The activities of CIRCs include:

- Connectivity & Access: providing access to all kinds of information and online services including digital entertainment.
- Participation & Governance: enabling participatory governance and better delivery of government services.
- Capacity Building & Skilling: facilitating education and skilling.
- Tele-medicine & Health: ensuring affordable access to tele-medicine and health care.
- Awareness of Rights & Entitlements: spreading awareness of rights and entitlements.
- Entrepreneurship & Livelihoods: promoting entrepreneurship development and creation of livelihoods.
- E-commerce & Economic Inclusion: connecting rural and semi-urban markets to global and national markets through e-commerce and various other ways to achieve economic inclusion.
- Culture & Heritage Preservation: helping to preserve and protect culture and heritage.

What Activities Do CIRCs Undertake?

Nidhi Kanojia is a 19-year-old student of History and Political Science like father works as a driver and her mother is a housewife. Nidhi believes in giving nothing is impossible in this world if you put your heart and efforts. She joined the Digital Literacy Programme in the month of November, 2018 where she learned about computers and slowly mastered the art. Within months, she started teaching students online.

“...I was a bit hesitant when I enrolled in the programme because never in my life, I thought of doing such a course. I entered the world of computers at a stranger but now I belong to this world.”

Nidhi is also searching for a part-time job and wishes to become an IT expert one day. She believes in sharing her knowledge and encourages her siblings and friends to take up the course which will help them to learn new things.

Why Set Up CIRCs?

- Lack of access to Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) is a major developmental challenge as recognised by various national and global mandates such as the Digital India programme or the World Summit on Information Society. Digital inclusion of marginalised communities can eradicate poverty and help achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
- To make all information available to people and community as they want and demand.
- For digital inclusion of information-dark communities.
- To access all enables even the poorest of the poorest to become aware of their rights and entitlements and gives them the voice to avail one.
- To access to information empowers them to avail government entitlements and services, health and educational services, e-commerce and micro-enterprises, agriculture and land rights.
- Community Information Resource Centres (CIRCs) bring in all village level services in one platform for the people to avail them from community perspective.

Who can start a CIRC?

- Community-Based Organisations (CBOs)
- Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)
- Entities engaged in implementing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes
- Individuals and entrepreneurs
- Panchayat members
- School Teachers
- Anganwadi workers
- Self Help Group members
- Women Entrepreneurs

Anybody can establish and start a CIRC in their area by partnering with Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF).

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What Programmes Are CIRCs Implementing?

Common Service Centres Scheme (CSC)
Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
Government of India
European Union
Aga Khan Rural Support Programme
Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation
DIGITAL DAN
DEVICE FOR ALL | EDUCATION FOR ALL

2007
First CIRC set up towards
in Ginjo Thakur Village in
Ranchi (Jharkhand).

2008
Digital Panchayat initiated in
Kolhapur (Maharashtra) and
Alwar (Rajasthan)

2009
CIRC Expends to North East
region, Uttarakhand & Odisha.

2010
CIRC-cum-Digital Panchayat Initiated in
Rohtak (Haryana)

2011
Digital Panchayat is
Launched and reaches out to
500 Panchayat.

2012
National Digital Literacy
Mission integrated at all
CIRCs.

2013
CIRC reaches to more than 50
Location.

2014
150,000 women Reached out for
digital Literacy under Google’s
Helping women Get Online
programmed

2015
100 CIRCs added across 20 states
with support from Vodafone,
Indus Towers, Pradan & Tara Trust

2016
DEF launched British council’s
English and Digital for Girl’s
Education programmed at 21
CIRCS across 12 States.

DEF adopts all district Public
Library in Bihar and Telangana
in partnership with IPLM.

2017
CENTRES LOCATIONS

2018

2019

2020

2021