SMART SOLUTIONS for SMART COMMUNITIES
Smart Solutions for Smart Communities
Enabling the Enablers

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Civil society groups and non-governmental organisations are playing a vital role in the society and contributing towards nuanced nation building. Many smaller NGOs used to struggle due of lack of resources and funds. However, identifying resolution was hard in the face of limited access to information and snail pace communication.

Digital Revolution in the last decade has changed most of this. Being digital has ceased to be a luxury; in fact it has become a dire necessity. Not having access to Internet translates to information poverty and lack of resources—whereas, Digital encapsulates growth, wider network, resources, funds and dynamic outreach. Any organisation, not in a position to take advantage of the digital ecosystem will do so at its own peril. In fact, they are even investing in training and infrastructure to bring them up to speed with latest technology.

Advancements in Social Media, Instant Messaging platforms and AI driven dynamic websites—have heralded an era of digital entrepreneurship. Civil groups and NGOs are represented by tech savvy individuals who have blurred the lines between a social worker and an innovator/entrepreneur. They prove their credibility through research and well-analysed data to seek funds and use social media effectively to share stories and build support. Their website is a visual catalogue of outcomes and impacts as a result of engaging with communities over the years.

The biggest contribution of Digital Age is in democratisation of the systems, which were plagued by politics, corruption and partisanship earlier. The process of seeking resources and funds for social development has truly been liberated. Impact investment—which measures social impact alongside financial return, is impossible without digital integration. Crowdsourcing and crowdfunding leveraging technology has facilitated unprecedented ease in voluntarism and fundraising.

Internet has truly turned our world into a global village, where human pain and struggle finds expression and voice beyond territorial limitation.

The finalists of this year’s eNGO Challenge Awards—honours some of the exemplary social organisations, which are protecting not just human rights, but also digital rights.
Those born before the 90s, witnessed the advent of digital technology and its extraordinary transformative power post 2000. To quote Sir Arthur C. Clarke, “Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.”

Of all technologies that the humans have invested in, the power of digital technology is sheer magic. It has changed lives by improving governance, business practices, healthcare especially in terms of accuracy and precision. It has brought the world to our doorstep. Digital learning platforms have caught the imagination of old and young alike, irrespective of social, economic or cultural background.

Many NGOs now use the digital learning platforms, for its interactive features, high quality standardized e-learning content, designed by experts. The content and pace of learning can be contextualized and customized, allowing each learner the opportunity to learn as per their time & need. CHILDREN, an NGO, working in Delhi has effectively integrated e-learning in the tutoring program, as a pilot, which has increased interest level and enhanced proficiency of the children in mathematics, languages and science.

They are currently working with over 6500 underprivileged children and youth in Bawana and Shahbad Dairy communities in North West District in Delhi to improve lives via participation in specially designed holistic, age appropriate programs in health, education, and empowerment. Their 8 Learning Resource Centers (LRCs) are addressing learning needs of 1100 children. A multi-grade tutoring system is followed, wherein school children attending different grades i.e. 1 to 5 grades, and 6 to 8 grades are grouped as per their learning levels.

These children attend both formal schools and specially designed sessions at the LRCs 4 days a week.

The teachers, prepare worksheets as per the session plan and download relevant videos and content designed by experts based on CBSE curriculum and National Curriculum Framework. The students of grades 1-5 watch videos of the lessons on the LEDs screens and the older children of grades 6-8 work on independent computers and also complete their worksheets.

A student quotes, “E-learning sessions are most useful for us, these picture based sessions give us more concept clarity. I enjoy e-learning session because topics are taught in an interesting way.”

Children enjoy the learning experience and the teachers become both facilitator and guide. Based on the feedback from the LRC students and the concurrent and post assessments, the e-learning experiment is proving to be a good means for enhancing interest and conceptual clarity in science, mathematics and language, besides increasing retention and ability to share the learning with others, which in a way validates the universal experiences of the students from schools, where e-learning is a part of the teaching.

CHILDREN will also like to further innovate the program and replicate this concept in an informal education system and school program.
The world is now a global village, thanks to the development of digital space in all the major economies. The digital eco-system is guided by the collective knowledge and application, to bring about advanced techniques and skills to develop efficient & effective processes. Technology helps evolve ideas & innovations and has been instrumental in improving efficiency all over the globe. The last decade witnessed, improved living conditions across all social classes. People below the poverty line now own smartphones and access internet. The use of popular social media platforms like Facebook, Whatsapp, etc. is rampant.

The IT sector depends a lot on research, development and distribution of innovative products and services. All IT based businesses revolve around the manufacturing of electronics, development of new software, computers or products and services relating to IT. They offer a wide range of products and services for both customers and other businesses. Consumer products like personal computers, mobile devices, wearable tech, home appliances and televisions are continually improving. Improving technology paves way for efficient businesses by using varied software to manage their logistics systems, database protection, and generally provide crucial information and services that allow companies to make strategic business decisions.

The IT sector is the most attractive investment landscape. Companies like Apple, Google, Amazon, Facebook, Netflix, IBM, and Microsoft, drive growth and their long-term potential makes them lucrative for traders. They tend to create effortless buzz by launching original and innovative businesses. Digital tools are making use of the internet like mobile devices, social media, search engines, and other channels to reach consumers. Some market experts consider digital tools an endeavor that requires a new approach towards customers and understanding their behavior compared to traditionally set patterns. Digital tools are interactive and easier to use. Digital advertisements are now a preferred form of media, which includes search result ads, mailers and paid promotions which provides customer feedback and a two-way interaction between the company and customer.

NGOs can leverage and anchor this technological advancement in their favour.

All organisations should have online presence. This can help them get recognition and increase the flow of donations and help spread word about the mission and vision of the organisations.

It also helps reach larger and, in some cases, targeted audiences. NGOs primarily works towards socio-economic empowerment of communities. Propagating their initiatives on popular social media platforms can help in connecting them with the masses and help increase public participation. Last but not the least, showcasing the achievements and growth of beneficiaries through these platforms creates a level of transparency which helps an organisation gain public trust & help find volunteers and funders for the projects. Hence, adopting digital tools is a definite plus for all sectors especially the non-profits.
It is high time that no one is left behind, in the current interconnected world, we have to help the elderly to learn and reap the benefits of the digital era. In India, there are 106 million elderly of which 98% of them do not use mobile phones or internet. Even Government of India has not included them in the new Digital India program. We are starting to believe that discrimination on the basis of age is becoming a common practice in India and now also extends to the digital world.

In 2004, the Tsunami affected lakhs of people on the coast of Tamil Nadu. Helpage realises that the best way to rehabilitate the elderly is by organising elders into self-help groups around the coast of Cuddalore and Nagapattinam. These groups of elders have created institutions and federated them as district level federations and formed a state level federation called Elders for Elders. It has become a movement for financial inclusion. Their Chairman is Valliammal from the fishing community in Nagapattinam and the district Federation is chaired by Vishalakshi, with support from Digital Empowerment Foundation, HelpAge India and EFE have created Digital empowerment centers for the elderly. Today, older people from these communities are building centres across the state. Fishing communities are using these digital resources, so that the natural disaster warnings and future catastrophic events can be prevented or at least can be prepared for. Elders are leading the way to enable the SDG vision of leaving no one behind.
Nomination STATISTICS

- Received Entries: 439
- Valid Nominations: 159
- Finalists: 62
- Winners: 17
- Special Mentions: 03
- Chairperson’s Distinction: 05
COUNTRY-WISE NOMINATIONS

- India: 145
- Nepal: 02
- Pakistan: 04
- Bangladesh: 03
- Bhutan: 01
- Afghanistan: 03
- Maldives: 01

COUNTRY WISE SHORTLISTED

- India: 57
- Pakistan: 02
- Bangladesh: 01
- Bhutan: 01
- Afghanistan: 01

Total nominations: 159
Total shortlisted: 62
 CATEGORY WISE WINNER

- Governance & Livelihood 02
- Education & Learning 02
- Heritage & Culture 03
- Entrepreneurship & Outreach 02
- Healthcare & Wellness 03
- Enablement & Empowerment 03
- Environment & Sustainability 02

 CATEGORY WISE SPECIAL MENTION

- Education & Learning 01
- Heritage & Culture 01
- Enablement & Empowerment 01

 CATEGORY WISE CHAIRPERSON’S DISTINCTION

- Governance & Livelihood 01
- Education & Learning 03
- Entrepreneurship & Outreach 01
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THE eNGO CHALLENGE Awards SOUTH ASIA
WINNERS

Governance & Livelihood- 02
- Citizens for Justice and Peace - India
- Mera Vote Mera Desh - India

Education & Learning - 02
- Smart Classes in KGBV - India
- Digital Accessible Information System - India

Heritage & Culture- 03
- Kalapuri - India
- The Oral History Project - Pakistan
- Purani Dilli Walo ki Baatein - India

Entrepreneurship & Outreach- 02
- Bithoor Shakti - India
- Tisser Artisan Trust - India

Healthcare & Wellness- 03
- Virtual Intervention Drop-in Center - India
- Alliance of Health Organisations - Afghanistan
- Vision Rehabilitation Programme - India

Enablement & Empowerment-03
- Hamara Internet - Pakistan
- Gpower - India
- Nayi Disha Resource Centre - India

Environment & Sustainability- 02
- Kasa Kiosk - India
- Jal Praharis - India
THE eNGO CHALLENGE Awards SOUTH ASIA

SPECIAL MENTION

Education & Learning - 01
- Digital Ecosystems for Senior Citizens - India

Heritage & Culture- 01
- Routes 2 Roots - India

Enablement & Empowerment-01
- Gana Rewrite - India

THE eNGO CHALLENGE Awards SOUTH ASIA

CHAIRPERSON’S DISTINCTION

Governance & Livelihood– 01
- Adhikaar - India

Education & Learning – 03
- Project Utkarsh - India
- Adopt a School Program by ALIG - India
- TABLAB - India

Entrepreneurship & Outreach- 01
- Udyogini - India
THE eNGO CHALLENGE Awards SOUTH ASIA

FINALIST

Governance & Livelihood- 04

- Kherwadi Social Welfare Association Digitisation, Operations App for Yuvaparivartan - India
- Lok Kalyan Seva Kendra, Creating Livelihood Adaptation Under Drought- India
- Himkaara Unnayan Samiti, Har Hath Ko Kaam- India
- Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation - India

