

Preface

Rapid changes in the Global economy consequential to Globalization have lead to the emergence of a wide array of discourses conveying different meanings and in their wake displacing certain meta narratives that used to be the dominant paradigm, which also served as a certain reference point. The rise of new technologies and interaction of women in different capacities from different parts of the world have all contributed to making of these new narratives that seek to understand these changes from different standpoints concerned with the various facts of technology and more precisely information and communication technologies like cyber crime, call centre work, distance learning, polity, and culture.

ICT provided the connecting thread to link all these emergent areas that have become a definite part of the lives of the most people in the world. The effects of these have been the subject of many scholarly works.

However, the rapid pace at which change occurs necessitated the examination of certain issues that have only recently arisen, and also look afresh at the new narratives, particularly the question of work that has occupied centre stage amongst many discourses. Another issue that has been revisited a number of times, owing to its centrality, is the question of digital divide, which the book attempted to look at afresh, incorporating narratives from the South. A grey area, not on many agendas, is cybercrimes. These still influence the lives of many people, particularly women, and are also incorporated in this volume.

Any volume on ICT will be incomplete without a survey of the fundamental issues, serving as an introductory anchor to the whole process of ICT and its interaction with gender under the rubric of globalization. The fundamental issues have not disappeared or been solved, though certain advances have been made. It is thus imperative to weigh both these opinions and at the same offer nuanced analysis in contextual settings. This is an exercise that has been attempted in this volume. The range of chapters is also diverse, spanning different continents, and thereby mapping the simultaneous spread of technology in different settings. It has to be acknowledged that the cultural mediation of technology that was underplayed during the initial euphoria of globalization is a theme that has to be seriously contended with and the chapters here focus on the cultural rootedness of the penetration of technology in places as diverse as Africa, Europe, India, and the Philippines.

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