

6

ICT and Society

This chapter will cover the following:

- Changes to the society brought about by Information Communication Technology.

6.1 Impact of ICT on society

The methods of teaching in our class has changed a lot. Today we saw a video during the science lesson. We also saw some photos related to the History lesson on a computer. I remember the lesson very well. Now, I love learning.

Yes, that is e learning. It is teaching using ICT and the Internet

ICT has brought about great changes everywhere in every field. Use of ICT has helped complete tasks more efficient and quickly. Let's look at some such services we get.

- Clearer explanation with pictures and video clips
- Collecting information through the Internet
- Dialogue and messaging with other schools
- The facility to learn anytime from anywhere

School e-learning



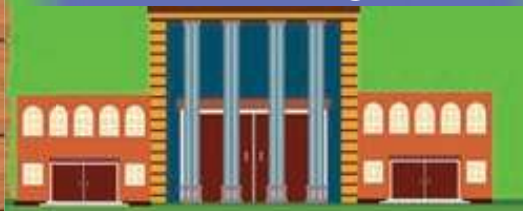
Hospital e-health



- Use of computer based modern equipment to diagnose illnesses
- Facility to store patient information to be used when necessary

- Bill payment
- Specimen forms, loan information
- Government Information Centre
- Ability to apply to State universities through the Internet
- To obtain circulars, legal services
- Information in Gazette
- The map of Sri Lanka

