ICT AS AN ENGINE FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT: THE ROLE AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN KENYA

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Motivation

WHY ICT AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES ?

After the agrarian revolution, the success of any society is based on the efficiency and effectiveness of its information dissemination processes and the knowledge management structures

- **(Growth + development) LG localities == National (growth + development)**

…… *Existing traditional economic activities in various localities*

- **Existing traditional economic activities + *ICT*= (Growth + development) LG localities**
- **New Dimension : Computing for the future of planet**

Vision 2030 ...the roadmap

- ***"The passion created by shared vision creates synergistic empowerment. It unleashes and combines the energy, talent and capacities of all involved"*** S. Covey et al
  first thing first p.g 209

  middle income economic hub of prosperity ....

- **sustainable growth rate of 10 % in the next 21 years**
- **creating employment,**
- **wiping out absolute poverty, famine & preventable deaths**
- **building a democratic system that respect the rule of law, rights and freedom of every individual and society**

What is the role of ICT + local communities?

Vision 2030 ...the roadmap

- **Technology acquires great significance as countries move from low income level where development challenges are basic market factors like land, labor and capital to middle income level**

M.porter et al(2002)

- **What is the role of ICT & local communities?**

Local authorities' ….. Creating an enabling environment for the vision

ICT as an Engine of sustainable Growth and development

- **ICT strategy for local authorities exists ….but focuses on e-Governance, national wide institutional partnerships.**
- **Currently NO local communities partnerships…. Think of a village based venture capitalist funding "techprenuers"with local authority support !**

- **need for local partnerships … Each locality has unique opportunities. E.g. Thika Municipal council – "Birmingham of Kenya", Olkejuado town council -tourism and cattle rearing**
- ……Ecotact ….iko –toilet is a Patnership success

- **Success** **communities, govt (local and central)**

LOCAL AUTHORITIES E-GOVERNANCE

- **focuses on management of services through cost cutting**
- **Currently stipulates three components.**

∞ **Local Authorities Integrated Financial Operations Management System (LAIFOMS) .**

∞ **Local Authorities geographical information system (LAGIS) .**

∞ **Local Authorities human resource management systems (LAHRMS).**

LOCAL AUTHORITIES E-GOVERNANCE

- **many dimensions of governance that the current strategy does not consider.**
- **Other dimensions includes ……open government and public scrutiny, freedom of information laws, Financial accountability and social auditing and community awareness** P. Sturges
- **Ireland…. Success = wiping out "unfreedoms" like bureaucracies + communities awareness .**
- **India…. central government has liaised with states and municipals to offer online community services and providing local language support facilities e.g Dandeli city municipal council in kannada language.**

opportunities – ICT in tourism

- **providing marketing infrastructure for both domestic and foreign tourism.**
- **Partners – communities ,the ministry of tourism ,tourism board e.t.c**
- **Domestic tourism offers great opportunities for wealth creation in the communities**

opportunities – ICT in tourism

- CASE- **New Zealand small and medium-sized tourism enterprises (SMTE)**.

  synergistic approach that accommodate both central and local government tourism strategies .

  Local authorities identify the policy mechanisms that can best support the creation of wealth at the local communities level and their contribution is assimilated in the national development policy

  example of successful implementation- Rodney District Council

opportunities – ICT in agriculture

- **Agriculture is a major economic activity in Kenya**
- **Communities' partnership - establish agricultural community centers' where farmer can access market information, products varieties.**
- **CASE ; Community Agri- telecentres in China Wu'an village**

Reaching farmers over the Community Radio, local languages newsletters e.t.c ……Currently we have community radios

Here :Shinyalu Community Telecentre in kenya

- **Need to link tele- centres with communities facilities**
- **But Is it only market prices and product information?**

