

Annual Activity Report

April 2009 – March 2010

By

Digital Empowerment Foundation

E m p o w e r i n g P e o p l e

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T h e E d g e o f I n f o r m a t i o n

through

information, knowledge, research, investigation, activism, evangelism,
consultancy, auditing, outreach, humane talk

**DIGITAL
EMPOWERMENT
FOUNDATION**

ABOUT DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION (DEF)

Digital Empowerment Foundation, a Delhi based not-for-profit organization, registered under Societies Act XXI of 1860 in 2002, working at grassroots of India to create economic and commercial viability using means of Information, Communication and Technology (ICT).

Since its inception in December 2002, Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) has engaged itself into number of activities while pursuing its mission and objectives of ICT delivery and promotion in India. One of its focus areas of intervention had been development, promotion, spread and usage of content for grassroots use and consumption.

ACTIVITY PROGRAMMES 2009 - 2010

Following are some of the major activities of Digital Empowerment Foundation in the year 2009 – 2010:

Digital Panchayat Programme (www.epanchayat.in)

Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) initiated the project in 2008 in order to empower the bottom-most governance unit of the governance body and also empower rural and grassroot level communities by utilizing the power of ICT tools and digital media, found it necessary to tap panchayats and equip them with ICT and Internet tools to create a virtual presence and identity. At an initial stage, DEF covered 100 panchayats of Kolhapur district in the state of Maharashtra. The objective of this project is to set an example to the government in bringing transparency and accountability at village level besides building capacity for ICT.



After a successful implementation of 100 panchayats in Maharashtra, DEF took the project at a national level and currently implementing the project in 500 panchayats, covering 15 states (including Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Assam, Meghalaya, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, J&K, and Maharashtra) of the country.

eNGO (www.engo.in)

DEF along with National Internet Exchange of India (NiXi), Dept. of IT initiated a project eNGO to provide web presence in various local languages to increase their visibility and presence across the globe and help NGOs reach out to its maximum stakeholders beyond its immediate community. The eNGO programme facilitates and enhances grassroots organization in daily activities through the medium of web portal service for communication & outreach, fund raising, partnerships & direct linking with institutions, human resource support, giving voice to local issues, information exchange platform and most of all showcasing their local content for global outreach & networking.



Currently, DEF is implementing the national pilot project with the support from NiXi in 500 NGOs. Under this programme, DEF provided web enabled platform in domain name .IN and a cost effective webpage with customized service package. DEF also provided training & capacity building NGO resource persons in IT skills & management on multimedia tools to maintain their sites.

Digital Knowledge Centre (DKC)

Digital Knowledge Centre is a joint initiative of DEF and National Internet Exchange of India (Dept. of IT, Govt. of India). DKC project is a national repository system of best digital content for development interventions in audio-visual texts and images format as many intervening areas as feasible. It is digital reference platforms for best ICT content replication, deployment - and act as a knowledge, research, governance, digital library to share and spread knowledge between networking communities. These ICT applications, case studies and reports include in areas of Community Broadcasting, e-Business, e-Culture & Entertainment, e-Education, e-Enterprise & Livelihood, e-Government, e-Health, e-Learning, e-Localization, e-News, e-Science & Environment, m-Content and any other content applications having development impact.

DKC aims at sustaining an environment of ICT applications carrying information to reach billions of population who could use the knowledge for inclusive growth and building community strength. Under this project, DEF will create 150-200 audio visual documents representing ICT applications, best practices from India and South Asian countries. Currently DEF has created 50 audio-visual documentaries.

eMSME (<http://emsme.in>)

DEF initiated national level project, called eMSME programme with a support from the National Internet Exchange of India (NiXi) in order to enable the smallest sector of enterprises by providing them web-enabled presence and platform.

This programme offers a web platform powered by internet along with in any vernacular language or in English, along with unique domain .in and value personalized email addition. The eMSME websites are easy to maintain, operate and upload as many information as required.

South Asia Internet for Development

DEF organized a daylong International Programme, entitled “Towards an Enabling Internet Access Environment”, supported by the Internet Society (ISOC) on September 2009 in New Delhi. ISOC is a global Internet for Development Agency based in Washington.

The conference, part of the Internet Society's INET series of regional conferences, was focused on “An Enabling Internet Access Environment in South Asia with a critical focus on Inclusive Development through the Internet”.

The Conference discussed on issues in creating and sustaining an enabling Internet access, environment, including Internet for development through accessibility, inclusion and growth, multi-stakeholder participation, online content and local languages, and strategies to ensure the continued growth and evolution of the User Centric Internet through appropriate and consultative policy action.

