Understanding gender in a digitally transformed world

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The Information Society – a new paradigm

- omnipresence of ICTs

- ICTs = Internet, mobile phones, print media, etc.

- new set of challenges

- everybody is impacted: users and non-users

- beyond communication: new spaces of human interaction

Different approaches to ICTs

- Access perspective

    Assumption: access ► inclusion ► empowerment

- Digital dangers

    Narratives of fear ► protection and security

Widespread perspective: ICTs are tools, used and misused

ICTs and gender violence

- New manifestations and more prominence of gender violence

- BUT unchanged issue: violence is a manifestation of power and inequality

- Reproduction of unequal power in legal systems

- Protection vs. Empowerment

Beyond being tools, ICTs embedded in our lives

▼

ICTs = social and civic issue

Gender violence, ICTs and regulating actors

- new forms of gender violence

- state intervention: difficult balance between the need of regulation and fundamental human rights

- increased surveillance as a form of violence

- impact on women's rights, freedoms, empowerment

- big corporations and the digital spaces

Are you free ?

- ICTs framed as free and neutral

- Free as a public garden ?

Who owns the digital spaces?

Who defines the rules?

Who participates?

Who is represented?

- who fights against gender violence ?

Taking ownership, challenging power

- from users/consumers to creators

- engaging with ICTs to display it emancipatory potential

- increased freedoms/rights, but who controls your rights on the Internet?

- ICTs used to fight gender violence 'Take back the tech !' (ACP)

ICTs to empower girls and women

Kishori Chitrapata

ICTs to empower girls and women

Mahiti Manthana (with Mahila Samakya)

Gender violence in the digitally transformed world

- challenging violence and power in constructive ways

- understanding ICTs as a structural social phenomenon, not as an economic issue

- using the emancipatory potential of ICTs to fight violence

- empowering to face the dangers and building ownership of the space, rather than creating narratives of fear

Thank you for your attention !