

Checklist for Addressing Gender-related Barriers to ICTs

Use this checklist when designing and implementing projects using ICTs to ensure that your project is accessible to both women and men. By putting strategies in place to address the following barriers you will increase your chances of fully benefiting from the talents and resources of both women and men. Since not all projects operate in the same environment, you should modify the checklist to reflect local circumstances.

Source: *Women and ICTs: Strategies and Experiences from the Commonwealth (2002)*

Ensure Content Relevancy

- value women's knowledge, wisdom and experience
- use participatory methods to design and develop the content and learning systems to reflect the lives of women
- build on traditional communications methods
- ensure that the content is directly relevant to women's livelihood
- consider local language content
- overcome literacy barriers through the appropriate design and use of ICTs
- use gender-appropriate instructional design
- use gender-appropriate learning strategies

Address Barriers to the Availability of ICTs

- ensure adequate communications infrastructure
- ensure adequate institutional structures
- consider using existing structures
- ensure access to the use of reliable electricity
- ensure adequate access to and control of user equipment (e.g., telephone, radio, etc.)
- ensure access to the Internet
- ensure access to technical support
- address potential mismatch between technology provider and end-user

Address Barriers to the Usage of ICTs

Address High Costs

- electricity/battery charges
- telephone charges
- Internet access charges
- high cost of obsolescence
- training costs
- capital costs
- course fees
- additional educational costs (e.g., books, uniforms, etc.)

Address Skill Needs

- ICT awareness and knowledge
- technology usage skills
- English language skills
- new learning skills (e.g., self-directed learning, etc.)

Address Lack of Information

- lack of awareness of ICT's potential
- lack of knowledge about where to access equipment, training, and courses
- lack of advocacy

Address Socio-cultural Barriers

- gender stereotyping
- lack of mobility
- restrictions on accessing public places
- need for proximity of ICTs
- need for security
- time famine
- lack of confidence
- lack of privacy
- lack of role-models
- absence of women as teachers and trainers

Address Barriers to ICTs for Providers

- ensure institutional preparedness
- ensure use of appropriate technology
- ensure knowledge about teaching/learning strategies
- ensure teacher preparedness
- address high cost of programme development
- address high cost of programme delivery
- address issue of sustainability