

# Osama Manzar

Osama Manzar is a convert social entrepreneur spearheading the mission to overcome the information barrier between India's rural sector and the so-called developed society, through Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) — the not-for-profit organization founded to accomplish the mission; <http://www.defindia.net>.

Osama has been British Chevening Fellow in 2002 and recently in 2011 he was invited by US State Department for the "International Visitors Leadership Program".

He just released his 4<sup>th</sup> Book called "**NetCh@kra: 15 Years of Internet in India**" <http://netchakra.net>. His other titles are: "**e-Content: Voices from the Ground**" (<http://www.econtentworldwide.org>); "**Internet Economy of India**"; "**India's Best e-Contents**", and "**Development & Digital Inclusion**".

He is a Member, Working Group, Internet Governance Forum of Ministry of Communication & IT and was a Member, Task Force on Growth of IT, ITES & Electronics HW Manufacturing Industry, Ministry of Comm & IT, India.

He has recently initiated a regional movement on "How Mobile can Empower Masses" through mBillionth Award South Asia, recognising and mentoring Mobile Content, Application & Services; <http://mbillionth.in>.

In 2003 he launched India's first ever award for choosing the best e-content practices in India and South Asia. Osama is the Chairman of the Manthan Award South Asia for "Digital Inclusion for Development"; <http://www.manthanaward.org>. Manthan Award has accumulated more than 2500 best e-content practices in its nomination bank from India and other south Asian countries.

Manzar is e-Content Expert for India for World Summit Award (WSA), Grand Jury Member and member of Board of Directors; <http://www.wsis-award.org>; In addition, Manzar has been Jury Anchor for the Dataquest e-Gov Champion Award, India, and for Bahrain e-Content Award, Sri Lanka's e-Content Award & Bangladesh e-Content & ICTD Award.

He has been a part of the Professional Social Entrepreneurship Program by Social-Impact International; <http://www.social-impact.org>. He has worked through Computerworld as assistant editor, head of Interactive Media Division of Hindustan Times and started a software company 4Cplus, for media publishers and quit the same to start off DEF in 2003.

He is a physics graduate and post-graduate diploma in Journalism.

Osama has a credit of covering at least 200 ICTD case studies in India and South Asia, has traveled more than 1000s of villages in India and South Asia, including 25 countries. Osama is fluent in English, Urdu, Hindi and read and write Arabic and Persian.

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Some of the works of DEF could be seen at: <http://manthanaward.org>; <http://mbillionth.in>; <http://digitalknowledgecenter.in>; <http://pirengo.org>; <http://internetrights.in>; <http://citizenmedianetwork.org>; <http://greenp.engo.in>; <http://gyanpedia.in>; <http://neerjaal.org>; <http://engo.in>; <http://epanchayat.in>; <http://emsme.in>; <http://wforc.in>;