Digital access of indigenous women in Chile

Dr. © Jorge Luis González González
Professor at Universidad Central de Chile
Digital access of indigenous women in Chile

- Digital access and the gender gap in Latin America

- Latin America is a region characterized by very high levels of inequality this can be reflected in economic inequality, digital inequality, social and nutritional inequality, great inequalities within the health sector.

- The existence of a gap in access to technology, the internet and digital services of governments is determined by a series of barriers.
Digital access of indigenous women in Chile

• For indigenous women there are determinants and obstacles in the digital gap
  • Indigenous self-identification,
  • Age,
  • Gender,
  • Multidimensional poverty,
  • Digital gender violence,
  • Lack of connectivity,
  • Differences in appropriation of technological devices,
  • Absence in the design and production of technologies,
  • Educational and economic gaps.
Digital access of indigenous women in Chile

• The digital divide reinforces pre-existing forms of exclusion
• About how men, women and people in general have a differentiated experience and access, but also about how this affects how much they use the Internet and how content and technology are produced.
• This reinforces the existing gaps, producing a multiplier effect
• The digital divide can be explained by the different interests, needs, experiences, attitudes, and values of each age group.
• The perception regarding the usefulness of a technology for a certain activity will condition the degree of interaction of a person with said technology and even their reluctance to use it.
• This gap is built from the gender perspective, so it should be understood more than considering it as a measure that identifies disparities in technological access.
Challenges and opportunities for indigenous women in Chile

- In Chile, 1,107,681 women identify themselves as indigenous.
- Half of the population lives in rural areas.
- When rural indigenous women can access work, the probability that it will be informal.
- Their main income comes from activities related to agriculture and trade.
- Their contributions are rarely valued and made visible.
- They have a great deal of knowledge about their local contexts.
- They are active defenders of the territory and the environment.
- Only 47% of indigenous women participate in the labor market.
Challenges and opportunities for indigenous women in Chile

Indigenous women must overcome three barriers to fully enjoy the benefits that digital transformation brings.

- Lack of access to electrification
- Lower income levels
- Limited digital skills
Challenges and opportunities for indigenous women in Chile

- Some initiatives have been implemented such as
  - Expo Chile Virtual Mujer Exporta
  - (ProChile) Expo Feria Mujeres Emprendedoras Indígenas 2021 (CONADI – SernaMEG)
  - Virtual fair and program Training for Competitiveness (Corfo Indigenous Committee, UN Women, Innovacien)
  - Mentor training in competitive entrepreneurship (Corfo Indigenous Committee, UN Women, Innovacien)
  - Program for the internationalization of native peoples with 17 female beneficiaries (ProChile-CONADI)
  - Electronic Commerce Program Wakkal (ProChile)
  - Women Exports + UPS Mentoring Program with special quotas for indigenous women.
- Platform Chileatiende, is the multi-service and multi-channel network, store of procedures and services of the State of Chile. This network has an omnichannel approach, since it has: face-to-face channels, telephone service, web portal.
Proposals and solutions towards inclusion and bridging the gap

- Digital Basic Basket initiative for households in the region that ensures effective connectivity. (CEPAL)

- The massification of access to new technologies by the population, especially those with higher rates of poverty and social exclusion. (National government of Chile).

- Proposal for a digital transformation strategy for Chile with a long-term horizon to the year 2035. (European Union).
Proposals and solutions towards inclusion and bridging the gap

- **Attention to indigenous women** should be strengthened, through:
  - **Development of policies** with a gender perspective and a focus on the rights of indigenous peoples and intersectionality,
  - **Adoption of differentiated and reinforced protection standards**
  - **Generate socioeconomic conditions** aimed at the empowerment of indigenous women towards sustainability and autonomy.