

## **Narrative Quick Bio of OSAMA MANZAR**

Osama Manzar is a global leader on the mission of eradicating information poverty from India and global south using digital tools. He is a social entrepreneur, author, columnist, impact speaker, angel investor, mentor, and sits on several government and policy committees in India and on international organisations working in the areas of Internet, access, and digital inclusion.

With over 20 years experience, Osama has worked in the areas of journalism, new media, software enterprise and ended up creating Digital Empowerment Foundation that works in India to digitally empower the masses with a footprint of 200 locations and interventions in more than 10 countries, mostly in South Asia.

Manzar is a British Chevening Scholar and is also International Visitors Leadership Program Fellow of US State Department. He has coauthored more than 5 books including Internet Economy of India. Osama has instituted 10 awards for recognising digital innovations for development in India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. He is a member of Advisory Board of Alliance for Affordable Internet; member of licensing committee for community radio in India at Ministry of Information & Broadcasting; member of Working Group - IT for Masses at Ministry of IT in India. He is member of the board at Association of Progressive Communication; World Summit Award; Ibtada; and Society for Labour & Development.

Osama has travelled more than 5000 villages across 40 countries and pretty much specialize in advising digital models for underserved communities. Osama Manzar writes a regular weekly column in Mint – can be accessed at <http://www.livemint.com/Search/Link/Author/Osama%20Manzar>

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