

## ABSTRACT

Internet is viewed as the most vital digital technology in the globe. Eastern Africa has the least penetration of ICT per capita in the world. Internet is a valuable resource that has propelled enormous economic growth in many developed countries. In order for East African governments to narrow the socio-economic divide between developed countries and themselves, there is need to overcome this digital handicap. Enormous investments in ICT infrastructure are essential. The governments must participate in making crucial decisions to wisely allocate the limited resources to improve the current infrastructure.

This thesis investigated Internet usage among politician, access and penetration in Eastern Africa.

The study revealed that the internet usage contributes to development by providing wide access to information on the region which promotes information sharing among the politicians and their constituents, facilitates policy and decision making on the integration process. However the internet usage was found to have constraining factors that affect its efficient and effective contribution towards EA development namely; Cost; Poor Academic and Research structures; High Illiteracy Levels; Poor Infrastructure; Expensive Bandwidth; Inefficient Traffic Routing and Few Internet Exchange Points among others.

The study thus concluded that the EA governments need to put in a lot of funds in ICT infrastructure to make it a priority in their agenda in order to bridge the digital divide not only between the developed and developing countries but also between the different sectors and areas in the region.

