South Asia’s Best e-Contents 2009

The manhant Award
South Asia 2009
DIGITAL INCLUSION for DEVELOPMENT

South Asia’s Best e-Content 2009

The Manthan Award
South Asia 2009
Patrons & Board

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The journey of the Manthan Award has crossed the 5th mile and we are celebrating its entry into second innings of a decade. The sixth year of the Manthan Award is bigger, wider, inclusive and as diverse as the Indian Sub-continent. By now it has almost covered the country of size as India and has reached out to its South Asian neighbours notably Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan. Its extensive coverage is as vast to recognize digital innovations in as many as 13 categories covering every aspect of our living ecosystem influenced by technology and vice versa--from education to health, commerce to livelihood, language issues to localisation, environment to agriculture, governance to entrepreneurship, broadcasting to mobiles, and blogs to social networking.

It is inspiring to recall the wavelength of the Manthan nominations scaling up from hardly 100 nominations overall in 2005, to a figure crossing 1000 nominations as best digital practices as repository. Further, listing the 2009 nominations is a heart warming experience given the innovations and diversity of digital applications and yet existing in isolation without recognition, cross-learning and cross-experimentation. Here, it is important to note, there is no dearth of digital ideas to fructify and experiment and grassroots innovations can prove experts wrong. This is all the more reason to recognize, encourage, mentor and sustain bright ideas for making human lives better and brighter.

The more the old tag the more the responsibility to carry through and meeting expectations for the younger lot. The Manthan Award has provided requisite advocacy and knowledge support and encouraged Sri Lanka to initiate national digital content movement beginning with its national digital award programme, anchoring support by Digital Empowerment Foundation, the foundational pillar of the Manthan Award. Bangladesh and Nepal are all set to have own versions of digital programme by 2010 and the Manthan platform ready extending all possible support inputs. It is very much desirable then, that this digital programme variant find place in the rest of South Asian national communities.

Very much related is the satisfaction accrued from the externals faith in the Manthan jury and selection process so much so that Canada’s IDRC coming on board DEF and the Manthan Award platform to conduct its flagship IDRC India Social Science Research Award 2009, celebrating IDRC’s silver jubilee presence in India. The 2009 Manthan Award platform hosts the IDRC India SSRA 2009. This bond of extensiveness no doubt, has propelled UNESCO to explore DEF and the Manthan platform in picking best nominations from the Manthan Award for the UNESCO-IPDC Prize for Rural Communication.

Having listed all these achievements for the Manthan Award, what is significant is the nominees of Manthan Award, the people, the projects, and the innovations who make this award big, important and prestigious. And, what we relish most about Manthan Award is the bonding with the award fraternity, linkages with them, and long term association for finding common ground to connect for bigger, better and sustainable goals. One common ground emerged is the exchange platform created where all the Manthan nominees and projects are being updated and encouraged to exchange ideas and projects online and do peer-learning through www.contentxchange.net. Another notable
development being the recent thrust in the Ministry of Communication & Information Technology, India, through the Department of Information Technology to create a Digital Knowledge Center (DKC), a national digital repository of bright and sustainable digital innovations and practices for the public domain in video case study framework.

Here, one cannot ignore the minds and hands working behind the DEF and the Manthan Award pillars and making it sustain and grow. You must be wondering how the team that works behind the Manthan Award would be? Well, no big surprises. We have very basic team to put together this award, but what is un-common about the Manthan Team or rather the DEF team is the sheer believe that digital content and ICT can really change the lives of the people and help the economy leapfrog to match the world economy.

My warm acknowledgement to my dedicated team of young and bright minds in Priyanka Chauhan, Neeraj Singh, Md.Niyaz, Ravi Kanta, Shahid Ahmad, Anubhuti Dayal, Shaifali Chikermane, Pritam Sinha, Vikrant Mishra, Satya Prakash, Shweta Birla, Sanjeev Kumar, Jasbir Singh, Syed Kazi, Manoj, and Ankit, and many who worked with us, left us, but we have their best wishes.

I must also reveal that we have a list of great believers, who keep our momentum always charged, and my sincere acknowledgement goes to the DEF board members, advisors and the jurors – whom you can interact with through the pages at the end of this book.

Not to forget that, to achieve as great establishment as Manthan Award, we need a huge resource, and that does not come without proving the worth of it at a very large vision and its endorsement by those who can support it, invest in it and do not ask any question. We have always recognised the contribution of such organization. DEF and the Manthan Award warmly acknowledges and recognizes this years supporting hands in Nokia Siemens Networks who agreed and believed in the Manthan objectives and came on board as Co-Organiser. My sincere acknowledgement also goes to Gujarat Knowledge Society for being one of the first among the lot for partnering for the Manthan Award cause. The support from Intel, TCS, Edurite, Internet & Mobile Association of India, IGNOU, various government organizations from Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, ISRO, Gujarat, CEMCA, Barefoot College, UNESCO, WSA, GAID, and so on have been warm and timely.

With this the Manthan Award platform hopes to receive continuous support, guidance, inputs and warmth not only from India but from well wishers in South Asia and beyond to enlarge the nascent digital movement for desirable outcomes. Let us connect for the larger vision of knowledge and digitally enabled societies worldwide.

Dearest readers may ignore any errors and omissions in this book as humanly mistakes and enjoy the flavour and flow of digital diversities thereby.

Warmest regards,

Osama Manzar
Chairman
The Manthan Award
Preparing For A Digital Economy:
Digital Content – Creation, Distribution, Localisation And Accessibility

As we embark on our journey in the digital world, appropriate digital content is increasingly becoming more important across sectors and there is an increasing demand and need for creating the right content that is relevant, useful, accessible and available in the local language and context. In the public domain, information such as weather information and content relating to education and health and public services are a must rather than just a need. The creation of new commercial business models for content development, production, and delivery are posing new policy challenges for governments to provide the market and business environment that supports development of new digital content goods and services, promotes competition and benefits users.

In a country like India, which is marked by unique diversity of having 22 official languages across 35 States and more than a billion people, the idea of creating relevant content in the local language that is all inclusive is indeed challenging. The problem is compounded by the fact that though most of our population does not speak or understand English, more than 90% of our digital content is in English. Digital content creation is a challenge that needs to be addressed by Governments and Businesses alike. The emphasis lies in publishing localized content that is specific to the community needs and provides an avenue for discussion and dialogue in native languages via the Internet. This is essential for digital inclusion.

Content distribution is as vital a challenge as Content creation. There are a growing number of models both in existence and in development that seek to bridge the ‘digital divide’ and engage marginal or excluded communities in the ‘knowledge economy’ by using new technologies and specifically the Internet. The challenge is to develop an appropriate access model for rural and geographically remote areas to obtain ICT services. Telecenters across the world and Common Services Centres in India seek to bridge this gap. Apart from Internet, there have been innovative uses of Community Radio, FM and Television to ensure digital content is distributed across a larger crosssection of people. Such technologies also enable providing cheap and alternative methods of communication within and between communities. It has the potential of allowing access to information and knowledge that can improve the lives and livelihoods of individuals and the community as a whole. This will also enhance economic development and alleviate poverty through educational and economic opportunities created by technology. It also helps to identify new ways to generate wealth and provide new markets and distribution channels, reduce transaction costs and aggregate demand and buying power. These are the signposts of the new economy that have created a whole new way of businesses to grow and fast forward growth and development.
Digital content is becoming ubiquitous today thanks to the rapid strides being made in Broadband penetration. It has been established world over that E-government, e-health and e-education are some of the most important industries to benefit from advancements in broadband infrastructure. The realities of the economic crisis has led to countries realizing that broadband infrastructure is not merely important for the direct social and economic use of citizens, but it is equally important for the digital economy and includes critical sectors such as healthcare, education and smart grids.

Many governments around the world have shown leadership in developing online services with recent developments shifting focus from these traditional online services to new initiatives like incorporating social media tools into e-government services, particularly those aimed at communicating directly with citizens and implementing cloud computing services in order to cut costs and improve upon ICT system infrastructure. The Internet and associated Web 2.0 technologies has further broadened the quality and possibilities for remote education and the ‘virtual classroom’. Initiatives like Tele-education are becoming increasingly important in training health professionals in remote areas.

Other factors accelerating the emergence of the digital economy include the spread of new hand-held user devices, expansion of wireless networks including 3 G networks. These innovations in many societies have triggered a virtuous circle in which supply and demand drive each other and move together towards new frontiers for applications. This emerging market is characterized by cross-industry convergence and alliances between digital content producers, television, cinema, the music industry, major Internet portals, IT enterprises and consumer electronics manufacturers in a search for synergies, critical mass and access to consumers.

In a country like India while the focus has been largely on laying out core IT infrastructure under National e Governance Plan including a network of broadband enabled Common Services Centres across the country, there is a need to leverage the infrastructure created for not only delivery of public services but also to meet the goals of digital and financial inclusion. There is a great opportunity for us in leveraging our ever-increasing mobile penetration for pushing relevant content and services through the mobile platform.

Apart from the initiatives taken by Government, the efforts made by Non Governmental Organizations like Manthan and Digital Empowerment Foundation is indeed creditable, as they have focused on Digital Content creation in a sustained manner. While a lot of effort and thought has gone into the need of creation of digital content, we also need to focus on digital preservation and archiving. In this regard the idea of creating a digital repository in the form of a ‘Digital Knowledge Centre’ needs to be carried to its logical end.

I am sure the 2009 edition of the Manthan Award platform will continue to encourage digital and content innovators and developers. I hope the two days conclave deliberating on key digital and content area issues will equally bring forth key inputs, ideas and thoughts, which could be shared by all for further analysis and action.

With this, I congratulate the award winners and call upon them to carry forward their good works. It is also heartening to note that a large number of E Government initiatives are amongst the awardees. I also laud the efforts of the organizers for the efforts made in brining to focus the digital movement in South Asia.

With best regards

R. Chandrashekhar
Secretary
Department of Information Technology
Ministry of Communications & Information Technology
Government of India
The Manthan Award – Richness & Diversity of Digital Content for Inclusion

The Manthan Award is an India & South Asia initiative within the larger framework of World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and World Summit Award (WSA) framework. It is an invitation regional programme of New Delhi based Digital Empowerment Foundation that started in 2003-04. The idea behind the Manthan Award was to not only focus on the technology and its implementation, but the kind of impact it had on people. The focus is not on technology per se but on digital technology enabled innovations of content and services. The impact focus is on the last mile advantage in meeting development and governance through viable information and communication packages. Through this Award platform the best use of digital applications and innovations in India and South Asia is at the centre of regional contest in as many 13 categories involving all 8 South Asian countries including Afghanistan.

The Manthan programme all began as a national contest in India but extended to South Asia in 2008 due to the region’s similar socio-cultural-economic landscape and near to uniform scope and challenges in digital deployments. Today the Manthan network is proud of having more than 1000 members as part of the larger Manthan fraternity. This unprecedented success is due to the strong networking of digital innovators, practitioners, government officials, departments, institutes, academic institutions, corporate agencies, civil society, local and national media and others. The Manthan Award is an outcome of an ongoing efforts of all these stakeholders connected to each other annually.

