

2.4 Difficulties and Constraints

As data or indicators are used to help formulate policies, programmes, projects, among others, or monitor their progress, it is a norm that statisticians provide accompanying cautionary notes to alert users of their data about limitation of the data. This helps users to factor in allowances in the cause of using that data. In the light of foregoing, one would hasten to state that results of these surveys are not exceptions. The results should be used with care as it is the first of its kind to undertake surveys to assess ICT access, usage and exploitation in the Gambia. With the exception of household survey, the other sector surveys have shortcomings as a result of several factors which included, among others:

- ▶ The frame problem,
- ▶ Lack of cooperation on the part of institutions to respond and to give reliable information,
- ▶ The would-be respondents didn't spare some time to sit with the data collectors so that some of those technical questions be explained further and
- ▶ Tight budget which constraint frequent movement of data collectors between survey units and
- ▶ Short duration of the surveys. This later issue even affected the household survey as the sample size could not be large enough knowing that in this survey we were likely to encounter rare cases.

Although data collection took place under very difficult conditions due to limited funds, the survey team did their best to collect reliable information during the data collection.