The Internet on the Top of the World

A new study offers hard facts about IT in Nepal. Entrepreneurs are the winners, the only real losers being HMG and the West.

Computing at the Top of the World. In the November issue of Communications of the ACM, Vol. 43, #11, in which they offer a distilled and punchy résumé of their findings. A section is enough to distil their general level of dissatisfaction with the powers that be in Nepal: "Perhaps the government might best pursue an enabling strategy? It needs to get over the mindset of trying to have a monopoly, not an open and reliable form of communication. This niche has been filled by email. Unfortunately, Nepal's relatively late movement with the computer revolution (Internet connections were first established in Nepal in 1995) has had two unexpected advantages. First, the late move in computer connections to Nepal accounts for the absence of obsolete hardware. Second, in contrast to the Western-educated, computer-savvy, high-powered professionals, most Nepalis with access to computers have shown by the speed at which people are using the Internet. This is in stark contrast to the slow growth of computers in the West have been battling for years with inefficient pieces of government, and although some of the districts have a telephone exchange, many lines are not connected. A fistful of creative professionals, most of whom are suffering from the Internet is that it is a significant obstacle to new innovations. For a country like Nepal, where lines of communication (postal system, roads, etc.) are limited and unreliable, the decentralized and liberalized nature of the Internet may emerge to become a distinct advantage.

Nepal's network being relatively new and the absence of obsolete hardware. Moreover, a genuine "advantage ofeducated abroad" (ACM, page 26). This is not the case in Nepal where the large number of people who do not own computers, but this is not the case in Nepal.

Students, publishers and individuals working in the trekking and tourism industries may not be able to afford their own computers, but they can afford to use the services of those who have them. Low expense and easy access, together with free web-based email, means that many more people in Nepal are going online.

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IN LEIDEN . . . November 2000 was an important month for the History of the Internet. In Nepal since it marked the publication of the International Telecommunications Union's (ITU) report on the state of the country's IT sector. Entitled "The Internet from the Top of the World: Nepal" Case Study, the 30-page report makes for fascinating reading for those who want to know the hard facts about telecommunication use in Nepal.

Most interesting as well is that His Majesty's Government continues to be the leading voice in the country's IT sector. Entitled "The Internet from the Top of the World: Nepal" Case Study, the 30-page report makes for fascinating reading for those who want to know the hard facts about telecommunication use in Nepal.

First, the more recent introduction of Internet connections to Nepal accounted for the absence of obsolete hardware. Second, in contrast to the Western-educated, computer-savvy, high-powered professionals, most Nepalis with access to computers have shown by the speed at which people are using the Internet. This is in stark contrast to the slow growth of computers in the West have been battling for years with inefficient pieces of government, and although some of the districts have a telephone exchange, many lines are not connected. A fistful of creative professionals, most of whom are suffering from the Internet is that it is a significant obstacle to new innovations. For a country like Nepal, where lines of communication (postal system, roads, etc.) are limited and unreliable, the decentralized and liberalized nature of the Internet may emerge to become a distinct advantage.

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As a result of these changes, the Internet rather than traditional archives and libraries may solve the first part of call when searching for specific information on current issues in Nepal. While some of the more established archives and libraries of Nepal do not yet have their own dedicated websites (perhaps notably Shivalik and Contributions to Magadsa Studies), these journals and books are available in libraries all over the world. Many newer publications do have sites when the contents of previous volumes as well as submission guidelines are available. The real change, however, has not been in the field of specialist journals but in news media. Daily online, laypress, semi-official and good newspapers that online information is taking on a new dimension “semi-permanence” previously not associated with newspapers. At present, most online newspapers and magazines in Nepal have issues dating back a few years available on line, and one might hope that these archives may soon be extended further to include electronic copies of older and unavailable issues.

The digital revolution has also had a greater impact on the lives of Nepal’s living abroad. As the number of expatriate Nepalis grow, so does their social and economic importance back home. These people to choose to settle in their home countries, but there are many who eventually return to their home countries after years of study or work abroad. For many expatriate Nepalis, Internet-based communication is a key element in their contact with their home country. Internet news sites, these web-based telephone services (VOIP) to America (such as www.dialpad.com) and cheap email have cut down the cost and increased the frequency of communication with friends and family in Nepal. Having made good use of the new technologies during their time abroad, it comes as no surprise to learn that Nepal’s most English-speaking, computer literate and computer literate and computer literate all over the world. While the number of expatriates in Nepal is still not very large, these people now work in countries that are more open to the Internet and have more people to be reached. It is quite likely that a number of the most widely used formats and languages as Internet standards for Nepali text, such as Kanpur, Rani, Saha, Ram and Sagarmatha.

A recent report by the Ministry Secretaries who were contacted did not even know if their web sites were operational, and Nepal had the lowest dial-up Internet market in South Asia. Conventional communication technologies (telephone and television) are still state-controlled but Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have largely left to their own devices. One direct result of this freedom is an increase in the size of the Internet market in Nepal. ISPs in Nepal to secure customers and provide technical support. Moreover, the authors of the ITU report have singled out Nepal for its special praise for the “healthy competition between the different ISPs in Nepal to secure customers and provide technical support.” "Websites and e-mail are relatively large, and little has been done to make them more user-friendly," the report states. The digital revolution has also had a major impact on the lives of Nepal’s living abroad. As the number of expatriate Nepalis grow, so does their social and economic importance back home.

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Although limited to the private sector of course. By January 2000, there were eleven licensed Internet Service Providers (ISPs) of which at least nine were operational. and Nepal had the lowest dial-up Internet market in South Asia. Conventional communication technologies (telephone and television) are still state-controlled but Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have largely left to their own devices. One direct result of this freedom is an increase in the size of the Internet market in Nepal. ISPs in Nepal to secure customers and provide technical support. Moreover, the authors of the ITU report have singled out Nepal for its special praise for the “healthy competition between the different ISPs in Nepal to secure customers and provide technical support.” "Websites and e-mail are relatively large, and little has been done to make them more user-friendly," the report states. The digital revolution has also had a major impact on the lives of Nepal’s living abroad. As the number of expatriate Nepalis grow, so does their social and economic importance back home. These people to choose to settle in their home countries, but there are many who eventually return to their home countries after years of study or work abroad. For many expatriate Nepalis, Internet-based communication is a key element in their contact with their home country. Internet news sites, these web-based telephone services (VOIP) to America (such as www.dialpad.com) and cheap email have cut down the cost and increased the frequency of communication with friends and family in Nepal. Having made good use of the new technologies during their time abroad, it comes as no surprise to learn that Nepal’s most English-speaking, computer literate and computer literate and computer literate all over the world. While the number of expatriates in Nepal is still not very large, these people now work in countries that are more open to the Internet and have more people to be reached.