Education & Learning- 08

- Art of Excellence - India
- CSC Academy, Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan - India
- Nutrition Champions - India
- The Bombay Mothers and Children Welfare Society, Youth Empowerment - India
- Deepstambh Bahuuddeshiy Sanstha, Manobal - India
- Pragyata Foundation, Project Agaaz - India
- Voluntary Integration for Education and Welfare of Society (VIEWS), Promoting Inclusive Education through Audio Books for the Visually Impaired - India
- Nishulk Education Foundation, Nishulk Learning Program - India
Entrepreneurship & Outreach- 04

- United For Hope, Empowering Women in Rural India: Digital Hubs in Smart Villages - India
- Foundation for Initiatives in Development and Education for All (IDEA)- India
- Kaushalya Foundation, FPO Connect - India
- Sai Institute of Rural Development, ICT Based Integrated Development Program for Women Empowerment - India

Healthcare & Wellness-07

- Nischay Foundation, Menstrual Hygiene Awareness Campaign - India
- Samuhik Utthan Sewa Samiti, New Morning Deaddiction and Rehabilitation Centre - India
- Disease Management Association of India, National Health Awareness Programme - India
- Punarjot Eye Bank Society, Corneal Blindness Free World - India
- VChangeU, Longevity4All - India
- Dr M L Dhawale Memorial Trust, Holistic Health to Rural & Tribal - India
- Bhutan Kidney Foundation - Bhutan
Enablement & Empowerment- 11

- Patiala Foundation, SADAK: A Road Safety Initiative - India
- Nandini Social Welfare Society- Sustainable Livelihood and Empowered to Rural Poor - India
- Sadhna - India
- Lok Kala Bikas Kendra, Empowerment in Multi Activities - India
- Lending Hands Foundation, Those In Need - India
- Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners, Inclusive Development of Specially-Abled through Cricket - India
- Score Foundation, Project Eyeway - India
- Cyber Safe India Alliance, Digital Literacy - India
- Food4thoughtfoundation, India Reading Olympiad - India
- Anudip Foundation For Social Welfare, Digital Inclusion Of Young Aspirants [Diya] - India
- Human Rights Law Network, Reproductive Rights Initiative - India

Environment & Sustainability- 03

- Thuvakkam, Urban Forestry - India
- Environment and Social Research Organisation [ESRO]- Rural Youth Volunteers in India - India
- Pragti Adarsh Seva Kendra, Environment Awareness - India
GOVERNANCE & LIVELIHOOD
CJP FOR ASSAM

The hasty publication, of the Assam National Register of Citizens (NRC) Process has led to a Humanitarian crisis where nearly 40 lakh people have been excluded from Indian citizenship. Even though the deadline for filing claims was extended to the December 31, 2018, 2.5 million people are yet to make their claim for citizenship. CJP’s ‘Help us Help Assam’ Initiative has already helped 10 lakh people (10,00,000) fill in their NRC forms.

The initiative ensured robust mapping of the issue along with ensuring solutions were made with stakeholders as opposed to being driven from above. With the empowerment of locals and local teams not only is the initiative reaching out to the right people but is leading to education of those on the ground.

IMPACT AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Team of Volunteer Motivators (VM) in 19 districts
- Train affected communities into Rights and Entitlement Discourse
- Audio reports from Team at Ground Zero in Assam
- Toll Free Number that has handled 10,000+ calls
- Crowdsourced photo and video reports to keep track of progress

By using a toll free helpline, traditional media and grassroots meetings CJP has covered close to of the districts of Assam and is by far the most impactful organisation working on this issue. Moreover, CJP is one of the few organisations that is meticulously documenting the process on a district wise level and making the data available to the common public via its micro site.
**WINNER**

**Organisation**: Association for Democratic Reforms  
**Country**: India  
**Language**: English, Hindi, Regional (28)

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**MERA VOTE MERA DESH**

Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) came into existence with the aim to combat corruption and criminality in the political system, and create an environment of accountability amongst the country’s leadership. By producing unique and extensive reports on backgrounds of candidates, their Income Tax Returns, donations of more than Rs. 20,000 received by political parties as well as funds collected and expenditures made them during elections amongst others, ADR has contributed extensively towards increasing voter awareness, ensuring transparency, and strengthening democratic elements in the political arena.

The rationale behind this initiative is to arrest the increasing trend of candidates with tainted reputations being elected to the legislature and to ensure that voters exercise their franchise in an independent and informed manner. The campaign is characterized by extensive activities in almost all the states aimed at enhancing voters’ awareness to reduce the effect of crime and money in elections.

Several renowned personalities were included in the initiative’s voter awareness vox-pop videos, including Rajdeep Sardesai, Harbhajan Singh, Rituparna Sengupta, and Aamir Khan – with the aim to encourage voters into understanding their leaders before electing them.

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**IMPACT AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS**

- In Bihar, ADR reached 130 lakh individuals; Madhya Pradesh -10 lakh individuals; Jharkhand-10.3 lakh individuals; Uttar Pradesh - 1.35 lakh individuals, Odisha-2.5 lakh individuals
- ADR received the first Democracy Awards in the category of “Increasing Citizens’ Participation in Electoral Process”
- ADR’s Madhya Pradesh Election watch coordinator, Ms. Rolly Shivhare, received the Appreciation Certificate for MP Election Watch campaign by the Madhya Pradesh State Election Commission on the occasion of National Voters’ Day
ADHIKAAR

Deepak Foundation’s objective is to bridge the gap between Government schemes and the intended beneficiaries. ‘Adhikar card’, an Integrated Village Development programme helps the underprivileged who remain oblivious to the development schemes categorically designed for them.

The project initiative aims to strengthen, the utilisation of Government schemes and services by facilitating the process of application to various schemes. The organisation implements initiatives, which cater to the population speaking Gujarati, Marathi, Hindi, Telugu as well as tribal languages - Khorba, Santali and Ho.

The initiative is implemented in 18 villages of 3 districts of 2 states of India. It reaches to 3100 households, covering the population of 23500.

‘Adhikar card’ tracks all eligible beneficiaries through a customised tracking system -a QR based card which serves as an analytical tool and digital locker for all certificates and also aids people in registering for various schemes.

The services have been set up at Panchayat office to ensure entitlements are accessed and utilised by beneficiaries.

IMPACT AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Nearly 70% of households in the intervention area have accessed services through the project initiative and have been linked with Government schemes access
- Deepak Foundation was presented with Millennium Alliance Round 4 Awards
- On February 18, 2018, Deepak Foundation received ET Now CSR Leadership Awards for Best Corporate Social Responsibility Practices and Women Empowerment
**FINALIST**

**DIGITISATION**

Yuva Parivartan is a collective effort of visionaries from all walks of life. They have adopted a holistic approach of enhancing the lives of less fortunate youth with vocational skills, guidance, counseling and financial assistance. Annually, they empower more than 1,00,000 youth of which over 60% are gainfully employed including those who take a bigger leap of becoming an entrepreneur. They have an internal Operations MIS which captures data of all students undergoing training, during the entire student lifecycle, starting from base data of all students undergoing training, assessment and certification and finally placement. They are spread out geographically, making sure to reach the remotest of villages.

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**FINALIST**

**CREATING LIVELIHOOD ADAPTATION UNDER DROUGHT**

Lok Kalyan Seva Kendra is building resilience, for 851 small and marginal farmers, in the state of Jharkhand to combat the effects of drought, hunger and food insecurity. The drought resilience measures will ensure food security of the families after implementation of the project. Through their initiative they have trained people about new farming and irrigation techniques through which they can do farming using less water.

They have successfully approached 3000 farmers and trained them through SRI technique and have formed CBO’s leading women to take leadership roles providing training on natural resource management & block level convergence. Around 40 women farmers have adopted mushroom, finger millet & broccoli farming and have utilized their barren fields due to lack of rain. They also work with adolescents and children in nutrition.

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Himkaara Unnayan Samiti is a society governed by the department of Prisons & Correctional Services, Himachal Pradesh. Prisons are generally perceived as centres for incarceration where human dignity is compromised.

However, the modern day emphasis is on reformation and rehabilitation. They have started a number of welfare activities for the inmates in the jails of Himachal Pradesh providing a moral & spiritual grounding to the inmates. Open Barracks have been created for inmates in the same locations as their families, so they can meet them regularly. The prisoners are also allowed to work in private enterprises when the organisation is able to secure jobs for them. At present 161 prisoners including 4 women are earning under this project. It is a wonderful effort by HUS & the Himachal Community who did not abandon these inmates and are actually giving them a chance to be a better version of themselves.

**FINALIST**

** Organisation :** Himkaara Unnayan Samiti  
**Country :** India  
**Language: ** English & Hindi

**E-mail:** dg-prison-hp@nic.in  
**URL :** www.kaarabazaar.in  
**Facebook:** @Himachal-Prisons

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Sasakawa- India Leprosy Foundation works to end the stigma and discrimination towards persons affected with leprosy and their families by spreading awareness. They provide factual information on leprosy and thereby help in changing mind-sets by empowering leprosy affected people through education, training and financial support to become productive members of the society.

Their livelihood program aims at initiating, strengthening and scaling up livelihood activities through financial, technical & capacity building support. It ensures access to education for all children belonging to leprosy-affected households to help them build a more secure future. The advocacy & awareness program engages with the policy makers for the rights and inclusion of leprosy affected people through an informal forum of like-minded and pro-active group of parliamentarians, cutting across party lines, who are actively committed to work for a leprosy free India.

**FINALIST**

** Organisation :** Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation  
**Country :** India  
**Language: ** English & Hindi

**E-mail:** mzaid@silf.in  
**URL :** www.silf.in  
**Facebook:** @silfindia  
**Twitter:** @Sasakawa_India
EDUCATION & LEARNING
DIGITAL ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION SYSTEM

Article 17 of the Constitution of Bangladesh talks about free, compulsory and inclusive education for its citizens. As a result, lots of visually impaired students are now studying in schools, colleges and universities and this number is increasing every year, but they are facing a severe lack of accessible study materials.

YPSA, with the support of A2I (Access to Information Program), Government of Bangladesh, has produced DAISY- Digital Multimedia Books, accessible E-books, Digital Braille Books and math books for the students of class I to X. In Bangladesh, total number of users for DAISY Multimedia Books is around 150,000.

