Village Kiosk and Impacting Role of ICT for Rural Areas

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Village Kiosk



Village Kiosk

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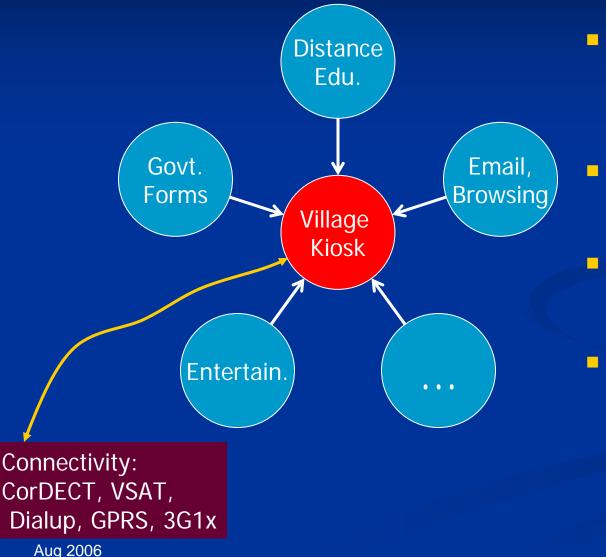
A village kiosk consists of

- Local Entrepreneur
- Equipment
 - Computer
 - Printer
 - Battery backup
 - Web-cam
 - Speakers, Microphone
 - Connectivity
 - Antenna assembly
- Cost of setting up a village Kiosk ~
 Rs.50K to 1L





Typical ICT4D Model



Basically

- Service model
- Shared model
- Aggregating model
- Motivated by PCO/STD/ISD booth and Cable TV model
- Research aspect:
 - Connectivity
 - Services
- Good Model
 - Nevertheless some research on the model may be in order

Partial List of Some ICT4D Projects in India (based on Village Kiosk)

- eSeva, Integrated Citizen Services, Andhra Pradesh
- Lok Mitra and Jan Mitra Projects from Rajasthan
- e- BillPost and e- Post Services of the Department of Posts
- RASI (Rural Access to Services through the Internet) ---n- Logue Communications
- Gyandoot
- Community Information Centres (CIC) Project (Dept. of Info Tech., Govt.of India)
- Bhoomi

- Drishtee dot. com Ltd.
- ITC eChoupal
- Kuppam i- community, Andhra Pradesh (HP)
- Akshaya- Kerala Govt's Hundred Percent ICT Literacy Project
- Information Village Research Project- IVRP by M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation
- Swayam Krishi Sangam (SKS)
- TARAhaat
- GRAMDOOT

Partial List of Some ICT4D projects in India ...

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ICT for Women's Empowerment

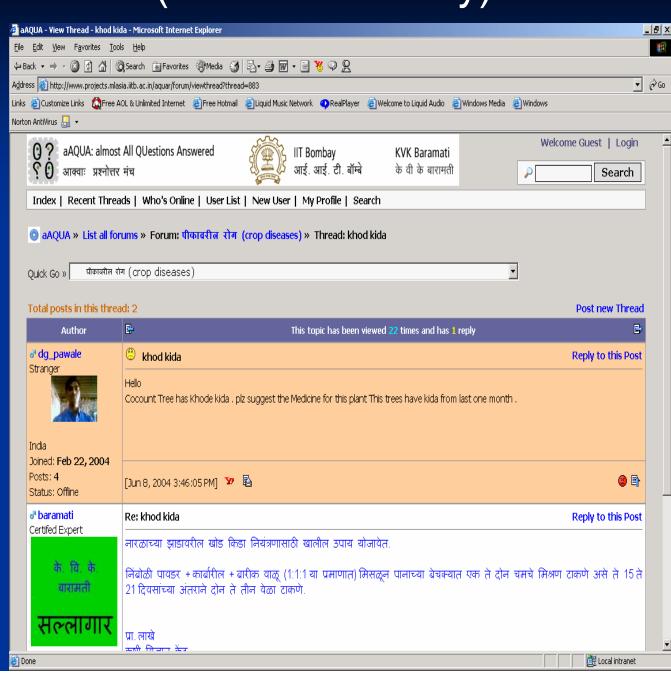
- SEWA
- Community Radio- Deccan Development Society
- Community Radio- Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan (KMVS):
- Sisu Samrakshak ICTenabled Child health care by UNICEF
- Change Initiatives-Nabanna- Empowering women

aAQUA Q&A forum (DIL: IIT-Bombay)

Farmers can access Agriextension services.

