

Leave No Voice Behind

Contributed to the report "No Reward Without Risk: Addressing the Economic Impacts of Misinformation and Other Digital Harms on MSMEs," published by (CDA) at Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI)

Conducted an all India level multi-stakeholder consultation to contribute towards the Global Digital Compact

Contributing a chapter for "State of Fact-Checking in India", a regional online report for International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)

Presented DEF's work on data justice, circular economy, digital rights and problems of access and connectivity in India in IGF (2022) Ethiopia and IGF (2023) Japan

Presented DEF's SoochnaPreneur model and its relevance in last mile connectivity in an advocacy event organised by Centre for Legislative Education and Research, FLAME University, Pune

Submitted detailed comments on The Rajasthan Platform Based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill draft, 2023

2023

Osama Manzar represented DEF in a town hall organised by Network18 and Truecaller on 'Protecting Women And Girls From Harassment In The Digital Age'. The town hall was collected as part of a campaign to take action against the electronic harassment women in India face.

Townhall on 'Protecting Women and Girls From Harassment In The Digital Age'

Participated in a summit organised by Broadband India Forum to discuss the implementation and implications of Public Data Offices.

The summit highlighted the impact of public hotspots on income generation as more and more rural nano entrepreneurs are distributing internet and associated services as a sustainable livelihood option

Submitted detailed feedback on Digital Data Protection Bill Draft 2023



2022-2023: Presented about DEF's work in RightsCon Canada (2022) and RightsCon Costa Rica (2023)

(DEF) conducted a survey to gain insights into Aadhaar-based service delivery.

Releases a research study on addressing internet & digital access inclusion needs of the vulnerable Himalayan communities in India, Nepal, and Bhutan

Releases a report on the profound impact of internet shutdowns in the Indian state of Manipur



Humara MIL Kit for the Multiverse of Digital Fallacies

Release a comprehensive Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Kit to enable people to interpret and make informed judgments as users of information and media

Digital Artisans of India Award Recognising artisans and organisations of India who have used digital tools and digital media to break the traditional barriers

Technology for Change Week Asia organised by Economist Impact

DEF was selected as the Global Policy Pilot Partner (GPPP) for India for the global project on 'Advancing Data Justice Research and Practice (ADJRP)' and has partnered with the Alan Turing Institute (ATI) and Global Partnership on AI (GPAI) on this pilot research project in 'Advancing Data Justice Research and Practices'.

2023

Perception Survey on Aadhaar-Based Service Delivery

Connecting Himalayan Communities

The Everyday Violence of an Internet Shutdown: Narratives from Manipur

Releases an ethnographic book on the migrant crisis that was triggered by the COVID-19 lockdown in India in 2020

Following the Migrants Home: Plights, Struggles and Aspirations

Working with Telangana Govt. to integrate digital into all district libraries

Becomes a member of India Public Library Movement (IPLM)

SoochnaPreneur Award Recognising individuals doing exemplary work at the grassroots level for leading positive transformation and digital innovation

eNGO Challenge recognising and rewarding ICT based and enabled digital initiatives

World Summit Awards Recognising digital innovations and interventions for empowerment

Research on Data Justice

mBillionth Awards Recognising and rewarding mobile innovations

Awards & Recognition

Board Advisories World Summit Award (WSA), Association for Progressive Communications (APC), Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI)

2022

Releases a book based on virtual roundtable discussions aimed at exploring the trajectories of rural economic development through digital capacity of enterprise and entrepreneurship

Prelude to the Digital Future

Converting library space into Wi-Fi digital infrastructure to offer education, skills and services in its public space

Making a movement to convert every district library into a digital library

Digital Library



10,000 digital cadre

SM4E Awards Recognising individuals or organisations empowering people through social media



International Digital Influence

2016

Digital Citizen Summit

Conceived to discuss & deliberate issues around digital citizenship & digital society

Partners with APC, ISOC, FNF, Facebook, POV, UNESCO, Twitter, FII, SCORE Foundation, SFLC.in, CUTS International, Internet Democracy Project, The Dialogue, CSA, SRVC, HP, NLU, GONews, Mint, Moz//a, T-HUB, Law for All, CDPP, Government of Telangana, BIF, A-CODE

Network of 6000+ nonprofit grassroots organisations South Asia, Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria, USA, Europe, South Africa, Ghana, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Myanmar, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, Japan

Organisational & Knowledge Network

Knowledge database of 10,000 digital innovations across South Asia

Internet Society (ISOC), Association for Progressive Communications (APC), GNI, World Summit Award (WSA), Media and Information Literacy Expert Network (MILEN)

IIM Kolkata, IRMA, FORE studied the Chanderi model

2021

Decentralising Benefits

Releases 'Decentralising Benefits', a collection of case studies on collective experience of 14 major Indian CSOs

Partners with APC, ISOC, APNIC Foundation, ISIF, A4AI, COL, UNESCO, Action for Hope, Landscape of Hope, Protovillage, Janastu, Global Digital Inclusion, WACC, BIF, AIBD, MILEN, W4C, CSDD, A-CODE

DEF conceived it to adopt video-calling as a means to connect with girls from indigenous communities to urban women for the development of soft skills, confidence-building and inculcate leadership among girls from indigenous communities

Scales it to 100 with Facebook



Going Online as Leaders (GOAL)

Piloted with 40 girls from indigenous communities

The landmark case study influences CSRs to invest in other clusters for digital integration

With Media Lab Asia and Ministry of Communication & IT, DEF adopted Chanderi Silk handloom chrysler and integrated digital technology and enhanced cluster's 600 million revenue to 1500 million within 5 years

2011

Conducted 2 consequent research studies on the efficacy of NOFN on the ground

Manthan Award expands to South Asia to identify digital innovation

Community Information Resource Center (CIRC) was conceived as a holistic approach for digital enabled village development.

Since 2010, DEF learnt and implemented several alternative last mile network through mesh, wireless and frugal technology

Proliferation of Broadband through WiFi: TRAI Consultation and Recommendation

Govt. adopts TRAI recommendations and requested BSNL to do 1,00,000 village level hotspots

Digital Integration of Handloom Clusters and Traditional Skills

2014

National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM)

Along with Intel and NASSCOM Foundation, DEF co-conceived, co-wrote and co-implemented NDLM which was adopted by the Ministry of IT and Telecom and allocated a budget to train 60 million citizens in India

Participated in the formation of the CSC framework along with IIFS for the Ministry of Communication & IT, including content and services strategy for CSCs and VLEs.

CSC ended up covering all of India's rural landscape, offering digital services and government entitlements

Released 'e-Content: Voices from the Ground 2.0', a compilation of 30+ countries, in Tunis

Institutionally established Manthan Award with WSA to recognise best ICTD innovations

Created slogan & mission "Empowering People @ the Edge of Information"

Compiled and released 'e-Content: Voices from the Ground' WSIS- 2003 in Geneva

2005

Participated in World Summit on Information Society

Developed a series of case studies with National Institute of Smart Governance

Became a Foundational and Board Member of World Summit Awards



- #Global
- #Agriculture
- #Security
- #Remote
- #Radio
- #Cyber
- #Community
- #India
- #Csc
- #eGov
- #Sustain
- #unreached
- #Poverty
- #Mobile
- #Rural
- #Health
- #Women
- #Wireless
- #LGBTQ
- #NDLM
- #Sim