ABOUT DEF

Founded in 2002, Digital Empowerment Foundation has been working to empower marginalised and unconnected communities living at the edge of information by enabling them with digital capacity, access and rights across the pillars of education and entertainment, livelihood and finance, health and agriculture, culture and heritage, with a special focus on digital rights for women and adolescents. With a 10,000 strong cadre of digital foot soldiers across India, DEF has interventions in 2,000 locations in 135 districts across 24 states in India. Additionally, DEF has a strong network in South Asia and is also an influential member of several global digital initiatives and organisations like Internet Governance Forum (IGF), Internet Society (ISOC), Association of Progressive Communications (APC), World Wide Web Foundation (WWW) and Global Network Initiatives (GNI). Going forward from 2021 to 2030, DEF is focused on working to connect the unconnected, as well as develop a healthy ecosystem wherein those who are connected can live a life free from fake news, misinformation and Internet shutdowns.
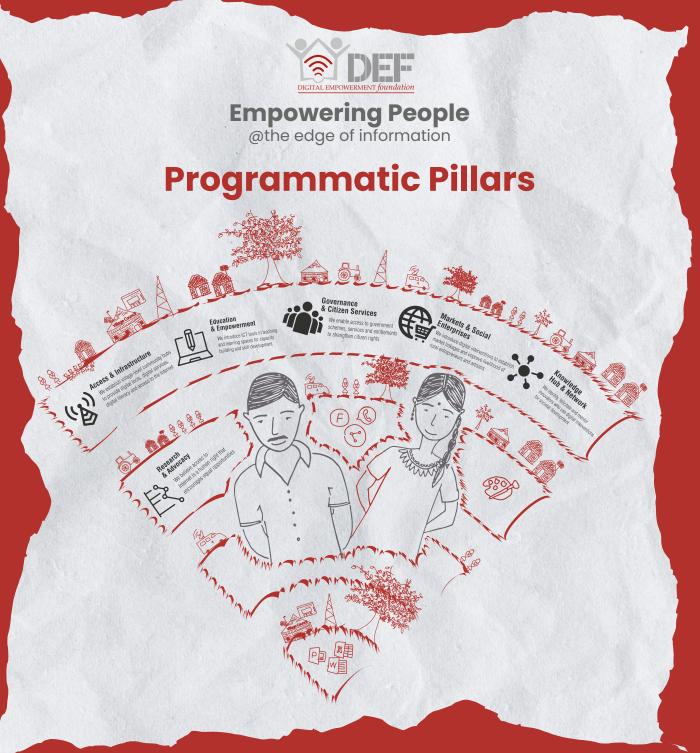
MISSION

To empower marginalised communities in information dark regions to access, consume and produce information online using digital interventions and ICT tools.

VISION

To end information poverty and social backwardness by bringing about a digital revolution.

Imparting Digital Literacy
Archiving Traditional Designs
Training Youth In Digital Designing
Establishing Design Centres
Setting Up An Exhibition Showroom
Enabling Youth For Employment
Linking Artisans To eCommerce
Providing Weavers International Recognition

DEF
DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT foundation

Empowering People
@the edge of information

Programmatic Pillars

Access & Infrastructure
We establish village-level community hubs to provide digital tools, digital services, digital literacy and access to the Internet

Education & Empowerment
We introduce ICT tools in teaching and learning spaces for capacity building and skill development

Governance & Citizen Services
We enable access to government schemes, services and entitlements to strengthen citizen rights

Markets & Social Enterprises
We introduce digital interventions to establish market linkages and improve livelihood of rural entrepreneurs and artisans

Knowledge Hub & Network
We identify, felicitate and mentor innovators who use digital interventions for societal development

Research & Advocacy
We believe access to Internet is a human right that encourages equal opportunities

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IMPACT

30 million Digitally Empowered

20 million Women Digitally Enabled

1,500,000 People Availed Entitlements

100,000 Artisans Digitally Empowered

50,000 Trained in Digital Creation & Dissemination

10,500 Digital Innovations Documented

6,000 NGOs Digitally Enabled

1,500 Digital Panchayat

2,000 Digital Resource Centres Set Up

Flagship Programs

CIRC — 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.

A·CODE — A-CODE is an effort towards finding ways to enhance collaboration among civil society organisations that are working in different sectors and advocating for a more pivotal role for the inclusion of the arts in social change.

SoochnaPreneur — SoochnaPreneur program is to strengthen the poor information ecosystem in rural communities, especially in the backward districts that have alienated a majority of India's population from social and economic entitlement gains

DIGITAL SARTHAK — Digital SarthaK program aims to increase the digital capacity of women entrepreneurs and community development organizations in marginalized and underserved regions in India by providing them with digital up-skilling support and strengthening their ability to engage on digital and ICT policy issues.

DFI — Digital Financial Inclusion — DEF, through the Amazon DFI Program for Youth, provided digital mentorship and financial literacy to 40,000 youth (13-24 years) to access and pursue relevant career opportunities, 10,000 women entrepreneurs who will be able to use this mentorship for establishing their businesses online and use digital tools for sustainable maintenance and enhancement.

eNGO — digitally empowering grassroots organisations — This program was designed with the objective of mentoring and connecting grassroots nonprofits working in the development sector. As a part of this mentorship program, 6,000+ nonprofits joined the network, 10,000+ NGO representatives were mentored in ICT tools, 5000+ websites were being hosted and 200+ workshops were conducted across Asia and Africa

didi — Stemming from the urgent need to destigmatize menstruation, DEF launched the 'Digital Didi' programme to create awareness among adolescent girls and women in rural and semi-urban India about misconceptions and misinformation surrounding menstruation and to communicate authentic information, facilitate access to sustainable menstrual products and better health infrastructure.

RECOGNITION AND INNOVATIONS

mBillionth Award, eNGO Challenge, and Social Media for Empowerment (SM4E) Award is the congregation and visual experience of the best digital innovations from India and other South Asian countries

UPCOMING AWARDS

Digital Artisans of India Award: Digital Empowerment Foundation and Digikargha in collaboration with Creative Dignity announced an open call for application for Digital Artisans of India award. This award is for those artisans of India who have used digital tools and digital media to break the traditional barriers.

LAUNCHING THE AWARD

By launching the award in 2023, we wish to honor and recognize those individuals that have showcased exemplary work at the grassroots level for leading positive transformation and digital innovation, intervention and empowerment in the rural communities of the country.