Technology provides framework – Content delivers substance

Technology offers tools and platforms to deliver goods. While the rate of technology tools innovations is faster, the usage of the same lags behind in human hands. The digital divide is then visible and gaps widen. Creation of content and production of content enabled applications is then pertinent to assist in filling this gap. Content can deliver substance and enable optimum use of ICTs and increase bandwidth of ICT reach and content outreach. The content gap is also a reality. Content speed cannot reach technology pace and diversity of human needs, consumption and other accessibility conditions including costs. The content gap can be bridged through higher investments, policy support, addressing accessibility factors including costs, local content meeting local cultural and economic trends and so on. Diversity of content innovations and applications is all the more important. The creativity gap in South Asia is obvious due to nascent digital environment. The thrust is very much needed on localised content creativity and applications. Government, industry, civil society must come forward to give a big push to the content environment making content diversified, innovative, need based, accessible and affordable in terms of infrastructure and delivery points.

Bridging Digital & Content Gap – the Manthan Award providing Opportunity

The key challenge is in meeting information needs of the timing millions in South Asia. Information poor is as grave as economically and socially disadvantaged. Content and services then is pertinent. Content applications and innovations holds key. Equally important is widening the outreach of such practices and applications for larger learning and sharing. This is another means to bridge digital gaps wherein one part of the world learns and exchange from another. And the Manthan Award platform is providing a wider regional platform for cross learning and exchange of ideas and practices by recognising innovators and producers.
Content Diversity is Must – Highlights from 2009

The statistics of the 380 nominations received in 2009 and one unearths a tale of sensible use of digital technology and content solutions across 13 thematic categories. In the case of Afghanistan, it is Radio Tamhas alias ‘Radio Connect’ and from Pakistan it is Sehat First. While Radio Tamhas has a simple linked its radio content to the internet for global outreach of the local news, SehatFirst is providing self-sustainable franchised based tele-health services in remote areas of Pakistan.

The Bangladesh innovation story has contributed in 14 nominations. Two key highlights are Lemon24.com, taking info and entertainment services to the last mile through the rural tele centres, and Jigyasa 7676, a simple solution over telephone on any agriculture issue a farmer might have. Adding broadcasting strength, Nepal sent 3 in 7 nominations in the Community Broadcasting category; Other worth mentioning are Open Learning Exchange, Nepal’s effort in promoting education through open source and e-Pustakalaya scheme, making library available everywhere. Wikigovia in Sri Lanka is about bringing the agricultural community in the country together using digital means and content platform.

The Indian applications are as diverse as the country. EmpoweringIndia.org, an online amalgamation of all the available information and an online database of critical information on each parliamentary and assembly constituency including the profile of the contestants. The Jaankari e-Gov project of Bihar provides for all public information and services under the Right to Information (RTI). The Video Volunteers programme in Goa is empowering grassroots community through community video programme assisted by video volunteers. Dhanax.com is about community transparent microfinance programme for marginalised women in Karnataka.

The Madhya Pradesh Forest Department has moved from ‘e’ to ‘m’(obile) and have literally integrated all the technologies together vis-à-vis Space Technology, Global information System, Mobile Computing, Communication Technology, Satellites based education & training (EDUSAT), Web, Internet and other web 2.0 technologies. What ones get as a result: fully digitised location based complete monitoring based data of 95000 sq/km of the state forest area! The Chattisgarh project Craft Revival Trust (CRT) is as much revealing as the urgent need for digital means towards cultural preservations. The effort of Gujarat Technology University is as challenging that even IIMs could not tried an effort, conducting Gujarat Common Entrance Test, GCET 2009 fully online for admissions to MBA and MCA courses in all government affiliated Institutions throughout Gujarat.

From Innovations to the Next Level – The Manthan Award and Beyond

The goal of the Manthan Award is to break creativity barrier and bridging gaps between innovations, recognition, replication and sustainability of ideas and projects. It aims to bring to the fore the enormity of digital diversity and cross learning for cross exchange and benefits. It is about encouraging innovations, creativity and multi-stakeholder linkages. The next level of the Manthan Award is very much relevant then.

The drive is towards connecting the Manthan fraternity through www.contentxchange.net, an online networking and exchange forum for content applications, content and services. Creating a digital repository in the form of ‘Digital Knowledge Centre’ through audio-video content case studies of sustainable practices from the Manthan platform is another variant of the Manthan.

Such efforts are continuous and must be a never ending exercise. The challenge of sustainability of ICT projects is always there and for the Manthan platform this is more challenging binding the fraternity into a common knowledge network. The support from all stakeholders is relevant and timely.

At a higher level, the policy thrust, the political and administrative will, the interest and concern of private and civil society as well as academic set ups to support, encourage content creativity and diversity and making content and services available, accessible and usable in meeting common needs of the common man is fundamentally important. Content and digital inclusion goes hand in hand and there cannot be second thought to it.

Osama Manzar
Founder & Director
Digital Empowerment Foundation
osama@manzar.info
Total Nominations Received

380

Valid Nominations

360

Winners

45

nominations : winners

100 : 12.5

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country wise NOMINATIONS</th>
<th>Country wise WINNERS</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Category wise NOMINATIONS with Country wise break-up</td>
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**Statistics**
## Indian State-wise NOMINATIONS

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## Indian State-wise WINNERS

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### 26 NOMINATING STATES

### 14 WINNING STATES
The Manthan Award South Asia 2009 Winners’ List

COMMUNITY BROADCASTING: 04
>> Video Volunteers, India
>> Sangham Radio, (DDS Community Radio), India
>> Radio Tamahs (Radio Connect), Afghanistan
>> Doko Radio Mobile Media Mela, Nepal

E-BUSINESS & COMMERCE: 01
>> DhanaX, India

E-CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT: 03
>> Encyclopedic Archive and e-Journal on Craft, Folk, Tribal Art and Handloom Textiles, India
>> Lemon24.com, Bangladesh
>> Grassroutes, India

E-ENTERPRISE & LIVELIHOOD: 03
>> Kisan Call Centre, India
>> Kheti (Knowledge Help Extension Technology Initiative), India
>> Jigyasha 7676, Bangladesh

E-HEALTH: 03
>> Vidusuwa, Sri Lanka
>> Rajiv Aarogyasri Community Health Insurance Scheme, India
>> Custodial Health through Satellite, India

E-INCLUSION: 04
>> Saksham Trust (Daisy Forum Of India), India
>> EGMM (Employment Generation And Marketing Mission), India

E-LOCALISATION: 02
>> Chhattisgarhi Kde 4.2 Program Suit, India
>> Hindi WordNet and Associated Software Programs India

E-LOCALISATION: 02
>> DhanaX, India

E-LIGHT: 03
>> Groundviews, Sri Lanka
>> Tarkash.Com, India
>> Tools And Tactics for Advocacy – Messages In-A-Box And Mobiles In-A-Box, India

E-SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT: 04
>> Save The Hills, India
>> Ideawicket Open Innovation Portal, India
>> Peer Water Exchange, India
>> Biodiversity Informatics And Co-Operation In Taxonomy For Interactive Shared Knowledge Base (BIOTIK), India

E-SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT: 04
>> Pocket Travel Assistant, India
>> FarmERP Mobile, India

E-LEARNING: 02
>> Felidae, Sri Lanka
>> Expert System on Wheat Crop Management, India

E-EDUCATION: 03
>> Empowering Underprivileged Youths In Bangladesh Through Computer Literacy (CLP), Bangladesh
>> Wikipedia, Sri Lanka
>> E-Budhahi, (Rohini Science Club), India

E-GOVERNANCE: 08
>> Empowering India.org, India
>> E-Gram, A Reality Check, India
>> Jaankari, India
>> E-Samvad, India & Rajya Siksha Kendra, India
>> M-Gov Mantra for Fire Alert, India
>> Sanjog Helpline, India
>> CapNIC (Centralized Seat Allotment Process For Professional Courses), India

E-GOVERNANCE: 08
>> Empowering India.org, India
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>> CapNIC (Centralized Seat Allotment Process For Professional Courses), India

JURORS’ DISTINCTION: 02
>> Mp Automated Meter Reading, India
>> GRINS (Gramin Radio Inter Networking System), India

MOST INNOVATIVE NOMINATION: 01
>> Mango Application Framework, India

M-CONTENT: 02
>> Pocket Travel Assistant, India
>> FarmERP Mobile, India

CHAIRMAN’S DISTINCTION
>> Gujarat Common Entrance Test (GCET) India
>> E-Scholarship, India
>> English Seekho, India
>> National Web Portal Of Bangladesh, Bangladesh
>> Sehat First, Pakistan

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India is an exciting economy today. It is also a very young country populated by youngsters. The buzz in the air is that the 21st century is going to be China’s and India’s. India particularly seems to be well situated because of its structural advantages. The young population with its energy and consumption orientedness and higher savings, a rapidly expanding labour force and a set of institutions that have now matured through some experiments in indigenous democratic strengths that has evolved into a unique political economy today. A new class is emerging banking on dynamism and entrepreneurial ability, the trade sector getting prominence and a strong media that is applying the kind of pressure on the political class that is undeniable. The demographic transition must reap its dividends if all this is nurtured. If not, it could lead to chaos and disorder and civil strife the beginnings of which we already see in Naxal affected districts in the infamous red corridor. Fifty per cent of India’s population is below the age of 25. Another 150 million will get added to the workforce in the next decade. However, despite being this huge and growing demographic stratum, young people have too often been seen as a burden rather than an asset, a group to be taught but not to teach, and to receive but not to give. Developments in ICT are dramatically changing this paradigm. After all, young people, the first generation to have grown up with the Internet, have a lot to offer-energy, enthusiasm, and above all the expertise to help bridge the digital divide.

What ICT offers is a huge advantage to an emerging economy with scarce resources and a large constituency. It is indeed the knowledge economy that enables the maximum utilization of available factors of production, especially where labour as an input is abundantly available. The state of ICT knowledge affects the success rate of turning potential new ideas into practical ones.
Using ICT affects positively the performance indicators of the firms and institutions that do invest in IT. Greater ICT use is associated with better performance and institutions that use ICT earn higher profits, employ more people, lower transaction costs and reach out to many more people that otherwise enables innovation and capacity building with real time price discovery. On the other hand, it severely handicaps those not included in the knowledge economy. To bring about inclusion and to bridge the digital divide, it is imperative that policy making allows for capacity building through innovative education leveraging public private partnerships and educational institutions. This will channelise youth energy into a productive, efficient and dynamic society. IT is not a way of doing business, as yet, in India. The irony is that management, clerical and marketing employees have greater access to computers and internet than skilled workers. However, ICT often acts as a substitute for lack of resources and direct connectivity to markets. Using ICT affects positively the performance indicators of the firms and institutions that do invest in IT. Greater ICT use is associated with better performance and institutions that use ICT earn higher profits, employ more people, lower transaction costs and reach out to many more people that otherwise.

