SOCIAL JUSTICE AND OPEN ACCESS
An African Perspective

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Human Development

Capabilities

Opportunities

Human Freedom

Human Well-being

Become who I want to be
Human Development

Human Well-being

Become who I want to be

Capabilities

Opportunities

Human Freedom

EDUCATION

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

IT MATTERS...

MAKES A DIFFERENCE
“If the next century is going to be characterized as a truly African century, for social and economic progress of the African people, the century of durable peace and sustained development in Africa, then the success of this project is dependent on the success of our education systems. For nowhere in the world has development been attained without universal and sound primary education, without an effective higher education and research sector, without equality of educational opportunity” (2003)
Education map in Africa
40 mil children not in school

Shortage of 3 mil teachers

Lowest average completion rate - 60%

Sub-Saharan Africa contribute 1% of scientific publications in the world

Spending on R&D is less than 0.1% of GDP - NEPAD plan

60% of all R&D activities in Africa are centered in South Africa and in the greater Congo basin there is virtually “no science at all” (Commission for Africa Report, 2005: 138).

Nigeria - accommodate only 12% of qualified candidates for higher education

70 000 highly qualified left Africa per year (World Bank)

Brain drain & cost

Replacement cost -$ 4Billion per year
Introduced a radical new economic model... with implications for education

The new information paradigm versus The old information paradigm

Reach

bandwidth
customization
interactivity
control
update
reproduction

Richness

customization
interactivity
bandwidth

Impacted nearly every aspect of human activity
The (physical) shape of the new 'dematerialized', 'weightless' information economy

Physical objects: car, refrigerator, airplane, school... not unbundled

4 categories

No/limited services
No/limited/products

Africa
Café on corner
Education
R&D

Most services
Products (limit)

Retail
80/20 economy
Education
R&D
Publishing

Most services
Products (many)

Libraries
Banking
Airline
Education
R&D
Publishing

'All' services
'All' products

Music (long tail)

Education
R&D
Publishing
Libraries

infostructure

infostructure

Physical Infrastructure

Physical Infrastructure

Limited

infostructure

Physical Infrastructure
Redefine access to information

To hold opinions
To express ideas
To have access to media
To seek and receive information

Access to socio-economic (educational) & political activities

Knowledge

Classroom

Information infrastructure
The panacea...?

Economics of things to the economics of information
...possible impact on education in Africa

From the 'old' classroom - 'new' classroom

The 'old' and the 'new' knowledge landscape
The long tail and the long argument

- The bread
  - 1st principle
  - E

- Sell & keep
  - 2nd principle

- Content (IPR)
- Conduit (TelcomP)
BROADBAND CONNECTIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA

0.7% of +- 43,000,000 people

DATE: 26 October 2006
South Africa: Moral agenda became a money agenda

• Most expensive country for local call rates [R22/hour]

• Most expensive country for national call rates [R59.40/hour]

• Most expensive country for international calls, being just under 3 times more expensive than 2nd place

• Local call costs rose by 12.5% in 2003, 24% in 2002, 16% in 2001 and 10.5% in 2000
Broadband: Affordability Case study – urban legend?

**Telkom**
Line speed = 1MB per second  
Download size = 100GB  
Estimated download time = 9.5 days  
ISP (34 x 3GB accounts @ R269)  
= R9 146.00  
Line rental (ADSL) = R680.00  
Line rental (residential voice) = R92.28  
**Total = R9 918.28**

**Hong Kong**
Line speed = 1GB per second  
Download size = 100GB  
Estimated download time = 13 min.  
Flight (SAA) = R7 942.00  
Internet café (avg cost @ HK$20)  
= R17.43  
**Total = R7 959.43**

Hong Kong is cheaper by R 195885

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Access to information is instrumental to all human activities – basic human right
Information needed to exercise our other basic rights

Infostructure instrumental to achieve our human wellbeing (Sen)

Rawls’ two principles

“Each person is to have an equal right to the most extensive basic liberty with a similar liberty for others”.

“Social and economic inequalities are to be arranged so that they are both a) reasonably expected to be to everyone’s advantage, and b) attached to positions and offices open to all”
Framework to analyze the moral issues

Interpret within the

• new economic paradigm,
• international trends,
• role of ICT in human development
• Education in Africa

content conduit

Acknowledge the right, but not enable the right

Economic inequality at expense of basic rights
(Second principle overrides first principle)
Distributive justice: focus on the fair allocation of burdens and benefits in society.

Contributive justice: focus on duty and responsibility to one another in society.

Commutative justice: focus on fair contractual agreements that define relationships, outline benefits and burdens, and specify obligations and responsibilities to one another.

Transformation justice: correct past injustices.

Justice as enablement: human development (interaction and social isolation, voiceless)
Conclusion

Open Access

Education

Social Justice
Human well being
Human rights

New economic paradigm