

Gender technology and development

Waheeda Sultana¹

Information and communication Technologies (ICTS) have been identified as one of the most effective tools to bring about gender and economic development almost simultaneously. Information Technology was initially thought of as the preserve of men, but that is not the reality. There are women in ICT, who are working in different fields of ICT. These women have put in tremendous efforts to prove themselves in this male dominated field. They have braved all odds, in dealing with the pressures from their families, their colleagues, the workplace and the society as a whole, to pursue their dreams in ICT and to make those dreams a reality. Many of these projects serve as role models to women both young and old who want to enter the ICT field. However, lack of training, access and the cost of ICT continue to be major development obstacles, particularly in the developing world. This paper presents a collection of case studies on the empowerment of Indian women and their communities through Information and communication technologies, which has enabled economic growth, employment and skills generation for these women.

Key words: Information and Communication Technology, Women, Development, Access, Empowerment

¹ Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Mangalore University, Mangalagangothri- 574 199, Karnataka State, India