



The Digital Divide

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What is the Digital Divide?

The digital divide is the difference between those people who have access to technology and those who don't. This is common in third world countries e.g. Morocco, Pakistan and Egypt.



Why does it exist?

There are many reasons as to why the digital divide exists. For example,

- 0* **Lack of affordability**
- 0* **Poor Education**
- 0* **Low Facilities**



Are there advantages of the digital divide?

The digital divide is preventing technology from fully taking over the world. This can be an advantage because technology also stops people from communicating face to face with each other which isn't healthy.

Affordability



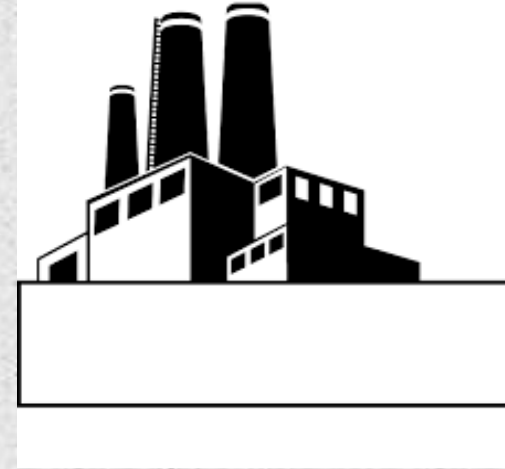
Many people cannot afford to purchase devices such as computers, tablets or phones. They may have low salaries or may not be earning at all. They might be able to afford second-hand or old, not up to date devices but they are not easy to use especially for those with less knowledge about technology. The more money you have, the better device you can have.

Poor Education



Having basic computer skills is vital in this day and age because as studies show, 80% of jobs include computers or technology. This links back to affordability because if somebody hasn't got a job they cannot earn any money, therefore not being able to buy electronics.

Low facilities



Countries may not have factories or materials to manufacture all these phones and tablets. A lot of materials are needed to make these devices e.g. Lead, Copper or Zinc. These materials are expensive to import from other places. Phones cannot be made by hand, they need machinery in the factories to program the software, shape the materials.

Culture?



Culture impacts the digital divide because some cultures have different views on using technology. This means that certain people may believe that technology is important and useful therefore, they decide to live as if they are in the future. Others believe that technology is a distraction and prefer to live as if technology doesn't exist e.g., the Amish (who are based in Russia and Germany) have strict rules about the usage of technology.

How can we decrease the digital divide?

The digital divide can be decreased in a few ways. It can be reduced by helping people get jobs when they don't have the qualifications. This may include providing free computer lessons or training courses. The government could also give grants to build factories, help the manufacturing of technology and help people earn a wage as well.