Therefore, if some governments do not invest in ICT intensively, it must be because of constraints that prevent them from adopting the best available technology. The major barriers to ICT use are opposition from various vested interests unions, irregular power supply and lack of skilled personnel, in that order. ICT usage impacts the economy and brings about a new manner in which work gets done in particularly the development sector. As has been seen across the world, there are huge costs associated with market or government transactions. And ironically, it is the less developed countries have relatively high transaction costs. These high transaction costs prevent markets from functioning and as a result, certain kinds of goods and services may be severely underprovided. This can affect long-run development, not just short-run efficiency and here is where ICT can dramatically reduce transaction costs. It is important to note that governance structures and the manner in which they use ICT could utilize technology could streamline activity and increase productivity. While IT helps individuals in an overall sense, it is possible to bring about organizational changes that completely recast the way operations are handled within the society. Not only does this improve governance and productivity, it also changes the organization of people and skills. Penetration across departments and sectors results in networking advantages. The benefits of using ICT show up only after there is a critical mass of firms and units that get computerised. Therefore, some constituents will wait for this critical mass before they spend on ICT infrastructure. It is here that the government can play a very positive role in overcoming this sluggishness in the adoption of ICT. If most government dealings are through the use of ICT, people get an immediate benefit of using ICT themselves and are encouraged to invest regardless of whether others are doing it or not.

Dr Amir Ullah Khan, Director Research at the Bangalore Management Academy, Fellow at the India Development Foundation, Delhi and Adjunct Professor at the Edith Cowan University, Perth
The great hope of the ICT4D movement has been that ICTs will radically spur efficiency and innovation in socio-economic activities. Some ICT initiatives have indeed positively impacted development processes via increases in productivity, reduction in costs and errors, improvements in human resource inputs, and increase in rich interactivity – but also have introduced new kinds of risks.

In a number of sectors, digital content and services have already proven to be beneficial when delivered directly to end-users or when used by professional communities serving citizens.

For instance, healthcare workers have benefited significantly from ICT initiatives. Sample benefits include: reduced patient waiting time, more timely submission of reports, new ways of alerting patients (SMS), new ways of splicing the standard data collected in the health centres, and better information for decisionmakers.

Healthcare workers have benefited significantly from ICT initiatives. Sample benefits include: reduced patient waiting time, more timely submission of reports, new ways of alerting patients (SMS), new ways of splicing the standard data collected in the health centres, and better information for decisionmakers.

ICT4D projects in the area of policymaking have had some difficulty in establishing sustainability factors. Policymaking and assessment followed by concrete actions take a longer time for planning and implementation. High turnovers among workers in organisations as well as unstable governments pose barriers in thinking about sustainability.

Some ICT4D initiatives tend to overlook the important but seemingly mundane aspects of project management and implementation, eg. ensuring regular and thorough backups of all data, cultural change management or expectation management, identification of early adopters of ICT among beneficiaries to enable speedier uptake, and better communication among stakeholders in multidisciplinary projects.

Publishing support and avenues such as research conferences and awards are important in generating and promoting high-quality knowledge generated by the ICT4D project researchers and practitioners. These include the annual MANTHAN awards, Stockholm Challenge, and the various national competitions held in countries around the world.

Care must be taken to build in appropriate metrics for monitoring and assessing the growth, impact and performance of such development initiatives. While much attention
He is member Grand Jury 2009
What makes digital inclusion and digitally driven social change so exciting is also why digital technology is making giant media companies go broke. Digital distribution is cheap, instantly scalable and almost universally accessible. Given the ubiquity of mobile phones and growing rural penetration of computers, kiosks and broadband connections, the power to change lives through kilobytes is now a reality.

What exercises like the Manthan Awards reveal is the sheer of number of great ideas out there in the field of digital inclusion. The unlikeliest people from the unlikeliest parts of the country come up with digital solutions that can touch millions of our rural and urban poor. And because their ideas are digital they don’t need machines, factories, licenses, assembly lines, supply chains or human resource departments.

All they need is sometimes a stage on which to talk about their ideas and find believers. Manthan is that stage.

The greatest ideas and inventions are also the simplest. They are innovations that make you wonder why no one else had thought of them. They make instant sense. My involvement with the Manthan Jury in 2009 involved many such eureka moments. I was dazzled by the passion of the organizers and jury members involved. I was dazzled by the quality of the ideas that were submitted and I was, most of all, dazzled by the existing maturity and expertise of the digital inclusion movement.

There is a silent revolution taking place in our social sector, all done with websites, databases and cheap electronics, and the larger nation has no clue about it. This must change. With greater visibility for these Manthan nominees and winners more smart, committed people in the country will come forward to participate and innovate.

A community radio in a corner of Rajasthan might seem like a futile exercise for a software engineer from Bangalore. But what if his innovation in broadcasting takes community radio to a thousand more villages and millions more people? Then his innovation is a national treasure as vital as any scientific discovery or government policy.

But the greatest strength of the many award-winning ideas and concepts in this book is this: they are simple and they are free. These are not ideas that need angel investors. They just need angel activists.

The Manthan Awards recognizes innovators from all over the country. It gives them wind beneath their wings. Some of the award winners already improve the lives of thousands of people on a daily basis. Therefore you cannot help but wonder what would happen if all the young and bright of our country decided to think about digital inclusion. About ways in which to make supple, pliable technology, the same technology that powers BlackBerrys and email and Google, can empower and enrich our poor and distant.

It is a silent revolution waiting to happen. It is a silent revolution that must happen. And if Manthan leaves you with just one thought, let it be this: this revolution can happen.

Sidin Vadukut
This article tries to set forth a landscape for the future of ICT in the Indian context. Will the investment being made in infrastructure by state and central governments result in ICT becoming an integral part of government business or remain as an innovation in isolation? Information and communication technologies in India have been much debated and discussed in the past few years. To understand the Indian ICT scenario, a background of the evolution of the ICT movement in India needs to be understood. What was the process of the transition from small pilots by innovative individuals, CBOs and NGOs to a government development agenda and a national focus?

The commencement of ICT in the government agenda stated in the 1990s, when many state governments realised the potential of ICT in governance and made concentrated efforts to establish good governance as part of their development goal. Since there were already many small initiatives across the country which had shown promising outcomes such as the ITC E-chaupal, narrow casting of community issues by community radio groups and some initiative by multinational agencies using handheld devices etc. The promise of a transparent government mechanism was well accepted by the people and voting patterns inclined towards development oriented political parties. This brought about a sea change in political agendas. Thus the change in the government attitude to service delivery mechanisms through e-government became the norm for all state governments. There has since then been a constant endeavour to provide better government to citizen services through ICTs. The large investment by government in infrastructure for ICTs and the opening up of the Indian economy induced the corporate sector to invest to tap into the potential rural market of India.

The central government in Delhi also commenced various schemes and through the department of information technology was able to develop a vision to connect villages in India on a broadband network with delivery points called the common service centres. The reference to the CSC here is not to argue its merits and demerits but to look at the investment for the CSC infrastructure as a catalyst for development.

ICT has brought in a new set of technologies which were unheard of twenty years ago. Just as the railways were introduced in India by the British, which set a paradigm shift in the ways people behaved with this new way of being connected across the length and breadth of the country. It brought about new rules and society organised itself along the railways lines with new norms and structures. ICTs will and are doing to India the very same thing the railways did. Consider the mobile rickshaws which go around the world famous Pushkhar fairs providing mobile connectivity to the last mile. This is ICT at its rural best.

I am idealistic enough to assert that regardless of the challenges of the government infrastructure, the old and new will continue to co-exist in this transitory time just as bad transport systems co-exist with mobile cell technologies. The idea of a woman in interior India communicating on a mobile phone while commuting on the roof top of a bus is still an accepted norm, is a telling point of the two Indias' that co-exist at the same time.

Rather then examine the end delivery mechanisms, such as the CSC, (which would require an article in itself) the one great success which will really matter in the long run is the establishment of the backbone network which will enable multiple service delivery points in the future. It would really not matter if the CSC delivery points fail as there will be other initiatives which will tap into the wide area network backbone and go forward.

The backbone network set up for the
CSC may very well serve the burgeoning creative content market which is emerging. This will, I believe fill a much needed gap in the ICT sector. It will spur further investment in making ICTs an enabler with content at the core rather than infrastructure.

The World Summit awards on e-content are a UN body which documents and acts as a catalyst for e content development across the world. The India chapter called “the Manthan Awards” commenced in 2005 and throws a very interesting light on the content evolution of ICTs in India.

The nominations for content in the year 2005 were just 95 with participation of a few states most of whom were from the southern part of India which are considered the “developed” states. The year 2009 has seen nomination from 24 federal states across the categories of Community Broadcasting, e-Business, e-Culture & Entertainment, e-Education, e-Enterprise & Livelihood, e-Government, e-Health, e-Inclusion, e-Learning, e-Localisation, e-News, e-Science & Environment and m-Content.

The range of content development itself is mind boggling and puts at rest the argument that India will not be an innovative creative content developer. The total nominations for 2009 have been 360. This is an indicator of how much the various players in the ICT space have invested in not only technology but content to enable the effective use of ICTs.

One interesting fact is that in 2005 there were only 26 nominations for the e government category. In 2009 there were 89 nominations for e-government including those from the so called “beemaru” (sick) states. The mind set that underdeveloped states cannot achieve or contribute and take advantage of ICTs to leapfrog into better governance needs to be examined against the light that the best e governance award for 2008 went to the State government of Chattisgarh, a state considered backward and low on development indicators. Their very innovative “Unified Ration card project” through the department of Food & Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs of Chhattisgarh Government has computerized the entire food grain supply chain in Chhattisgarh, starting from paddy procurement from farmers, its storage, milling and distribution of rice and other commodities to 3.4 million ration card holders through fair price shops.

In the current year the best e-governance projects for 2009 came from the state of Madhya Pradesh which got 3 awards and one each from Bihar and Orissa. It is revealing to note that ICTs have not only helped accelerate the change in government but enabled “backward” governments to make a quantum leap into good governance through ICTs.

The current focus by the government will spur growth in the education and health sectors. Both are poised for a growth through multiple delivery points such as community service centres, telemedicine centres and the proliferation of cell phones. Business will need to be innovative to take advantage of this e-dynamic landscape.

Then there is the oldest ICT of them all, the radio. Community radio seems to be emerging as a surprising player in the ICT scenario in India, with civil society adopting community radio as a means to disseminate knowledge and share information. The freeing of the Community Radio policy has seen a jump in the number of applicants. A proactive endeavour by the government has induced many community based organisations to use community radio as an effective tool to empower local people on local government issues. The Right to Information Act and its impact is seen through the number of CR stations which broadcast the RTI details to citizens. Mobile phones have enabled a larger phone in audience. The coexistence and advantages of both ICT technologies will probably be a enduring feature of ICTs in India.
There is no doubt that the sector that will see the largest investment in hardware in the coming years is telecommunications. The cell phone market has beaten all assumptions of numbers. The number of players in the market has ensured a competitive market giving the end user multiple choices and spurring the number of subscribers.

The future of ICT in India will probably have mobile technology leading the way with Internet and community radio not far behind. The reach of mobile has far exceeding any forecast and no one was able to predict the immense jump in use of cell phone in India. Regardless of the global recession the telecommunication industry in India saw unforeseen growth. Mobile ownership surged in December 2008 with a record 4.5 million new users making India the 3rd largest in the world. Indian operators added another 15.41 million customers in January 2009 and 13.45 million users in February 2009 taking the mobile users to 391.8 million. The market is just the tip of the iceberg as businesses start exploring local language markets both in voice and standards in text messaging. The mobile industry has opened up call centres for local language users and a new market is set to grow in this sector. Rural BPOs are already emerging as local markets grow.

