

### **Digital Empowerment Foundation and Google All Set to Encourage Internet Safety In Assam**

In order to raise awareness about online safety, Google India initiated a nationwide campaign, 'Good to Know'. The campaign focuses at ensuring that Internet users act as responsible digital citizens. As part of campaign, Google India and DEF have initiated a nationwide programme, 'Digital Literacy, Safety & Security'. It aims at imparting digital literacy in order to ensure user protection and promote ways and means for users to stay safe online. It works towards advocating digital security and privacy needs through 'Digital Literacy, Safety & Security' workshops in different states of India. The first level of Training of Trainers' (ToT), on 'Internet Safety' was organized on 13th Feb 2013 at Sanskriti Foundation, New Delhi. Through this training programme we looked at creating grassroots-level of trainers who can now impart their understanding of online safety to their peers.

The second phase of the campaign is now set to roll. The first 'Digital Literacy Safety and Security' workshop was organised in ADP College, Nagaon district of Assam on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014. Around 120 representatives from student community, teachers, professors, civil society workers, entrepreneurship groups etc. participated in the workshop. 21 professors and assistant professors, 6 Government school teachers, 7 NGO members, 3 Entrepreneurs, 4 Reporters and 45 students participated in the workshop.

The main objective of this workshop was to train people and make them aware about staying safe online in digital world. The people who have already been trained as a part of Google's Training for Trainers Programme trained the people in this workshop.

It is fascinating that the power of Internet is not only limited to the literates and elites but is also catching the fancy of illiterate and ordinary rural Indians. The people at grassroots are welcoming newly discovered power of Internet and trying to explore the medium as much as they can irrespective of their literacy levels, age, gender etc. The emergence of Internet has set to motion a dynamic process, which has the potential to bring an extra ordinary change in our society. Through this medium we are trying to support the rural Indians to walk towards a more informed, empowered and connected future.