This is called the "digital divide." This difference can be seen around the world. North America and Europe have high rates of internet access, while North Korea, Eritrea, and Somalia, along with other less technologically advanced countries, have much lower rates. Some of the things that make this happen are limited finances, bad communication systems, language barriers, low literacy rates, bad education systems, and cultural differences that make digital involvement less important.

The digital divide is expanding across multiple critical fronts.Digital access gaps, such as differences in internet speed and dependability, are getting bigger between cities and rural places in both developed and developing countries. For example, 87% of people in developed countries who live in cities have access to high-speed internet, but only 47% of people who live in rural places do. Along with these problems with infrastructure, there is still a big gap in digital education and skills, especially in places where people don't get enough training to use digital tools. Less than 20% of people in some African countries know how to use technology to do simple things. These problems are made worse by differences in income, making it harder for people with low incomes to buy digital products and services they need. Only 56% of low-income families have access to a computer, while 94% of high-income households do. These changes make current inequality even worse, which shows how important it is to quickly come up with complete plans to close the digital gap and make sure everyone has equal access to digital resources around the world.

In a number of ways, global attempts are making progress in closing the digital gap. Global Internet usage has greatly improved, giving more people access to digital connections. Implementing laws and programs to improve digital knowledge and access, especially in areas that aren't well covered, is a key role that governments and groups play. Participants in these programs are supposed to learn how to use digital tools successfully. Increasingly common mobile internet access and the availability of low-cost smart gadgets are also helping to close the digital gap. Within some areas, mobile internet connection has turned into the main way to connect, allowing more people to use online services and tools. Collective efforts are very important for reducing differences and making sure that everyone in the world has more equal access to digital tools.

There are a lot of technical advances and things that people have done that have helped close the digital gap. Improving internet access, especially in rural places that aren't well served, has been a key step. For example, initiatives highlighted in the Brookings and HBR articles emphasize the importance of expanding broadband access in rural and low-income communities in the United States. This improvement to the infrastructure not only makes it easier to join, but it also helps the economy grow and gives people more educational options.

Additionally, training programs that teach people how to use technology better are very important. According to these sources, investing in digital skills training enables people from many socioeconomic backgrounds to successfully use digital technologies and participate in the digital economy. The goal of these kinds of programs is to help people learn more about technology and give communities the tools they need to use it for personal and professional growth. New technologies, like smartphones with data plans and low-cost smart gadgets, also play a big part . These new ideas make it easier for more people to use digital services and tools. For example, mobile internet has become the main way people connect to the internet in many emerging areas. This makes it easier for people to get online for things like healthcare, schooling, and business possibilities.

Furthermore, policies promoting net neutrality are essential . Net neutrality rules make sure that internet service providers treat all data the same. This stops discrimination and makes sure that everyone has equal access to online material and services. Users from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds benefit from an open internet environment that fosters competition and innovation, which is supported by this legal framework. By focusing on these policy changes and technology advances, societies can successfully reduce differences in digital access and give people and groups around the world more power.

Even though both businesses and governments have put a lot of money into efforts to close the digital gap, they have had a hard time making them work for everyone. The size and complexity of this split mean that long-term and tailored measures are needed, even though a lot of money has been set aside. But resources aren't always used or distributed in the same way, which means that different groups and areas don't always get the same results. Improvements in technology alone are not enough; investments in digital knowledge and skill development are also needed. Giving people equipment or devices doesn't mean they will use them effectively. This is especially true for groups that don't have the information or skills to use these tools effectively.

There are major disparities in internet access that are made worse by socioeconomic and cultural factors. These unfair situations are often linked to bigger problems with income, schooling, and building up infrastructure. For these deeper problems to be fixed, we need all-encompassing solutions that consider the various social, economic, and cultural settings where the digital gap still exists.

Because of these problems, President Joe Biden's government has suggested an investment that would help close the digital gap in the whole country. The plan, which was originally worth $100 billion but was later lowered to $65 billion after political talks, is aimed at areas that don't have good internet access because of old infrastructure and a lack of competition in the telecoms sector. This project aims to fix long-lasting problems that are made worse by economic injustice. Its focus is not just on rural areas, but also on urban neighborhoods that have similar communication problems. Biden's plan is to focus on community-built networks, like the successful municipally-owned projects that have given strong internet services in places where commercial providers have been hesitant to spend because they don't think they can make enough money.

The Biden administration is still determined to close the digital gap through a mix of public and private partnerships, even though politicians and business groups are pushing back and saying that private sector solutions should be used instead. This method aims to make the internet an important piece of infrastructure for both economic growth and social justice. It is different from earlier methods and focuses on making digital access available to everyone.

Leaving the Digital Divide alone could be seen as a sign of market forces and personal choice. In a free-market economy, private companies decide how to use resources based on how profitable they are. This means that not everyone has the same access to technology. Supporters might say that stepping in to make access more fair through government rules or funding could change the way markets work and stop new ideas from coming up. Furthermore, some might argue that digital access is a privilege rather than a right, and that those who can afford it should be able to access better services, similar to other luxury goods or services.

On the other hand, trying to close the Digital Divide is based on the ideas of economic chance and fairness for everyone. Access to digital technology is becoming more and more important for getting a job, going to school, and being a part of modern society. Without fair access, it may be harder for minority groups and people to move up in the job market and fit in with society. By giving everyone the chance to add to and gain from the digital economy, closing the digital divide could also encourage new ideas and economic growth. From the government's point of view, encouraging everyone to use digital tools can also make the country more competitive and resilient in a world that is becoming more and more linked.

In my view, efforts to dissolve the Digital Divide are crucial for fostering a fair and inclusive society. Digital devices are now an important part of everyday life, from healthcare to schooling and more. Restricting entry based on economic or regional factors reinforces social injustice and makes it harder for people and groups to succeed. To make sure that everyone has equal access to the tools and chances that the digital age offers, tailored measures are needed. These include public investments in internet infrastructure and digital training programs. We can make a more fair and successful society where everyone has the chance to reach their full potential if we close this gap.

Technology has reached a point where it plays a crucial role in our daily lives across the globe. It facilitates communication, enhances learning opportunities, improves healthcare access, and drives economic growth. From smartphones to broadband internet, these tools have become essential for work, education, and social interaction. Access to technology is not just about convenience but has become integral to participating fully in modern society and the global economy.