To return to my point of view that content will drive the ICT industry it is obvious that mobile content will grow to meet the demands of the end user. Taking the data from the Manthan nominations, the category for mobile content did not even exist in 2005. It was introduced in 2007 taking into note the emerging mobile content in India. There were 6 nominations in 2006 for M-Content. In 2007 there were seven nominations and in 2008 it has jumped to 19 nominations. The numbers speak for themselves and will continue to grow.

To quote Mr. Shashi Tharoor from his book The Elephant, The Tiger and The Cell phone. Mr. Tharoor commented in defence of New Delhi “For all its inadequacies, it is a symbol of a country on the move, the urban flagship of a better tomorrow. It will lead India into the twenty first century, even at the price of forgetting all that happened in the other twenty.”

The same could be said for the ICT movement in the country as well.

Rajen Varada is Resource Person, ICTD Community, UN Solution Exchange.

He is member Grand Jury 2009
Where is Mobile Content?

Shubhendu Parth

Being part of Manthan Award South Asia Jury has always been a great learning experience; more so this year as we huddled in New Delhi with 22 other jurors, I was exposed to over 360 best e-Content initiatives, a lot of them complex in nature, some innovative and not so inventive ones and a few that were quite disruptive. What surprised me most, were few mobile based applications from Bangladesh so simple in nature that one tended to ignore them. And yet, they were there, on the ground, solving some of the basic issues, using cell phones to reach out to the bottom of the pyramid. In fact, the country always surprises me with its amazing understanding of the mobile platform, and their ability to keep things simple and focussed.

Rolled out for the sugar mills in the country, the Purjee Management System is one such deployment. The solution developed and implemented by Wintel aims at simply solving one critical problem—to ensure that sugarcane growers do not have to waste time queuing up for days, waiting for their turn to unload their produce. And in the process it also cleansed the system of touts who would simply collude with the clerk issuing the token or the Purjee to bypass the First in, First out system for those who were willing to pay. The key to the success of the rollout and its quick adoption was the use of mobile platform for delivering the ‘e-Purjees’ directly as an SMS to the farmers on their cell phones, with a fixed three days schedule for everyone—from the time the token is issued—to supply their produce to the sugar mill. However, what the sugar mills also got as part of the solution was a two way communication system that has helped them directly connect with thousands of suppliers, thereby removing any possibility of miscommunication and mismanagement in their procurement process.

The Purjee Management System enables the sugar mills to inform farmers about change or delay in schedules, and also allows the growers to submit their complaints using a predefined format by simply sending an SMS to a given number, at anytime and from anywhere. The compliant thus generated is automatically routed to the concerned official for required action and necessary report generation. To make life simpler, the solution has a web-enabled reporting tool that allows officials at the various procurement locations of a mill to access all kinds of reports—from complaints to numbers of Purjees issued and the procurement schedule to alterations made and alert notifications.

Another major success from across the border is the Cell Bazar, the entry that won year 2008 Manthan Awards in the m-content category, and rightly so since the project has emerged as a true leveller of digital divide in Bangladesh. Cell Bazar (http://www.cell-bazaar.com) as the name suggests allows buyers and sellers to complete a major portion of their transaction in a mobile marketplace. While a seller can post things that they want to sell, buyers can view them and access more info on their cell phones, and finally directly contact the seller to complete the deal. What this means is that nearly 20 million users in Bangladesh can use the service to buy any agricultural product—from rice, fish and poultry—as well as large ticket items like an apartment, land or a car, not to talk about consumer goods and any such ware. Interestingly, people have also found out innovative use of this service, with users offering services as wide as tutoring to automobile and white goods repair to video rentals. Besides, the recruiters have also found the service extremely useful.

Surprisingly, despite a massive 500 million mobile subscriber base, India does not have a single case of any deployment to match either of the two projects that have a huge social and equally important business impact. Sure, there are one way channels, rolled out by lot of companies, including most of the banks, but a two-way, push-pull platform is largely missing. Maybe, it’s appropriate that organisations and enterprises in India think afresh about their technology strategies and take a leaf from the neighbours on how to effectively use ICT for those at the bottom of the pyramid.

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The role of ICT and the internet in improving health and education, providing employment opportunities to youth and the reduction of poverty is well understood. However, while 58% of the population in developed countries have access to internet only 11% have access in developing countries. The United Nations Millennium Development Goal “In cooperation with the private sector, make available benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications” was formulated in an attempt to address this digital divide.

However, developing countries, even those which have made great strides in ICT development have a far more vicious digital divide to contend with within their own borders. While there is hardly any difference in internet penetration in the urban and the rural sectors in developed and newly industrialized countries, internet penetration in other developing countries is lopsided with the benefits of ICT and the internet largely restricted to the urban sector. In South Asia, while 70% of the people live in rural settings, internet access is available to less than 25% whereas the in the urban sector, the situation is quite the reverse. Furthermore internet access in the rural sector is of low bandwidth, often dial-up, and unsatisfactory for many applications. While Finland has made broadband internet connection a right of every citizen, broadband penetration is 3-4% in most South Asian countries, that too at the lower end of the broadband speed spectrum and restricted to the urban sector. Rural connectivity with its inability to generate large profits is of little interest to the private sector.

Governments too while paying lip-service to the need for rural connectivity seldom have the inclination or political will to make the large investments necessary for better internet penetration. With WiMax becoming readily available and providing a cheaper alternative, rapid advances to better connectivity for the rural sector in developing countries has become a distinct possibility.

However, mere access will not bring the benefits of ICT to the rural masses. Not only must the rural sector be empowered to mobilize ICT for its own development through awareness and training and motivated to innovate but rural ICT must be made sustainable through income generation. Without sustainability, it would be impossible to attract investment and the experience has been that projects often fail because trained ICT professionals become frustrated and migrate to the cities. ICT can contribute to a better life for the villager through E-government and E-health projects and improved ICT-based educational strategies but such projects when city-inspired, outsourced, and city-implemented by city-professionals do little to empower the rural sector on ICT. It is therefore crucial that this sector be mobilized to analyze its own needs and create its own content which would further development and provide opportunities for income generation in the village.

The e-content movement in South Asia has opened new doors for the rural sector to become involved in ICT development. Large numbers of youth living in remote locations are learning how ICT can facilitate development, being trained in ICT, creating innovative programs and web-sites and examining novel avenues of income generation. Some urban companies which began IT-enabling services or Business Processing Outsourcing projects in rural areas as Corporate Social Responsibility Projects have seen these projects spin off into viable business enterprises.

Many rural activists are exploring the use of new media in order to successfully take their messages to growing numbers of like minded citizens, many of them previously marginalized by society and in the process, developing innovative strategies to improve access and provide content.

Such initiatives are contributing to the expansion of the knowledge society into the remoter areas of developing countries and since information is power, creating a better informed rural sector which can contribute to the development of a better more inclusive society in their countries.
The information and communication technology (ICT) revolution is opening up new opportunities for growth and development. In certain cases, it is transforming the fundamental structure of industries and services. However, despite the holistic role of ICT, much of the research and assessment of ICT applications focus on separate elements of this transformation. This is a fragmented approach to assessment where the focus may be on separate aspects related to operational and efficiency parameters. It is important to monitor and measure the impact of the e-governance initiatives and align them more effectively with the project development outcomes. There can be different approaches to evaluation of e-governance projects such as a techno-centric, governance-centric and outcome-driven approach. A holistic approach to evaluation of e-governance initiatives will consider parameters across each approach. However, the existing evaluation frameworks are mostly based on narrow aspects of project performance and the outcome-based development aspects of e-governance projects are not entirely clear in the evaluation process. It may also be possible to identify certain key development indicators as part of the project objectives and assess the e-governance initiatives against them. These development indicators are critical indicators of the e-governance initiative and are long-term. The choice of indicators will depend on the nature of intervention and the type of project. The larger impact and linkages related to development also need to be studied and can be taken separately. In the long run, it may be possible to build a matrix of likely development indicators for different category of e-governance initiatives. Such a matrix can be used for comparison, review and benchmarking of e-governance initiatives.

The existing approaches on evaluation of e-governance initiatives focus more on the quality of project design and implementation. These assessment parameters are techno-centric and include project based parameters such as the number of transactions processed, cost/time taken for each transaction, number of trips to offices, accuracy of output, reduction in errors, issues in managing change etc. The project assessment parameters may include some development parameters also- but generally, the development impact assessment comes from the agency perspective and less from the end users. In certain assessments, the governance aspects of reform such as accountability, transparency, participation and level of corruption are also covered. However, most of these parameters are based on narrow aspects of project performance. The development aspects of e-governance projects are not very clear from these assessments and need to be highlighted. Also, very little is done to analyze the long-term impact of ICT on development in the existing approaches. Such a need has been recognized from recent evaluations of projects in which issues of long-term impact on human development have been raised. Efficiency in techno-centric parameters may lead to effective governance if applied to appropriate goals. The risk in the techno-centric view of e-governance is inherent because use of ICT is merely a necessary condition for good governance, but not a sufficient one. To become a meaningful agent of modernization of public services delivery and modern governance, e-governance must abandon its technological bias and focus on socio-cultural transformations. ICT has transformational potential when they are applied to appropriate and specific goals of governance. The wider understanding of development includes economic policies and agendas for poverty reduction, economic growth, spending on health and education, environmental policy etc. It is important to develop an outcome driven assessment model which includes different dimensions of development so that the impact assessment is more holistic.

Therefore, the challenge is to integrate the development parameters in the evaluation in a more effective manner. At Manthan Awards, the endeavour of the jury is to focus on the critical outcome based parameters in identifying the Award winning applications which without doubt is a more holistic approach to evaluations.

Dr Anjali Kaushik & Lekha Kumar

Anjali Kaushik is Professor, Management Development Institute; and Lekha Kumar is Commissioner (systems), Income Tax Department. Both are members Grand Jury 2009
Technology today touches every aspect of our life and impacts the world in which we live. If you ask what is common to the traditional priest in the temple; the software yuppy on the motorbike; the suntanned maistry rounding up his labourers and the enterprising chaiwallah - the answer is all of them can be seen constantly conversing on the cell phone. So there was the internet revolution; followed by the mobile mania. And now the new words in our lexicon are twitting, blogging; youtubing!!!! Businesses keep up with this rapid change in technology for efficiency and profitability. The challenge is to takes these tools to the masses, to remove the divides between the rich and poor; rural and urban; to create a more inclusive society.

There is a broad consensus that providing poor with access to information and knowledge through ICT, popularly called ICT4D (ICT for development), is increasingly important for improving the livelihood of communities and creating a thriving democracy. Governments and multinationals are looking at these applications and solutions which meet business and development goals for varying stakeholders. The stumbling blocks here are connectivity, capacity, capital and culture. Myths that the poor or rural and tribal people do not have the capacity have been dispelled by SHGs handling financial transactions through hand held devices; domestic BPOs moving rural to employ rural youth for greater productivity or rural women wielding the video cameras to capture their own stories. The biggest concern is making available content in local language, giving importance to their local cultures.

