

The Global Digital Divide and Digital Transformation: The Benefits and Drawbacks of Living in a Digital Society

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Abstract

The use of digital gadgets and services is pervasive. Digitalization in data, information, and technologies is driving the Fourth Industrial Revolution (also known as 4IR or Industry 4.0), resulting in a global digital divide. The chapter proposes a strategy in collaboration with a variety of service sector partners that would allow governments to capitalize on the possibility of closing the technology gap between nations in a manner that benefits inclusive and sustainable growth in middle and low countries. Emerging revolution and internet access can strengthen socio-economic development and improve people's way of living, but they also have the potential to widen political divides, undermine democracy, and increase inequality. In response to COVID-19, the chapter also proposes digital technologies as tools for achieving sustainable development goals and digitalization response measures in marginalized societies.