

Gender and the Core ICT Indicators

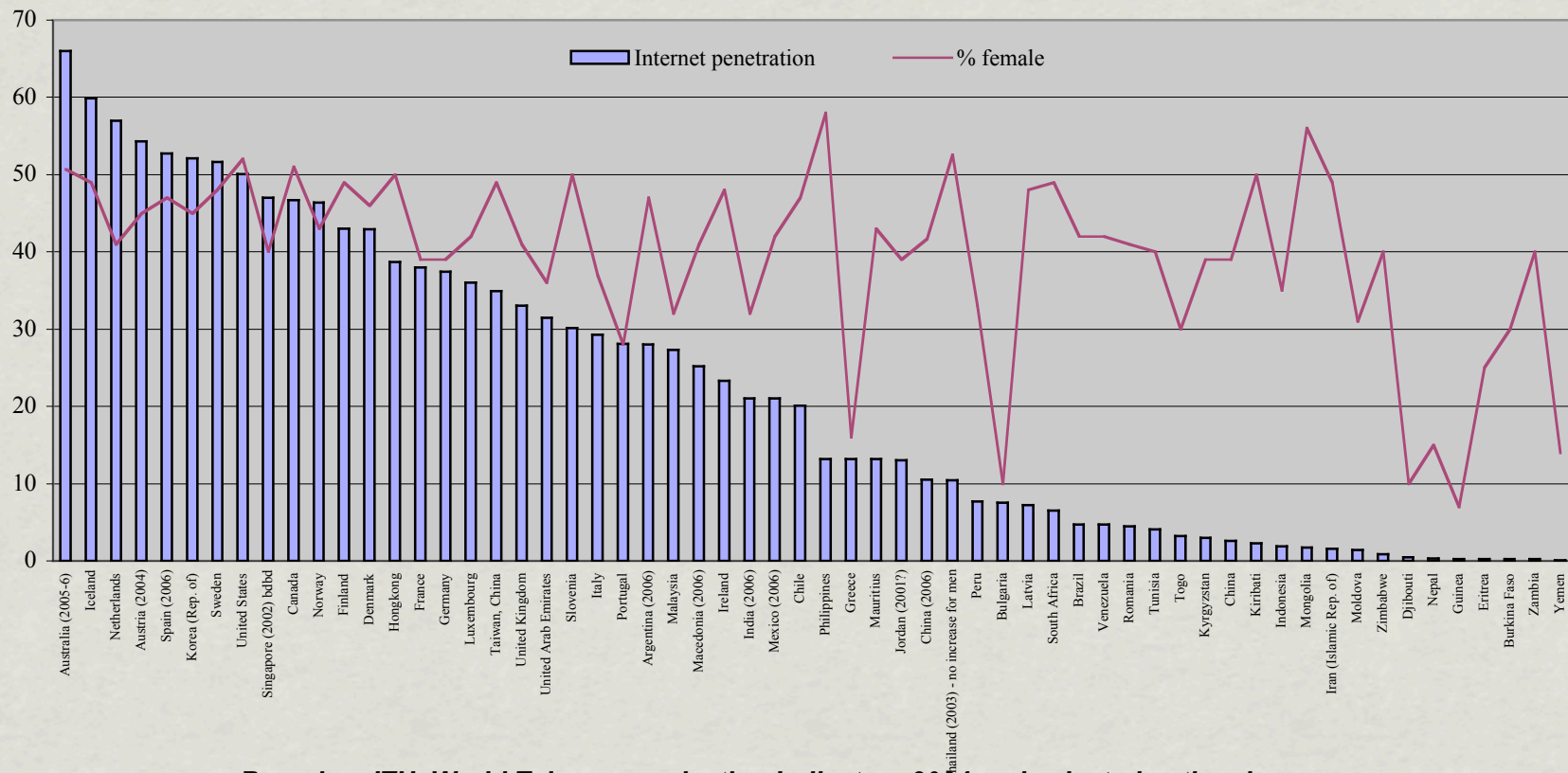


**Sophia Huyer, Executive Director
WIGSAT**

Gender-disaggregated ICT statistics

- WSIS called for reliable and comparable gender-specific indicators on ICTs
- Not collected systematically or by all countries
 - scope of coverage and degree of detail
- Need to quantify gender digital divide
- ***We can't assume that women's access automatically keeps in step with spread of ICTs***

Relationship between Internet penetration and proportion of female Internet users