There are innovative solutions emerging out of laboratories, field tested and scaled, which cut across technologies. In the Manthan award, we saw cutting edge solutions to improve lives of rural farmers from far flung provinces in Bangladesh to farmers in remote Madhya Pradesh. Tools of media in the hands of rural community are breaking their silence; giving them a Voice. Crossing geographical boundaries, barefoot solar engineers from India are teaching rural women in Africa to assemble and install solar panels to electrify villages without electricity for years. At a recent conference, an IIT alumni in MIT spoke of his research which converts any surface into a computer – the wall, a table, your hand and he would like this to be open source and affordable for the Indian masses! It is these technology innovations, tailored to remove the divides ,be it digital, gender, social or economic, which will help make India a global power by 2020.

Meera Shenoy is Executive Director
EGMM (Employment Generation & Marketing Mission)
Category: Community Broadcasting

Video Volunteers
India

Sangham Radio
India

Radio Tamhas
Afghanistan

Doko Radio
Nepal

Community Broadcasting considers all efforts in the area of broadcasting services for the benefit of the communities.
It is my 5th year of association with Manthan. First two years as a recipient of the award for two different organizations I served and then as a member of the Jury. It is an excellent forum for looking at initiatives on Digital Inclusion in the country. Now the reach is extended to several other countries in Asia. The applicants may never know the intensity with which the proposals are discussed in several tiers of decision making and that too most democratically. The members are eminent personalities working in different spheres of Digital Inclusion. It is fun to be with this network of people. Overall it is a stimulating experience worth waiting for!!

Mr. Shankar Goswami
Managing Director
Media Lab Asia

Over the past 15 years, the combination of Internet and mobile media has accelerated the potential of ICTs, to plug into developmental activities on the ground as well as at the global policy level. Much effort has focused on theories and models of development, but the real test of ICT4D is in the field: used by citizens, and driven by social entrepreneurs, civil society and progressive government agencies. To collectively harness the learning’s from these projects, periodic conferences serve a useful purpose. But the most important annual benchmark of excellence in ICT4D comes from competitions and awards processes, and the Manthan Awards in Asia have become a true barometer for the state of the art in ICT4D.

Today Manthan Awards have gone beyond benchmarking to catalysing further activities and initiatives in ICT4D, as reflected in the growing international profile of the awards, partnerships with private and public sector players, and the number and quality of nominees. Whether you are an entrepreneur, academic, policymaker or activist, the Manthan Awards and related ICT4D publications are now a critical avenue for involvement and engagement. Come and play your role in this event and activity!

Dr. Madanmohan Rao
Member, Board of Director
Digital Empowerment Foundation
JUROR’S EVALUATION

Video Volunteers' efforts in bringing the issues of the marginalised communities to the fore, using the innovative concept of Community Video Unit is showing results and in plenty. It is proving to be a movement of sorts, helping these communities realise that their lot can improve a great deal, if universal local issues like water supply, timely garbage removal, healthcare etc. can be brought on the radar of local and district administrators. The low cost of cameras and editing equipment, and the explosion of cable and internet distribution, have made this technologically possible.
Sangham, referring to village level women's collectives, is the cornerstone of Deccan Development Society's work. Sangham radio, started more than ten years ago, is intended to give a voice to the excluded in general and to women in particular. This is a radio owned, managed and operated by women from the margins of the Society, people who have been mostly excluded in public forums. Sangham Radio focuses on issues such as Food Sovereignty, Seed Sovereignty, Autonomous Health, Autonomous Market, and Autonomous Media. It also addresses issues like retrieving the culture, language and local traditions in food and farming, health and ecology. The radio broadcasts to a radius of 25 kms covering about 100 villages and a population close to 50,000.

Community radio itself is a new empowering tool. When this tool is used by women, for issues specifically related to them, the process and the subsequent results have a tremendous impact on the target community. All work of Deccan Development Society is focused on ensuring women's control over their own lives and issues. The Sangham Community Radio is a pioneer in its sphere as it was one of the first initiatives which started the community radio movement in India. Sangham, meaning "collective", reflects the true spirit of community radio.
The Afghani Radio Connect project started in January 2007. Nai, an organization supporting open media in Afghanistan and Internews have joined hands to develop this unique concept. The Afghani Radio Connect website is a platform to access the 33 Afghan local radio stations' websites and the details of their location and the latest local news from these stations is published. There is a provision to subscribe to the RSS feed, as well as get updates on the project by subscribing to the newsletter. The project is sustained by the personal announcement service and donations. Information dissemination for empowerment is the sole purpose behind this unique idea. This means a place like Daikundi which is 3 hrs away from the capital Kabul can keep the world updated instantly through its community radio station linked to the World Wide Web.

The Radio Tamhas project has a simple yet unique concept of keeping Afghanistan and the Afghans all over the world informed of each other through its linkages on the Internet. Given the extreme weather vagaries and geographical barriers unique to Afghanistan, the Radio Connect concept is one of the better examples of how the local conditions, both geographical and political in this case, have given a solution that is ‘Glocal’ (thinking globally acting locally) in its truest sense by taking local content to the global stage and vice-versa.
DOKO RADIO MOBILE MEDIA MELA

ORIGINAL TITLE
Doko Radio

PRODUCER
Madhu Acharya
Rajan Parajuli
Kalpana Bhattarai
Tula Chaudhary

ORGANISATION
Antenna Foundation Nepal

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MEDIA FORMAT
Mobile Media (Suitcase Radio)

LANGUAGE
Nepali

WWW
www.afn.org.np

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION
Doko Radio started off on its first journey on March 16, 2007 to Barpak, a VDC in Gorkha District in Nepal. With Antenna Foundation Network (AFN), Doko Radio team (suitcase radio) travels to remote areas of Nepal by carrying along simple radio equipment to be used in producing local radio programs and transmitting them locally. The team is stationed for approximately a week in each location in order to provide ample time for the technology to be absorbed by the locals. The Doko visits enable local community members to talk about their issues. The programs produced and aired during Doko events focus on pertinent local issues such as tourism, agriculture, public service delivery, local democracy etc. The Doko locations are chosen for their deprived status of any prominent national (SW) or local (FM) radio waves, while touching the lives of more than 50,000 rural community people.

JUROR'S EVALUATION
The Doko Radio is a temporary radio station in itself and offers the community it visits with a chance to experience the power of a local radio station in the community. By taking community radio to the doorsteps of the people, Doko Radio empowers them with an information tool they is affordable and easily applicable. There are reports of radio batteries or dry cells going out of stock in some of the villages where Doko radio was on. This is another innovative approach in taking empowerment forward in a difficult terrain and it makes Doko Radio distinct.
Category: e-Business & Commerce

dhanaX
India

Support and optimization of business processes; creation of new business models in e-Commerce and m-Commerce, business to business, business to consumer, Internet security and other areas; supporting Small and Medium Enterprises in the marketplace.
Empowering People

the edge of information

>> auditing <<
>> outreach <<
>> knowledge <<
>> research <<
>> advocacy <<
>> consultancy <<
Dhanax was first launched in Karnataka in May 2008 and its operations were expanded to Gujarat in May 2009. It is an online-offline social lending network that facilitates loans to poor women self-help groups in India. Individuals interested in lending can register on the Dhanax website and view the details of the groups which are in need of loan. On picking a group to lend to, the mode of payment (online transfer, cheque, online DD) can be selected. Once they transfer the money, an acknowledgement is sent from Dhanax. The legal contract made between the lender, borrower and the company is then couriered to the lenders address. The self help groups borrow at lower interest rates (14%) and they have to contribute a nominal (5%) to the facilitators, dhanaxX, making the whole process self-sustaining. 100% repayment has been recorded in the areas where this concept has been implemented.

Only 34% of India’s population has access to formal banking systems. India has the second-highest number of unbanked population in the world - about 135 million households or approximately 675 million people. Total credit supply through existing formal channels reaches only 15% of the $90 billion demand. The only credit alternatives for hundreds of millions of people are local pawnbrokers or moneylenders, who usually charge exorbitant 50% - 120% interest rates per annum. Dhanax supports and provides easy access to low cost credit for poor borrowers to supplement their income, and provides a credible and lucrative investment opportunity for the social investor.
Category: e-Culture & Entertainment

Encyclopedic Archive and e-Journal on Craft, Folk, Tribal Art and Handloom Textiles

India

Lemon24.com

Bangladesh

Grassroutes.in

India

Preserving and presenting cultural heritage in line with the challenge of the future; demonstrating valuable cultural assets clearly and informatively using state-of-the-art technology and new media platforms. Supplying digitized entertainment products and services; entertaining the user in this world's variety of languages and its cultural diversity; supporting movement from one-way to two-way, from single to multiple players, interactive entertainment and the synergy between analogue and digital platforms.
A booming economy and rapid progress usually has no room for traditional arts and crafts. These revenue sources and family livelihoods simply have no place in an environment where new businesses, services and industrialized manufacturing employs thousands and rewards people with sums unheard of in traditional crafts making. This is why it is vital that someone like the Crafts Revival Trust is there to report and chronicle our age old arts and crafts. Crafts Revival Trust is helping to save these forms, arts and artisans for posterity using digital technology, digital media and the web.
Community radio is an awesome tool for empowerment and social change. And when the idea of community radio is combined with the scope and scale of the internet you have a solution which can touch millions. Lemon24.com not only makes social sense, but the model, which ropes in Bangladeshi diaspora, also makes business sense. It is a rare instance of such a plan in the digital inclusion sector. And yes it also has a website that is well designed. As internet penetration in the region grows and more people have access to high speed internet connections, Lemon24.com has immense potential to takes its message of meaningful entertainment to millions.
GRASSROUTES

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Grassroutes is a Fellowship program that encourages youth to go on a road-trip, travelling over a fortnight across rural India to places where organizations are creating significant impact at the grassroots. They meet the people involved, experience first-hand the impact of their work and finally, bring to fore these stories of change through new and social media. The digital content from the grassroots is disseminated in the form of travelogue videos, photos, interviews, photo essays, blogs, stories which originate from the trips. Combined with offline events like presenting the digital content at colleges, conferences; this approach has proven successful in inspiring more youth into participating in social change.

JUROR’S EVALUATION

With most statistical studies showing that India has the youngest population in the world, there is a large pool of unexplored resources for social change projects. Young Indians transition from education to training to vocation without even a small window to explore the country, understanding its problems and helping its poorest. Grassroutes is a brilliant idea that induces the young to be sensitive. It takes them on national study tours where young men and women are allowed to see first hand and interact with organization working on social initiatives. Serious enough to make them think, but fun enough to draw them to it, Grassroutes is the first step in a vital process. This process must eventually take the brightest young people in the country and pose them with its greatest challenges. Given our youth, their talent and their numbers, these challenges won’t be harder than a trek in the grass.
Category: e-Education

Empowering Underprivileged Youths in Bangladesh through Computer Literacy (CLP)

Bangladesh

Wikigoviya
Sri Lanka

e-budhani
India

Empowering the education paraphernalia with new technology tools; transforming schools, universities and other educational institutions through interactive, personalized and distributed educational resources; providing infrastructure for the rural based educational institutions, especially schools.
In developing countries like Bangladesh, with very low GDP, poor ICT infrastructure and with majority of the population living in remote areas, education has an inter-generational impact on schooling. The future generations will be affected by the link between poverty and education. In this era of globalization ICT based education is very important for students. The aim of Empowering Underprivileged Youths in Bangladesh through Computer Literacy Program (CLP) is to explore the growth potentials of underprivileged youths in rural Bangladesh by providing them with first basics of computer know-how and then computer aided education. The initiative incorporates computer and ICT in mainstream Education in High School level of Bangladesh for the underprivileged youths.

