

IDIA Workshop

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**Challenges with implementation of
Community Informatics**

Overview

- ✓ Socio-Economic Development
- ✓ Community Informatics
- ✓ CI in South Africa
- ✓ CI internationally
- ✓ Challenges
- ✓ Recommendations

Socio-economic Development

✓ Living Standards

- Education, culture
- Main source of income
- Main business activities

✓ ICT as a solution

Community Informatics

- ✓ Bridging the socio-economic divide
- ✓ Categories
 - Commercial
 - Community telecentres
 - Other initiatives
 - i.e education based, health informatics, marketing

Community Initiatives in RSA

✓ INITIATIVES

- Tshedimosetso- Ventersdorp
- Mohlabeng- Randfontein
- Lerethabetse- Hamaanskraal
- Gaseleka- Mpumalanga
- Casteed thusong Service center- Mpumalanga

✓ Main Activities

- Computer training
- Fax, photocopying, typing
- And to a light extent- Internet

Community initiatives internationally

- ✓ e-Barrio - Malaysia
 - General technological services, including government based information centre
- ✓ Community Technology centre- Argentina
 - Information based services
 - Radio stations and youth learning services
- ✓ Joven Club- Cuba
 - Youth based

Challenges

- ✓ Lack of telecommunication infrastructure
- ✓ Language problems
- ✓ Lack of skills and support from the initiators
- ✓ Lack of awareness and culture about the use and benefits of ICT,
- ✓ Financial and technological sustainability,
- ✓ Attitudinal barriers

Recommendations

- ✓ Concentrate on community's basic needs
 - Introduction of systems to support community initiatives like Agriculture, health
 - Training on using services for continuous support
 - Youth and social services
- ✓ Alliance with other stakeholders
 - i.e. source of income [UNISA]
- ✓ Focus on local business development
 - Marketing, support,
- ✓ Clear lines of leadership
 - Motivation for the workers
- ✓ Location, closer to people



✓ THANK YOU