

Information Technology and data in the context of developing countries

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- The risk of reifying data
- The need for analytical capabilities
- The significance of social sciences

The risk of reifying data

- The problem of assigning value to digital data and information without consideration of institutionalized practices of science, policy making, and professional norms
- The danger of alleged objectivity and ‘universal truth’ status of digital data for science
- The hiding of the power/knowledge dynamics (e.g. in relation to indigenous knowledge)

The need for analytical capabilities

- The need to:
 - interpret data,
 - make critical judgement of its validity in specific contexts,
 - juxtapose alternative context-specific knowledge

The significance of social sciences

- To develop:
 - interpretive capacities in association to the historically shaped socio-economic contexts of different communities
 - negotiation skills within the international power/knowledge arena

The network readiness index

Correlation between ICT and development indicators

- Lots of evidence showing that high ICT investment/diffusion/innovation correspond to countries with high economic indicators, e.g. GDP per capita, and the opposite: low values of ICT measures correspond to low economic development indicators

Interpretations of the correlation

- ICT is an instrument for economic development in developing countries
- Lack of ICT is a cause of the difference of economic indicators between successful industrialised and developing countries
- ICT as a reward for development and an instrument for maintaining competitive advantage