

ICT and Women's Empowerment: A Review from Development Communications Perspective

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Abstract: Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is growing rapidly in Indonesia, especially the internet. Data Association of Indonesian Internet Network Providers (APJII) revealed that 132.7 million Indonesians have used the internet. This data shows almost all circles using the internet. Not only in the city, but also in the countryside and in the coastal areas, many residents use the Internet by using a smartphone. Data also shows that the internet user is still dominated by men. Women are considered incapable and less capable in utilizing ICT. However, many research results emphasize that information technology or the Internet can help spread in improving social and economic processes. This paper examines about how ICTs and women's empowerment are in the perspective of development communication. This is because development should not be gender biased and there is an active participation of women in order to avoid discrimination. A case from Indramayu District of West Java province becomes a sample for this study. It revealed that there is a gender biased and women are willing to be empowered through utilizing ICT.