They can ask questions in their own language and get information more relevant to the local context.

web-based archived searchable multilingual since Nov 03





Bhav Puchiye - What is the Price? (DIL: IITB)

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Guidelines Commodities	Market	Arrivals (Tonnes)	Origin	Variety	Grade	Minimum Price (Rs./Quintal)	Maximum Price (Rs./Quintal)	Modal Price (Rs./Quintal)			
Market Profile	Bihar										
Prices & Arrivals	Muzaffarpur	3,3	NR	UP 308	FAQ	830	900	875			
Coordinators	Patna (Musallahpur)	50	NR	UP 308	FAQ	675	775	725			
DMI management in the contraction	Patna City	NR	NR	UP 308	FAQ	800	900	850			
Rural Godown	Chattisgarh										
Codex Standard	Bhatapara	0.7	NR	Other	FAQ	617	641	630			
Trade Resource	Gujarat										
TradeNIC Online	Bhavnagar	54	NR	Coarse	FAQ	765	950	855			
Weather				Lokwan Gujrat	FAQ	780	875	825			
Contact Vendor	Dahod	393.7	NR	Other	FAQ	1000	1200	1150			
Related Links	Mahuva	144.3	NR	Kalyan	FAQ	785	1000	920			
Sitemap				Lok-1	FAQ	700	850	800			
Contact Us	Jharkhand										
Acta S	Chaibasa	5	NR	White	FAQ	850	925	900			
	Dhanbad	22.6	NR	Kalyan	FAQ	760	825	825			
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	Kamataka										
	Bagalkot	5	NR	Sona	FAQ	763	763	763			
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Visual Acuity Test (HP-IITM R & D Labs)

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Aug 2006

Voice Based News Group (HP-ITTM)



Aug 2006

Project COW: Computers on Wheel



Founded by Pingali Raja Rajeswari

- Experimented in Mehboobnagar (close to Hyderbad)
- Computer technology with digital imaging, solar power and wireless connectivity for Internet
- New delivery method Intermediary based mobile motorcycle model.

Revenue Distribution at an n-Logue

Village Kiosk in Melur District

Email/Chat/Video Mail	15 %
Browsing	25 %
Govt. Applications	10 %
DTP	10 %
Printing	10 %
Entertainment	10 %
Computer Classes	20 %

Avg. monthly revenue for a commercially sustainable rural Kiosk needs to be about Rs.3000 to Rs.3500 (implying that the kiosk owner can pay back the monthly loan installment, and still have something to take home)

Village Kiosks Reach in India

Out of 638,000 villages, about 6000 to 7000 have internet access; about 1% villages are connected

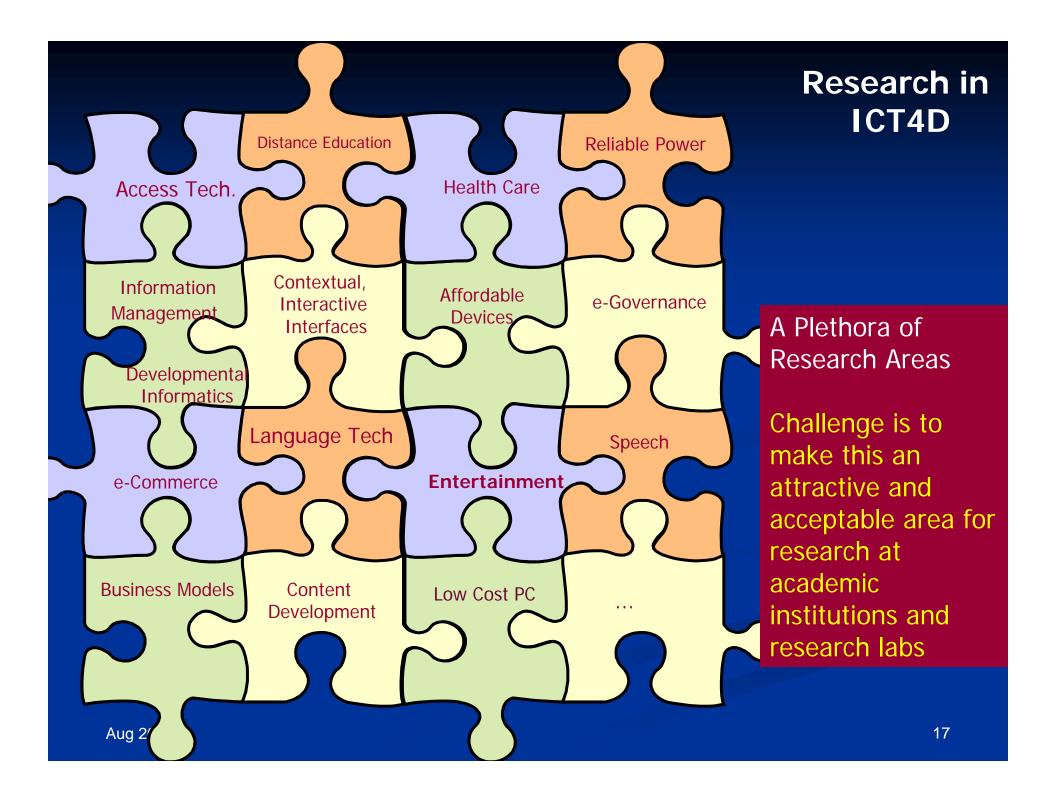
Mission 2007: (http://www.mission2007.org/)