IMPACT AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Distributed DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System) books to 12,000 individual members and 20 organisations
- YPSA Awarded for innovative practice on Inclusive Finance at the zero project conference 2017 in Austria
**Smart Classes in KGBV initiative** is designed to:

- Complete shortage of teachers.
- Conduct interactive sessions using Skype technology.
- Mobilising motivated highly qualified teachers from across the globe.
- Creating interesting and joyful learning setup using IT skills.
- Provides opportunities to professionals to give back to the society.

**Impact and Major Achievements**

- Children and adolescent reached to 42,300
- Number of families benefited: 1,32,400
- Stakeholders reached for collaborations: 6,400
- Winner of South Asia m Billionth Awards, Innovations in Telecom & Mobile Content & Application for Masses in 2011
- Vodafone Mobile for Good Awards and Grant Fund Awards as a Finalist for 2011
The growing role of information and communication technologies (ICT) in our daily lives has led to concerns about increasing inequality between those who can and those who cannot take advantage of new technologies. The divide has been observed not only between younger and older people but also within sub-groups of older adults.

This is not only due to lack of access (first-level digital divide) but also due to lack of use (second-level digital divide).

Advanced age, low education, low income, and disability have been shown to predict low internet use among seniors.

Elders for Elders foundation has created ‘Digital Ecosystems’ across 4 locations of Nagapattinam & Virudhunagar districts in Tamil Nadu to digitally empower the older adults to access online services for social engagement by providing digital tools like Skype, online banking tools, connectivity, training and capacity building.

Some of the key activities of Elders of Elders are:

» Institution building for Elderly - Elders Self Help Groups, Village Organisations and District Level Federation

» Livelihood Promotion for Elderly - Training and capacity building, Credit linkage

» Community-Based Health Care - Village Health centres and Palliative care

IMPACT AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Two Community Information and Resource Centres were established (CIRC)
- 344 beneficiaries trained in usage of digital tools
- Training of 34 trainers
ADOPT A SCHOOL PROGRAM BY ALIG

ALIG Educational and Welfare Society, an initiative aims to help improve the educational quality for the underprivileged. It intends to facilitate education by entering into partnerships which would be sustainable and transformational, thus contributing to India’s path of progress and development.

The Project “Adopt a School Program”; an All-Round Development Program is a step towards a positive school environment which supports overall development of a child. The project aims to reach out Government school students belonging to underprivileged communities of targeted work areas, by implementing need based Learning Enhancement activities.

The Project revolves around English language, environmental awareness and personality development of children through extra-curricular activities.

The prime objective of this project is all-over quality improvement and personality development of students. Keeping in mind indicators like low number of teachers, lack of motivation, dull and lack of interactive classroom sessions, ALIG came up with Adopt a School Program. So far they have adopted 28 Government Schools.

IMPACT AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- ALIG has been able to reach out to more than 8,632 students through its education related initiatives
- ALIG has directly benefitted more than 10,256 people through its health initiatives
- More than 4,500 students are digitally literate
Deealaya is a certified non-government organisation that believes in enabling self reliance and is committed to working on issues affecting the urban and rural poor, with a special focus on women and children. The NGO was started on July 16th 1979 by seven founding members, and for more than four decades, has been contributing to the crusade against illiteracy.

TABLAB is an innovative, student centric digital literacy project aligned to Digital India & Digital Literacy Mission by the Government of India. It is especially designed for rural government schools for high impact delivering digital literacy.

Under TABLAB, they deliver custom designed tablets with content in five categories: Multimedia, Play apps, Activity videos, Digital books and Practice assignments.

**IMPACT AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS**

- The project has been implemented in 28 schools impacting 5,922 children studying in government schools/government aided schools and NGO-run centres
- They have trained 182 teachers on the usage of TABLABS
- They have won the 2018 Delhi NGO’s Leadership Awards
PROJECT UTKARSH

Moinee Foundation, since 2012, has been working on “Right to Quality Education” at grassroots, primarily focusing on rural and deep-rural/tribal areas. We have two flagship initiatives Project Utkarsh. First is smart class initiative for non-functional ICT labs in Government Schools.

Second is Community eLibraries - An Offline Smart Knowledge Server based on eLibraries for last mile delivery of eLearning to the digitally disconnected communities and schools/hostels in rural/tribal areas. Project Utkarsh has helped revive over 1500 ICT labs in Govt schools in last 5 years and directly touched over 5,00,000 students of Government schools. Majority of the beneficiaries are from rural and deep rural areas and a good majority is of first generation learners with 35% of them being girl students.

IMPACT AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Project Utkarsh is currently present in 13 districts across 4 states
- Two of Moinee Foundation’s key initiatives were nominated for PM innovation Awards (Project Utkarsh - in 2018, eGyankendra, An offline community eLibrary - in 2017)
- Implemented 135 offline eLibraries (based on our Awards winning initiative eGyankendra) across India covering 7 states
FINALIST

ART OF EXCELLENCE

Art of Excellence is vision which looks at encouraging students and equip them with soft skills. It develops a stress reducing-motivational training program towards success in all areas of life. It is a non-academic based educational process and instills basic principles of self management. They also take up initiatives for social causes, either through personal idea management or fund-raising. The idea is to make this initiative reach larger audiences so they benefit from it.

Organisation: Art of excellence
Country: India
Language: English
E-mail: anuragraje@gmail.com
URL: www.artofexcellence.in

FINALIST

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT VIA E-LEARNING AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Bombay Mothers and Children Welfare society aims at uplifting rural India and believes in people having opportunities to escape poverty and improve their lives.

The initiative’s mission is to provide rural India with proper and affordable modern medical care, introduce rural development programmes in villages and convert country side people to digital literates. The project caters to cancer patients, convalescent homes, creches, nutritional support, green energy and skill training centres. They look forward to building a platform for villagers where they are empowered and work toward a better future.

Organisation: The Bombay Mothers and Children Welfare society
Country: India
Language: Marathi and Hindi
E-mail: bmcws1919@gmail.com
URL: www.thebmcws.com
Smart Solutions for Smart Communities

**NUTRITION CHAMPIONS**

Matri Sudha is a Non-Profit organisation which ensures the child rights are identified, protected, and taken care by every individual. Nutrition Champion, the initiative is based entirely on two significant components. One is that, it looks into transforming the thought process on nutrition and help with the knowledge building process. Second, when this knowledge process is built then use it to influence action on nutrition. Matri Sudha has also been successful to create a group of 45 nutrition champions so far and has impacted lives of 8249 children and 1781 adolescents and 3 youth so far. It also acknowledges the work whose effort has saved a life of a child, prevented still birth, low birth babies etc.

**Organisation :** Matri Sudha- A Charitable Trust  
**Country :** India  
**Language :** Hindi, English

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**NISHULK LEARNING PROGRAM- DIGITAL LEARNING FOR EVERY CHILD**

Nishulk Learning focuses on low income groups. It aims at providing them free digital learning content so that they can pursue education and get better opportunities. The content is in the offline mode. This helps in bridging the quality education divide that exist in the society.

Children from low income groups get admitted in schools where the quality of education can be questionable. The outcome of the program is tracked by the Nishulk team and school’s management. Through this initiative the team has tried to bring down the number of school drop-outs.

**Organisation :** Nishulka Education Foundation  
**Country :** India  
**Language :** English

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<td><strong>Facebook</strong></td>
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FINALIST

**INCLUSIVE EDUCATION THROUGH AUDIO BOOKS FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED**

VIEWS has created books in audio format accessible to the visually impaired students in Odisha. Its aim is to convert high school and college books in audio format. The priority was to prepare audio books for the students from Class 8 to intermediate, popular fiction, non-fiction books, competitive books used for teachers recruitment, civil services etc. This project helps to shape future of children by using tech-enabled tools to assist them and multiply their career opportunities in future.

VIEWS produced 48 books with the support of German embassy for visually challenged students in Odisha. It also managed to record 100 books in Telugu for blind students in Andhra Pradesh with the support of Australian Embassy.

**Organisation** : Voluntary Integration for Education and Welfare of Society (VIEWS)
**Country** : India
**Language** : English
**E-mail** : views.ngo@gmail.com
**URL** : www.viewsindia.org.in
**Facebook** : @views.ngo

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**FINALIST**

**PRADHAN MANTRI DIGITAL SAKSHARTA ABHIYAN**

The main objective of this program is to empower six million people in rural India by training them to operate computers, access digital devices and enabling them to use Information Technology. This program is delivered to candidates through various levels; the core team provides technical support, the trainers deliver training at ground level and the students are the beneficiaries. Through all this they spread education & provide them an opportunity to be financial stable.

**Organisation** : CSC Academy
**Country** : India
**Language** : All Regional Languages
**E-mail** : rishikesh@csc.gov.in
**URL** : www.pmgdisha.in
**Facebook** : -@PMGDISHA/
**Instagram** : @pmgdisha/
MANOBAL

The initiative caters to the differently abled youth of the society. They are provided training for preparation of competitive exams, skill and personality development. There are special modules for training teachers and even trainers.

The students have become confident as the initiative nurtures them to become leaders of tomorrow and helps them to face competition.

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Organisation: Deepstambh Bahuuddeshiy Sanstha
Country: India
Language: Marathi, English
E-mail: deepstambhngo@gmail.com
URL: www.deepstambhfoundation.org
Facebook: @deepstambhfoundation/

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PROJECT AGHAZ

Pragyata aims at educating the underprivileged children and bring them at par with the modern world. It not only focuses on imparting the conventional education but also helps children in personality development, participate in public speaking, improving conversational skills. The project also focuses on women empowerment and they have assigned centres for each of their projects. The duration of the course is of 3-4 months and the organisation chooses children from nearby villages and slums. There is a long list of volunteers for the projects. Most of the facilities of this initiative are based near villages or slums so as to make it accessible to the children.

Organisation: Pragyata Foundation
Country: India
Language: English, Hindi
E-mail: pragyatafoundation@gmail.com
URL: www.pragyatafoundation.org
Facebook: @Pragyata-Foundation
Twitter: @pragyatango
ENABLEMENT & EMPOWERMENT
HAMARA INTERNET

Digital Rights Foundation is working to create a pool of resources to help women netizens remain safe and secure online. They launched, Hamara Internet (Our Internet) campaign to encourage use of Internet among women in Pakistan by teaching them create things and protect their online rights.

Cyber harassment and online violence is at an all time high in Pakistan and the initiative especially focuses on why it’s important to not only be aware of one’s right to be free on the internet but also what must be done in order to make it a safe space.