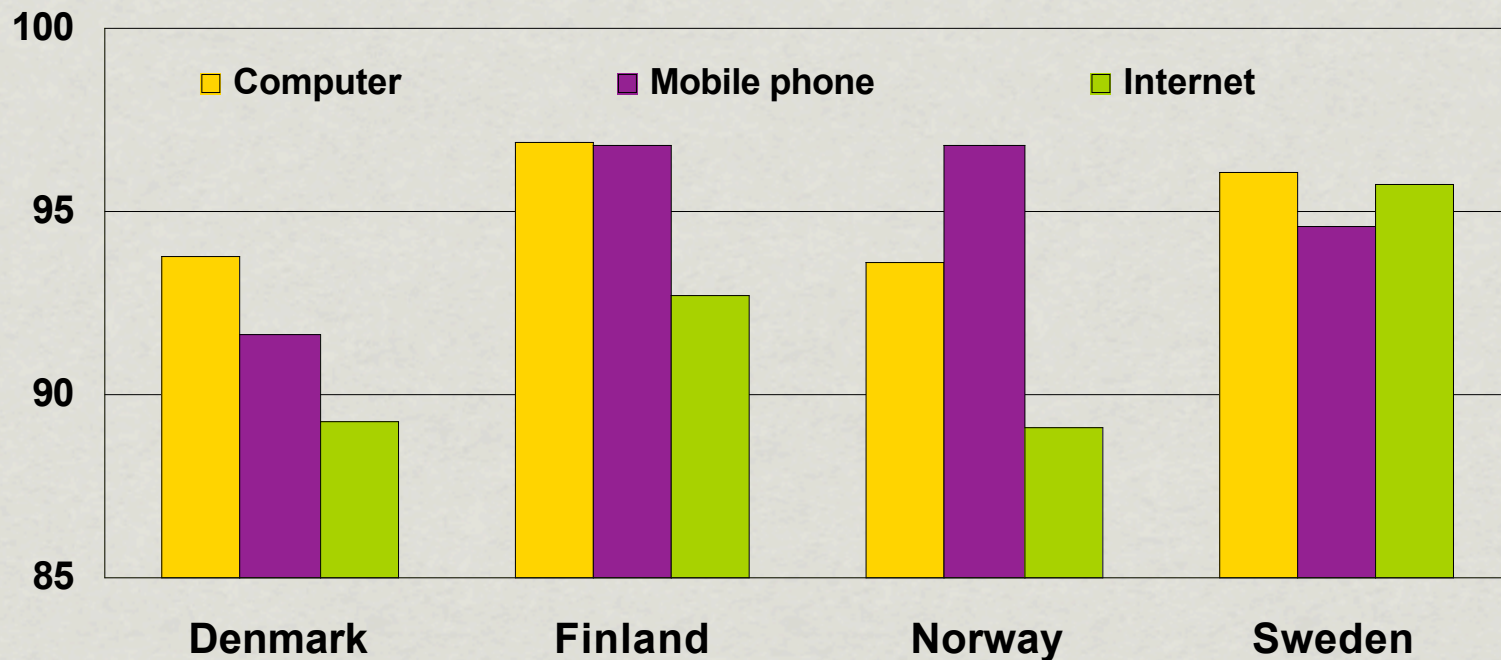
Based on ITU, World Telecommunication Indicators 2004 and selected national sources.

Source: From Digital Divide to Digital Opportunity: Measuring the Information Society, ed. G. Sciadis, 2005; some data updated 2005-6

- In many developing countries, gender gaps that accompany the introduction of newer ICTs are dramatic
 - Less than 10% of Internet users in Guinea are women
 - Less than 20% in Nepal
 - 32% in India
- But gender gaps persist even in developed countries with higher ICT penetration rates