Public service - e-governance



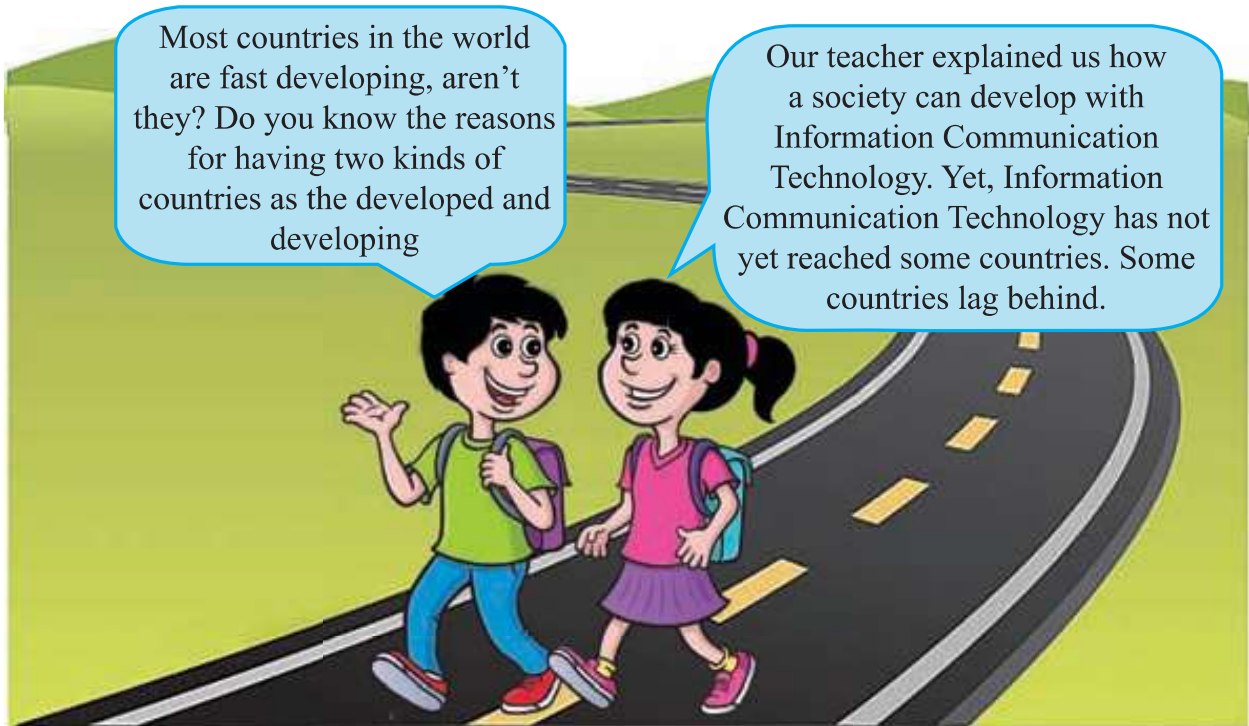
e-commerce



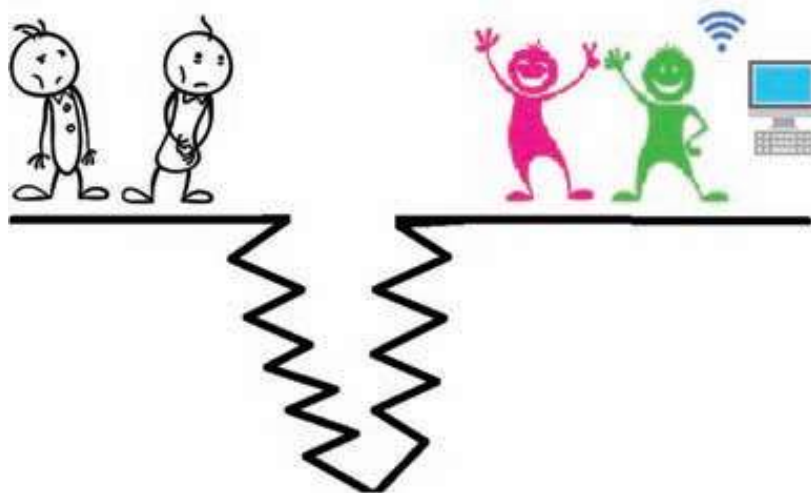
- Exchange of goods through the Internet
- Online shopping and purchasing



Refer to workbook for Activity 6.1.



Digital divide



Some societies in the world have ready access to computers and the Internet while some others do not. This gap between those who have and those who have not is known as the *digital divide*.



Refer to workbook for Activity 6.2.



Figure 6.1: e-waste

Toxic poisons released from e-waste likely to harm humans

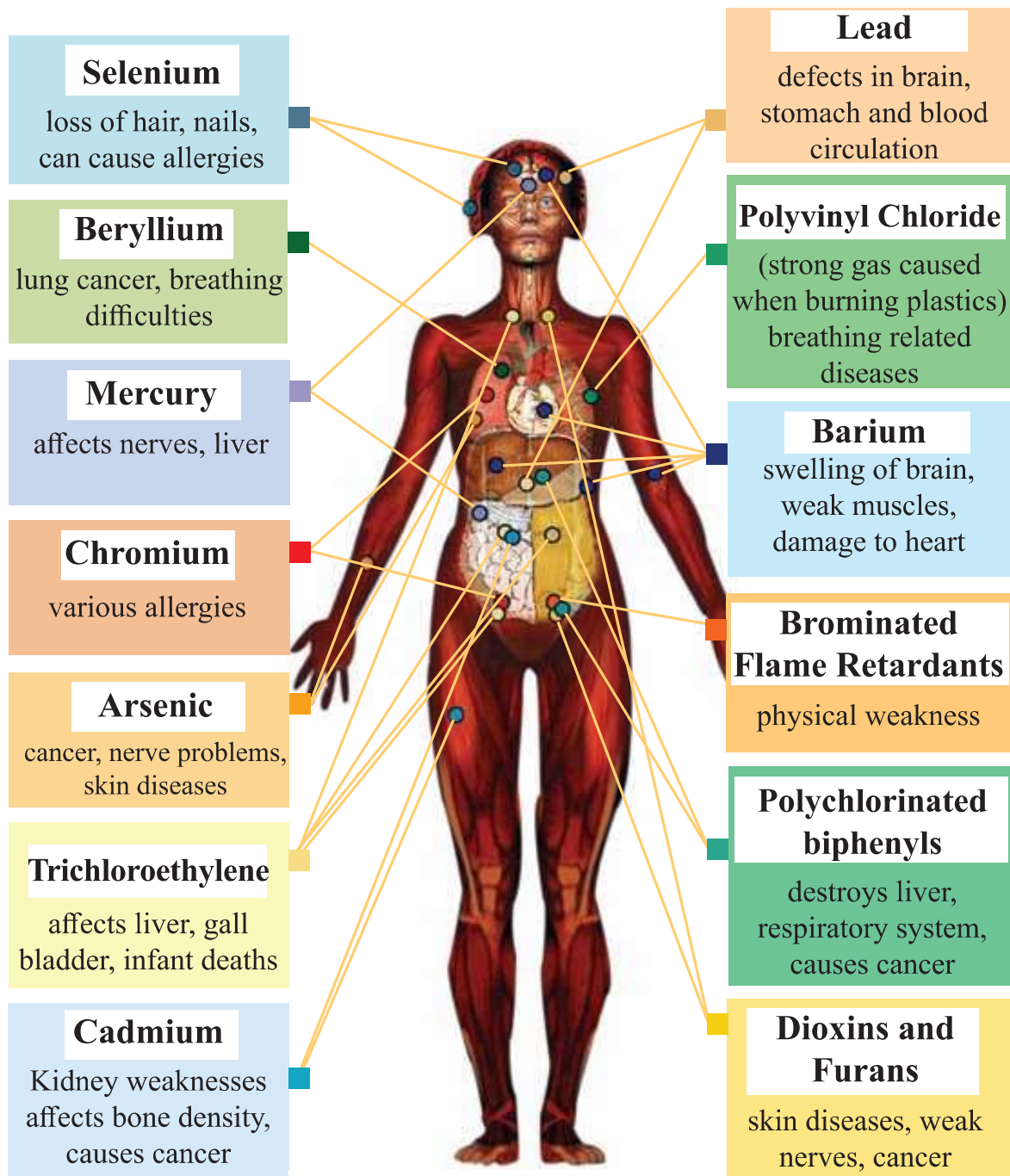
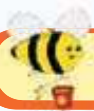