INET Delhi 2009 culminated in a panel discussion deliberating the next steps required to further escalate Internet outreach in the region to fulfill socio-economic development objectives.

Chanderi Weavers ICT Resource Centre (CWICTRC) --- (<http://chanderiyaan.net>)

DEF ideated a cluster based project in Chanderi in order to empower weaver's community of the region by facilitating them with various ICT services, including skill development and capacity building training. The project initiated with a support from the Department of Information Technology, Govt. of India.



DEF has ideated this programme and currently implementing it in Chanderi in Madhya Pradesh province in India. This resource centre is facilitating various ICT services to local weaving community including skill development and capacity building training. DEF conceptualized the project in collaboration with Media Lab Asia. This project is now also supported by Department of Information Technology, Govt. of India.

The objective of the Chanderi Weavers ICT Resource Centre (CWICTRC) is to provide technical education to the textile weavers of Chanderi. It endeavors to provide alternative options of livelihood through ICT based empowerment. This initiative, collectively called 'Chanderiyaan' aims at fostering community based development and empowerment through the Chanderi Integrated ICT for Development Program (CIIDP). It has enabled multi-pronged integrated digital development of Chanderi by creating a digital ecosystem of the town. The program is all embracing, incorporating Social entrepreneurship, Healthcare, Education and Tourism and integrating it with the socio – economic and historical fabric of Chanderi.

Wireless for Communities (WforC) -- (<http://wforc.in>)

Aligning with its mission to create an order of economic and knowledge empowerment of the people living at the edge of information and economy through the use of ICT and Digital Media, DEF initiated a project called, 'Wireless for Communities' with a support from the Internet Society (ISOC). The project aims to provide a holistic, community-empowered approach to connecting rural communities to the Internet. The motivation for the W4C project by ISOC and DEF is twofold. One is to totally democratize the availability of connectivity and enable access to information at the will of citizens outside urban centres – and remote rural areas in particular; second is to address the lack of content, product and services originating from rural areas which affects the economy from percolating to the bottom of the pyramid.



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Through this project, DEF trained local communities to operate wireless technology and deployment of the same for rural connections linking to Internet. The project will aim at three components

- Training the trainers for technological knowhow
- Deployed wireless technology across rural post
- An open forum to discuss best practices, lessons learnt, to educate on issues from both a technical and policy perspective

DEF, currently, has successfully deployed the wireless mesh networks at Chanderi (Madhya Pradesh) and Sonapur (Assam) and provided training programmes to the community.

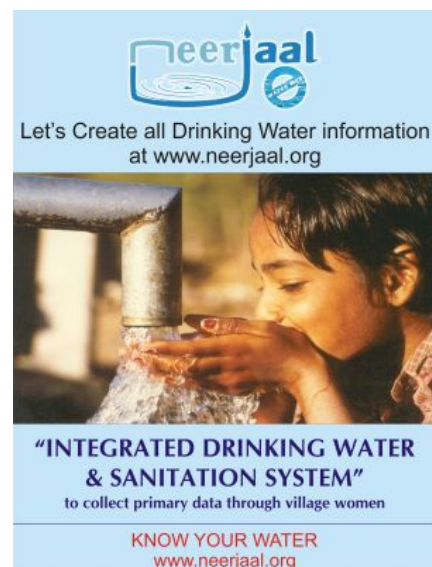
Tura Internet & Services Centre (TISC)

TISC is an initiative of DEF with a support from National Internet Exchange of India and Member of Parliament of Tura district to enable a multi-pronged integrated development of TURA with support of Information Communication Technology tools including Internet, Mobile, Wireless and Digital Media to help the local Youth, Women and People to seek and exploit education, livelihood, vocation, and linkages to the economic opportunities. This is an effort to contribute to already running development and growth programmes and complement the roles played by stakeholders. It is visioned that such an institutional programme can work towards a sustainable model and could mean a lot to the people in terms of inclusive development and empowerment.

The project will enable local communities with educational programmes, skill development & entrepreneurship, promotion of cultural and natural tourism, women empowerment, and livelihood opportunities with support of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) and non-ICTs.

Neerjaal (www.neerjaal.org)

The concept of Neerjaal was originally conceived by the Global Rainwater Harvesting Collective (GRWHC), Barefoot College in Tilonia Rajasthan. GRWHC, under its flagship activities of Barefoot College, has been collecting and managing information regarding various linkages of Water in the desert of Rajasthan, especially in and around Tilonia village near Kishangarh. DEF joined GRWHC's Neerjaal project and took it at a national level by developing the entire concept to implement at the national level, where the water sources, water bodies, water consumption, water usage, water harvesting, and water shortages and needs could be mapped and put on an interactive platform.



