

DIGITAL DIVIDE AND THE FUTURE OF THE 'INFORMATION SOCIETY'

Is the Digital Divide the Biggest Socio-Economic Problem for the Future of the Information Society?

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Abstract: Our turbulently evolving society is characterized both by fast and significant flow of information and rapid technological development in almost all the aspects of human activity. However, with the emergence of new Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and the advent of the digital age, new kinds of problems appear to humanity. This paper provides an overview of the digital divide problem, focusing in particular on critically discussing whether the digital divide constitutes an obstacle for the future of the Information Society in developed countries. We first illustrate the promises and the challenges that the Information Society poses, exploring its potentials and limitations. Second, we argue that the digital divide problem is based on the disparities across some demographic groups. Moreover, we analyse arguments and critical issues that can determine if the digital divide problem erects obstacles to the future of the 'Information Society'

Keywords: Digital Divide, Information Society, ICTs, Digital Colonialism, information elitism, Developed Countries, Demographic Characteristics

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