The Hamara Internet initiative focuses on inclusivity and safety over the internet for every citizen regardless of their age, race, ethnicity or gender.

A cyber harassment helpline, which was started in 2018, focuses on providing legal aid, psychological help and digital security assistance.

In the year 2018, DRF reached out to 14,900 direct beneficiaries through workshops, seminars, awareness sessions, close group discussions, conferences and trainings.

IMPACT AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

• DRF received the Dutch Rights Tulip Awards on advocating for safer use of the internet
• Nighat Dad was named as TIME Magazine’s list of next generation leaders because of their extensive work with women in reclaiming online spaces
• Their work has been presented as Top 10 Entrepreneurs at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2018
• DRF received the I Am the Change Awards (IATC) 2017 in the category of Social Development
NAYI Disha Resource Centre is an NGO supporting the families of people with intellectual or developmental disability (IDD) such as autism, down syndrome, and cerebral palsy by leveraging technology. They enable individuals with special needs by providing their families, with necessary information and by creating a supportive ecosystem for the caregivers through their unique online platform.

The three key pillars of their services are Knowledge Hub, Online Caregiver Community & National Directory of Services.

Although, people with Intellectual and Development Disabilities (PwIDD) constitute a significant population of India (31 million as per 2004 WHO report), overburdened education and health systems in India fail to cater to the needs of PwIDDs and their families.

They aim to overcome this information gap by educating and empowering families of PwIDD and make them an active participant in their child’s development. They have developed a web-enabled and mobile-accessible service platform (Nayi Disha) that brings various stakeholders together and provides quality information to families in an accessible manner.

IMPACT AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Footfall of 3,00,000 with 80,000 unique visitors so far
- More than 225+ informative articles in the form of audios, videos, infographics, slideshows and booklets in English, Hindi and Telugu
- Over 1,050 providers across 28 cities
- Nine online communities with 1,025 members
GPOWER

Child in Need Institute (CINI) is a 45 year old NGO working towards sustainable development in health, nutrition, education and protection of children, adolescents and women among underprivileged communities. They have received the National Awards for Child Welfare twice – 1985 and 2004. They work both as an implementing agency as well as technical assistance partner to the Government.

CINI has been working with adolescent girls in West Bengal since early 2000, supporting the government in delivering quality services to adolescents.

With Information & Communication Technology boom in India, CINI took the next step to initiate an innovative project called Gpower.

It is a digital solution which focuses on enabling underprivileged girls make a healthy transition from childhood to a productive adulthood by addressing key issues such as poor growth, school drop-out, early marriage and trafficking.

Gpower is an IT Enabled system (ITEs) for tracking the vulnerabilities of adolescent girls, mitigation planning, measuring timely actions, monitoring and assessing impact especially on the issues of early marriage and trafficking.

IMPACT AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

• 144 child-marriage cases addressed successfully
• 424 adolescent girls empowered to access Government schemes
• Awarded with HCL Grant by HCL Foundation under Health Category in 2017
• Certified as ‘Best Performing Child Care Hub’ by TISS, Mumbai
GAANA REWRITE

Within hours of a song’s release, millions of fans are found singing the catchy numbers. But often, the lyrics of these popular chartbusters make rampant use of derogatory words and themes against women. Akshara Centre, an NGO dedicated to the empowerment and safety of women, ran a national competition called #GaanaRewrite in collaboration with – One Billion Rising and Eksaath, and invited people from all over the country to submit entries with re-written lyrics of sexist songs that often become tools for sexual harassment in streets and public places. This initiative is unique because it not only allows people in understanding the existing sexism but also encourages them to reject it as well, by rewriting those songs.

As a part of the campaign, they reached out to youth in Mumbai and conducted three hour workshops to discuss the notions of sexism.

The video of six rewritten songs as culmination of the campaign has become another way to reach out to larger audiences and garner support for the idea that Bollywood needs to change.

IMPACT AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- US Consulate General, Mumbai: Women’s Safety and Empowerment Short Film Contest, Dec 2018
- Inspire Awards 2017 by BWW Parivartan
**FINALIST**

**SADAK: A ROAD SAFETY INITIATIVE**

Patiala Foundation works on various social welfare projects in the state of Punjab and a few surrounding states. The organisation is in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. They are working on finding solutions to the problems of livelihood, heritage and culture and road safety.

The project SADAK is an initiative to sensitize the community about road safety. They have till date organized 85 events including road safety talks, drawing competitions, reading competitions. Through their distribution camps, reflective stickers have been put on around 800 bicycles. They also launched a “Children Challan Book”, which is used by children to challan their parents for traffic rules violations. They are very creatively helping people of all ages in understanding the importance of ROAD SAFETY.

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**Organisation** : Patiala Foundation  
**Country** : India  
**Language** : Punjabi, English & Hindi

**E-mail** : thepatialafoundation@gmail.com  
**URL** : www.patialafondation.org  
**Facebook** : @PFSADAK  
**Twitter** : @Ravee1313

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**FINALIST**

**SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD AND EMPOWERMENT TO THE RURAL POOR**

Nandini Social Welfare society works for the underprivileged with special focus on children and women. They have been chosen by the State Bank of India & NABARD to promote Joint Liability Groups in rural areas. Under this initiative they provide loans to the underdeveloped people in rural areas through SBI.

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**Organisation** : Nandini Social Welfare Society  
**Country** : India  
**Language** : Bengali, Assamese, English & Hindi

**E-mail** : nsws1438@gmail.com  
**URL** : www.nswsindia.ngo  
**Facebook** : facebook.cm/nandinisws  
**Twitter** : @nandinisws
SADHNA

The foundation of the enterprise is Sadhna’s commitment to empowering women, both economically & socially by enhancing their self-esteem and making the artisans self-sustainable.

Sadhna was started as an income generation program under an NGO seva mandir to provide alternate income sources for women in Udaipur’s rural, tribal and urban slums. Now, it functions as a separate entity & helps women artisans produce & sell exquisite hand-embroidered garments & lifestyle products which are sold globally. All these women are co-owners in Sadhna with profit-sharing.

Organisation: Sadhna
Country: India
Language: Hindi & Mewari
E-mail: www.sadhna@sadhna.org
URL: www.sadhna.org
Twitter: @sadhnaudaipur

EMPOWERMENT IN MULTI-ACTIVITIES

The organisation traces its origin to a momentous event in the history of peoples’ movement i.e. Gandhamardan Bachao Andolan. Late Sri Mangal Sahu, one of the founder members of the organisation, then a student, played key role in the Cultural Team which was formed to create awareness, sensitize the people and disseminate the message of the community.

The organisation had initially started its works in sarsara village by promoting the traditional folk art culture. It has been focusing more on facilitating organisation building process of the order to improve the socio-economic condition of the people. Regular training programmes are also organised to enhance their knowledge and skill. In the development endeavor of Lok Kala Bikas Kendra, it has enriched its community mobilisation process by receiving help and support from various quarters of the society and individuals. In this course it has effectively collaborated with various donors like Consulate of Japan, RGVN, Indian Gramin Services, Basix India Ltd, CASA, Govt. of India, Government of Odisha.

Organisation: Lok Kala Bikas Kendra (LKBK)
Country: India
Language: English & Hindi
E-mail: lkbkbudh@gmail.com
URL: www.lkodisha.org
Twitter: @sadhnaudaipur
THOSE IN NEED

Those in need is India’s first comprehensive matchmaking platform for non-profits and volunteers. They provide a common platform to various NGO’s, societies, volunteers, educational institutions and corporates to establish a network to maximize the impact of their philanthropic efforts.

They are driving skills, location and interest based volunteering. Introduction of a social reward point system is working as an incentive for volunteers and help NGO’s to get right volunteers. They are currently working with more than 150 NGOs and have 6000+ volunteers registered with them.

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<td><a href="mailto:abhishek.saini@thoseinneed.in">abhishek.saini@thoseinneed.in</a></td>
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<td>@those_in_need</td>
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INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SPECIALLY-ABLED THROUGH CRICKET

Association of professional social workers and development practitioners is a registered Not-for Profit organisation of various social entrepreneurs working in social welfare domains across the country.

The association focuses on creating a global network of dedicated social workers and development practitioners to discuss & find solutions for major issues across India. It offers youth leaders a platform to help, bring reformation by providing correctional measures in existing policies.

They are using sports to transcend linguistic, cultural and social barriers. This helps promote the spirit of sportsmanship & hence, helps create an egalitarian environment. It also helps with personality & skill development. They are empowering disabled people through cricket for inclusive development.

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<td>Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.apsedp.org">www.apsedp.org</a></td>
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Smart Solutions for Smart Communities

PROJECT EYEWAY

Score Foundation works with visually impaired. Societal misconceptions and cultural baggage have forced the visually challenged people to be benched. They promote the message of equal opportunities for visually challenged & empower them by providing opportunities for development.

Many programs focus on providing education, skill building and training for the blind but there is no way for them to know about, the existence of such initiatives. Hence, Score has created a unique knowledge-sharing based model, which disseminates information about schemes & initiatives for the visually challenged, using mediums like radio, websites, telephone helplines, social media platforms, seminars and workshops. They helped a 19 year-old girl, from a economically weaker section receive good education and find livelihood opportunities in the future. They are working towards building an aware and sensitised society in order to create an ecosystem that is conducive, inclusive & accessible for the visually impaired.

Organisation : Score Foundation
Country : India
Language : English, Hindi, Marathi, Punjabi, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Kashmiri
E-mail : shruti.pushkarna@eyeway.org
URL : www.scorefoundation.org, www.eyeway.org
Facebook: @projecteyeway/
Twitter: @friendsofeyeway

DIGITAL LITERACY: ON GROUND CAMPAIGNS

A well-recognized & registered ‘Not-For-Profit’ (NGO) organisation with a single mission of spreading nationwide awareness programs on new age technological crimes & frauds and safeguard people. Promoting their motto, ‘Ensuring Security & Safety of Cyber Space citizens of India’, they are organizing multiple nationwide awareness programs, workshops, awareness trainings in association with the supporting bodies like from the Government of India, State Police Organisations, International Cyber Security Protection Alliance (ICSPA), National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA), Computer Society of India, National Security Database (NSD) & Internet Safety Society (ISS).