- Connect 100,00 villages by 2008 (create VKC: Village Knowledge Centers)
- Phase I:
 - Finance Minister has set aside Rs.100 Cr. for creating 10,000 more VKCs by Feb 2006 – tall order

Some Questions

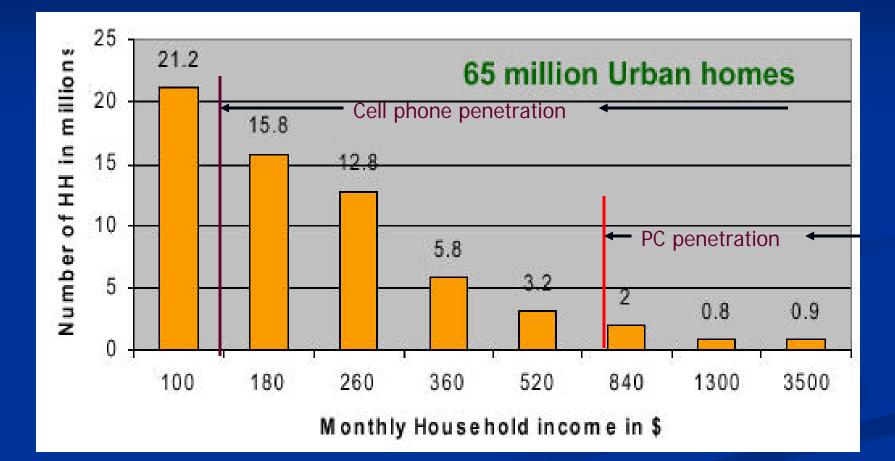
What are the research issues?
 Is village Kiosk based on PC the best possible model?
 In which domain ICT can play a key role.

In which domain ICT can play a key role to profoundly impact the village economy?

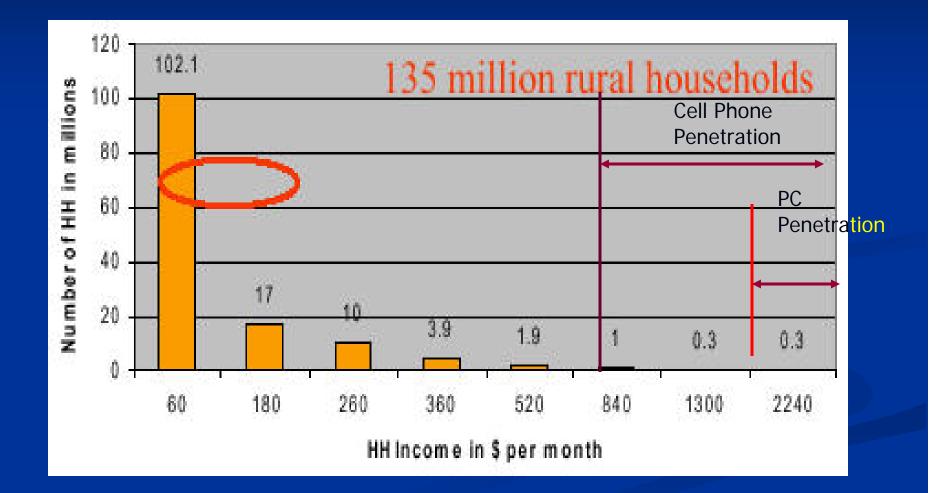


PC as Platform for ICT?

