Recent Updates
Smart Village Project is a rural entrepreneurship-based model designed to create ideal smart villages in 120+ locations in India.

It has been extended for 15 more months by Nokia.
Community Information Resource Centres (CIRCs) are community-oriented infrastructure and information hubs built to create digitally literate, information-empowered and equitable communities across the country.

Total number of CIRCs 600+
Supported by—
Two model CIRCs in NRC to digital train of 2000 women and adolescent girls—so that they can participate actively in the democratic process and further enhance the opportunities of livelihood.

Supported by two local partners Gulmehar and Koshish
Envisioning functional education through the pedagogy of discovery-based learning to build capacities towards the subjects of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics.

Oracle has extended its support till 2021
Online based training portal has been initiated in partnership with Commonwealth of Learning called — Learning Management System hosted in LMS.defindia.org that will be used to train 60 women in Uganda and Nigeria in partnership with local NGOs.
Reaching out and training 5000 women CSC entrepreneurs to better their livelihood and promote digital entrepreneurship skills among communities.

Supported by Facebook

It's on hold and plan is to make it Online
‘Digital Dost’ has been initiated to generate awareness for digital well being. DEF is part of a consortium, to undertake two tasks—
- Organising Inaugural Event
- Conducting impact assessment survey

Future is uncertain in light of current crisis because it is an engagement programme with school children, school councillors and parents.
New weavers cluster in Murshidabad (West Bengal) has been added in partnership with EdelGive with a grant covering 3 years. This will further strengthen DCDP programme and take the number of clusters supported under it to 10- Barabanki, Kanchipuram, Musiri, Talasari, Pochampally, Barmer, Nuapatna, Barpali, Chanderi and Murshidabad.
DEF initiated the project called IP Ville (or Internet Protocol Ville) in partnership with Intel.

Intel has decided not to continue with the project—so the villages supported under it will be added to Smartpur project taking the number of smart villages from 120 to 125.
The Media & Information Literacy Curriculum, a follow-up on the START curriculum, has been developed. This module discusses role of media, types of media, role of commercials, news sources, news analysis, misinformation, stereotypes, clickbait and cyberbullying.

It has been successfully integrated in all the training programmes of DEF, such as—Digital Library, Makers Space, DCDP, Digital Beti etc.
Facebook is expanding this project as ‘Wise Women’ in partnership with Commonwealth of Learnings to be conceptualised and implemented by DEF in all the commonwealth countries involving 20 Mentors and 100 Mentees.
Envisioning functional education through the pedagogy of discovery-based learning to build capacities towards the subjects of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics.

10,000 girls in 68 schools in 21 districts of Telangana—and 9000 girls in 52 schools in 5 districts of Assam.

The project is on hold because of Coronavirus crisis.
Hosts is a project that seeks to enhance livelihood opportunities for rural women through the promotion of local art, craft, culture, tradition and history. Under this initiative, in partnership with Airbnb, DEF will train 15,000 rural women across India in digital literacy, hospitality skills and entrepreneurial abilities, encouraging them to operate and maintain home stays and other activities in their respective regions to promote sustainable and experiential tourism.

It is on hold because of Coronavirus crisis
DEF has completed Phase IV of Internet Saathi in West Bengal and Punjab in January 2020. In the process they gave digital literacy to 1885 Internet Saathis in West Bengal and 750 Internet Saathis in Punjab.

Currently, DEF has initiated Saksham—which is cultivating 1191 Internet Saathis into village entrepreneurs in 6 districts of Bihar until 31st March.

Another part of this partnership involves partnership with Niti Ayog for conducting surveys in two districts Guna (MP) and Jamui (Bihar), which are part of 176 aspirational districts declared by the Govt. of India. In both the districts 200 households from 48 villages each are being covered to gauge the impact of govt. schemes.

Concluding on 31st March, 2020
After the successful completion of Phase-1, DEF has initiated Phase-2 with NASSCOM Foundation, where they will initiate trainings of ‘Technology Empowering Girls (TEG)’ and ‘Technology Empowering Community (TEC)’. The partnership will empower 4000 beneficiaries in 10 districts of Telangana until Dec. 2020.

The project is impacted due to Coronavirus crisis—Discussing with NASSCOM to take it Online.
Training on digital enhancement of livelihood and entrepreneurship for weavers and artisans—supported by Commonwealth of Learning. The training is being conducted in 11 clusters namely Nuaptana and Barpali in Odisha; Kanchipuram in Tamil Nadu; Kollegal in Karnataka, Chirala in Andhra Pradesh and Choutupal in Telangana, Barabanki (Uttar Pradesh), Trichy (Tamil Nadu), Chanderi (Madhya Pradesh), Barmer (Rajasthan) and Murshidabad (West Bengal).