Organisation : Cyber Safe Alliance
Country : India
Language : English, Hindi & Marathi
E-mail : sapna@cybersafeindia.org
URL : www.cybersafeindia.org
Facebook: @CyberSafeIndiaAlliance
India Reading Olympiad by Food4thoughtfoundation, is an initiative to connect hungry minds with idle books. They believe that a developing nation without enlightened citizens is a dangerous notion. This platform enables, encourages and endorses an ecosystem which creates active reading spaces & help spread joy & appreciation with books. They have ignited a reading revolution not only out in the world but also in some prisons pan-India. They have 13 categories from which, ‘Joy of Reflection’ received 2200 entries from 63 schools & 23 reviews from 5 jails in India.

**FINALIST**

**Organisation**: Food4thoughtfoundation  
**Country**: India  
**Language**: English, Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Kannada & Telugu

**E-mail**: madhavi@food4thoughtfoundation.org  
**URL**: www.food4thoughtfoundation.org

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**DIGITAL INCLUSION OF YOUNG ASPIRANTS (DIYA)**

Anudip Foundation caters to rural & peri-urban communities of emerging economies to reach out to impoverished youth and women. They have a unique technology-driven initiative that has trained & empowered more than 85000 youth & more than 425,000 crisis-stricken people. Anudip beneficiaries, youth and women, are from high-need, marginalized communities; these include religious minorities, tribals, political refugees, people with disabilities or victims of trafficking. They go through multiple processes of learning, in-depth and diverse trainings and continuous mentoring. The Curriculum is enriched with educational technologies and customized content creates an immersive professional development program. They are strategic partners of iMerit Technology Services, a global leader in artificial intelligence, machine learning and other breakthrough technologies. More than 1000+ Anudip Alumni have been employed by iMerit.

DIYA is Anudip’s mainstream technology-driven skills development program for at-risk youth, building a pathway to secure digital livelihood. It offers a fully digitized learning experience with employer-driven course-ware delivered in a high-tech, blended-learning environment. It is designed for careers in e-commerce, logistics, retail, mobile payments, banking and finance, telecom and other sectors.

**Organisation**: Anudip Foundation for Social Welfare  
**Country**: India  
**Language**: English & regional & vernacular languages of the areas they work in

**E-mail**: mounita@anudip.org  
**URL**: www.anudip.org  
**Facebook**: @AnudipFoundation/  
**Twitter**: @AnudipF
Reproductive Rights Initiative (RRI) is a network of lawyers, activists and researchers working across India. They provide legal aid, conducts qualitative and quantitative research, training on law and capacity building workshops for grassroots CSO’s & NGOs.

RRI is a focused attempt to include reproductive rights within the ambit of human rights. RRI also expands the narrative, under law to include right to food, accessible health care (from adolescence, taking cognizance of prenatal, antenatal and postnatal care).

The initiative uses the legal system to combat violations of reproductive rights, ensure implementation of reproductive rights schemes, and to demand accountability where implementation is left wanting. Through these efforts, the initiative is striving to establish, human rights-based approach towards reproductive health care. Through its work, the Reproductive Rights Initiative has brought focus to the issues of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity, the right to food and nutrition, discrimination against HIV positive pregnant woman, coercive population control policies, inhumane sterilization camps, unsafe abortion services, unethical surrogacy and sex selective abortion.

They are working towards building awareness and sensitivity among the civil society members in order to create an ecosystem that is conducive, inclusive & accessible.

**Organisation**: Human Rights Law Network  
**Country**: India  
**Language**: English, Hindi & regional languages of the areas they work in.  
**E-mail**: sarita@hrln.org  
**URL**: www.reproductiverights.hrln.org  
**Facebook**: @ReproductiveRights.India  
**Twitter**: @HRLNindia
ENTREPRENEURSHIP & OUTREACH
Tisser Artisan Trust is established to uplift the lives of Indian rural artisans. Their Vision is to co-create a global brand with these artisans. ‘Tisser’ brand is known globally, for their innovatively designed & unique handicraft/handloom products. Their mission of harnessing transformative power of rural clusters for impact business model ensures that they create a very strong market globally for our rural entrepreneurs.

Impact and Major Achievements

In three years of their operation, they have gone from working with only 100 artisans and a limited number of products to now, working with 10,000 artisans, majority being women and 300+ products

- Connected with more than 1800 SHGs, across 18 states in India
- Generated employment of more than 80,000 man days in a year
- Generated an income of INR 1.75 crore for artisans
- Start-up India Rocks – Top 25 Start-ups, Bangalore 2016
- Action for India 2017 and 2018: Top 100 Social Innovators
BITHOOR SHAKTI

Adhar launched Bithoor Shakti, with the vision of transforming lives of poor women & girls into a respectable status. The organisation has taken many steps to help organise poor into their own organisations, increase financial access, develop leadership & decision taking power, reduce digital illiteracy & increase e-commerce activity.

Previously, the beneficiaries did their embroidery work on fabric and travelled to a nearby city to get them transferred, which is a time consuming and expensive activity. Now, with this initiative, they make embroidery designs using computer softwares and transfer it on fabric by taking print outs.

They have learned entrepreneurship skills from EDP experts and developed more than 200 marketable innovative prototypes of hand embroidered ladies garments and accessories, wall hanging, scenery, sling bags, clutch bags, laptop bags etc.

All the beneficiaries have been organized into self help groups to meet their emergency expenses and to develop their own enterprises. Some beneficiaries have opened their own boutiques and are providing employment opportunities to their neighbours. Networks have been established with several other online portals like IndiaMart.com, Radiatelabs, Creative India, Happyculture etc.

IMPACT AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Five boutiques have been established
- One emporium is established and it is run by their SHGs
- Build a platform for selling their products and all benefits directly go to them
UDYOGINI

Udyogini was established in 1992 to implement Women’s Enterprise Management Training Outreach Program (WEMTOP), a project by the Economic Development Institute of World Bank. It’s an organisation dedicated to empowering poor women by building their entrepreneurship skills and fostering gender equality by improving socio-economic status of women.

Udyogini aspires to impact 100,000 producers directly by 2025 and has emerged as a leading NGO working to provide customized “Business Development Services” for poor women in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh through working on some selected potential product value chains like Lac, Poultry, Goat and high value agricultural crops. The best practices have evolved over a period of time and standardised as a model consisting of following components, viz.,

» Introduction of scientific practices for Lac cultivation
» Lac Business Development Service providers (Lac BDSPs) for training and monitoring of PSCL applications
» Institutionalization through Cooperatives to address the inclusion and empowerment of tribal women.

IMPACT AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Formed 16 brood farms with 990 lac producers
- Formed Women’s Enterprise Groups - Lac producer organisations coming together for product aggregation and joint marketing.
- 1,76,953 plants planted in 41.26 acre by 122 lac producers
- Shift in mindset from lac collection to lac cultivation by adopting scientific practices for Lac cultivation
UNITED FOR HOPE WITH ITS AIM TO EMPOWER WOMEN IN RURAL INDIA HAS ESTABLISHED DIGITAL HUBS. THE REACH OF SMART VILLAGES THROUGH THESE HUBS ARE MEASURED IN TWO WAYS- FROM A DEPTH & BREADTH PERSPECTIVE. ALL OF THEIR PROGRAMS, THROUGH THIS INITIATIVE DIRECTLY SERVES THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES.

RURAL WOMEN IN INDIA FACE A COMPLEX WEB OF CHALLENGES TO IMPROVE THEIR DAILY LIVES. ONE OF THESE IS EXISTENCE OF HIGHLY PATRIARCHAL STATES, WHICH IN SOME REGIONS HAS LED TO LOW FEMALE LITERACY & LOSS OF ASSETS AND PROPERTY DUE TO LACK OF KNOWLEDGE. THEY AIM TO SOLVE THESE ISSUES WITH THE HELP OF DIGITAL HUBS.

Kaushalya Foundation is a NGO aimed at achieving socio-economic empowerment of the rural and urban poor and development of youth of Bihar.

They have created a developmental model which includes livelihood, agriculture, health, education & youth development. It includes organizing farmers into collectives, their integration into the market for releasing value for product, productivity enhancement, improving agricultural practices, value addition and developing entrepreneurship. Kaushalaya Foundation with Lutheran World Relief collaborated on the idea of introducing an app which can help farmers provide live & regular updates from the field which makes monitoring the existing initiatives easier.

FPO CONNECT- ANDROID BASED MOBILE APPLICATION

Kaushalya Foundation is a NGO aimed at achieving socio-economic empowerment of the rural and urban poor and development of youth of Bihar.

They have created a developmental model which includes livelihood, agriculture, health, education & youth development. It includes organizing farmers into collectives, their integration into the market for releasing value for product, productivity enhancement, improving agricultural practices, value addition and developing entrepreneurship. Kaushalaya Foundation with Lutheran World Relief collaborated on the idea of introducing an app which can help farmers provide live & regular updates from the field which makes monitoring the existing initiatives easier.
**FINALIST**

**ICT INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**

The Sai Institute of Rural Development (SIRD) is an initiative of Yuva Gramya Vikas Samiti with a view to protect the interests and help in the overall development of rural populace in India.

They aim at empowerment of women community in Lallapura craft cluster of Varanasi by deployment of various ICT based solutions/technologies including Chic (CAD Tool for Craft), basic computer training and health awareness using multimedia content on tablet/mobile devices. A CSC accredited centre for basic computer training was started for Ashas/Anganwadi workers.

** Organisation :** Sai Institute of Rural Development  
**Country :** India  
**Language :** English & Hindi  

**EMail:** director@sirdvaranasi.org  
**URL:** www.sirdvaranasi.org  
**FB:** @sai.institutute  
**Twitter:** @SaiVns

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**FINALIST**

**FOUNDATION FOR INITIATIVES IN DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION FOR ALL (IDEA)**

Foundation for Initiatives in Development & Education for All (IDEA) is a NGO serving underprivileged children and women through educational & skill development programs with a mission to create equal opportunities for all. IDEA started Digital Literacy centres under its E-sakshar programme at multiple locations in Pune. Here, everyone between the age of 14-60 is taught basic computer operating skills for free. These activities include education assistance, teacher training, business development training and digital literacy. Started in a slum, its presence has now spread across 17 communities and 26 villages in Maharashtra, where they have helped improve the lives of 10500 children, 3700 youth, and 4500 women. These efforts of social uplifting activities, captured the attention of the Excellence Dhyas Foundation when they honored IDEA with the Social Excellence Awards.