Home access to ICTs by sex, selected Scandinavian countries, 2002

Female:male ratio %

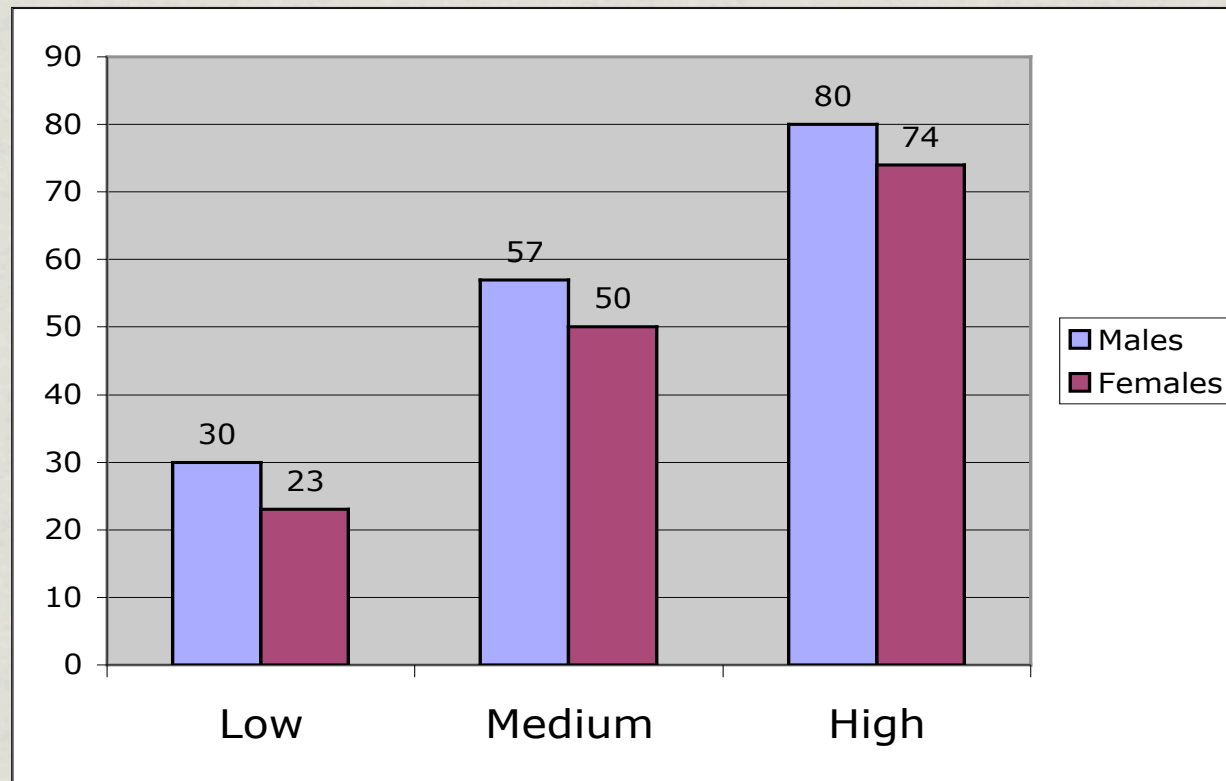


At the same time, some countries with very low overall Internet penetration do not experience a gender divide

- In Mongolia (1.7%), the Philippines (13%) and Thailand (10.4%), female Internet penetration exceeds male
- Iran (1.6%), South Africa (6.5%), Latvia (7.2%) at or close to 50%

- Gender trends in use and access do not necessarily change as Internet penetration increases:
 - Mexico: steady at 42% over 5 years
 - Thailand: Men did not gain in Internet use (48%)
 - Venezuela: Internet penetration tripled, women's access increased 2%

Use of Internet by sex and educational level - EU 25, 2004



Key access factors:

- **Socio-cultural, infrastructural and access barriers**
- Education, **training and skills**
- Disparities in ICT **employment**
- **Access to and control over financial resources**
- **Media and content**
- **Age?**
- Type of technology

Why should the gender divide be measured?

- Women are actors in socio-economic development
- They have rights to information as well
- Important resource for a national information society
- Women contribute to economic growth
- Concerns about increased marginalisation

Gender in the Core ICT Indicators

- 1) Household data not sufficient
 - Decision making power
 - Access to resources
 - Location of technology

Gendering household ICT data: Models

- IDRC's RIA
- Baseline Survey for the Universal Access Strategic Plan in Kenya
- Sex-disaggregated general household surveys in Benin, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Niger, Rwanda, Tunisia and Senegal (Partnership 2005); other countries in ECA SCAN-ICT and Partnership
- 19 member States of the Economic Commission for Europe

Gender in the Core ICT Indicators

- Radio/TV access within households
- Mobile cellular subscribers per 100 inhabitants, given its growing importance in developing countries.
- Mobile access via mobile cellular
- Broadband/internet access
- Internet access tariff (20 hours per month) in US\$, and as a percentage of per capita, along with the same for mobile cellular tariffs.

Gender in the Core ICT Indicators

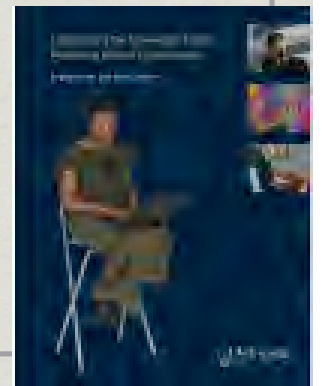
- Location of use - home and work
- Indicators on individual use and access, e.g. type of download

Gender in the Core ICT Indicators

- Proportion of **women-owned** businesses using computers (B1), using the Internet (B3)
- Proportion **by sex** of employees using computers, using the Internet (B2, B4)
- Proportion of **women-owned** businesses receiving orders, placing orders over the Internet.
- On ICT Sector and Trade in ICT goods-Proportion of **female workforce** involved in ICT sector (ICT1)

Gender, ICT Indicators and the Knowledge Society

- ICT indicators can't be separated from larger conditions of Gender Equality in the Knowledge Society:
 - Participation in science, technology and innovation
 - Ability to participate and contribute = base conditions of gender equality



Thank you.

Sophia Huyer
www.wigsat.org
shuyer@wigsat.org