Digital Empowerment Foundation

DEF is a Delhi-based NGO working in the field of digital empowerment of masses across India, South Asia and Africa since 2002. DEF's mission is to enable communities to be aware and conscious of the utility and necessity to using ICT for their upliftment and empowerment. Its mission is to see widespread development, use, spread, and promotion, and accessibility, affordability of digital content based on cultural specifics or language necessities.

Partners

Internet Society

The Internet Society (ISOC) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1992 to provide leadership in Internet related standards, education, and policy. With offices in Washington D.C., USA, and Geneva, Switzerland, it is dedicated to ensuring the open development, evolution and use of the Internet for the benefit of people throughout the world.

Ford Foundation

The Ford Foundation was established in 1936 to use its resources "for scientific, educational and charitable purposes, all for the public welfare," Headquartered in New York City, they make grants in all 50 states and, through 10 regional offices around the world, support programs in more than 50 countries.

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WIRELESS FOR COMMUNITIES
Connecting rural communities of India
through Unlicensed Spectrum

DEF
DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT foundation

FORD FOUNDATION

Internet Society

Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) with support from the Internet Society and Ford Foundation works on a joint project, called 'Wireless for Communities (W4C)'. The project aims to provide a holistic community-empowered approach of connecting rural communities to the Internet and helping them benefit from information and knowledge resources.

The objective of this programme is two-fold. The first aim is to organize a technical consultation to understand how unlicensed wireless band/free spectrum can be used to connect isolated areas and communities of the country. The second aim is to bring policy advocators, social ISP enterprises, experts, and government stakeholders together to have a dialogue, debate and open discussion on the importance of open wireless spectrum and how it can be utilized as a means of access to information, rights and resources.

Vision

To create a holistic, community empowered wireless ecosystem to connect rural communities to the Internet

Mission

- To address the issue of last mile connectivity
- To initiate dialogue and deliberation on the advantage and necessity of Wireless network as an alternative solution to provide connectivity to remote and underserved communities
- To initiate advocacy with relevant public and private agencies to adopt Wireless network to reach out to rural communities with broadband connectivity and services on it
- To develop local human capacities by organizing ToTs (Training of Trainers) and Training programs on Wireless Technologies and Wireless Mesh Network
- To deploy at least one Wireless Mesh Network in a

- cluster environment to target a community and enable benefits and impacts over a period of time
- To democratize the availability of connectivity and enable internet accessibility and information decentralization
- To formulate and stipulate a clear strategy of 'how to create community-based ISPs' and empower them to work on a sustainable basis

Deployment of Wireless Networks

Structured Training of Trainers (ToTs)

Connectivity & Access Services

Workshops to share the Best Practices

Tilonia
Chandauli
Alwar
Baran
Chanderi
Guna
Shivpuri
Giridih
Tura
Nangaon