**Topic:** Info Tech in Global Economy

**Question:**

**Chapter 19** – The digital divide remains formidable in scaling information and communication technology (ICT)-enabled opportunities for effective leadership and development in countries lagging behind, (Ahmed, 2015).  Based on the case study, the authors reminded us that, the practice of e-Participation provides an avenue for adaptation, application, and utilization of ICT as a subset of e-Commerce, in the realm of e-Democracy and, it is a concept needed to bridge the existing digital gap within and across countries in a global context.

From the chapter, we learned that as the world moves at a faster and voluminous pace, there is a need to acquire technology and the skill to use it, as is increasing at the rate beyond those societies that are unable to remedy their inadequacies.  However, the challenges to meet this pressure could be enormous, but not insurmountable, and the means to address such challenges are abundantly available in ICT-supported processes like e-Participation.

**Q1** – From this context, what is the functional role of the ICT?

* identify and name the *functional role of the ICT*, and

**Chapter 19** – Buente, and Robbin (2008), and Hilbert (2011) outlined different angles in conceptualizing digital divide. They included subjects, characteristics, means, intensity, and purpose of connectivity corresponding to inquiries of ‘who’, ‘which’, ‘what’, ‘how’ and ‘why’. On the other hand, Huang and Chen (2010) added the dynamics of evolution to address the questions of whether and when.

**Q2** – What were the approaches and inquiries for the discourse framework on eParticipation and simulation exercise as conceptualized by the authors?

* identify and name the *six approaches and inquiries*,

**Instructions:**

* Need 3 Responses for other student posts with APA references
* Minimum 150 words for each response (use uploaded document to see other student posts)
* Textbook attached
* No plagiarism please.

**Initial Post 1:**

**Q1:**

After going through the thoughts and details reported by author (Ahmed, 2015) about the information and Communication Technology (ICT) on the field of e-participation by opportunities for effective leadership and developing the nations that were poor, the main functionality of ICT here is to bring awareness and provide opportunities for the undeveloped countries providing a way to develop. The perfect example was provided here about how a nation "Nigeria" was able to follow and implement these procedures to lead for a tremendous improvement. The ICT is an enabler along with a long sight of equalizer limited to the efforts that were deliberately made in inheriting and utilize the opportunities. However, the opportunities are the ideas and practices varied from local to the global forum.

**Q2:**

As Buente and Robbin (2008) and Hilbert (2011) outlined in their research on the e-participation in different angles, the below are the six approaches and inquires that provide a framework for the discourse on e-Participation and simulation (Ahmed, 2015)

1. Subjects of connectivity (who), including individuals, organizations, institutions, etc.
2. Characteristics or attributes (which) including demography, socioeconomic variables, geography, etc.
3. Means (what) including equipment like telephone, Internet, television, radio, etc.
4. Intensity (how) including usage, access, interactivity, innovation, etc.
5. Purpose (why) including reason, cause, justification, etc.
6. Dynamics of evolution (whether and when) including gap, utilization, development, etc.

**Initial Post 2:**

**Q1:**

A revolutionary call for additional and application to technology for societal building and development came from Ernesto Che Guvera de La Serna (1963). "Every technology should be used to the benefit of the greatest number of people so that we can build the society of the future, no matter what name it may be called"(Guevara, 1963).

The systematic application of ICT capacity building via eParticipation depends on the nature of the crossover of the digital divide. The momentum for this work is achieved by the challenges and opportunities. The intention to make efforts for utilizing ICT and its opportunities makes it (ICT) "an enabler and an equalizer." It is to the point in relation to viewing eParticipation as seemly beyond the access of individuals and institutions. The functional role of ICT can be defined as " The digital divide stays intimidating when scaling ICT-enabled opportunities for leadership development and effectiveness in countries that are lagging behind."

**Q2:**

Different angels in conceptualizing the digital divide are explained by using subjects, characteristics, means, intensity, and purpose of connectivity that relate to the examination of who, which, what, how, and why (Buente and Robbin, 2008 and Hilbert, 2011). Authors Huang and Chen (2010) introduced the dynamics of evolution for addressing issues related to whether and when which resulted in a framework discussion on eParticipation and simulation exercises as explained below:

1. **Subjects of Connectivity** (Who)- This looks for all the subjects, including individuals, organizations, institutions, and many others.

2. **Characteristics or attributes** (which)- This considers various factors like demography, socioeconomic variables, and geography.

3. **Means** (what)- This includes what types of equipment are involved like telephone, internet, television, radio, and others.

4. **Intensity** (how)- This analyses the usage, access, interactivity, and innovation.

5. **Purpose** (why)- This looks for different use cases to identify the reason, cause, justification, and more.

6. **Dynamics of evolution** (whether and when) - This analyses the evolution of gap, utilization, and development, as mentioned by Huang and Chen.

**Initial Post 3:**

**Q1:**

Basically, Information Communication Technology encompasses the general role of integrated communications as well as the assimilation of telecommunications and computers. It is a concept which has grown over the recent past at a very fast pace. It enables for effective leadership and management across all countries throughout the world. The sectors majorly affected are the government agencies and business organizations. To say the least, ICT has penetrated into the grassroots and there is dire need to acquire technology and necessary skills to adopt as it is increasing beyond what the society can resist. The role of ICT is actually profound. It forms the key pillars in ensuring national competitive advantage (Morgan et al. 2016). It enhances the quality of living. As such, e-Participation is a global concept that has enabled for convenience and hence making the world a global village.

**Q2:**

E-Participation is an incipient research area. The approaches and inquiries for the discourse framework on e-Participation and simulation exercise include subjects, characteristics, means, intensity and resolve of connectivity responding to questions/inquiries of the 4W’s (who, what, which, why and how). The subjects involve parties like individuals and companies. Characteristics are basically the attributes that answer to the inquiry, why. It includes the geography and demography of a given area. Means answer the question what. It may be the internet, television, radio among others. On the other hand, intensity responds to the prospect of how, for instance the innovation. Purpose responds to the inquiry, why? It seeks a justification or a reason of a given judgment. We finally have the dynamics of evolution which encompasses the identifiable gap for development (Hilbert, 2011).