

## The digital gap permeates the states located in the South of Mexico

In light of the technological backwardness found in Chiapas, we may infer that the penetration of computers in that state may be similar to the one in Mexico City by the year 2074, only if Mexico City does not grow during those 54 years: ENDUTIH

In issues related to the penetration of the internet in the country and the number of users, the lowest rates were observed in the states located in the South like Chiapas, Oaxaca, and Veracruz; according to the National Survey on Availability and Use of Technologies at Home (ENDUTIH) 2020, developed by the National Institute of Statistics, Geography, and Informatics (INEGI).

Meanwhile, among the states with the highest rates in the number of users we find Nuevo León, Mexico City, Baja California, and Sonora. In those states their inhabitants have more access to the internet.

It is a fact that the internet and telephony are useful tools in matters of mobility, and they are services that allow the communication among people, the communication flows faster, as well as the possibility to get information about what is happening in other communities and regions.

It is important to remember that in March 2019, the pandemic caused by COVID-19 forced the Mexican population to stay at home to prevent infections. Therefore, in-person education became online education, and the different jobs were adapted to home office,

but unfortunately the access to network services was not a possibility for all the Mexican families.

When the ENDUTIH was conducted, people were asked through phone calls or the internet due to the pandemic, and it was possible to know the perspective about the availability and access to information technology in the country.

In matters related to the availability of internet at home, we have observed that during the last decade there was a massive and quick acquisition of that service. The data revealed a remarkable increase considering that in 2010, 2 out of 10 families had that service at home; and in 2020 five out of each 10 had access to that service.

The states that grew the most between 2010 and 2020, analyzing the percentage of families with internet services were: Mexico City, Nuevo León, Querétaro, Aguascalientes, Nuevo León, Jalisco, Coahuila, and Baja California. On the other hand, the states with the highest levels of technological backwardness were (in descending order): Chiapas, Guerrero, Oaxaca, and Tabasco.



### SUMMARY

Congregación Mariana Trinitaria (CMT) promotes a program related to technology and connectivity to allow families living in vulnerable situations to have access to the internet and smartphones that might help them to study, work, or to be informed about the facts that occur beyond their communities.



## Fighting the digital gap in the country

It is evident that the rural areas in the country are the most affected areas while trying to get internet service and smartphones for several reasons like complicated geographic areas, difficult access to some communities, popular companies unable to provide network coverage in those areas; which represents a severe inequality for thousands of people.

In order to face that problem, Congregación Mariana Trinitaria (CMT) developed a

program to promote the penetration of technology and connectivity, which was aimed for the most vulnerable families in the country. This way, they will be able to have access to internet service and telephone networks, they may get direct subsidies to get computers, tablets, smartphones, and laptops. After those actions, the students will be able to get access to online education, people will be able to start their own businesses, and all the people will be able to improve their abilities to get connected and to have digital contact.

### National Survey on Availability and Use of Technologies at Home (ENDUTIH)

If the situation follows the tendency of the last decade, Chiapas would get the same level of penetration of computers at home than Mexico City in 2074, only if Mexico City does not grow during those 54 years.



Last year, INEGI estimated a number of 84.1 million internet users, which represents 72 percent of the population older than 6. Additionally, it was detected that in urban areas 78.3 percent of the population are active in-

ternet users, while in rural areas we only find 50.4 percent, without considering the differences between the quality of the service.