** Organisation :** Foundation for Initiatives in development and education for all (IDEA)  
**Country :** India  
**Language :** Marathi, English & Hindi  

**E-mail :** geetanjali.deshmukh@ideafoundation.org.in  
**URL:** www.ideafoundation.org  
**Facebook:** @idea.ideafoundation  
**Twitter:** @IDEAOrg
ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY
JAL PRAHARIS: CITIZEN BASED FLOOD FORECASTING SYSTEM

SEEDS provide flood alerts to rural populations via their citizen first responder network. They also collect field reports regarding the state of flooding and make them publicly available.

Under Jal Praharis, SEEDS is building the capacity of the youth residing in flood affected communities, so that they can disseminate alerts well in advance and lead the community towards safety. The project is currently building their networks of community-based volunteers in Patna and will soon run test alerts to verify that the citizen responder network is functioning as expected on field.

In 25 years of service to the people, their initiatives have continued to work around integrated risk management, working to build harmony between people and their environment.

IMPACT AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- A three-year programme on school safety in East Delhi, re-defining corporate partnerships for risk reduction and tailoring solutions to each of the 50 schools with which they are working.
- A vibrant citizens’ forum namely ‘Purvi Dilli Apda Prehari’ meaning East Delhi forum for DRR.
KASA KIOSK

Saahas is a non-profit organisation working in the field of waste management. They believe that when waste is managed at source, it becomes a resource. Since 2001, they have helped, build communities across rural and urban India that manage their waste at source by reducing, reusing and recycling and achieving 90% resource recovery.

They came up with Bangalore’s first manned and monitored bin-based segregated waste collection station at Wind Tunnel road, Murugeshpalya in December 2018.

As of 30th June 2019, nearly 29 tonnes of waste has been handled through the Kasa Kiosk, from its inception on 18th December 2018. Nearly 8395 people (residents or small businesses managers’) have handed over waste to the Kasa Kiosk, by the end of June 2019. The work done through Kasa Kiosk, has been recognised both in print & social media. Also, acknowledgment & appreciation for the same is done by BBMP authorities. Multiple, door to door awareness campaigns has brought about a change in people’s attitude on waste management.

IMPACT AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Nearly 29 tonnes of waste has been handled through the Kasa Kiosk, from its inception on 18th December 2018.
URBAN FORESTRY

Urban Forestry is an initiative working on environmental issues like deforestation. It follows a personalized and customized methodology of afforestation to create a miniature forest in the urban and frontier regions of the country.

The project is unique in its simplicity. The personalized afforestation takes into account the oil, nutrient, locality, type of soil and native plantation of the area and hence, uses it to maximise the use of the area without wastage. It helps in improvement of air & water quality, reduces urban heat island effect, promotes biodiversity & social interactions.

**FINALIST**

Organisation: Thuvakkam  
Country: India  
Language: English, Tamil  
E-mail: thuvakkam@gmail.com  
URL: www.thuvakkam.org  
Facebook: @pg/thuvakkam

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RURAL YOUTH VOLUNTEERS IN INDIA

ESRO, a non-profit organisation in New Delhi, works on social & environmental issues in the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh. Their mission is ‘to create a better tomorrow-for all living beings’. They aim to engage youth in advocacy to reduce suffering, increase literacy rates & spread awareness on environmental issues.

ESRO in collaboration with Humboldt State University, California, USA, has launched a new project called “Rural Youth Volunteers in India”. The project is based on two themes, first, awareness on water conservation & avoiding contamination of natural sources; second, solid waste management in target villages by recycling and reusing the waste with the community.

**FINALIST**

Organisation: Environment and Social Research Organisation (ESRO)  
Country: India  
Language: Hindi & English  
E-mail: esroindia@gmail.com  
URL: www.esroindia.in  
Facebook: @ESROngo
P
tagati Adarsh Seva Kendra is an NGO working on spreading environment awareness. PASK has been working with the most depressed sections of the rural society for their over-all development and mainstreaming since its inception in 2002. PASK is working to empower the most downtrodden and marginalised people, especially women, in one of India’s poorest states, Bihar.

PASK launched an environmental awareness campaign in Bihar. They have organised more than 5000 workshops, painting competitions, rallies and plantation drives for the same.

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<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Pragati Adarsh Seva Kendra</th>
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<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>India</td>
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<tr>
<td>E-mail</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pssevakendra@gmail.com">pssevakendra@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td><a href="http://www.pragatiadarshsevakendra.org">www.pragatiadarshsevakendra.org</a></td>
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HEALTHCARE & WELLNESS
VISION REHABILITATION PROGRAMME

SHARP is a non-government organisation that was started in 1998 and registered in 1999 with an aim of providing preventive healthcare services for school children. SHARP has become the largest health network by covering all the regions across the country by focusing on catering services which are, of high quality, effective, sustainable, technology oriented and result oriented.

India has the largest population of visually challenged people in the world, with over 15 million people. The project aims to invest in improvement of eye health status of the beneficiaries by delivering quality eye care interventions and tapping the problem to take corrective measures in order to prevent blindness at the right time.

Village Mapping, mobilization, home to home visit for eye care counselling, mass communication, tie with hospitals for technical assistance and referral cases for cataract surgeries, provision of spectacles and awareness programme are some of the key initiatives of the program.

IMPACT AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Screened 6 Lakhs + Beneficiaries
- Distributed 2.80 Lakhs - Near, Distant and Bifocal Spectacles
- Initiated 1500+ Cataract Surgeries
- “Manav Seva Puraskar” by Indian Institute of Economic Studies
**Organisation:** Alliance of Health Organizations (AHO)  
**Country:** Afghanistan  
**Language:** English Pashto and Dari

**E-mail:** aho.afghanistan@gmail.com  
**URL:** www.aho.org.af  
**Facebook:** @AllianceOfHealthOrganizations/posts  
**Twitter:** @ahoafg

**ALLIANCE OF HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS**

A lliance of Health Organizations (AHO) is an independent alliance of national and international health NGOs. Established in 2012 as a non-profit with the aim to promote justice and health rights for all Afghan citizens affected by conflict and war. It supports, coordinates and partners with 25 civil society members (national and international based in Afghanistan) and enables them to mobilize community and work in partnership with all stakeholders including Afghan government to ensure health as basic rights of individuals.

Currently, there are wide variations in coverage of essential health services both among and within countries. AHO offers an unparalleled set of skills in transforming how the Ministry of Public Health of Afghan Government designs, delivers, and evaluates health financing system through domestic resource mobilization. It also strengthens capacities of civil societies in developing advocacy strategy and strategic behaviour change communication at the national, state, and district levels.

**IMPACT AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS**

- **Survive:** Strengthened capacity of CS partners to design, deliver & evaluate both BCC and advocacy improved at all levels
- **Thrive:** Achieve universal health coverage and access to quality essential services
- **Transform:** Vulnerable groups empowered to seek health services
Deepshikha Samiti has been working at the grassroots level since 1994 in Delhi and other states for socio-economic development of urban and rural areas. They have worked with the poor and marginalized sections in the field of justice, human rights, health, HIV AIDS employment and participation in governance. Development programs are based on the needs of people with an effort to mobilize participation for community development.

The HIV epidemic in India is driven by sexual transmission, which accounted for 86% of new infection. To address invisible and hard to reach high-risk populations (Female Sex Worker/ Male Having Sex with Male/Transgender) an innovative web-based communication strategy called safelovers is used to identify and link the virtual network with the service provisions.

Some important features of Virtual Mobile app:

» Counselling facility available by chat or through phone calls for frequently asked questions (FAQ) on risk, vulnerability, safe practices, and test and treatment facilities.

» IEC/BCC materials available in digital formats: audio-visual, text, photographs and posters.

» HIV and Syphilis screening at the doorstep of clients through an appointment with nearby Outreach Worker on request of the client.

During the last two years, our NGO has been registered cumulative 2,186, distributed 6,92,780 condoms among High-Risk Population and has trained around 1100 girls/women for the vocational course for their better livelihood at North East Delhi.
MENSTRUAL HYGIENE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Nishchay Foundation, a self-funded organisation, focuses on the rural areas of Jharkhand and has started menstrual hygiene awareness campaigns in villages. This initiative has helped break taboos surrounding menstrual hygiene and have opened people up for discussions on the same. Nishchay is a non-profit social organisation working on issues of children, women, health, education, rural related issues of society. Through “Gift sanitary pads for rural girls campaign” the organisation has caught the nation’s attention and have been recorded in the Limca book of records’2019. Nishchay runs pad banks in 16 high and middle schools of Kolhan which also serves as a communication tool for the entire society.

| Organisation: Nischay Foundation | E-mail: nischay.mailbox@gmail.com |
| Country: India | URL: www.nischay.online |
| Language: English | Facebook: @Nischay2017 |

NEW MORNING DE- ADDICTION REHABILITATION CENTRE

Samuhik Utthan Sewa Samiti is a non-profit registered under Society Registration Act 1860. It works for de-addiction, women empowerment, awareness, rural development and uplifting the underprivileged.

The New Morning De-addiction cum Rehabilitation Centre (Nasha Mukti Kendra) is an exclusive treatment centre based in Kanpur, India which delivers treatment to the affected individuals via a school of highly trained psychiatrists, psychologists and councilors. This initiative is the key to help the addicted patients improve and follow a balanced routine in life.

Nasha Mukti Kendra also enrolls the patients into Yoga classes, incense sticks making so that they remain busy and diverted. Other than this the initiative offers women empowerment vocational training like tailoring and beautician courses to support livelihood opportunities. It also concentrates on education, welfare of old aged people and computer training programmes for all under the initiative.

| Initiative: New Morning De-addiction Cum Rehabilitation Centre | E-mail: president@sewasamitingo.org |
| Country: India | URL: www.nashamukti.net |
| Language: Hindi, English | Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ NashaMuktiKendra |
The Bhutan Kidney Foundation got its CSO status in the country in a span of five and a half years. The organisation works on spreading awareness amongst people about kidney health and by helping find donors for transplant patients. It is a structured team and raises its funds through vernacular projects such as One Ngultrum, Bhutan Kidney Foundation Trust Fund-monthly contribution scheme, Memberships and Cup for a cause. This is registered with two national banks whereby a signed amount gets deducted automatically.

