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TECHNOLOGY AND POVERT ALLEVIATION

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INTRODUCTION

This presentation focuses on the impact of information communication and technology (ICT) in poverty alleviation in developing countries especially Africa, in particular my country Zambia. Africa remains a developing poor continent with an average person living on \$2 per day. There several contributing factors to African poverty include lack of education, corruption, lack of industries, digital divide due to lack of ICT services

The modern world has embraced the use of ICT services for poverty reduction. In Africa the rate of adopting ICT is still very low and stands 37%, while in Zambia at 52% usage.



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MAIN BODY

- Poverty alleviation is a set of measures both economic and humanitarian that are intended to permanently lift people out of poverty. The dawn of industrial revolution led to high economic growth, eliminating mass poverty in what is now considered the developed world.
- ICT has mostly been alluded to as computers, telephones with access to internet, on a lower extent radio and television also can include ICT



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ICT ON POVERTY ERADICATION

- Access to technology by poor countries can have similar benefits such as improvement of overall living conditions by boosting national economies. In addition, technology is helping developing countries to reduce cost of production, encourage growth of new businesses, and enhance effective communication.
- Technology reduces the cost of doing much of the work. Lower cost of production helps to increase profit margin, which is essential in business growth, hence creation of employment opportunities, and then eradication of poverty; technology opens up doors for new opportunities to do business or to work. These in turn increase household income among the poor population in the developing world

CHALLENGES

- No enabling environment to enable ICT and contribute to development
- High capital costs for devices and wireless networks
- Lack of employment
- Poverty is the number one key hinderance to ICTs
- Zero or no promotion of local business promotion



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RECOMENDATIONS

- Increase access to ICTs in schools and all learning institutions
- Reduce the challenges of access to ICT
- Embrace use of ICT services by all sectors, local entrepreneurship and e-commerce
- Spearhead technological exposure to marginalized groups, women and the disabled
- Embrace good governance and improve the poor peoples health
- Support agriculture through technology

CONCLUSION

- Implementing ICT is a major problem that requires African governments to place much concerted efforts to reduce poverty through access of technology.
- Based on the above, ICT plays a critical role in poverty reduction, embracing the usage of ICTs enhance globalization, promoting access to information and sharing, promote trading of goods and service.