Already concluded
The programme—supported by Commonwealth of Learning—is aimed to build digital skill of rural women entrepreneurs to enable 5000 rural women entrepreneur to explore and connect with the digital world and to augment her earnings by leveraging the positivity of digital connects. This connectivity will not only enable her to take an informed decision about her livelihood but also help to advertise her product and extend her clientele.

The implementation will continue Online
In the second phase of the project we have re-designed the curriculum and made it more activity and exercise oriented for constructive engagement. We have introduced the component of WhatsApp Business also to the trainings and to make reach out productive for the village entrepreneurs. We have already reached out to over 50,000 beneficiaries through our combined efforts to this end by engaging with community through our Information Cadre trainers—by using the platform of various national and international events to engage with their participants, such as—

• DCS 2019
• Organic Mahotsav 2019
• CNX 2019
• Radio Festival 2020
• LSuC 2020
DEF and TIKTOK have formed an exclusive partnership to build capacity and awareness of the youth towards—Online safety, Digital Well-Being and Best Practices in Educational Content on TIKTOK—through comprehensive workshops in 10 states of India—Delhi, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. The partnership will reach out to 100,000 beneficiaries. Till February 20, 2020, DEF has trained 52,500 beneficiaries by conducting workshops in 120 mostly Govt. schools with students in the age group of 13-18 yrs. 12 districts in 8 states—Delhi, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab and Tamil Nadu.
Select Assistant Community Leads (ACLs) to drive digital literacy initiative with access to information with Google Assistant who will help to educate the community of users they engage with Google Assistant.

It’s a 3 month project until April 2020, which is being executed in—Alwar and Barmer (Rajasthan); Barabanki (UP), Guna (MP), Ranchi (Jharkhand), Tehri (Uttarakhand), West Champaran (Bihar)
Target- 20,000

It is on hold because of Coronavirus crisis
‘Bringing Economic Independence to Women through Skills Training’—aims at developing an effective ecosystem of sewing training and production centre in Savroli village under block Talasari Palgarh district of Maharashtra, which would help local Warli artisans to upgrade their Warli art and stitching skills and connect art.

- Mobilise 50 Warli artisans and local women for training
- Build capacity of 10 cadres on Warli art to strengthen business development and market linkages for Warli art products

Budget: Rs. 500,000 over 6 months
Digital Empowerment Foundation proposes to bring out a bi-annual academic journal focusing on digital empowerment issues by partnering with a reputed publishing house such as Oxford University Press or Sage Publications.
Participation in International Events

All the International events like RightsCon and APRIGF that DEF regularly participates in have been cancelled or postponed due to coronavirus crisis.
We have submitted our recommendation to Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), Govt. of India, proposing to bring in new Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy-CSR) Rules 2020—hampering Societies and Trusts from receiving CSR funds. We have also touched base with over 500 NGOs from our ENGO database and reached out to them to submit their recommendations so NGOs/Trusts/Societies can continue their good work.
In solidarity with the unprecedented crisis DEF staff is ‘WORKING FROM HOME’ since 18th March, which has been extended till 15th of April, 2020.
Ground Realities

Economical Crisis

- The livelihood of grassroots communities are badly affected by the lockdown including our trainers on the ground since all the funder backed training initiatives which requires assembly of people has stopped
- Our centres in South India have indulged in making cheap masks, which is providing them with alternate livelihood options. We want other centres also to be inspired by this initiative and explore new livelihood options.
- We are looking to initiate centres into making homemade sanitizers also.
Ground Realities

Fragile Health System
• Masks and sanitizers are not available at the grassroots level.
• It has been observed that district hospitals are not prepared for the crisis situation.

Shortage of Daily Essentials
• People are experiencing shortage or sudden spike in prices for vegetable, fruits, pulses—even gas and fuel.

Education
• Education of students in rural areas is badly affected.
Proposals

- Proposal to Omidyar
- Proposal to EdelGive
- Proposal to Facebook
- Proposal to Nokia
- Proposal to CISCO
- Proposal to Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives (APPI)
- Proposal to Nadan Nilekani’s Foundation

All the projects are undergoing financial and implementation re-evaluation and restructuring in the face of Coronavirus crisis to ensure long-term sustainability and strength of the organisation. New proposals are being created and submitted with a new approach and ideas to navigate through unprecedented situation.
Grant Receipts for Financial Year 2019-20 - Rs. 2169.35 Lakhs

Fund Utilisation for Financial Year 2019-20 - Rs. 2000.58 Lakhs

Expected Grant Receipts for Financial Year 2020-21 - Rs. 1369.34 Lakhs