

13TH FOUNDING DAY CELEBRATIONS





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CELEBRATIONS**



”

At 13 I enter into my teen

It is just the beginning
Watch me or come along with me
Till I become 19
And india becomes 75
I assure you we will make sure
That Internet is actually for poor
And to eradicate poverty! -

“

Osama Manzar
Founder & Director
DEF





A great day for DEF to have travelled so far, achieved so much in such a short time

Ravi Kanta
Head-Admin & Operations
DEF





”

"The goal to digitally empower 1 Billion people in the long run is a lofty target something few organisations would have dreamt of. Digital is such an exciting space to be in these times of #Digital India et al. The political establishment wants it, the nation is craving for it and nothing in the world has made it more equal than digital & ICT tools has."

"Another thing I have been liking about DEF is its Open work culture. Osama sir never wanted a partition to be put as cubicles etc which must be unique. I have read and seen on tv Mark Zuckerberg's Facebook's office to be this open. Openness also is equality."

India was changing in the new millennium
IT, ICT, Telecom, Mobile Internet were the buzzwords
In a corner of South Delhi a man was getting a fancy for these new things
He decided to start an NGO on these new emerging technologies
He christened it Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF)
The last Indian with a computer first and with a mobile later drove him to villages
In Indian hinterland he learnt what he didn't study in his school and college
The 'Manthan' (Churning) still continues
He still travels far and wide to learn and unlearn
Still he casts his charm far and wide
DEF family is now pretty big
The core value still remains to light the love for Information Communication Technology in human hearts in the last mile
The drive of DEF shall continue in years to come
Life just becomes more meaningful at 13 as we all adults know
May Digital Empowerment Foundation goes on and on and on in years to come

“

Pritam Sinha

Researcher & Social media expert
DEF





ओसामा मंजर ने जो देखा था सपना
उसे पूरा करने में संघर्ष भी था उतना
समझ आ गया गया था उनको
कि इंटरनेट ही है वो हथियार
जो फैला सकता है जागरूकता और दिला सकता है वंचितों को अधिकार
पर इंटरनेट और कंप्यूटर को गांव गांव तक पहुंचा नहीं था आसान
सिर्फ एक सी आई आर सी स्थापित करने में ही निकल गयी जान
और उपर से इंटरनेट पहुंचाना था मनो जंग-ऐ-मैदान
पर जब जूनून, जज़्बा और हौसला हो, तो हर मुश्किल होती है आसान
गांव-गांव घूमे सी.आई.आर.सी बनाने के लिए
कंप्यूटर लेकर आये, पढ़ाने के लिए
ट्रेनर को ट्रेन किया, विद्यार्थियों का चयन किया
तो लो भैया पहला सेटअप तो रांची के बुरमु में लग गया
पर अब इंटरनेट कैसे पहुंचे ये चैलेंज था नया
कुछ लोग संपर्क में आये, कुछ पैसे जुटाये
तब जाकर इंटरनेट का जाल फैला पाये
धीरे-धीरे कारवां बढ़ता गया
एक से दो, दो से दो सौ का सहयोग मिलता गया
सिलसिला अभी थमा नहीं है,
बहुत कुछ है अभी कहने को, लव तैयार नहीं हैं चुप रहने को
पर क्या करें वक्त की कुछ पाबंदियां हैं, इसलिए मुझे यहीं थमना होगा



Dinesh Chauhan
Senior Communication Officer
DEF



"So much to celebrate
So much to say
About the founder
And the entire family
Today..
Bringing in passion
Signing up duties
Uplifting spirit
With striving concerns
We meet every day..
DEF, as a restless soul
Couldn't sleep a day
With a dream
To drive a change
To dig up barren
To patch up holes
Bearing torch in dark
Crossing miles
Sweating hard
From its inception
To this day...
So much to celebrate
So much to say
On this founder's day...



Chitra Chauhan
Senior Project Officer
DEF



I feel this photograph of three men raising a wireless for communities tower at a fort in Chanderi summarizes the core idea of DEF's existence. Its almost like raising a victory flag after a war.



This photo always reminded me of 1945 Pulitzer winner 'Raising the Flag'



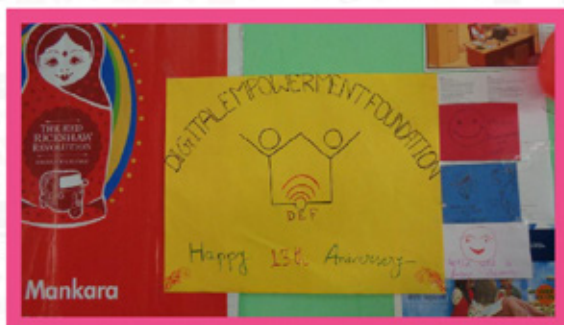
Mubeen Siddiqui
Picture & Content Editor
DEF



सुनो सुनार्ये हम, सबको बतायें
 DEF की है शान निराली, सबके मन की सबसे जानी।
 रोज नये नति कार्यक्रम करता, सबको ज्ञान जोश से भरता।
 गाँव शहर सब जगह पहुँचता, जरूरतमंदों को सुविधाओं से भरता।
 पूरब से पश्चिम, उत्तर से दक्षिण, बिहार से दिल्ली
 उत्तराखण्ड से बाढ़मेर।
 जहाँ देखो वहाँ बस DEF का है जोर।
 अब कानपुर-उन्नाव भी पीछे है नहीं रहता।
 DEF यहाँ भी सबको ट्रेनिंग है देता।
 DEF का कोई काम ना छोटा।
 महिलाओं बच्चों व किसानों को है जोड़ा।
 जो घर-घर से आते हैं, हम उन सबको सीखाते हैं।
 कम्प्यूटर ट्रेनिंग व रोजगार प्रशिक्षण भी देते हैं।
 "आओ गुनगुनाएँ, स्वर में स्वर को मिलाएँ"
 #DEFTurns13! को शाश्वत आगे बढ़ायें॥



Ramendra Dwivedi
 Project Co-ordinator
 DEF



It started, like most good things do, with a dream
 A dream of connecting all to connectivity
 Of building a platform of parity
 There were initiations, then came struggles
 As also the opportunities, some disguised as challenges
 What survived them all is what is today's DEF's USP
 The toil aided by determination
 The climb abetted with conviction
 The goal of rural connect began to be realized
 The desire of success soon materialized
 The vision of one fired by the passion of the ever growing team
 The journey so far, worthwhile, yet being some more way before we
 reach the dream
 Of 'one billion connect'
 So striving to keep our resolution intact
 Let's start dreaming and aiming for the next beam
 Because dreams are meant to be lived, no matter how far-fetched they
 may seem.

Neena Jha
 Programme Director
 DEF





Such is the impact of the organization's ideology, in a short time span of time makes me feel I was born to do this.

Sachin Ralhan
Project Manager
DEF





रख हौसला, वो "मंज़र" भी आएगा।
 प्यासे के पास चल कर, समंदर भी आएगा।
 थक कर ना बैठना, ए मंजिल के मुसाफिर।
 मंजिल भी मिलेगी और मिलने का मज़ा भी आएगा।



Sachin Bansal

Executive- Media & Communication



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