Does the Internet need everybody?

Arjuna Sathiaseelan
N4D Lab, UCAM
Almost 60% of households remain unconnected to the Internet globally.

Developing regions are predominantly affected:

- World’s 49 least developed countries - only 5% of households online.

Many initiatives ongoing to improve access.

Developing regions are untapped markets -- have attracted several major industrial players.

Organisations like Facebook, Google have forayed into providing access infrastructures as well as zero/low cost connectivity.
Internet: The good, the bad and the ugly?

Good information vs bad information (radicalisation, child pornography, abuse, scam, spam)

On one side we talk of Internet has enhanced cultural homogenisation of the society- on the other cultural fragmentation: virtual groups of common interests

Opportunities to meet new relationships vs hurting direct offline relationships

Identity formation (better communication opportunities) vs SCAM

Better opportunities for businesses vs proliferation of illegal goods, killing local businesses
Bishop warns of 'evil internet'

Warning that technology could devour them

The internet has the potential to destroy society, the Archbishop of York has warned.

Archbishop David Hope said that computer "wizardry" was in danger of creating a "society without a soul".
Who should provide it?

Is Western influence harmful: to a society's fundamental social and human values

Would this be a mouthpiece for those who are in power and control?

Is it new age colonisation?
Do we need...

To change the way the technology is used in a social setting or context: particular policies or law that regulates the use of the Internet

To change the way the technology is understood or interpreted

Brings different social, cultural and **ethical** consequences

A **value-sensitive design** where the technological design is based on human values
Important to understand both the positive and negative consequences of the Internet to decide whether the Internet needs everybody
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