

## **5.5 Gender**

Women's access to and control of ICTs has featured prominently in both the theory and practice of the gender digital divide. Women's access to and control of ICTs is dependent on factors such as gender discrimination in jobs and education, social class, illiteracy and geographic location that mean that the great majority of Gambian women have no access to ICTs. Despite the emphasis of the information society on getting women connected, civil society actors have argued that the issues of access and control are more complex than just connectivity. The high cost of computers and connectivity keep ICT services far beyond the reach of most women. ICT infrastructure is largely urban-centred. Internet content is overwhelmingly in English. Insufficient attention is paid to content in local languages and the use of the Internet for women with low levels of literacy and gender roles and other cultural factors translates to the fact that women have less time to make use of ICTs