

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

Faculty of Graduate Studies

Postgraduate Diploma in Development Studies 2016/2017

Final Examination -1<sup>st</sup> Semester

PgDDS 5104-ICT and Development

Time: Two (02) Hours

Answer any three (03) questions

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1. 'We are living in a world where Information Communication Technology (ICT) is being diffused into almost all spheres of human activity at an unprecedented rate. Alongside this development, there is an intense debate on the contribution of this technology towards productivity and growth on the one hand; and human welfare on the other in both developed and developing countries'. Critically examine this statement.
2. 'The digital divide is the disparity that exist in access to ICTs between countries or regions, communities, ethnicities, sexes, or age groups'. Discuss this statement by using relevant examples.
3. Define in brief what e-governance is and discuss whether there is a relationship between e-governance and good governance using relevant examples.
4. What are the strategies in place in Sri Lanka to increase the usage of ICT in education in order to ensure the benefits reach the poorest and most marginalized groups?
5. According to Amartya Sen, 'aim of human development is to expand people's freedoms -- the worthwhile capabilities people value -- and to empower people to engage actively in development processes, on a shared planet... People are both the beneficiaries and the agents of long term, equitable human development, both as individuals and as groups'. Considering this statement examine how we can understand the linkages between the human development and capabilities approach and the impact that technology has on peoples' lives.
6. Write a short essay on any two (02) of the following topics
  - a. Community Empowerment and ICT
  - b. ICT and People with Special Educational Needs
  - c. Youth and ICT
  - d. ICT and Health