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Volunteer Association for Bangladesh, New Jersey (VAB-NJ) has undertaken a project titled "Empowering Underprivileged Youth in Bangladesh through Computer Literacy" (EUYB-CLP) in rural areas, an initiative in collaboration with D.Net, based in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The project is intended to facilitate access to knowledge of ICT by the rural disadvantaged people, particularly the youth to help them face global challenges. The project started in 2004 and till July 2009 over 18,000 students successfully completed the basic course on computing "Esho Computer Shekhi". Since inception 107 Computer Literacy Centres (CLCs) have been setup in rural educational institutions, having a significant impact on the society. Over 19,000 students have successfully completed the course and 252 teachers have received training on IT skills.

JUROR’S EVALUATION

In developing countries like Bangladesh, with very low GDP, poor ICT infrastructure and with majority of the population living in remote areas, education has an inter-generational impact on schooling. The future generations will be affected by the link between poverty and education. In this era of globalization ICT based education is very important for students. The aim of Empowering Underprivileged Youths in Bangladesh through Computer Literacy Program (CLP) is to explore the growth potentials of underprivileged youths in rural Bangladesh by providing them with first basics of computer know-how and then computer aided education. The initiative incorporates computer and ICT in mainstream Education in High School level of Bangladesh for the underprivileged youths.
Wikigovia is an online discussion forum which was started in Sri Lanka. After the end of civil war, large tracks of land were available in the northern and eastern parts of the island nation. There is a huge debate in Sri Lanka on how to use this 'organic land'. Since face to face ground extension is not effectively operating in the field as an immediate need, an alternative approach is needed to disperse Department of Agriculture knowledge (DOA) pool to farmers. Therefore, DOA found that the Wikigovia is an appropriate tool to meet the need of the farming community as a whole and especially to the Northern and Eastern province isolated due to the deadly war. Wikigovia takes help of the latest ICT tools like blogs, discussion forums, agri-experts' opinions on the methods needed to use this naturally fertile land. This effort is adding a ray of hope in this war ravaged country.

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E-BUDHANI

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

E-Budhani of Rohini Science Club, Ranchi is an effort in making learning elementary science concepts easy and more fun. The content of the CD/DVD is rich in graphics and visual aids. The approach is simple and is available at the click of a button. Human anatomy is a subject of great curiosity for high school students. The chapter on ‘digestive system’ drew maximum interest from the students. All the chapters have been designed after a great deal of research by the e-Budhani experts and hence they are easy to teach and learn.

JUROR’S EVALUATION

Digital access is improving day by day. Digital content has opened vast knowledge resource before everyone today. If content is simple and designed keeping local context and language in mind, there will be more takers for it. People, especially children are more interested in video and graphics than words, hence making digital content with minimum text or no text to make it reachable and usable for them is a challenge. E-Budhani from Jharkhand, an eastern state in India, has taken upon itself to popularize science, a subject found most difficult by children. It is an effort towards the spread of teaching science through the ubiquitous method of CD/DVD. The content of the CD makes it easy to learn science for the students.

ORIGINAL TITLE

e-Budhani

PRODUCER

G.V.S.R Prasad & Team

ORGANISATION

Rohini Science Club (RSC)

LOCATION

Ranchi, Jharkhand, INDIA

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MEDIA FORMAT

CD/DVD

LANGUAGE

Hindi

WWW

http://rohiniscienceclub.com
Enterprise and Entrepreneurship are the basis of livelihood across the South Asian landscape. Introduction and integration of Information Communication Technology have created new opportunities and added efficiency in livelihood creation. The biggest challenge however is to stress on deliverables, content and services for the masses. Small innovations and proactiveness can make the ICT used as media rather than just technology and enrich the globalisation with local knowledge and wisdom.

Category: e-Enterprise & Livelihood

Kisan Call Centre
India

KHETI - Rural e-Services in India
India

Jigyasha 7676
Bangladesh
I The Manthan Award I

I e-Enterprise & Livelihood I

JUROR’S EVALUATION

The Kisan Call centre of Indian Society of Agribusiness Professionals (ISAP) is a good model of removing the digital divide and triggering growth of rural economy. Agriculture contributes to 35% of India's GDP and 65% of the population. The Kisan Call centre is a combination of ICT and agriculture technology. It uses Open source software. The call centre works on two levels. On the one hand, the queries are analysed so that area specific analysis can be done and timely advice beamed by the state government through TV, radio etc. Specialists answer farmers' queries on best agronomic practices and pest outbreaks. It receives about 20,000 calls a month and has reached out to over one lakh farmers in Madhya Pradesh.

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Kisan Call Centre Software is an MIS tool capturing the complete milieu of advisory services provided through Kisan Call Centre and providing backend data support to the knowledge worker, while processing queries from the farmers. A central call centre has been established which takes queries of farmers and answers in their language within 72 hours. The software captures callers' details and the specifications of the query. Above information helps in analyzing area-wise, crop-wise and different quantum related to livestock, policy issues etc. In addition, it also helps identify pest attacks in any particular geographical area and the information collected is provided to the State Agriculture Department for taking timely suitable action through broadcasting on television, radio and Kisan call centre itself.

ORIGINAL TITLE

Kisan Call Centre

PRODUCER

Rajeev Dar
Dr. Satish Chandra
Pankaj Agarwal
Suresh Motwani

ORGANISATION

Indian Society of Agribusiness Professionals

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MEDIA FORMAT

Telephone

LANGUAGE

Multilingual

WWW

www.isapindia.org
Agriculture is the livelihood of 85% of India’s rural community. KHETI is a unique concept, integrating mobile camera phones with web services. The technology has been developed in a participatory manner, involving the farmers in field discussions. The result is that, the user, the marginal farmer, is a co-designer in the process. This also involves capacity building of the stakeholders. These initiatives help in long term sustainability. The project has been piloted successfully with the Sironji Crop Producers Cooperative of small and marginal farmers. The process of handling technology has not only improved incomes and livelihoods of the farmers but also empowered them.
Jigyasha 7676

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Jigyasha 7676 is a call centre based service, launched in Bangladesh, where users are provided solutions to their queries regarding agriculture, poultry, fishery and livestock information. A call center based on agro service has been established, and it collects, screens and serves as an information channel for the farmer and the society as a whole so as to induce wider information exchange. The service is also available for students, rural youth, academicians, researchers, rural women, businessmen and agro related industries as per their need. The content database mainly comprises of different types of necessary information needed in agriculture sector that may provide value for end users.

JURY'S EVALUATION

Jigyasha is a cross media platform device to help increase the incomes of rural farmers and allied livelihoods. An initiative from Bangladesh, the content is in the local language, Bangla. To set this service, content from various sources like government, research institutes and universities has been digitized. The information ranges from the field of agriculture to poultry, floriculture etc which are the main occupations in the region. It is user friendly as queries are through the mobile phone and the call centre retrieves the data to answer queries. Bangladesh has a high mobile penetration of over 45,000. The call centre receives 4,000 calls a day which is an indication of its success.
Empowering citizens and serving public services clients; fostering quality and efficiency of information exchange and communication services in governmental and public administrative processes; strengthening participation of citizens in information society decision making.
EMPOWERING INDIA

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Empowering India is an initiative to empower citizens with information about political candidates, constituencies, MLAs, MPs, and political parties. The information is presented in a simple and comparative manner so that the voter can make an informed choice during the elections. The information on Empowering India web site is freely available to all visitors. There is constituency level basic information about candidates and elections and a set of analytical tools by which more scholarly visitors could do some analysis. There is also a more advanced Build Query feature, which is allows a range of analytical queries to be created as per one’s own needs. The website has been in news for all the right reasons by the mainstream media ever since its launch in 2004.

JUROR’S EVALUATION

Empowering India is working towards the goal of making democracy more meaningful by encouraging participation, introducing greater transparency, assessing performance, and facilitating accountability in the political process. Their target is to have information in a manner that would be relevant to every voter in the country in every constituency. With the spread of the Internet and through it the local media, any citizen of the country has the opportunity to make an informed choice. This unique concept has been simply and successfully implemented by the organization.
E-GRAM - A REALITY CHECK

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

E-gram is a report of all services like electricity, drinking water, health, education in Rajasthan right up to the village level. A web-based application was deployed to get the village-wise amenities and monthly status of these amenities directly from the grass root level. One person from the village itself was entrusted the job of filling in the form, which was filled after gathering views of the Panchayat representatives and common villagers. The aggregation at all possible upper layers has been made available for executives and monitoring agencies. As more than 12 sectors were covered in a single format, it attributes a lot in time and cost savings. It covers more than 400 attributes from these 12 sectors. No additional infrastructure was created to execute this project, as National Informatics Centre's presence up to district level was leveraged in the project.

JUROR'S EVALUATION

With so many government projects undertaken for the development of the masses, it becomes very difficult to keep track of the effectiveness of these programs. E-Gram offers a way to gauge the real impact of the programs and all of the information is available on computers for any officer up to the level of Chief Minister to see. The project has been implemented in an area which has its own share of unique issues of terrain and climate, making this an important initiative. It is a very good example of Common Service Centre project implemented in the most ideal fashion. Absolutely Democratic and transparent, and citizen oriented.
JAANKARI

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

JAANKARI facilitation centre under the Right to Information Act as a people oriented project has been initiated by the Bihar Government in an effort to use state-of-art technologies to make information available to the people in an easy and hassle free manner. A user friendly ICT based centre has been set up to assist citizens of Bihar in getting governance related information from Public Information Officers under the RTI Act within the stipulated time frame without even checking the address of the caller. The applicant gets information without having to visit the concerned office or filling up forms. Jaankari helps the caller generate an application Under RTI and file it at the concerned office. It also assists the callers in getting their request recorded/typed out by a Jaankari centre assistant and an email is sent to them and the concerned PIO. Within 35 days a reply to the query is sent.

JUROR’S EVALUATION

The Right to Information (RTI) Act is a revolutionary step towards good governance by providing easy access to any citizen of India to any information on a government agency. The JAANKARI project has been facilitated by the telephony & telecom revolution happening across the country. Everyone in the state has access to all government information on dialling a fixed and well publicized 6 digit number.
E-Samvad (communication in English) is an integrated e-governance solution linking all higher education departments of Madhya Pradesh. This works on the logic that having separate infrastructure for every other department would entail a lot of financial burden for everyone and that is not desirable. The Higher Education department of Madhya Pradesh has taken help of the departments and given a concrete shape to the project. To strengthen the system, colleges at regional level were linked for realizing information in electronically accessible format. The practicality of this project can be estimated by the study of hit counter attached with the site. E-Samvad is a total and comprehensive solution for all e-governance needs pertaining to the education department in a single window.
The Rajya Siksha Kendra's education portal has been designed to serve as a common platform for all stakeholders, beneficiaries, administrative departments; officials for all School Education related issues. It facilitates transparency and social audit in all the processes/ functions of the department. Online relational databases of key entities - Schools, Offices, Teachers, Enrollment status, Civil works, Out of School Children, Children with Special Needs etc., help in automating the processes, meshing and analyzing the transaction data. The portal is dynamic in nature; it captures transactions and has proved to be very useful in bringing qualitative and credible information instantly for the decision makers.

