Views on potential effects of automation technologies on segments on population in developing countries?

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Introduction

• Inequality or inclusivity are concepts that run across all if not most of the SDGs.
• Indeed enhancing inclusivity is the pathway through which transformation for all will be achieved towards sustainable development.
• Goal 10 speaks directly about reducing inequality within and among countries
• Goal 5 – achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
• To link inequality and/or inclusivity to emerging technologies or innovation – I propose doing this under Goal 9 which encompasses three important aspects of sustainable development: infrastructure, industrialization and innovation.

➢ Hence start to think about inclusive innovation in relation to development
The phrase "innovation" is generally used in two ways:
1. To refer to **the whole cycle from development of knowledge or a new idea to its widespread application in society** as in the term ‘the innovation cycle’ and;
2. To refer to **a specific stage** in this innovation cycle.

The different stages of the innovation cycle often involve very **different actors** and thus require **different competences** and **different forms of policy support**. Individual firms and countries can be strong in one component of the innovation cycle, and weak in others.
Innovation and exclusion/inclusion

• Exclusion of much of the world’s population from the fruits of economic growth is both relative (an unequal sharing of the gains) and absolute (outside of China, the numbers living globally in absolute poverty have remained stubbornly large).

• Whilst we have a broad understanding of the contribution of innovation to economic growth, our understanding of the contribution of innovation to exclusion is less understood.
  – We have very few studies that provide evidence about impact of innovation on socially disadvantaged segments of the society. Some evidence is suggesting that innovation has potential to enhance exclusion.

• Unless inclusivity is addressed, most innovation processes will often discriminate against the opportunities for certain social groups like women to participate in, and benefit from innovation processes (Crowden, 2003).
Inclusive innovation

A contentious concept:

- Cozzens and Sutz (2012) suggest that for development to be inclusive, the innovation that drives it has to be inclusive in two ways: inclusive in terms of the process by which it is achieved (participation) and inclusive in terms of the problems and the solutions it is related to (sharing of benefits accruing-products).
  - The “inclusion at process level is important because it relates to “innovation being inclusive if the excluded group is involved in the development of the innovation”.

- Foster and Heeks (2013:335) define inclusive innovation as “inclusion within some aspect of innovation, of groups who are currently marginalized”.

Innovation for the poor

- Innovation for the poor should focus on the needs of the global poor.
- Much of Innovation in a developing country context includes continuous improvement in product design and quality.
- Many of the changes which drive efficiency are informal - e.g. they include the activities of small scale entrepreneurs.
- Most of these innovation activities are under-recognised, and are generally falling “below the radar”.
- It is the below the radar nature of innovation (grassroots, social innovation etc) which meets the needs of the poor.
Innovation for the poor

- User Driven Innovation
- Below the Radar Innovation
- Social Technologies
Some reflections

So key questions to reflect on are:

– What are the key 'below the radar' issues which should be addressed in the innovation for inclusive pro-poor growth? – policy, competences and capacity issues, human capital & education curriculum etc

– What is the nature and significance of innovative activities in developing countries which are under-recognised by current input and output measures of innovative activity? – e.g. are existing metrics and indicators appropriate?

– To what extent are developing countries below the radar innovation geared to producing products for the poor and developing processes which incorporate the poor as producers – inclusive innovation?
Trade issues and governance of automotive technologies?

• Are there governance issues that might emerge? – e.g. genetic engineering technologies?

• How will the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) that sets down minimum standards for many forms of intellectual property (IP) play out?
  – Intellectual property rights, foreign direct investment and international trade:
  – Intellectual property rights, international technology transfer and domestic innovation;
  – Intellectual property rights and public health;
  – Intellectual property rights, genetic resources and traditional knowledge

• What is the role of values in development and ultimate use of these technologies?

How will the developing countries participate in the discussions/negotiations because these technologies will affect both developed and developing countries?
THANK YOU