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**HOW GENDER IS EMBEDDED IN THE  
NATIONAL ICT POLICY OF MALAWI**

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# AGENDA

- Background to the study
- Research problem
- Research methodology
- Summary of results
- Conclusion
- Questions



# BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

- National ICT policies:
  - Support application and use of ICT in socio-economic development
  - Act as guide for actions and informs practices
  - ICT use has implications for both men and women
- Women form large part of population in Africa
  - Marginalised in access and use of ICT
  - Carry most of the economic burden
  - Few women participate in government decision making
- The need for gender equality in national ICT policy

(Marcelle, 2000; Mansell, 2010; Olatokun, 2008)



# GENDER EQUALITY

- Equal opportunities between men and women in society
- Empowerment of the marginalised members of society
- Gender Equality can be streamlined in:
  - Legislations
  - Policies i.e. National ICT policy
  - Development programmes
- Identifying stakeholders, agenda setting, formulating policy, monitoring, evaluation & communication

(Alston, 2006; Bacchi & Eveline, 2010; United Nation, 1997)



# CONTEXT OF THE STUDY

INDEX	VALUE
Population	15.3 Million people (51% females & 49% males)
Life expectancy	54.3 years
Literacy levels	74.5%
GDP per capita (PPP)	US\$794.00
Fixed line teledensity	1.3%
Mobile phones teledensity	25.7%
Internet teledensity	3.3%



ID	POLICY DOCUMENT	DATE
PDC1	Malawi Information and Communication (ICT) Policy	June, 2003
PDC2	Malawi National ICT for Development (ICT4D) Policy	July, 2006
PDC3	National ICT Policy: An ICT-led Malawi	February, 2009

(ITU, 2012; NSO, 2010, UNDP, 2012)



# RESEARCH MOTIVATION

## ○ **Research motivations:**

- Limited critical research on ICT policies on context of Africa (Gillwald, 2010)
- Less understanding of gender concerns in national ICT policy

## ○ **Research questions:**

- What is the role of national ICT policy in promoting gender equality?
- To what extent does the national ICT policy supports gender equality issues?

## ○ **Research objective:**

- To examine the role of national ICT policy in promoting gender equality



# RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- Qualitative approach (Myers, 2009)
- Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) (Curkier et al., 2008)

## Theory of Communicative Action (Habermas, 1984)

	Theory of Communicative Action (Habermas, 1984)			
Validity claims	Truth	Sincerity	Legitimacy	Comprehensibility
Focus	accuracy of message	motives of a message	conformity to social norms and values	Clarity of message and not confusing
Testing	Evidence on claims	Jargon & metaphors	Privileged & silence voices	Omissions & syntax of language



# SUMMARY OF RESULTS I

## Content Analysis of the three documents

PDC1 Policy themes	PDC2 Policy themes	PDC3 Policy themes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ICT human resource</li><li>• Enabling environment for ICT</li><li>• Export oriented ICT industry</li><li>• Private sector support</li><li>• Investment in technologies</li><li>• Information security and law</li><li>• Institutional and legal frameworks</li><li>• ICT standards and best practices</li><li>• Implementation institutions and plans</li><li>• Promoting Access to ICT</li><li>• Gender in development and use of ICT</li><li>• Partnerships in implementation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ICT leadership</li><li>• Human capital</li><li>• Education</li><li>• Health</li><li>• Human resources development</li><li>• Governance</li><li>• ICT industry</li><li>• ICT infrastructure development</li><li>• ICT in growth sectors</li><li>• ICT in Communities</li><li>• Legal and regulatory frameworks</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ICT leadership</li><li>• Human resource development</li><li>• Governance</li><li>• ICT in industries</li><li>• ICT infrastructure development</li><li>• ICT in growth sectors</li><li>• ICT in communities</li><li>• Legal &amp; regulatory frameworks</li><li>• International Cooperation</li><li>• Universal access of ICTs</li></ul>





## SUMMARY OF RESULTS II

- Themes in first and second versions of National ICT policy:
- **Commitment to gender:**
  - Promoting equitable access and use of ICT among women, men, boys and girls
- **Community participation:**
  - Supporting gender equality in ICT initiatives
- **Capacity building:**
  - Skills development to empower communities



## CONCLUSION

- Streamlining gender equality in national ICT policy
- **Advocacy:** Awareness of gender concerns amongst policy makers
- **Gender inclusion:** Experts on gender in the process for national ICT policy
- **Gender evaluation and monitoring:** Assessing gender equality in the process of national ICT policy



# QUESTIONS



Thank you for your time



## SELECTED LIST OF REFERENCES

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