The Rajya Siksha Kendra's education portal, facilitated by ICT interventions, has automated almost all the all core functions, processes and services related to all the stakeholders. The portal has several role-based online applications. Incorporating all the elements of the State Education Department is not an easy task, and it has been managed successfully taking care of each and every activity related to the whole of education department.
The 'm-Governance Mantra for Forest Management' is an effort towards better and modernized system of forest management with the use of the ICT and detailed software. The main objective of the ICT application in the department is to systematically organize planning implementation and monitoring of forestry and other related operations by systemic collection, storage and retrieval of MIS and Geo-spatial data through a computer based communication network. Going digital is the only assured way to improve the delivery of goods and services in Govt. sector. It facilitates transparency, accountability, efficiency and monitoring and also saves time, energy and financial implications.

Madhya Pradesh Forest Department has taken many ICT initiatives under its "m-Governance Mantra" project for effective management of forests & wildlife. The Department is using GPS enabled PDAs to capture real time data with geo-spatial details. This data is being used for effective planning, management & implementation of various field operations. Department has also successfully implemented HRD programs for capacity building using Edusat Services of ISRO. The users can access the applications through role-based UserIDs and Passwords. The users of the project also interact through mobile, e-mails, Videoconferencing and Net-Meeting. All projects have great potential for replication in other departments and also in States. In fact GoI has already taken a decision to scale up these efforts to national level.
Almost all Government schemes are citizen centric. It is therefore required for citizens to assess and provide constructive feedback on functioning of the scheme. Particularly disadvantaged are the poor illiterate citizen who is at a loss to know how to approach and whom to approach and get reasonable response. Sanjog helpline ensures a transparent grievance redressal service, for all the schemes in which the citizens are the immediate beneficiaries. Through this service, the citizen is empowered to register any type of complaint without disclosing their identity. Thus with the help of ICTs the common man has been brought into the folds of administration where his opinion matters.
Counselling process after common entrance tests is usually an enormous exercise, requiring large human and financial resources. Capnic is a user friendly interface that makes this process simpler. Wide spread internet connectivity in the state of Kerala provides facility for most of the candidates to register their options from their home itself. The candidates can change the priority of their options as many times as they wish, within the stipulated time, consulting their friends and relatives. This helps in avoiding spending of large sums of money and reduces inconvenience for the candidates by eliminating the need to reach counseling centers and back.

PUBLIC BENEFITS
- Eliminates the need to travel
- Saves time and money
- Enables candidates to take informed decisions

SOFTWARE FEATURES
- Registration of candidates for counseling
- Seat allotment based on current seat status
- Higher option list generation
- Fee collection
- Memo printing
- On-line display of current seat status
- Transparent & effective monitoring of workflow
- Re-allocation of seats on higher options received by candidates

CAPnic (Centralized Allotment Process) has been developed for conducting the counselling process for allotment of seats for professional courses in Kerala by receiving online options from the candidates. The software has been developed with technical support from NIC, Kerala unit. The application has various features such as valuation of answers, rank list preparation and publishing, online option receiving, allotment processing, result publishing, online option rearrangement, re-allotment, better payment mechanism, settlement of fees. All the stake holders involved save time and money.
Category: e-Health

Vidusuwa
Sri Lanka

Rajiv Aarogyasri Community Health Insurance Scheme
India

Custodial Health Care Through Satellite (Telemedicine)
India

Developing the consumer centred model of healthcare where stakeholders collaborate, utilizing Information Communication Technology, including Internet technologies to manage health issues as well as the healthcare system.
VIDUSUWA—A PATIENT CENTRIC EHEALTH SOLUTION FOR A DEVELOPING COUNTRY

ORIGINAL TITLE
Vi - Vidyuth (Electronic)
Du - Durastha (Distant)
Suwa - Suwaya (Healing)

PRODUCER
Dr. Shiromi M.K.D. Arunatileka
Dr. Keith R.P. Chapman

ORGANISATION
University of Colombo School of computing (UCSC)
Ministry of Health and Nutrition

LOCATION
Colombo, SRI LANKA

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MEDIA FORMAT
OpenSource

LANGUAGE
English

WWW
www.vidusuwa.com
www.lankaehealth.com
www.lankaehealth.org

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION
The project is based on the concept of a patient centric approach in utilizing ICT and providing a working model developed solely by Sri Lankan professionals in the IT and health sectors. Vidusuwa benefits patients seeking specialized healthcare, who do not have access to specialists (consultants) in rural hospitals of Sri Lanka. Pilot project was implemented successfully and eConsultations are happening between the e-Consultation Centre and the e clinics. E-Consultations in the surgical clinics are conducted every week with the surgical consultant from the e-Consultation Centre. It is an attempt to provide the benefits of modern medicine to the last mile person.

JUROR’S EVALUATION
Vidusuwa in Colombo is all about providing tele-medicine facilities to the remote areas of Sri Lanka. In a war ravaged country which is rebuilding itself, providing extended healthcare facilities to every section of the society is a complex challenge. The start of tele-medicine offers to deliver health services at a minimal cost. The needy patients living in far flung areas can now avail the expert guidance of the best brains in the medical industry. People can benefit sitting at their homes, thus saving cost. Vidusuwa is recognized as a pioneering effort in a country dealing with political & social turmoil.
Rajiv Aarogyasri Health Insurance Scheme originates from the mission of providing quality and affordable healthcare to the below poverty line population. The 'Rajiv Aarogyasri Community Health Insurance Scheme' was launched on 1st April 2007 in three districts on pilot basis and later extended it throughout Andhra Pradesh covering 1.65 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) families. The scheme provides financial protection and quality medical care to BPL population for treatment of major surgical and therapeutic procedures requiring hospitalization. The mode of implementation is Public Private Partnership.

Rajiv Aarogyasri Health Insurance Scheme in Andhra Pradesh, India has taken a lead in extending quality and affordable healthcare facilities to the downtrodden sections of the society. Providing basic healthcare in a large country like India has always been a good governance challenge. Lakhs of people are being benefited from this scheme currently in Andhra Pradesh. It is one of the largest health care schemes ever undertaken by a state government and other states are looking to replicate it too.
CUSTODIAL HEALTH CARE THROUGH SATELLITE (TELEMEDICINE)

ORIGINAL TITLE
Custodial Health Care Through Satellite (Telemedicine)

PRODUCER
Keshav Kumar IPS (IGP, PRISONS)
Dr Ghosh, ISRO
Chandrashekhar
Dr Pawar
Dr Navalgund, Apollo

ORGANISATION
Prison Department Gujarat State

LOCATION
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CONTACT
Kkips86@hotmail.com

MEDIA FORMAT
Satellite

LANGUAGE
English

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION
With a vision to make the prisoners healthy and disease free, Ahmedabad Central Prison has added a new facet to custodial health care by inaugurating a Tele-Medicine in the Prison campus with the collaboration of SAC, ISRO, Apollo Hospitals. ISRO volunteered to link the Prison with Apollo Hospitals, Ahmedabad through satellite links. Apollo hospital volunteered to make the facility available to the Prison Department free of cost. With the opening of the Tele-Medicine Centre, an inmate can be immediately treated with the targeted remedial measures based on the initial medical examination at the time of his admission to the Prison. This will put an end to the wait for prompt tests of a prisoner in the Government hospitals.

JUROR’S EVALUATION
Launched in Ahmedabad, India, Custodial Healthcare through Satellite (Tele-Medicine) is an experimental concept, which is based on the issues of human rights and security concerns for jail inmates. Prison inmates are often a neglected lot, particularly when it comes to their healthcare.

Mr. Keshav Kumar, IG Prisons, Gujarat Government, took a unique initiative of providing quality healthcare in the jail itself. He tied up with Apollo Hospital for health consultation and ISRO for Satellite link communication. Thus, probably, the world’s first ever tele-medicine centre started functioning right inside a jail.
Category: e-Inclusion

Daisy Forum Of India
India

Employment Generation and Marketing Mission
India

ICT for Teaching the Hearing Impaired
Sri Lanka

Online Hearing Screening
India

All measures supporting Information Communication Technology integration of least developed regions of South Asia into the Information Society. Reducing the 'digital divide' and 'content gap' between technology-empowered and technology-excluded communities and groups - such as rural areas and women. Bridging society through multimedia and rich content.
DAISY Forum of India is a forum of Not for Profit organizations involved in production of books and reading materials in accessible formats for the print impaired (persons who cannot read normal print). The forum is striving to provide maximum reading material to persons with print disabilities which includes but is not limited to persons with blindness or low vision, people of old age, the illiterate, persons affected with language learning disabilities and the mobility impaired by: promoting the use of standards in book production process (DAISY standards provide maximum accessibility for all) accumulating all content prepared in accessible formats (such as audio, Braille & e-text) throughout the country. They have evolved a central and common book cataloguing and distribution system and Providing cost effective book reading/playback devices and systems.

Bringing the differently-abled people at par with others is a challenging task. DAISY Forum of India in New Delhi is engaged in the task of providing access, to the disadvantaged community, to books through DAISY technology. The recent advances in digital technology have made it possible to make them feel equal, when it comes to reading and writing skills. Apart from Braille books, they also provide hearing books, e-text etc. which brings all print disabled at par with normal people. This extending of knowledge and information makes this a compelling nomination.
EMPLOYMENT GENERATION AND MARKETING MISSION

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Employment Generation and Marketing Mission (EGMM) is a mission set up by the Department of Rural Development of the Andhra Pradesh (AP) Government to provide employment/employability for the rural youth. EGMM works in a public-private partnership mode with Government, companies, and the rural communities as stakeholders. It begins with collecting the data of unemployed youth which goes into a database. A market scan is done to identify opportunities. The youth are screened and enrolled in Training Centres and companies come for campus recruitment. EGMM has set up 450 training centers across A.P. located in rural and tribal areas. About 50 training centers are owned and managed by EGMM. EGMM has also developed and nurtured 14 training partners in different sectors to work for the rural poor.

JUROR’S EVALUATION

The Employment Generation & Marketing Mission has worked out the process of inclusion of rural youth in the society. This scheme was started in Hyderabad, India. They have devised software to train the village youth and also keep a track of where they are employed in future. Various reports can be generated through this software. EGMM has emerged as the largest Jobs mission globally for vulnerable rural and tribal poor. One job to an underprivileged family takes the family out of poverty in a sustained manner. It helps achieve the goal of an inclusive society.
JUROR’S EVALUATION

Facilitating communication abilities of people with hearing loss, is the motto of Infolume’s 'ICT for Teaching the Hearing Impaired'. This commendable effort was initiated in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The civil war in Sri Lanka might have added to the hearing impairment of many. The effort made to extend aid to such people, through the use of communication technology like CD/DVD, Website, is praiseworthy. Smart use of multimedia technology in local language to impart knowledge and to start it in Sri Lanka is truly remarkable.

