ST. XAVIER'S MODEL UNITED NATIONS

STUDY GUIDE

COMMITTEE – ECOSOC

AGENDA – Digital Apartheid and its Impact on Economy & Education.

Welcome Letter from the Dais

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to SXMUN 2020

We are beyond excited to meet you and are eager to welcome you to two days full of productive and stimulating debate. For us, Model United Nations have become integrated into our lifestyle; we view it as educational as much as it's empowering to have the ability to construct opinions on global issues through the eyes of several different countries. We hope that as soon as you join into the committee session you learn something new and that hopefully by the end of the conference you have grown in one way or another; whether it's your ability to overcome your fear of public speaking or your ability to lead large groups of people.

If this is your first Model United Nations Conference, then don't worry too much and feel free to approach any of us at any point in the conference if you need any form of support. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us for any concerns you have. We cannot wait to meet all of you!

Regards
The Executive Board
ECOSOC.

Committee Introduction: -

The **United Nations Economic and Social Council** one of the six principal organs of the UN, responsible for coordinating the economic and social fields of the organization, specifically in regards to the 15 specialised agencies the eight functional commissions and the five regional commissions under its jurisdiction.

ECOSOC serves as the central forum for discussing international economic and social issues and formulating policy recommendations addressed to member states and the United Nations system. In addition to a rotating membership of 54 UN member states, over 1600 non-governmental organisation have consultative status with the Council to participate in the work of the United Nations.

ECOSOC holds one four-week session each year in July, and since 1998 has also held an annual meeting in April with finance ministers heading key committees of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Additionally, the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), which reviews implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are convened under the auspices of the Council every July.

Best Practices to Research before an MUN:

(You can take these best practices into account, not only for this MUN but for other MUNs as well.)

•   Read the Agenda Guide, least 3-4 days prior to the conference, and make a note of everything that needs to be understood. Do read the Background guide. In case of a crisis situation always read and look for the analysis and plausible rational on the updates that may be issued a week before the MUN.

•   Google/Search everything and find related documents (UN, News articles, Scholarly articles) for whatever was not really understood.

• After wholly understanding (subject to how in-depth you wish to go for the research), try understanding your allotted country's perspective on the agenda.

• Make the stance in accordance with the country's perspective on the agenda which shall also define your foreign policy (history, past actions, etc.)

• Understand the cues and hints that are given minutely in the Background Guide that may come handy while the presentation of contentions in committee.

• Take a good look at the mandate of the council as to what you can discuss and what you can do in this council. This point is placed here, just because your knowledge base shouldn't be limited to the mandate of the council. Know everything, speak whatever the mandate allows.

• Follow the links given alongside and understand why they were given. Read the footnotes and the links and hyperlinked text.

• Predict the kind of discussions and on what subtopics can they take place, thereby analysing the subtopic research you have done and prepare yourself accordingly. Make a word/pages document and put your arguments there for better presentation in the council.

• Download the United Nations Charter, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and additional protocols thereto and other relative treaties and documents given.

• Ask questions regarding procedures to speak something etc., if you have any, on the day of the conference.

What is Digital Apartheid or Digital Divide?

Digital divide is a term that refers to the gap between demographics and regions that have access to modern information and communications technology, and those that don't or have restricted access. This technology can include the telephone, television, personal computers and the Internet.

Well before the late 20th century, digital divide referred chiefly to the division between those with and without telephone access; after the late 1990s the term began to be used mainly to describe the split between those with and without Internet access, particularly broadband.

The digital divide typically exists between those in cities and those in rural areas; between the educated and the uneducated; between socioeconomic groups; and, globally, between the more and less industrially developed nations. Even among populations with some access to technology, the digital divide can be evident in the form of lower-performance computers, lower-speed wireless connections, lower-priced connections such as dial-up, and limited access to subscription-based content.

What is the digital divide in education?

The access to ICT in this age of technology is a broad topic that encompasses availability of hardware, software, accessory equipment, and networking as well as unlimited access to reliable information, especially in a formal schooling set-up. The inequality in access to technology is vividly eminent in every society, and some of the contributing factors to digital divide include, poverty and poor infrastructure, corruption, and bureaucracy as well as education and technical support among others. The education factor in digital divide is like the dilemma of egg and chicken: both are interrelated and knowing which one precipitate the other is difficult.
There were over 4.2 Billion internet users as at June 2018, while these figures may look impressive mammoth portion of the population is not well connected, and this may be detrimental considering the importance of ICT in education and general development of a country.

How has Digital Apartheid affected Education?

Education should be liberating and is often seen as a standardizing factor in life. By acquiring knowledge, one gets capacitated to face life situations and provide solutions in promoting the development of a country. The massive digital divide in education means a great hindrance to the development of the underdeveloped world since they won't be capable of inventing new technologies and conducting researches aimed at promoting the living standards of inhabitants. Furthermore, the digital divide in education encourages the dependence syndrome; one will subscribe to unproven ideologies since they lack a mechanism of creating or scrutinizing. Also, the developing countries seek more donations to bridge the digital divide.

1. **Lack of exploitation of full potential hence low performance**
2. **Unfair competitive edge**
3. **Enhanced convenience in learning**
4. **A difference in the learning experience**
5. **Decreased productivity among the poor**

How has Digital Apartheid affected Economy?

Ceding of telecommunication services is crucial for economic growth, and there exists a strong linear correlation between the two. Interestingly, socio-economic status is one of the major causes of the digital divide and it also a consequence of the Digital Apartheid. Penetration of internet enables people to engage in economically productive activities such as trade without much hassle. They can shop online and compare prices to get the best bargains, participate in online auctions and safely and securely transact online this translates to economic empowerment. For the sect that lacks access to technology, trade is made hectic, and returns get lowered this maintain the economic gap between the developed and the underdeveloped nations extensive. The rich countries get, and the emerging countries cannot compete with them hence remaining to depend on grants and donations.

Integration of ICT affects the success of a business and thus influence the circulation of resources among citizens.

ROLE OF PRIVATE SECTOR IN BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

The private sector too has a role to play in bridging the digital divide. We'll continue to engage it and discuss areas where it should direct its investment. These consultations will also consider possible incentives for investing in under serviced areas. We are positive that access to broadband provides us with modern building blocks as the country continuously strives to create sustainable jobs for the future, especially for our youth. This is why ICTS have been identified as catalytic sectors that president ZUMA also announced that government has decided to designate TELECOM as the lead entity, among other government agencies, to rollout fixed broadband.

Frauds Through Digital Payment Portal

Several payment-related scams have come to light in recent months. ET Wealth unravels the modus operandi involved and tells you how to avoid being taken for a ride.

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1. The remote access mobile application scam
Modus operandi

2. Trap for gullible insurance seekers
Modus operandi

3. Phishing SMS's promising income tax refund
Modus operandi.
4. Simpleto-crack passwords
Modus operandi
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1. Solutions to banking frauds?
2. Measures to reduce cheating in online exams?
3. Viability of admission exams?
4. Future of students after online classes and exams?

FEW LINKS TO RESEARCH

Note: Delegates should not bound their research to these few links!

https://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/educational-assessment/fourteen-simple-strategies-to-reduce-cheating-on-online-examinations/

https://thewire.in/education/not-providing-gadgets-internet-to-poor-students-for-online-classes-is-digital-apartheid-delhi-hc

http://www.scielo.org.za/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S2310-38332018000200004&lng=en&nrm=iso

https://fortune.com/2020/10/27/the-danger-of-digital-apartheid/

https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/delhi-hc-steps-in-to-bridge-digital-divide/article32644482.ece

ALL THE BEST!!!