

Capacity Building on Information & Communication Technology and Development

**20-21 Feb 2006
Taragram, Jhansi**

Report

OneWorld South Asia conducted an orientation training on Information & Communication Technology (ICT) and Development for the NGOs associated with DFID supported Poorest Area Civil Society (PACS) Programme coordinated by Development Alternatives Group.

Fourteen Non Profit organisations from Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh participated in two days workshop at Taragram, between Jhansi and Orchha.

The workshop started with participants getting familiarised with the workshop aims and objectives and also to each other by introducing themselves, their organisations and the work they are engaged in.

Participants wrote their expectations on the paper and discussed what they would expect from this training module in two days. Most of the expectations were to understand how ICT could be employed for development, what are the tools available and what's all is happening and who all is doing what and how they could also learn to use ICT in their own areas.

Participants discussed the social issues present in their communities in a group exercise. Then, they discussed various Millennium Development Goals (MDG) issues related to poverty and hunger, education, gender, Infant Mortality, Maternal Mortality, HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases, environmental sustainability and global partnership, what are the knowledge gaps and knowledge requirements of the community to progress on all eight goals.

The next day, participants discussed how knowledge centre functions and how it caters to the needs of the community members using various ICT tools like computer, radio and mobile phones. ICT tools developed by OWSA was also demonstrated through presentations and discussions.

Open eNRICH, software developed to manage knowledge at local community level and to share the available knowledge was demonstrated. Later information was disseminated on how NGOs can start using this tool for empowering communities.

Similarly, Ek Duniya Sawal Jawab, tools that enables the farmers' to directly put their queries to the expert through phone lines and to retrieve answers via phone was also demonstrated and queries regarding its' functioning were answered.

Later, strategy to use radio was also discussed. How communities could be involved in radio programme production and how narrow casting could be adopted as a strategy to disseminate audio messages to the community were discussed.

Strategy on print involves training community workers on writing local news and local knowledge. The community could bring out it's newsletter containing local news and locally relevant knowledge.

Later, organisations discussed the oppourtunity and challenges for establishing knowledge centres and using various media tools for knowledge dissemination in the community.

Most of the organisations were very keen on using phone based application, Ek Duniya Sawal Jawab developed by OneWorld South Asia for answering queries of the farmers' over phone and showed great enthusiasm to start the project in their respective areas. Many organizations were interested in using radio / Video in their community awareness programmes. All were looking upto OWSA to support the capacity building for using these media and also to supply digital content in audio / video format for community dissemination.

Agenda of the Programme

<i>Day</i>	<i>Session</i>
Day One	
Morning Session	Introduction and Ice Breaking
<i>Morning Session</i>	Mapping Community Issues
<i>Afternoon Session</i>	Role of Communication in Development process – Knowledge Requirements of Community
<i>Afternoon Session</i>	Peoples' Advocacy – Communicating Local Issues
Day two	
<i>Morning Session</i>	Using Technology for Advocacy – Knowledge Centres

Day	Session
<i>Morning Session</i>	Radio for Advocacy (Community Radio, Broadcasting / Narrow Casting, Radio Listeners' Club)
<i>Afternoon Session</i>	Internet for Advocacy (Internet Infrastructure, Community Communication Tool in Local Language, Capacity Building)
<i>Afternoon Session</i>	Two Way Knowledge Exchange - Content for Community Needs
<i>Afternoon Session</i>	Role of Community in Generating Local Content
<i>Afternoon Session</i>	Planning organisational strategy for using ICT in Development

Names of the Participants

1. Mr. Vinod Kumar Singh , Krishnarpit Sewasram, Attara
2. Mr. H.P. Desmukh, Yuva Gram Vikas Mandal, Beed, Maharashtra
3. Mr. Shashank Kumar Gupta, Peoples' Action for National Integration, Kanpur
4. Mr. Harender Kumar, Abhiyan, Patna
5. Mr. Raj Kamal Singh, Avadh Sewa Sansthan, Pratapgardh, UP
6. Mr. Rajesh Kumar Srivastava, Janpriya Sewa Sansthan, Pratapgardhh, UP
7. Ms. Anju Lata, NIDAN, Patna, Bihar
8. Mr. Sambhunath chaudharay, Agragati, Ranchi, Jharkhand
9. Mr. A K Yadav, Sanchit Vikas Sansthan, Basti, UP
10. Mr. Maroti D Lohat, Pararath Samiti , Chhindwara, MP
11. Mr. Hemant Kumar Jha, Sramaik Bharti, Kanpur
12. Mr. Saurabh Gunjan, S K D Memorial Trust, UP
13. Mr. Birendra Kumar Jha, Maulana Azad Samajik avam Saikshik Oarishad, Patna, Bihar
14. Ms. Rajashree Awandhe, Indian Institute of Youth Welfare, Nagpur, Maharashtra