

Connecting the Disconnected: Minority Cyber Gram Yojana

While development indices are rapidly increasing in India, the growth of backward sections of Muslim minorities is very stagnant in the country. In this highly competitive world where it is important to be well educated to lead a comfortable living, a high percentage of people from the Muslim community lag behind due to lack of opportunities. According to Sachar Committee report, 25 percent children from minorities ranging between the age group 6 to 14 either do not go to school or dropout.

Although there are some schemes, which are being run by the Government to facilitate the community, the main problem is that there is no mechanism, which helps, in creating awareness regarding these programmes. In some cases, where people are aware they still do not know anything more than the fact that such programme exists. Looking at the abysmal situation of the community, Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) and Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India launched The Minority Cyber Gram Yojana. The minister for Minority Affairs, K Rehman Khan inaugurated the country's first Minority Cyber Village in Chandauli in Alwar district, Rajasthan on 19th February 2014.

On 28th March 2014, Digital Empowerment Foundation conducted a workshop for women in the area. 70-80 women attended the workshop. Using ICT tools they were informed about various other schemes run by the Government of India in the field of health, education and livelihood. Special concentration was given on health issues. A breast cancer survivor educated and informed women about symptoms and cure of the illness.

Digital Empowerment foundation along with Ministry of Minority Affairs is constantly making efforts to raise the standard of living of people in the area. Using ICT tools they are trying to connect the village to the rest of the world so that they are able to walk hand in hand with the developing global scenario.