



Women in IT in Sri Lanka

9th APNG CAMP
CHINA

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National Overview

- ICT Sector grown rapidly three four years due to
 - Liberalization of telecom sector
 - Initiation of E-Srilanka Program
 - Setting up of institutional framework
 - Receipt of loan funds to implement the ICT



Gender and Digital divide

- What is Digital Divide
 - Gap between the information rich and information poor people



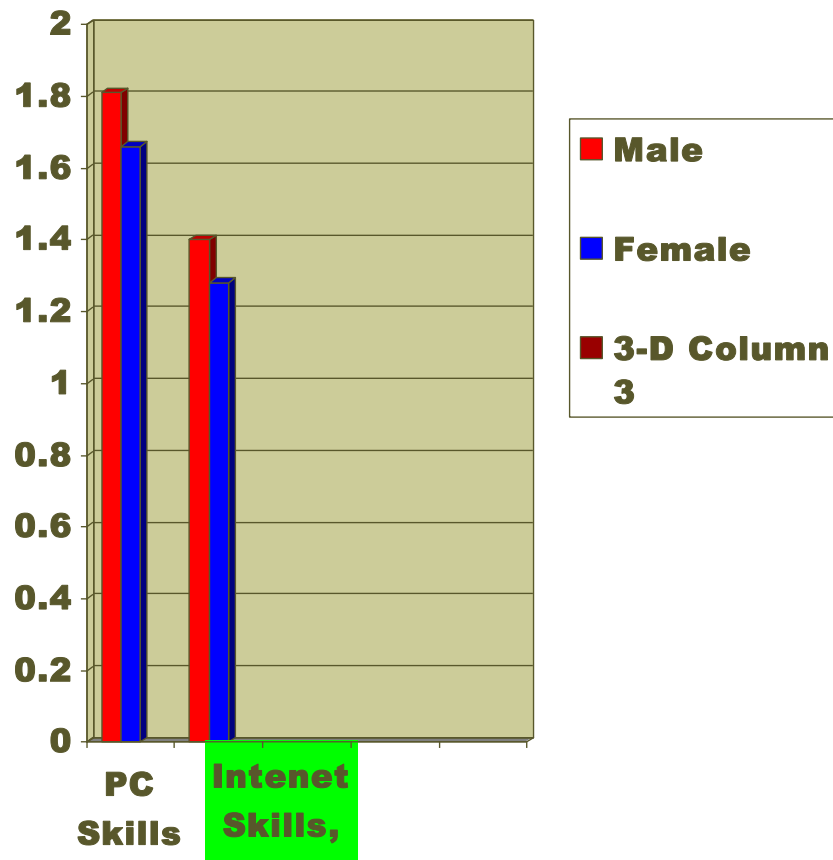
Female policy makers in Selected Institutions

Institution	Total	Female	%Female
Telecommunication regulatory commission of Sri Lanka- commission members and director general	4	0	0
Sri Lanka Telecom Ltd – Chairman and Board of Directors	9	0	0
Information and communication technology agency – Board of Directors	6	0	0
Sri Lanka Institute of Information technology	12	1	08.3
National S& T Commission	7	1	14.2
National Science Foundation	10	1	10



Gender Gap in Skill Levels

Gender	PC Skills	Internet Skills
Female	1.66(88.9)	1.28(91.4)
Male	1.81(100)	1.40(100)



Source CENWOR



Barriers that prevent women from ICT

- Image
- Lack of Encouragement
- Lack of mentors
- Updating computer knowledge
- Attitudes
- Lack of infrastructure



Poor Usage of ICT in Rural Areas

- Non availability of telephone services areas
- Internet is stranger to rural areas
- Language barrier
- Non acceptability of rural community
- Migration of education generation
- High cost of computers





How to empower women Using ICT

- Access to Information empowers women in many ways
 - IT Education and Training
 - Use ICT by women Groups – Building Electronics Network
 - Providing funds and loans to increase the ownership



Solutions & Suggestions

- Upgrading the skills of Current IT Workforce
- Facilitating partnership & information sharing among community based organization targeted run by women
- Raising awareness of the public and gender specific community issues via ICT and internet reshaping
- Women in IT Field has to play a key role in mentoring youngsters
- Recruitment procedures to more women in IT industry



Solutions & Suggestions contd

- e-Sri Lanka Programmes
- Women in IT Programmes –SLIIT Cisco networking
- Community radio projects
- Policy



Q & A

THANK YOU