Urban PC and Cell Phone Penetration



Rural PC and Cell Phone Penetration



Some Observations

- PC penetration is about 12 million in 20 yrs
- Internet users 30 million
- Cell phones about 100+ million in 10 yrs, and we are adding about 1 to 1.5 million every month
- Lowest cell tariff (voice calls) in the world, ~ 2 cents a minute
- Telephone density expected to cross 25% (250 mil) by 2008, and most of these will be cellular
- SMS: Very popular in India –> one is comfortable with the cell phone as platform for messaging.

PCs vs. Cell Phones

PCs

- Focus has been on PC as the most desirable platform
- But scalability in rural areas is a major issue
- Extensive work on low cast PCs
 - Amachi PC (~Rs10K)
 - PCTVT (PC-TV-Telephone, expected price Rs.10K)
 - Networked Linux based PC (Novatium)
 - Dumb terminals
 - Rental model
 - Requires Broad band
 - OLPC (One Laptop Per Child)

Cell Phones

- Mobile phones have scaled phenomenally in India
- View mobile phones as a computer
- Use mobile phones as the platform for taking ICT to masses --- the platform is already there.

Impacting Role for ICT in Rural Areas

Some Observations

In order to improve the village economy Need to increase the cash flow Need to generate employment India will have 500+ million citizens below the age of 25 Need to provide alternatives for fair loans (not informal sources like chit funds, money lenders, bishi's, etc.)

Need to generate trade

Question: How can ICT enable the above?

Share of Different Sectors in GDP (GDP at factor cost, 1993-94 Prices) Rs. In crores

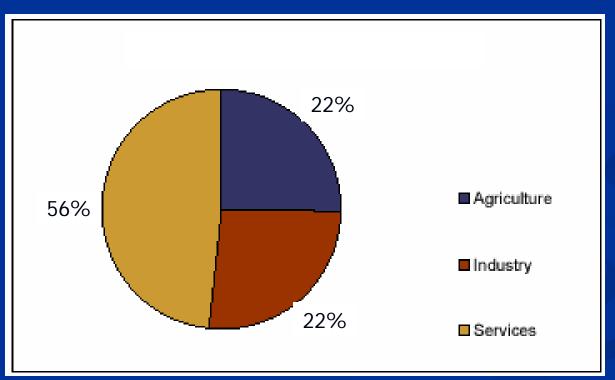
	Agri.	Industry	Services	Total	Services%	
1970-71	137320	46151	113438	296278	38%	
1980-81	159293	70687	171148	401128	43%	
1990-91	223114	150383	319374	692871	46%	
2000-01	285877	263797	649011	1198685	54%	
2001-02	302054	272359	691016	1265429	55%	
2002-03	292625	288266	739842	1320733	56%	

-- RBI, Handbook of Statistics on the Indian Economy

Indian GDP

GDP for India: \$600 billion
Rural GDP: \$150 billion (25%)

Compare this with IT industry, which is ~ \$ 20 billion



Aug 2006

Rural ATM

An Attempt to facilitate cash flow and expand rural banking

Rural ATM – Providing ICT based Rural Banking



- Developed by the TeNet group of IIT-Madras
- Deployed in rural kiosks in collaboration with ICICI bank
- Low cost rural bank
- Deposits, withdrawal, and loans
- Cost: \$800/=
- Conventional ATM costs: \$15,000/=
- Uses extremely low cost finger print authentication system (\$1/=)
- Use of plastic ID cards "smart or otherwise" not viable in rural areas

Open Issues

Rural

- Microfinance
- Micro-loans
- Micro-payments
- ICT along with financial institutions will have to play a major role

- Very little work on use of ICT for generating trade
 - At best there is some work on providing prices (e-Choupal, etc.)

Concluding Remarks

Need to explore alternate platforms for large scale use of ICT in rural areas Believe cell phone is the alternate platform ICT in rural areas must deal with Cash flow Trade Employment to make a significant impact Information by itself has little value; it must be generate trade!