



## Digital divide

### Description

#### What is the digital divide:

- The digital divide is the gap between people who have access to computers, the internet, and other technology, and those who don't.

#### Reasons for the digital divide:

- People living in some rural or remote areas often have poor or no access to reliable internet.
- Some individuals lack education or training to understand how to use technology effectively.
- Some people cannot afford devices like computers, smartphones, or internet services.
- Older people may find it harder to learn and adapt to new technologies.
- People with disabilities may not have access to technology that works well for them or meets their needs.

#### What needs to be done:

- Better internet and electricity networks should be built in rural and remote areas to ensure everyone has access.
- Training programs should be provided to teach people how to use computers, smartphones, and the internet.
- The cost of devices and internet services should be lowered so that more people can afford them.
- Devices and software should be created in a way that makes them easy for people with disabilities to use.
- Technology and online resources should be made available in different languages to reach a wider audience.
- Free Wi-Fi hotspots should be provided. Libraries should be equipped with computers and internet access for public use. It will help people who cannot afford technology devices and internet services.

- People should be educated about the importance of digital skills for finding jobs, learning new things, and staying connected.



### Best practices worldwide:

- In India, the government has launched initiatives like the “Digital India” program to provide internet access and digital skills training across the country, especially in rural areas.
- Countries like Canada and South Korea have implemented programs to provide low-cost or subsidized internet access

- and devices for low-income families, ensuring that everyone can connect to the digital world.
- Many cities, including New York and Paris, offer free public Wi-Fi in parks, libraries, and other public spaces, helping people who can't afford home internet.
  - Countries such as Finland and Estonia offer widespread digital literacy education, teaching people how to use technology effectively at all ages. This helps ensure that everyone can benefit from the internet, regardless of their background.
  - Companies like Apple and Microsoft have pioneered accessibility features in their devices and software, such as screen readers, voice control, and customizable displays, making technology more accessible for people with disabilities.
  - In countries like Brazil, there are initiatives that focus on creating internet content in local languages and relevant to local cultures, helping more people access information online.
  - Organizations like the "One Laptop per Child" program have been working worldwide to provide low-cost laptops to children in underserved communities, helping to bridge the education gap.

### **Conclusion:**

Bridging the digital divide is crucial to ensure equal opportunities for all. By making technology affordable, improving internet access, and providing digital education, more people can benefit from the digital world.

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### **Your Turn...**

What are your thoughts on the digital divide? Express your point of view through the comment section below.

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