

Assignment 1

INFO 6600: Tech for Underserved Communities

Due: September 15th, 2016 **BEFORE CLASS**.

This assignment is designed to make you think about the challenges of defining “success” in ICTD projects, particularly **academic** ICTD projects (like many of yours will be).

There are no right or wrong answers to these questions. I’m looking to see that you’ve thought deeply about the topic and engaged with the content.

In coming up with your answers, think about how it might affect you if your project were held to the standards/metrics/definitions that you come up with.

Both of the Agriculture use cases that we discussed today can be considered “success stories”.

- Digital Green led to successful non-profit, lots of support, funding, etc.
- Awaaz.de led to a spun-out, for-profit company that is doing well.

1. Based on your new found knowledge of ICTD 1.0 and 2.0, list and describe factors that you think led to the success of these projects (as opposed to failure). (6 points)

2. How do you think “success” should be defined for ICTD projects? (4 points)

3. What are some of the drawbacks or dangers associated with defining “success”? (4 points)

4. What metrics might be used to measure if a project is “successful”? How would these metrics they be measured? (6 points)

5. **When** can an ICTD project claim “success”? Discuss challenges associated with timing success in ICTD projects. (4 points)

6. The Digital Green paper was published in 2007 and the Avaaj Otalo paper in 2010. How do you think the “Agriculture + ICTD” space might have changed in the last 5-6 years? What topics have become obsolete? What new topics have arisen? (6 points)