**Bhutan Kidney Foundation**

- **Organisation:** Bhutan Kidney foundation
- **Country:** Bhutan
- **Language:** Dzongkha (National Language), English, Nepali, Hindi
- **E-mail:** info@bhutankidneyfoundation.org
- **URL:** www.bhutankidneyfoundation.org
- **Facebook:** @BhutanKidneyFoundation/

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Disease management Association of India is an organisation with special consultative status with UN ECOSOC and works towards mental illnesses other than tangible physical issues. It runs various health campaigns and workshops on stress management, obesity, drug addiction, cancer, and anti-bullying etc.

After a school survey the organisation found out that many teenagers are not aware about non-communicable diseases and how does it affect their lives. Also, behavioral changes are also not discussed either at their homes or schools. The workshop makes the children aware of the changes in the body during adolescent and accept them. The activities within the workshops are planned in such a manner that the children/teenagers come out and speak about their problems. This structured way of making them aware of the changes in their own lifestyle using role plays, self-assessment, personal counselling adds on to their comfort ability and helps them get vocal about their issues.

**Disease Management Association of India**

- **Organisation:** Disease Management Association of India
- **Country:** India
- **Language:** English, Hindi
- **E-mail:** akmehra69@hotmail.com
- **URL:** http://dmai.org.in/nhap/
- **Twitter:** @tweetdmai
**Finalist**

**Longevity4All**

The main objective of VchangeU is to act as a catalyst in rekindling the spirit of services in all citizens. They bring about local initiatives and encourage community participation to improve the essence of life.

Logevity4All promotes healthy aging through simple and better changes in one’s lifestyle. Healthy aging and longevity could reduce poverty in India by reduction in the healthcare costs. This is an evidence based approach which are acceptable, adoptable to every section of the society. Through Walk4Health, Nature4Health, Social4Health and many such products the organisation aims at making longevity a reality by extending life span of a person. It also focuses on how a person can live an optimal and healthy life parallels. The initiative has been accepted by both National and International agencies for it’s scientific and evidence based approaches and outcomes.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation: VChangeU</th>
<th>E-mail: <a href="mailto:vb@vchangeu.com">vb@vchangeu.com</a></th>
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<tr>
<td>Country: India</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language: English, Hindi, Telegu</td>
<td>Facebook: @Sleep4Healt</td>
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**Finalist**

**Corneal Blindness Free World**

The initiative aims to create a corneal blindness free world by providing free eye banking services and corneal transplant for no cost to the Indian Govt. registered and authorized hospitals and eye banks. It also educates people about eye donation. The organisation also works towards breaking the taboo related to organ donation within the communities and encourage them towards donating and helping others.

Uptil now, the initiative has helped people get about 5602 corneal transplants for free, 26505 free cataract surgeries and gift of vision to the needy. The organisation’s greatest achievement in last two years was to make Punjab a corneal blindness free state.

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<th>Organisation: Punarjot Eye Bank Society Regd. Ludhiana</th>
<th>E-mail: <a href="mailto:akmehra69@hotmail.com">akmehra69@hotmail.com</a></th>
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<td>Country: India</td>
<td>URL: <a href="http://www.punarjot.com/">http://www.punarjot.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language: English, Hindi, Punjabi</td>
<td>Facebook: @rameshpunarjot</td>
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</table>
Dr M L Dhawale Memorial Trust extends arms to anyone in need, from destitute women, deprived peasants, penniless students, poor patients. It works towards providing medical support, antenatal care and institutional delivery to ensure healthy lifestyle and livelihood opportunities.

The initiative to serve the under-deserved communities, they started with mother-child care and expanded to adolescent girls counselling, health awareness and have worked across many Talukas in the last 15 years. It also concentrates on addressing malnutrition which is a state of deprivation and thereby talking about how malnutrition affects child growth. They also address and convince women to deliver babies at hospital by getting women aware about its importance at large.

They train the semi-literate married women and educate them in primary Homeopathic care. They are also known as Community Health Volunteers. The initiative of holistic health helped them realize that a hungry person cannot just be helped by medicines and thus have encouraged the people to help by providing livelihood opportunities. This is a part of community development program and includes sustainable farming, school education, self-help groups and they ensure that these values and systems become a habit and are embedded in each individual.

**Organisation:** Dr M L Dhawale Memorial Trust (MLTD)

**Country:** India

**Language:** Marathi

**E-mail:** info@mldtrust.org

**URL:** https://mldtrust.org/bhopoli/

**Facebook:** @mldtrust/?ref=settings
HERITAGE & CULTURE
KALAPURI

Kalapuri provides a wide platform for Indian artisans to grow, nourish and create an identity using skills and products at the global level. Here customers can find them and experience the rich taste of their exotic handicrafts.

Its mission is to build a platform that help artisans all over India to sell globally where customers can find and discover Indian handicrafts they might want to buy online. It identifies, collaborates, innovates and devises to create a profitable social enterprise along with increasing the awareness of handicrafts and life dependency of artisans on it, by preserving rich heritage & culture of India.

IMPACT AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Kalapuri is a socio-economic venture providing an online marketplace for promoting, selling and buying of Indian handicrafts
- The team is dedicated towards “Reviving Indian Handicrafts” and artisans as its main motto.
The Citizens Archive of Pakistan (CAP) is a non-profit organisation dedicated to cultural and historic preservation, operating in Sindh and Punjab. They seek to educate the community, foster an awareness of their nation's history, and instil pride in Pakistani citizens about their heritage. CAP has three main goals: to preserve and provide access to their archive, to build and support educational programs, and to develop educational products based on the testimonies collected.

The Oral History Project (OHP) lies at the heart of CAP. The project records recollections of the early days of Pakistan to provide an alternative perspective to official narratives found in historical literature. The stories emerging from the project, the secrets captured in old photographs, and the personal experiences of our nation's rich and varied people provide inspiration for our exhibitions and events. The project concentrates on people talking about significant events in their lives during early days of Pakistan, providing an alternative perspective to historical literature. The project also aims to archive and preserve various records such as letters, newspapers, refugee cards, official correspondence, and passports.

**IMPACT AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS**

- **Shanaakt Festival**: CAP staged a 4-day festival in 2007 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Pakistan’s independence
- **School and College Educational Outreach Tours**: In 2009 The School Outreach Tours (SOT), the first of their kind in Pakistan, introduced CAP’s ‘Imagination Stations’ to schools across Karachi
- **Alchemy Festival (London)**: CAP was commissioned by British Council to put together a multimedia exhibition at Alchemy 2014
PURANI DILLI WALO KI BAATEIN

The Purani Dilli Walo Ki Baatein story began in 2014 when Abu Sufiyan (founder of PDWKB, TACT and Tech Charmers) created a local Facebook page which promotes old Delhi’s culture through local dialect, photo blogs & articles. In the span of 5 years, PDWKB has grown up as an organisation, loved & followed by more than 76,000 people and number is growing every day.

Purani Dilli Walo Ki Baatein, apprises about the lifestyles of the veracious residents of the old delhi. Dilli – 6 is not just a meager pin code but a concoction of varied cultures and “tehzeeb” that acclaims the amicable interwoven life of disparate communities and religions. PDWKB is a non-restrictive source and voice of Old Delhi wallas and people who love and adore purani dilli.

PDWKB’s mission is to inspire and nurture the human spirit, to bring the attention of authorities and local residents to protect the culture and heritage of the Shahjahanabad. And to promote Ganga-Jamuna Tehzeeb across the nations

IMPACT AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Monthly 100K+ organic social media outreach on the various social media platform
- Daily 3k+ Organic visitors on the website
- Conducted More than 80+ Heritage Walks
- Curated educational tour for lawyers from Denmark and various part of Europe for their India Program
- Did a series with Hindustan Times on the lost tradition of old Delhi, which has crossed over 10 million views on Facebook
- A virtual reality venture with Oxford University that seeks to reconnect displaced individuals
VIRSA

Routes 2 roots is a non-profit organisation with pan India presence. Since their inception in 2004 they have been dedicated to promoting art, culture and heritage to children and common people. Their prime objective is to strengthen cultural ties and spread the message of peace and unity throughout the world. To date, they have hosted over 150 international events, exhibitions and concerts. All these events were non-ticketed to promote en masse participation and cultural exchange.

Their Flagship project “VIRSA” – launched in 2016, is one of the largest digitally enabled interactive cultural movement in the world, currently impacting two crore students of 20,000 schools in every corner of the country. This program is specifically designed to preserve India’s performing arts and culture.

They have also created an illustrious board of advisors with Padma Vibhushan Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Padma Vibhushan Pandit Birju Maharaj, Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhat, Padma Vibhushan Dr L. Subramaniam, Padma Shri Kavita Krishnamurthy, Juhi Chawla, Shafqat Amanat Ali, Padma Bhushan Dr. Saroja Vaidyanathan, Ehsaan Noorani,Padma Bhushan Pandit Rajan and Pandit SajanMishra, Shovana Narayan and Pradeep Kumar, who helped design the course material and curriculum.

IMPACT AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- VIRSA, by Routes 2 Roots, has impacted 2 crore children from 20,000 schools all over India.
- Kalam Innovation in Governance Awards - 2016
- The Intercultural Innovation Awards - 2016
- Outstanding Performance Awards in the field of Art and Culture - 2018
Chairperson of the eNGO Challenge, mBillionth Awards, Manthan Awards and Social Media for Empowerment Awards, Osama Manzar is a convert social entrepreneur, inspiring speaker, mentor and believer. Osama founded Digital Empowerment Foundation with the objective that there should be universal digital literacy and digital access to all to overcome the information gap and parity and help build an equitable society. He is a Member, Working Group, Internet Proliferation & Governance for Ministry of Communication & IT and was a Member, Task Force on Growth of IT, ITES & Electronics HW Manufacturing Industry, Ministry of Communication & IT, India. He is also a member of the Advisory Board for National Optic Fibre Network (NOFN) of the Universal Service Obligation Fund under the Indian Department of Telecom. At the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Manzar is a member of the Screening Committee for the Community Radio Licensing. Manzar sits on the Boards of the World Summit Awards, the Society for Labour & Development, Ibtada, the Association of Progressive Communication, ProtoVillage, and the Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI). A British Chevening Fellow of 2002, Manzar has authored NetCh@kra: 15 Years of Internet in India. Other titles by him include e-Content: Voices from the Ground; Internet Economy of India; India’s Best e-Contents, and Development & Digital Inclusion. He writes a weekly column in the Mint and Hindustan and has previously written columns for Gaon Connection. A physics graduate, Manzar has a post-graduate diploma in Journalism and is credited for covering at least 200 ICTD case studies in India and South Asia. Fluent in English, Urdu, Hindi, Arabic and Persian.

