Opportunities For The Internet Under The UN Rights of Indigenous Peoples

By Amali De Silva-Mitchell

“The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, resolution was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 13 September 2007.”” It welcomed the fact that indigenous peoples are organizing themselves for political, economic, social and cultural enhancement and in order to bring to an end all forms of discrimination and oppression wherever they occur” and “that respect for indigenous knowledge, cultures and traditional practices contributes to sustainable and equitable development and proper management of the environment.”

Indigenous peoples live in urban and rural communities. The work of the United Nations in connecting the last mile of the global population, has significant work still to be done, with indigenous communities. This internet connectivity can be provided by traditional land communications, but also there is the opportunity to partner to provide communications through satellite communications, in the case of rural communities and those communities hard to reach by traditional connectivity such as land locked states, small island states and so forth.

While rural communities wait to be connected to the national networks, it is still possible to develop the skills and capacity building blocks that will make the future connection very successful and speedy. First connections may come through public-private local area networks, mobile phone networks followed by broadband or newly developing technologies and not limited those current innovations.

Smaller community rural networks must be developed with the assistance of non-profits, the private sector and with government support. There is a place for using e-waste and non-profit technology support. Youth technology skills training must be conducted. The idea of technology must be shared with its possibilities for indigenous communities. The cost of connecting long distances, across difficult terrain or water may look as something that is insurmountable, but not in the age of satellite technologies. These technologies, to be successful fast (pay-back) for its financiers must have good local networks in place, so as to allow the service provider to scale their services up quickly and successfully.

Governments are realizing the benefits of Public, Private Partnerships P3s as they can provide other services such as tertiary education, agriculture, supply chain (with point of origin), hazard and emergency response management with ease. This is not limited to just healthcare (4). Connecting indigenous communities has many benefits to the society as a whole. It is possible that the migration from rural to urban areas could be stalled, taking the stress off urban centers to telecommuting. It is possible that expensive housing costs can be reduced with a move to rural areas. Tourism could develop. Expensive healthcare and more sophisticated healthcare could be delivered fairly across a nation. Maternal health, health information and at distance medicine can be applied. This is also a commercial advantage for any developer of a healthcare or other product to located especially service driven products to lower cost areas. Other benefits (but not limited to) are:

(1) Ability to provide eGovernment services equally to all nationals
(2) Rapid response from the rural community to climate change and impacts such as flood
(3) Rapid emergency response and prevention of adverse situations where possible
(4) Ability to track climate change
(5) Track medicinal rare plants, act as a safe haven for rare medicinal plants

(6) Away from earthquake zones or other hazardous areas
(7) Ability to connect rural medicine practioners (2)
(8) Ability to source rare plants for preventative care (3)
(9) Ability to provide shelter for those in areas near rising water, for the future
(10) Provide telecommuting housing and savings to urban infrastructure overload
(11) Ability to connect to supply chains to provide agricultural or animal produce
(12) Ability to receive education and ehealth services
(13) Provide elder care housing or orphanages etc.
(14) Ability for commercial enterprises to increase their target customers
(15) Access power supplies, hydro, wind, geothermal from remote areas
(16) Provide power to quantum technologies (quantum entanglement is now with us)
(17) Ability to locate data centers with access to rural power supplies
(18) Ability to locate crypto currency, block chain (health) technology to access rural power supplies
(19) Locate safe nuclear miniplants (6)
(20) Ability to locate science and development sites including health research

Connecting dispersed indigenous groups will provide a commercial opportunity for indigenous entrepreneurs and foster innovation. There will be an increase to the quality of life and an end to rural poverty could be in sight, allowing youth to develop valuable skills for the future to add to the national GDP. Increased happiness is also an important but un-quantifiable factor (5) but important for the wellbeing of all as the youth can remain with the elderly and disabled in their community, rather than moving to better opportunities in urban communities. Hence, as can be shown, there are many reasons as to why connecting with the internet to the last mile and connecting to indigenous groups in particular, can increase the health, well-being and economic resiliency of populations and thus the overall country and international wellness.

Care however, must be taken for indigenous intellectual property rights, the environment, cultural norms and traditions, traditional education and health practices and so forth including accepting that certain groups may be split across national boundaries and may be represented across a number of countries. The internet can bring a diaspora together in wellness and could be an asset for the development of ethnicity based medicinal products and services. Where in any one country a group could be a minority, across a group of countries a product for research could see the numbers that are required for effective trials and commercial success. The internet will speed up the benefits of ehealth and mhealth for All and the WHO UN World Health Organization notes that technology can support the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal #3 Health and Wellness for All.

References:

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