Delegate Name: ESTHER BINOY

Country: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Institution: INDIAN SCHOOL AL GHUBRA

Topic: INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE, AND EDUCATION IN THE DIGITAL AGE FOR ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

Digitalization is rapidly transforming our world. We need to be alert and aware of the ways in which these changes can prejudice gender equality instead of improving it. In today's world digital technologies have rapidly increased causing a risk of deepening gender inequality. The gender digital gap is becoming the new form of gender inequality preventing women from access to indispensable services. America's 21st century diplomacy lies on science, innovative technology and access to a safe and secure internet. However, with fewer women online than men globally, and over 1.7 billion women not having a phone, the gender digital divide raises a threat to progress economically and politically.

In a study done by the Gender Digital Divide Index (GDDI), out of 20 countries, the US came in 4th place with a score of 74.15 meaning that it was a strong performer on indicators regarding internet coverage and affordability, programs to support women's STEM education with little to no gender gaps in use of digital payment systems. Under the same study, the United States came in 3rd on a criteria called Enablers with a score of 78.75 and 1st in another criteria called Foundations with a score of 93.56. Which indicates that the US is strong on cyber security as well as data protection. However it did come in 10th place on another survey done for the same study regarding measuring the outcomes of effect of gender digital divide. In an effort to close the gender digital divide, Vice President Kamala Harris launched Women in the Digital Economy Fund in March 2023 with initial funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

But that's not all. With the emerging of new solutions and recommendations this gender inequality in the digital world can be put to an end. Creating policies and programs to facilitate access to a laptop or a mobile phone to all women and girls. Both the public and private sectors need to help women to serve as mentors and role models to each other. Provide training programs to improve access and use of digital services in women owned businesses. Broader human and economic development is necessary to tackle digital inequality. These are a few ways to move past outdated social norms and biases that prevent women from pursuing careers in ICT fields or seeking leadership positions in digital fields.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

1. <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/230213%20BLS22613%20UNW%20CSW67.v04%20%282%29.pdf>
2. <https://www.usaid.gov/>
3. <https://www.itu.int/en/action/gender-equality/data/Pages/ie.aspx?/en/action/gender-equality/data/Pages/default.aspx>
4. <https://gddindex.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/GDDI-Report-2022.pdf>
5. <https://publicadministration.un.org/egovkb/en-us/About/Overview/-E-Government-Development-Index>
6. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/fact-sheet-us-government-collaboration-g20-countries-and-partners-launches-global-initiative-women-digital-economy-totaling-over-515-million>
7. <http://www.digitaldividecouncil.com/top-five-digital-divide-solutions/>