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The digital divide is something that I’ve always known about but have never really paid much attention to. When I was younger, I feel like I was spoiled with technology now that I look back on it after learning about the digital divide. Back then, the only thing that I feel like kept kids from using technology were our parents. I knew some of my friends weren’t able to use technology like computers and TVs because of their parents. I also was limited in my use of technology in the form of not getting a cellphone until high school. When all of my friends got cellphones in elementary and middle school, I felt really left out and I really wanted to be included in this group of people with such “advanced technology”. Whenever I asked my parents to get some kind of technology, they would always say something like “Some people in poorer countries don’t have an of these” or “I survived without this back when I was a kid in Vietnam”. Now, I completely understand the point they’re trying to make. They were trying to make me see this digital divide and see how lucky I am to live in a country with such advanced technology. This kind of digital divide of my childhood is similar to that of poor countries that have almost no access to technology but it is also completely different from that.

My parents and family are all from Vietnam which is a country that is nowhere near as technologically advanced as we are. When my parents and aunts and uncles lived there, they all lived on something like a farm and would have to work for self-sustainability. They had little to no access to any kind of technology besides things they needed to grow crops and stuff like that. Because they also lived in a rural type of area, they would only see their family for most of the time and would only communicate with others when they went down to the town. Now that they’re in America, I can see that they have adapted to how technologically advanced this country is and now have all kinds of devices. I think this is an example of how someone who is very separated from technology can have a better life if technology is integrated into their lives. One other interesting thing is when my dad tries to call my uncle back over in Vietnam. My dad has access to all of this technology so it is easy for him to contact my uncle but it isn’t so easy for my uncle since he doesn’t have a telephone. Vietnam has definitely had technological advancements but not on the scale of the United States. So, for my dad to be able communicate with my uncle, my uncle has to go somewhere that has a telephone and call my dad. So my dad can never call my uncle whenever he wants, only when my uncle calls him.

Even though my parents didn’t have much access to technology, I know that there are still other countries that are way worse off. Nowadays, the digital divide is making it so that people who don’t have access to technology are left behind. For example, many countries in Africa are third world countries and almost all of those countries have no access to technology. Technology plays a huge part in how well a country does economically, as shown in these African countries. I think these efforts to give these countries internet and other pieces of technology are good, but won’t have much of an effect unless technology is given to everyone in a country. This way, the country as a whole could rebuild their economy and make their lives a lot better.