

Activity Report

April 2011– 2012



Empowering People



The Edge of Information

through

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

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).

ACTIVITY PROGRAMMES DURING 2011-2012

Digital Panchayat Programme (www.epanchayat.in)

Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) initiated the project in 2008 in order empower the bottom-most governance unit by utilizing the power of ICT tools and digital media, and create a virtual presence and identity. At the end of March 2012, DEF covered 500 panchayats across 15 States. A highlight of DP is Digital Panchayat Centre or Kendra as holistic ICT resource person for Panchayat stakeholders.



eNGO (www.engo.in)

DEF along with National Internet Exchange of India (NiXi), Dept. of IT initiated a project eNGO to develop ICT skills among grassroots NGO functionaries and provide web presence in various local languages to increase their visibility and presence to reach out to its maximum stakeholders beyond its immediate community. This project has been extended with PIR. So far more than 500 NGOs have been impacted across the country.



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 practices for development interventions in audio-visual texts and images format as many intervening areas as feasible. Under this project, DEF has created 100 + audio visual documents representing ICT applications, best practices from India and South Asian countries. <http://digitalknowledgecentre.in/>



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. The eMSME services offers opportunity to earn networking base and to be visible at national and global markets for outreach and to reap economy. The project has covered 50+ MSMEs in 5 States.



Green Prakriya Project (<http://greenp.engo.in/>)

Green Prakriya is a DEF's Initiative to create a multi-stakeholder eco-web that would act as a compendium of Green ICT knowledge base for practitioners, policy advocates, policy makers, researchers, professionals, students and the masses. With a regard to build an eco-web resources, DEF undertook the India ICT for Environment Mapping Study with support from Association for Progressive Communications (APC).

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. In its latest phase the project has covered major locations and made them wifi enabled and provide access and connectivity connecting schools, entrepreneurs, NGOs, public agencies. The project has benefitted more than 1000 weavers, families, youth and children.



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

DEF initiated the 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.



Through this project, DEF trained local communities to operate wireless technology and deployment of the same for rural connections linking to Internet. DEF has successfully deployed the wireless mesh networks at Chanderi (Madhya Pradesh), Baran (Rajasthan), and Tehri in Uttarakhand.

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. The project has covered 500 children & youth, 25 NGOs, 15 MSMEs, and 40 schools.



Community Information Resource Centres (CIRCS)

Through this programme, DEF has approached with the objective to set up ICT enabled Community Information Resource Centres. Currently, the project is being run in Ranchi, Jharkhand, Sonapur in Assam, Baran in Rajasthan, Panisagar in Tripura.

ICTD Publication - NetCh@kra

DEF published the book, NetCh@kra '15 Years of Internet in India', recognizing the potential of India as one of the largest Internet markets in the world and has a unique mix of digital excellence along with digital divide. The book has been published with a support from the National Exchange of India (NiXi) and VeriSign.



mBillionth Award (www.mbillionth.in)

In 2010, DEF launched the first edition of the mBillionth International Summit to felicitate innovative mobile applications and innovations in India and South Asia. The objective is to bring together mobile technology experts, practitioners, business leaders and stakeholders of the region onto one platform, through keynote addresses, paper presentations, thematic workshops and exhibitions. More than 100 practitioners and innovators were impacted by this platform.



Manthan Award (<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 and South Asia. The 8th edition was held in 2011-12.



Mobiles for Good Programme

DEF in association with Vodafone Foundation initiate this programme to support, nurture, and handhold innovative mobile based community initiatives to empower citizens. In 2011-2012, a total of 5 projects have been provided support with grant fund and technical support in both Mobiles for Good and Women in Innovation in Mobiles programme components.