Osama tweets @osamamanzar.
MEET OUR JURORS

Meenakshi Gupta, co-founder of GOONJ, started the Awards winning non-profit with her husband Anshu Gupta in 1999. An IIMC alumnus, she started working full-time in Goonj in 2005, ending her 15 years of corporate career and eight-year stint as News Publicity Head at BBC South Asia. With Goonj’s widespread work, Meenakshi focused on women issues, especially regarding their needs for menstrual hygiene, in far flung villages of India. The backbone of Goonj, Meenakshi works with her team to build a stronger pan-India civic engagement through communication with the masses. She terms the time spent with community members in the interior India as her biggest learning, personally and professionally. A trained Dance Movement Facilitator, she finds it most enriching and inspiring to connect with the youth and take initiatives for the country.

Shirin has been active in the area of Social Development for last 16 years and has worked extensively with national and international NGOs and corporates, where she has been responsible for identification, planning, executing and monitoring social developmental projects. At ReNew Power Limited, India’s largest renewable energy Independent Power Producer, Shirin is involved in one of its key programs which bridges energy gaps in schools of rural India using renewable energy. This in turn leads to improvement in their learning environment. Shirin has also worked with an FMCG company where she was involved in CSR projects, engaging with NGO’s and Civil Societies for fostering partnerships and support the team in developing long term road map for the company.
Dr. Amita V Joseph has a long list of academic achievements. She graduated from Madras University, did her PGDM (Management), achieved a law degree (Delhi University), PGDM (Human Rights) from the Law Institute and a PhD from Australia’s Deakin University. Dr Amita also has experience in the corporate, development and legal sectors for over three decades. She has also been a lecturer with a number of universities and institutions and is associated with many non-profit organisations. Dr Amita is also the recipient of the Deakin University Silver Jubilee Awards for significant contribution by an alumni and the NS Books Awards.

Dr. Amita Joseph  
Director, Business & Community Foundation (BCF)

Chairperson of Pratham Books since 2014, Suzanne moved to the development sector after 14 years of marketing and communications experience in the corporate sector. Deeply interested in issues of equity and access to quality education, she has been involved with Pratham Books since its inception in 2004 and became the Managing Trustee of the organisation in 2010. Using technology and innovation, Suzanne has been enabling the organisation to further its mission of ‘a book in every child’s hand’. She also serves as a Trustee of Akshara Foundation.

Suzanne Singh  
Chairperson- Pratham Books

Dr. Monica Banerjee has been working for the foundation since 20 years. Her work includes strengthening civil society and shaping philanthropy programs. Her role involves engaging with different stakeholders in philanthropy, including government, businesses and academia. Dr. Monica has a PhD in Gender and Governance from IIT Delhi and was a post PhD visiting fellow at London School of Economics in 2006. She also has several research papers to her credit.

Dr. Monica Banerjee  
Director Programs- National Cooperative Union of India
As a Co-Founder and then President of the Internet service provider Association of India, Amitabh became one of the pioneers of Internet Industry and played a key role in freeing Internet from government monopoly. He drafted and influenced the Internet/Telecom Licensing, Policy and Regulatory measures, which became the foundation for wider proliferation of Internet in India. In 2003, he became the Founder, Board Director and CEO of National Internet Exchange of India, Internet Exchanges, .IN Domain Registry, Root Servers and more. In 2010, he became a Board Director & Secretary of US based Public Interest Registry, the Registry for .ORG, .NGO top level domain names. Amitabh runs a Consulting practice in Internet and Telecom Policy and regulatory sphere and has a Startup investment in Solar micro-grids.

Puja’s passion for children’s rights inspired her to become a part of the social sector. She joined CRY in 1994 to set up its HR function. In 2002 she moved on to general management roles and today she is the CEO at India’s leading child rights organisation. Puja has helped build a framework for CRY that best captures the essence of justice and equity. Her work is focused on creation of an organisational character that attempts to foster a passion for children, a high degree of individual accountability to children and a belief in everyone’s potential to bring change for children. She also serves on the board for VANI – Voluntary Action Network India – in an endeavour to strengthen public mobilisation for social causes.
Rajesh Verma retired after serving the Government of Sikkim for 36 years. He was initially involved in expanding the police telecommunication network in Sikkim appropriately using solar and wind energy. Subsequently he spearheaded the implementation of various Mission Mode Projects under the National E-Governance Plan and brought about extensive automation in the State Government. He formulated the IT Mission, Right of Way and E-Waste Policies. Groundbreaking proof of concepts like the Awards winning Cyber village and setting up of a CAD centre at the Directorate of Handicrafts were implemented by him.

Rajesh is also passionate about trekking and has written the best-selling guide book on Sikkim. He has also authored books and his articles on travel and social issues have appeared in many publications. He is presently the Working President of National Association for the Blind, Sikkim Branch. His current area of interest is to use ICT tools for ensuring employability of the disabled.

Children International is an organisation which invests in the lives of children and youth and empowers them to create a lasting change in their own lives and communities. In his career 15 span exceeding three decades in the non-profit sector, Partha has worked across India on issues relating to child and youth development, gender and social equity both, at the grassroots and at senior level leadership positions. Earlier he served in CAPART, RGVN, and National Foundation for India, Reach India and Smile Foundation. He also brings along a wealth of experience working in partnership with national and international NGOs, the corporate sector and the government. Partha also has substantial expertise in education, health, livelihoods and governance. He is a lifelong Aspire India Fellow and had also been a Senior Fellow at Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society, and International Health Program of Packard Foundation.
Dr. Otojit is a Sociologist and Development Professional with more than 12 years of experience in policy research, impact evaluation, and monitoring, policy and programme design in sectors such as Labour and Employment, Social Protection and Livelihood Security among many more. He is a PhD in Sociology from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He is currently working as Fellow (Faculty) and Coordinator of the Centre for North East India in V.V. Giri National Labour Institute under the Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India. He has extensive experience with Central Ministries, State governments, universities, NGOs and international organisations.

Vaibhav has trained in managing and conserving heritage. A founder member of Sahapedia.org, he is its secretary and is responsible for resource development and operations. He has worked with the National Mission for Manuscripts and Sangeet Natak Akademi in past. His passion is to leverage technology to reach travellers, students and enthusiasts. Vaibhav has launched multiple Awards winning programs like India Heritage Walks, Museums of India and India Heritage Walks Festival.

Dr. Otojit Kshetrimayum
Senior faculty- VV Giri National Labour Institute

Godyal has over 13 years of experience in leading, managing and implementing grassroots projects on water management, agricultural development and good rural governance. She is responsible for developing strategies for growth and sustainability of the organisation, while ensuring that the action plan is designed and implemented in line with its values, mission and vision. She has also co-authored many papers on rural development.

Anjali Godyal
Chief Development Officer – S M Seghal Foundation
Sandhya Kapoor is associated with Voluntary Action Network India (VANI) since 2014 and looks at the external environment of civil society that comes to include policy analysis of regulatory regime, capacity building of CSOs, amplifying narrative of the sector, south-south cooperation and global development issues related to increasing the space for civil society participation in multilateral forums. In VANI, he has researched on subjects such as Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the statistical impact of the voluntary sector, unpacking income tax for the voluntary organisations and identifying partnership models for promoting SDGs. He has also co-authored research articles for the premier G20 Digest on civil society interaction in policy inputting and civil society’s role in developing quality and sustainable infrastructure among others. As of now, he is undertaking a nation-wide campaign to strengthen and implement Goal 17 of SDGs by organizing Multi-Stakeholder Development Conclaves in furtherance of realizing triangular cooperation between Government, CSOs and Private Sector.

Sandhya Kapoor
Dy. Director- National Cooperative Union of India

Arjun Phillips
Program Manager-Voluntary Action Network India (VANI)

Sandhya Kapoor worked as a computer programmer specialising in COBOL, C, C++, RDBMS for about 8 years and thereafter diversified into faculty of management at National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI), an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers’ Welfare. NCUI, the apex organisation of the Indian cooperative movement regularly conducts a training programme for cooperative leaders, employees and members on various aspects of running and managing a cooperative society. We also partner with various government and non-governmental organisations to train people to form cooperative societies thereby empowering people and enabling them to bring socio-economic changes into their own lives. I specialize in gender-related leadership issues existing in cooperative societies, communication skills, conflict management & team building. At present my job involves negotiating with various organisations, designing training programmes as per clients’ needs apart from taking lectures and managing social media accounts like Twitter, Instagram, YouTube channel and Facebook of NCUI.

Arjun Phillips
Program Manager-Voluntary Action Network India (VANI)
Digital Empowerment Foundation aims to connect unreached and underserved communities of India in an effort to bring them out of the digital darkness and empower them with information access through last mile connectivity, digital literacy and digital interventions. With the motto to ‘Inform, Communicate and Empower,’ DEF aims to find sustainable ICT solutions to overcome information poverty in remote and rural locations of India. In an effort to achieve this aim, DEF has adopted a multi-stakeholder approach and a six-fold path to enable communities, governments, schools, civil society organisations and micro-enterprises to avail the benefits of the Information Age. Under this six-fold programme approach, DEF initiates projects in the areas of Access & Infrastructure; Education & Empowerment; Governance & Citizen Services; Markets & Social Enterprises; Knowledge Hub & Network; Research & Advocacy.

WhatsApp started as an alternative to SMS. Our product now supports sending and receiving a variety of media: text, photos, videos, documents, and location, as well as voice calls. Our messages and calls are secured with end-to-end encryption, meaning that no third party including WhatsApp can read or listen to them. Behind every product decision is our desire to let people communicate anywhere in the world without barriers. More than 1 billion people in over 180 countries use WhatsApp1 to stay in touch with friends and family, anytime and anywhere. WhatsApp is free2 and offers simple, secure, reliable messaging and calling, available on phones all over the world.

The World Summit Award (WSA) is a global activity to select and promote the world’s best e-Content and most innovative ICT applications. It offers a worldwide platform for all who value the creative use of ICTs and who are committed to making today’s information society more inclusive. WSA was initiated by Austria in 2003 in the framework of the United Nations’ World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and is organised by a global partner network, coordinated by the International Center for New Media. WSA partners come from governments, the private sector and civil society in over 178 UN member states.