Figure 6.2 : Harmful effects of e-waste
Source: ewise.co.nz/the-impact-of-e-waste

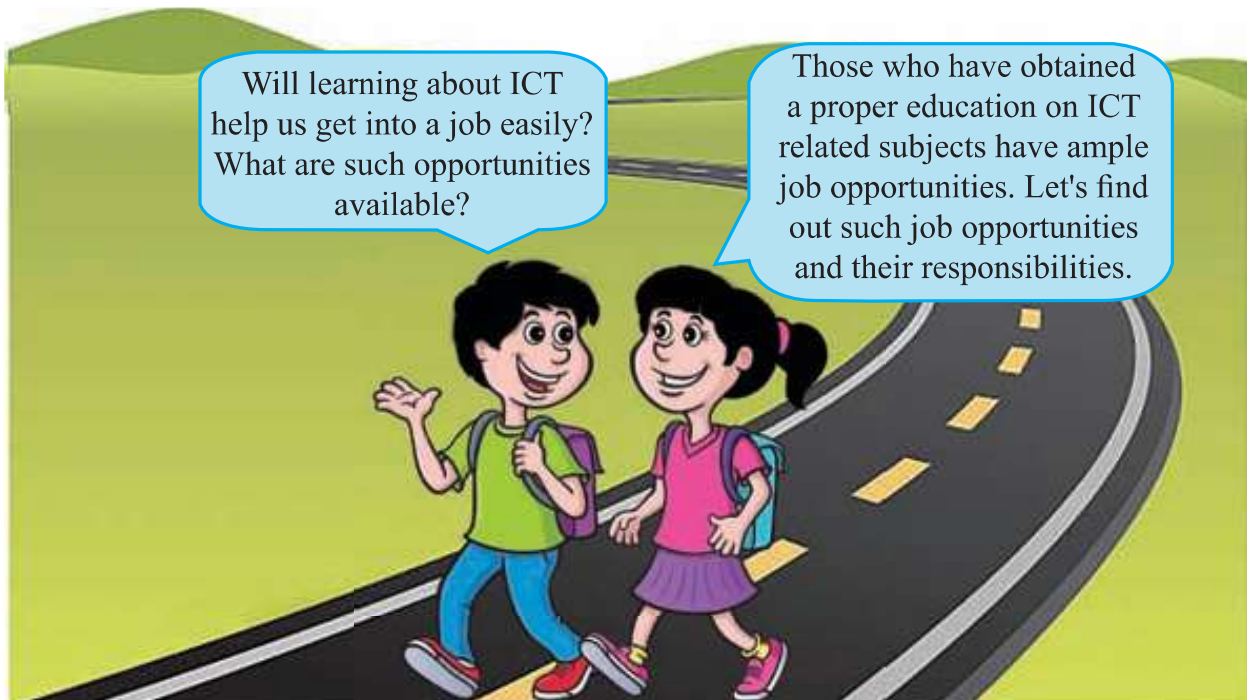
Minimizing e-waste through the 3R technique

- Minimize purchase or collection of unnecessary goods - **Reduce**
- Use again and again after repairing it wherever possible - **Reuse**
- Handover to suitable agencies for recycling purposes - **Recycle**



Refer to workbook for Activities 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5.

6.2 Computer related job opportunities



Software Quality Assurance Engineer

Carries out tasks to assure that the software functions properly

Database Administrator

Plans, installs configures and maintains databases

Software Engineer

Designs and develops software

Web Application Developer

Designs, develops and maintains websites

Software Architect

Designs the architecture of software, (Components and their interconnections)

Graphic Designer

Develops web pages, advertisements, magazines, banners using software

Programmer

Develops computer programs using programming languages

System Analyst

Analyses organizational needs and designs computer systems, coordinates development of software

Network Administrator

Installs, configures and maintains computer network

IT Consultant

Advises organizations on the matters related to information technology



Refer to workbook for Activities 6.6 and 6.7.

Summary

- The use of ICT in education, health services, commerce and the public service has resulted in increased efficiency.
- There is a "digital divide" between societies having and not having access to ICT sources.
- Improper disposal of e-waste is a threat to all living beings and environment.
- The 3R concept: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle can be used for proper disposal of e-waste.
- Many job opportunities are available in the field of ICT for qualified individuals.