The Digital Divide Around the World

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Availability

As of August 2001, Canada and the United States made up for more than one third of the global internet users. Meanwhile Europe was next in line followed by Asia and the Pacific. These main four countries made up for more than 90% of global Internet use, leaving the rest of the world to use less than 10%. The availability for information technologies across the world does not come in one specific order. As developing countries are developing, they start using different technologies at different stages. For example, as the article “Rethinking the Digital Divide: Impacts on Student-Tutor Relationships” shows, Botswana has a much smaller population than Mozambique, but a much higher literacy rate. So this goes to show that as countries develop and the digital divide begins to get smaller, it won’t happen in any one certain way.

Affordability

Information technology can range in prices, from the cost of a computer, to the cost of Internet and even the programs for your computer. So really the focus for the Global Digital Divide is not about getting everyone his or her own computer, but it is about getting everyone the ability to use a computer. This can make the cost of closing the Digital Divide much less. According to the article “Addressing the Global Digital Divide and its Impact on Educational Opportunity”, in developing countries the cost of Internet is more than it is in already developed countries. That is, the less people that use the Internet in a developing country, the more that Internet will cost, which stops people from using the Internet. From this we can see that to really lessen the Global Digital Divide, we need to lessen the price of Internet for developing countries, so they can begin to use the Internet and we can all lessen the Global Digital Divide.
Schools

Because all schools have a certain budget to stay within, many schools will have a lesser quality of informational technology. Not only does a school's budget come into play, but the school's location does as well. This is because some rural areas all together may not be as technologically advanced as most cities and suburban areas. Then comes schools in third-world and less industrialized countries, many schools in these areas that even have the chance to get informational technologies have to purchase used technologies that are often outdated.

Worldwide education is dramatically helping with the issue of lesser fortunate areas. Distance Education has played a big role with further educating under qualified teachers and college degrees all done online. Along with the ability to obtain a degree online, a person has the ability to get trained in a certain field of work, and get certifications for those fields of work. However not all online distance education is high quality, and in order to get these types of education you still need access to the Internet.

Some researchers think that the Digital Divide is also between students and their teachers. This is thought because the present students have grown up using all of the technology we have today and their teachers did not. According to the article “Rethinking the Digital Divide: Impacts on Student-Tutor Relationships”, today’s students have learned in a completely different way than their teachers. That is by using technology and the Internet to view different educational websites, videos, texts and many other educational opportunities to learn while teachers today mainly learned from their books. This article seems to think that not only is the Global Digital Divide a problem, but so is the Digital Divide between student and teacher.