

Information Literacy

In developing the indicators under this theme, the initial questions asked were:

“What is Information Literacy?” and *“How can ICT4D impact Information Literacy?”*

Definition

Information Literacy is defined as *“the ability to define one’s information needs and then to access, evaluate, process and use retrieved information strategically.”* (Pradeepa Wijetunge, University of Colombo)

As the world has evolved, it has been noted that the creation and dissemination of knowledge has increased. In addition, this constant change has also resulted in the current skills possessed by the workforce depreciating much faster. Individuals therefore need to upgrade their skills at a speed equivalent to that of the advances in technology. ICT therefore plays a critical role in assisting individuals to define their information needs within this context, facilitates greater access to relevant information, thereby allowing optimal evaluation and processing of said information towards the achievement of an objective.

It is worth noting that Information Literacy includes (among others):

- Visual Literacy
- Media literacy
- Computer literacy

Four key phrases from the definition stated above were used as the ‘Sub-Themes’, and formed the basis of further analysis. These ‘Sub-Themes’ are:

- Defining information needs
- Accessibility
- Evaluation and Processing
- Strategic Use of Information Retrieved

Defining Information Needs

This sub-theme refers to a person's ability to further refine their information needs. This is a critical component of effective decision making as it allows for the development of a plan that supports the achievement of the overall objective.

Under this sub-theme, the analysis sought to address the issue of the role of ICT in defining information needs. The indicators, therefore, seek to measure the reliance on ICT to conduct this task, and to determine which forms of ICT are most relied on to determine information needs in the Region.

The following table shows the proposed indicators and the information they can help to gather.

Indicator No.	Indicator	Justification
	Percent of population reporting that they use computers/internet for research	Provides information of the population as a whole relative to their preference when conducting research
	Percent of population reporting that they use books/magazines for research	
	Percentage of population reporting that they use television/radio for research	
	Percent of employed reporting that they use computers/internet for work-related research	Provides deeper information on the employed and their preference when conducting work-related research
	Percent of employed reporting that they use books/magazines for work-related research	
	Percent of employed reporting that they use television/radio for work-related research	
	Percent of unemployed reporting that they use computers/internet for job search/general research	Provides information on the unemployed and their preferred methods of conducting research/job searches.
	Percent of unemployed reporting that they use books/magazines for job search/general research	
	Percent of unemployed reporting that they use television/radio for job search/general research	

Accessibility

This sub-theme refers to a person’s ability to access the information that is needed. The analysis under this sub-theme seeks to determine how ICT facilitates access to the information that is needed. It is presumed that the information gathered will reveal the most effective method of accessing information throughout the Region.

The following table shows the proposed indicators and the justification.

Indicator No.	Indicator	Justification
	Titles (print newspapers/book production) per 1,000 inhabitants	Indicates the level of access the population has to titles.
	Radio/television sets per 100 or 1000 inhabitants	Also provides information on access to information based on the number of radio/television sets (and channels available on these), as well as online newspapers/internet radio are available to the population
	Channels (on Radio/television) per 1000 inhabitants	
	No of online newspapers/internet radio stations per 1,000 inhabitants	
	Percent of annual radio/television broadcasting time devoted to news and information, or education and science	Evaluates the amount of time per year that is devoted to providing basic information.

Evaluation and Processing

The analysis under this sub-theme seeks to determine how ICT facilitates supports the evaluation and processing of information that may have been accessed. It is presumed that ICT facilitates faster and more efficient evaluation and processing of information. The indicators developed therefore seek to gather information on the level of success reported in the evaluation of information based on the use of different forms of ICT.

The following table shows the proposed indicators and the justification.

Indicator No.	Indicator	Justification
	Percent of population reporting improvement in processing/evaluating information via the use of computers	Provides information on the success in processing and evaluating information as it relates to the population using various forms of ICT
	Percent of population reporting improvement in processing/evaluating information via the use of television/radios	
		Provides information, relative to the employed, as it relates

Percent of employed reporting improvement in processing/evaluating information via the use of

	computers	to success in processing and evaluating information.
	Percent of employed reporting improvement in processing/evaluating information via the use of television/radios	
	Percent of students reporting improvement in processing/evaluating information via the use of computers	Shows the success students report in processing and evaluating information.
	Percent of students reporting improvement in processing/evaluating information via the use of television/radios	

Strategic Use of Information Retrieved

The analysis under this sub-theme seeks to evaluate to what degree ICT allows for the strategic use of information retrieved. This will be measured by reports of achievement of objectives that were set. It is presumed that, given the improved access to information and ability to process and evaluate information more effectively, ICT facilitates greater achievement of objectives.

The following table shows the proposed indicators and the justification.

Indicator No.	Indicator	Justification
	% of population reporting achievement of objectives based on information received via the use of computers	Facilitates an analysis of the general population as against those who are employed relative to the use of ICT to reach their objectives.
	% of population reporting achievement of objectives based on information received via the use of television/radios	
	% of employed reporting achievement of objectives based on information received via the use of computers	
	% of employed reporting achievement of objectives based on information received via the use of television/radios	