Technologies and Local communities

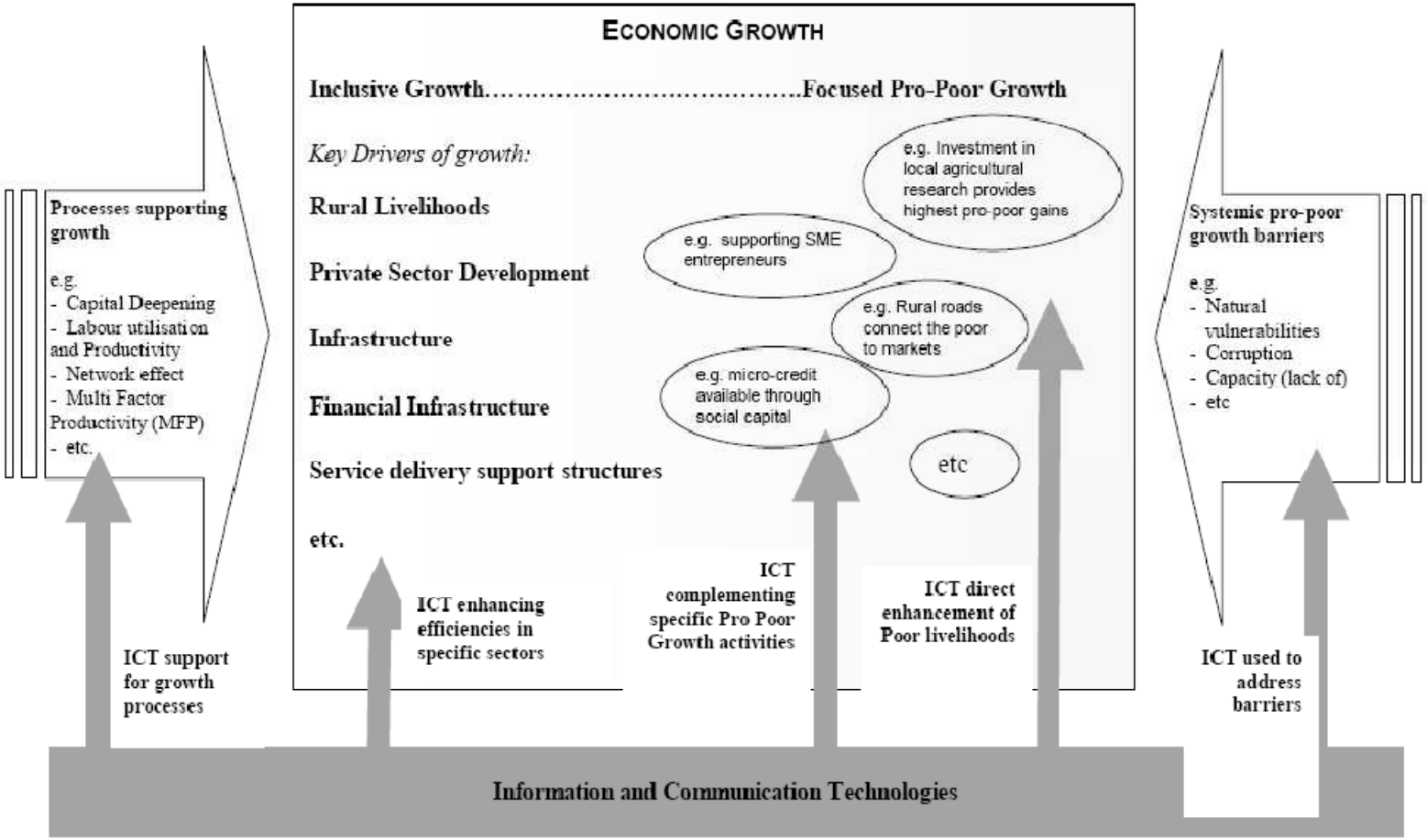
- **Planning and evaluation …. complex ?**
- **ICT adoption and implementation …..is not a rational matter of developing and implementing solutions but also involves social and political processes.**
- **Has challenges of human capacity, change management, funding and ICT resources.**
- **Funding : " out of 175 councils only 40 were self sustaining"**

  Local government PS Sammy Kirui P.g 6 Daily nation September 2, 2009

success : Best practice guidelines

- **Research**
- **local ownership and raise the awareness .**
- **Form sound partnership and collaboration with stakeholders.**
- **Have a foundation on technology – neutral concepts to accommodate future changes.**
- **Involve traditionally isolated groups on basis of age, gender, race and religion.**
- **Be sustainable over a long term either by bringing sufficient income or improvement to the welfare of the communities**

SUMMARY: **Pro-Poor Growth (PPG) model**



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JUST A THOUGHT !

There is an on-going view that IT is totally irrelevant for the poor who are generally illiterate; IT is too expensive for them to reach out to; the poor don't need fancy IT, they need food. These are the voices of the sceptics. Now in three years there are more than 5000 Telephone Ladies in Bangladesh villages doing roaring business selling telephone service."

(Mohammed Yunus 2001)

THANKS

Supplements and compliments

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