

Inequity in Technology Access
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The Prevalence of Inequities in Technology Around the World

Ever since the rise of technology, there have been problems over unfair access to technology all across the World. The Internet has been around for around 50 years, but it is estimated that over 41% of the world's population are not active Internet users today. Without this access, many countries are years behind the rest of the World, making it hard for them to keep up. Not having the Internet also makes it so people are less informed and are separated from interaction with people outside of their area.

At the end of the day, technology is business based. Many technology companies are only focusing on the profits without caring about the consequences of their actions. Many companies can easily access technology and in some cases those who are working at factories use more advanced technology at work than they have in their own lives. This is a moral dilemma that needs to be addressed.

As there is more and more technology around the World, the concern over security and privacy of those who use these technologies is a reservation that some have, leading to them not wanting to use this tech. This is one drawback to keep in mind during the debate.

How Are Countries Affected?

The use of the Internet is mainly seen in developed countries, but there are still plenty of people in every country that cannot afford new technology. Many people in different countries weren't able to keep up with all of the new technology being made in the past couple decades, leaving them at a severe disadvantage when applying for jobs or trying to get an education.

Many governments do not have enough funding or support to be able to provide adequate technology or electricity access to their citizens. Many third world countries are more focused on other internal problems, but not having technology is putting them even further behind developed countries.

What is The Current Situation?

Recently with the COVID-19 pandemic, this divide has been exposed even more in developed countries. Those without tech are less informed and disconnected from the rest of their country. With many schools being online, those students without Internet access are left behind their classmates. This made teachers have to adapt to these students. Luckily, more schools offer some in person options so these students now have a way to learn, but this seems to be a temporary solution to a more complex issue.

What Has Been Done to Combat These Inequities?

In the past, members of the UN have encouraged plans that governments should support programs to increase the amount of technology given to citizens. Others have advocated to ensure that there is equal access to technology no matter what religion or skin color those in need are. Many members of the UN believe that governments need to work to supply their medical facilities with new medical technologies, but this can be pricey. The price of good technology is another potential thing to mention in the debate, this is why many lack tech.

The implementation of more programs that allow citizens to have access to more technology that they can use in their lives can lead to increased opportunities for success. There are many different types of technology and most of them were created for a specific purpose and through government support, this technology can be used to positively affect those who need it.

Potential Solutions

In an ideal society, technology would be available to everyone. If countries worked with NGO's and technology companies to create inexpensive options for those who are technologically disadvantaged, more people could have access to this technology. The job of this room is to work together with other countries to come up with the most efficient plan to increase worldwide access to technology. It is important to keep in mind that not every person, when given technology, knows how to use it, so this room may consider some sort of education program along with how technology is going to be spread in new ways to new areas.

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