The long term vision of Neerjaal is to allow each and every villagers and villages to put their water data on the public domain, and gradually with as the help of people and universal contribution, we gather widespread data related to water in India. The project uses the following resources to address this issue:

- Use of ICT tools especially PCs and Intranet allowed local communities to keep record of amount of water available from each of the water resource base in target communities; Keeping record of water quality testing; Recording the maintenance required in ground water management and listing out activity priorities in the management process.
- Providing information to the users about the demand-supply chain of water resources and how much the water demand is being met from various water resource bases.
- Facilitating in water resource management and planning through usage of available data.
- Creating a web-based platform with user-generated content on availability and quality of water resources available in users' local areas; Ready-to-use online reports for water resource management administrators, action agencies and users at large

Manthan Award 2010 (<http://www.manthanaward.org>)

Manthan Award is a first of its kind initiative in India to recognize the best practices in e-Content and Creativity. DEF kicked off Manthan Award in 2004, and since every year DEF organizes the Award to recognize the best e-Content in for development arena in India.

Manthan Awards is institutionalised to identity digital innovations in grassroots levels and help them facilitate them and support them for meeting the developmental goals of india. In the last 9 years it has identified more than 4000 innovations and helped them in achieving their goals in poverty alleviation and also aided the goal of the govt. At both state and central level. The sector that it has been able to benefit are governance, agriculture, health, entrepreneurship, micro and small enterprises, local languages, culture and heritage and many poverty alleviation related social factors.





WE CONGRATULATE ALL THE WINNERS!

The Manthan Award

Digital Inclusion for Development South Asia 2010

AGRICULTURE & LIVELIHOOD: 03

- >> HML Direct, INDIA
- >> Transparent Targeted Public Distribution System, INDIA
- >> e-Krishi, INDIA

BUSINESS & ENTERPRISE: 03

- >> Tothyo Tori, BANGLADESH
- >> mami.com.bd, BANGLADESH
- >> Nepal Wireless, NEPAL

CULTURE & HERITAGE: 02

- >> Aporu, INDIA
- >> Punjab Digital Library, INDIA

EDUCATION: 03

- >> Implementation of Computerized Learning in 244 Schools in Bihar under BIP, INDIA
- >> School Report Card under DISE, INDIA
- >> Guruj, INDIA

ENTERTAINMENT: 01

- >> ABA, SRI LANKA
- >> Spiel Studios, INDIA

ENVIRONMENT: 03

- >> Cell Phone based Early Warning Disseminator, BANGLADESH
- >> Ship-breaking in Bangladesh, BANGLADESH
- >> Digital Green Project, INDIA

GOVERNANCE: 03

- >> Sri Lanka GovSMS Portal, SRI LANKA
- >> Akahtaya, INDIA
- >> AutoDR (Automax Building Plan-Scanning System), INDIA

LEARNING: 03

- >> N-UST (National Library and Information Service Infrastructure for Scholarly Content), INDIA
- >> www.garitgurukul.com, INDIA
- >> MKCCS Digital Schools, INDIA

LOCALIZATION: 03

- >> Project Bhasha, INDIA
- >> Sreyasdotnet, SRI LANKA
- >> Ceylonmap.com, SRI LANKA

HEALTH: 03

- >> Tripara Walkin Centre, INDIA
- >> PathReports, INDIA

NEWS & MEDIA: 03

- >> Neuron Newsvroom Management System, PAKISTAN
- >> Village Voice, INDIA
- >> Ada Denara, SRI LANKA

INCLUSION: 03

- >> Affordable Indigenous Assistive Technologies for People with Disabilities, INDIA
- >> FINO Technology Solutions, INDIA
- >> Ability, INDIA

TRAVEL & TOURISM: 02

- >> AWATAR (Any Time Any Where Advance Reservation System), INDIA
- >> SALA ProSat GPS Navigator, SRI LANKA

COMMUNITY BROADCASTING: 02

- >> Adult Education Through Radio, INDIA
- >> Radio Ace Community Radio, INDIA

MOST INNOVATIVE NOMINATION: 01

- >> Guruj, INDIA

JUDGES' DISTINCTIONS: 03

- >> Women Abroad Videoblogging for Empowerment (WAVE), INDIA
- >> Digital Care Procurement System (e-Purjo), BANGLADESH
- >> Save The Baby Girl, INDIA

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For more details, please log on www.manthanaward.org

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