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

The target group of this project is people with hearing impairment. They are one of the most vulnerable groups in Sri Lanka. The project uses ICT to teach this group and enable communication among the members of this group. The goal is to improve the level of literacy and communication among people with hearing impairment. The programme uses multi-media tools like CD/DVD, Website, to achieve its goal of making such disadvantaged community inclusive. That the programme uses sign language and provides content in local language is other hallmark of this initiative. All the icons on the website are self explanatory and easy to follow.
ONLINE HEARING SCREENING

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

With the rapid spread of the Internet in India with its multi-faceted utility facilities, AYJNIHH, of Mumbai, India in its Outreach & Extension Service Programme has developed an online hearing test to ascertain whether or not someone requires hearing aid. Four sets of questionnaire have been designed for four groups which are linked to the real online test. The hearing screening tests provide a quick and cost effective way to separate people into two groups, a pass group and a fail group. They also have come up with a device to aid some 3.1 million persons suffering from hearing impairment in the country alone. They have set up a special website www.checkhearing.nic.in towards this end.

JUROR’S EVALUATION

The contribution, from AYJNIHH, Mumbai India, is for helping people who are hearing impaired. With the technology of online hearing screening anybody can take a simple test to know whether or not they need hearing aid. They have come up with a device to aid 3.1 million people in the country, who are suffering from hearing impairment. Having set up a special website towards this end, the results are encouraging.

ORIGINAL TITLE
Online Hearing Screening

PRODUCER
P. J. Mathew Martin & Team

ORGANISATION
Ayjnihh

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MEDIA FORMAT
Web/Internet

LANGUAGE
English

WWW
www.checkhearing.nic.in
Serving the needs of the learner to acquire knowledge and skills for a complex and globalising world; creating active e-learning communities and target models and solutions for training, supporting first steps in multimedia for better learning societies. Distant, online learning using interactive tools can enable mass learning even in remote locations.
The educational scenario in Sri Lanka is undergoing many changes and with the rapid spread of the Internet, Vidunena comes as a course which is a special tutorial content in Sinhala language over the World Wide Web. Vidunena is a web based system designed and developed for the use of G.E.C Advance Level, Science Stream students. The system is designed such that the students are able to study on their own the complete syllabus at their own pace and in their own time. Vidunana has the complete syllabus of biology, physics, chemistry and mathematics.

Perhaps the best way to rebuild a society is through education and it is all the more true for a society like Sri Lanka which is undergoing a lot of changes not only in educational sector but telecom communications too. Vidunena.lk is a service which is a specialized tutorial kind of science education over the Internet. This service prepares Sinhalese students for the G.E.C. Advance Level Examination which is always a hurdle for the best of the brains. For its pioneering efforts in spreading the knowledge in a new domain the project is laudable and in the context of the island nation’s scenario simply fantastic.
EXPERT SYSTEM ON WHEAT CROP MANAGEMENT

ORIGINAL TITLE
Expert System on Wheat Crop Management/English

PRODUCER
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MEDIA FORMAT
Web/Internet

LANGUAGE
English & Hindi

WWW
http://www.iasri.res.in/expert

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Expert System on Wheat Crop Management (EXOWHEM) is a web based expert system developed by computer division at Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (ICAR’s) to spread expert knowledge on the green revolution crop to cultivators in their own language. It is an integrated system that addresses all aspects of wheat crop management in India. The main goal of this system is to provide the users with recommendations and advice concerning wheat production. It is more a mission as opposed to a pilot project.

JUROR'S EVALUATION

After Rice, Wheat is one of the biggest crops of India. The knowledge base on wheat and its disseminations has been a challenge. Expert System on Wheat Crop Management, based in New Delhi, India, is all about extending the best knowledge available on wheat cultivation, to Indian farmers. It is a web based expert system to spread knowledge related to Wheat Crops, its various cultivation techniques, and issues affecting wheat crop in various parts of the country. The cultivators can get the information in their own language. The mission is to bridge the knowledge gap between experts on wheat crop in cities and ordinary farmers in the hinterland.
Interventions of ICT has been instrumental in empowering life at grassroots level in many ways such as in local languages, vernacular content and digital tools to work in oral medium. Agriculture, eco-tourism, ayurveda, artisans skills, organic food, are all being strengthened by the electronic and digital technologies as they move towards localization.
Users of native Chhattisgarhi language can now work in their own Chhattisgarhi language from any computer - Windows / Linux / Mac / BSD. Users need not know English language to work on computer any more with Chhattisgarhi KDE. With most programs interface in their own simple Chhattisgarhi language, they can surf Internet, chat & send email, work on office suite, learn things through KdeEdu suite or play computer games in their own Language.

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

KDE Chhattisgarhi is a localization project - aimed to remove digital divide from native Chhattisgarhi speaking people of Chhattisgarh. More than 100,000 strings of KDE 4.2 had been translated in to Chhattisgarhi. Now Chhattisgarhi Localized applications are available for Linux / Unix / Windows and Mac. All major Linux distributions like Redhat, Ubuntu etc. will carry KDE Chhattisgarhi in their future versions. There is a Chhattisgarhi KDE for Windows DVD released from which users can run program in Chhattisgarhi directly.

JUROR’S EVALUATION

Users of native Chhattisgarhi language can now work in their own Chhattisgarhi language from any computer - Windows / Linux / Mac/ BSD. Users need not know English language to work on computer any more with Chhattisgarhi KDE. With most programs interface in their own simple Chhattisgarhi language, they can surf Internet, chat & send email, work on office suite, learn things through KdeEdu suite or play computer games in their own Language.
HINDI WORDNET AND ASSOCIATED SOFTWARE PROGRAMS

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Hindi Wordnet and Associated Software Programs is a system of language data and tools consisting of sets of synonyms; lexical relations like antonyms; semantic relations; Application Programming Interface (API) to access all this information. More languages are being added to this experiment including Sanskrit making it a unique experiment in linguistic development through the World Wide Web which is a permanent medium. It is also linked with the similar Wordnet initiatives in the USA & EU which is all the more creditable in language development.

JUROR’S EVALUATION

Hindi Wordnet system is based on a simple principle: capture word associations as correctly, completely and richly as possible. The interface is simple to use, and the words, their associations and usages are presented elegantly and comprehensively. There is no way a gap can exist between the Hindi Wordnet and its users. The project inspired by EU Wordnet will be undertaken for 13 other Indian languages including Sanskrit.
The expansion of traditional media into new media and leveraging the technology as medium to reach larger masses, offering content in local language and in all form of electronic and digital medium. The key to 21st Century news through interactive and digital means is citizen generated bottom-up alternative news.
GROUNDVIEWS

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Groundviews was launched in November 2006 and is the first citizen journalism website in Sri Lanka. The central idea was to use a blog to publish compelling content in the form of text, audio, video and photos in English, Sinhala and Tamil. The strategy was to raise awareness of the blog virally. Key authors were asked to contribute pithy and provocative articles that pushed the boundaries of polity and traditional media and forced readers to think outside their comfort zones. Up to 27th May 2009 alone, the site received 235,000 pageviews and now gets around 2,250 page views a day.

JUROR’S EVALUATION

Groundviews fosters citizen journalism and is accessed widely around the world. It's a website which was started in Colombo, Sri Lanka. What no media dares to report, Groundviews publicly exposes everything. It's a new age media for a new Sri Lanka. Groundviews offers a multiple perspective on the civil war, by writings, pictures, eye-witness accounts, unbiased blogs, etc. It is the first website from Sri Lanka which fits into a mobile and thus, is accessible to a lot of citizens. Free media at its very best!
TARAKASH.COM

ORIGINAL TITLE
तरकाश.

PRODUCER
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MEDIA FORMAT
Cross Media

LANGUAGE
English

WWW
www.tarakash.com

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION
Tarakash.com is world’s first and only infotainment [Information and Entertainment] portal in Hindi. Tarakash.com updates 4 to 5 times daily. It provides articles on Science, Technology, Internet, Robotics, Environment, Society, History, Entertainment etc. Not only this, Tarakash.com also covers all the latest news in and around the globe. As the site is in Hindi, more and more people can read and get benefited from the informative articles. The language used is easy to understand and gasp. The site has Podcasting section, where visitor can listen to some podcast as if they are listening to online radio. There is a Free Blogging platform attached to the site. Readers can subscribe RSS syndication feed to their reader. Tarakash.com has accounts and pages on all the popular social networking sites viz. Facebook, Orkut and Twitter. Users can also subscribe to the mobile alert and can get SMSs about the latest articles being posted on the site daily free of cost.

JUROR’S EVALUATION
Tarakash.com, being in Hindi, is a unique website which disseminates information in a local language, using a mass medium like the Internet. This task was initiated in Ahmedabad, India. All the information is categorized in well-defined sections. People can access many links through this edutainment site. Tarakash.com caters to that segment of population in India which is more comfortable in Hindi than in English. Tarakash has its own unique way to charm the audiences with its content and delivery.
Tools and Tactics for Advocacy

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Message in-a-box and Mobiles in-a-box are toolkits that have been developed to support citizen journalists, small NGOs and rights advocates to use information and create digital media for positive social change. Message in-a-box gives you everything you need to make and distribute your own media. The toolkit includes free and open source software tools and video and text 'how-to' guides. Mobiles in-a-box is a collection of tools, tactics, how-to guides and case studies designed to help rights advocates use mobile technology in their work. The toolkit supports users to design and implement their own mobile advocacy strategies and projects using free and open source software.

JUROR’S EVALUATION

The growth of the ICT is not uniform and it is all the more right in region specific context. If the handsets are high end the software tools available aren't compatible and vice versa with not all pockets of population having the same gadgets or technical knowhow. To address this disparity, Tactical Technology came up with this mobile-in-a-box advocacy tool as a solution. Rights activists have been beset with many resource problems since long. Mobiles-in-a-box comes as a boon to such people worldwide especially with many of them coming from South Asia.

ORIGINAL TITLE
Tools and Tactics for Advocacy - Messages in-a-box and Mobiles in-a-box

PRODUCER
Allan Stanley & Team

ORGANISATION
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India

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MEDIA FORMAT
Cross Media

LANGUAGE
English

WWW
http://mobiles.tacticaltech.org
The spread of all the concerns is of high importance as far as science and environment are concerned. Scientific projects articulated through new media. Especially with emerging globalization, environment is being affected badly and it requires all kinds of technology and medium to spread the right message about scientific and environmental issues. Digital media and content play a huge role in responsible dissemination of information about science and environment.
Landslides in hilly areas have long been seen as an unavoidable natural occurrence. With the recent spread of the Internet, the new age media of blog was chosen as the vehicle to change the scenario for better. Save the Hills, initiative from Kalimpong, India, has become a virtual authority on landslides prone Himalayan regions of India. It has been enlisted as a world level information house by various global services working on the same issue. Save the Hills meticulously work on collecting all relevant information, linking with local government, and raising the policy issues at the national and international level through web 2.0 social networks especially blog.

SaveTheHills (STH) is a registered Kalimpong-based NGO working towards raising awareness about landslides in the Darjeeling/Sikkim Himalayas. After its inception in September 2007, STH took up the challenge of sensitizing the affected communities, government and media to this hazard utilizing the tremendous power and reach of the internet. Their blog has a worldwide audience and is viewed by scientists, students and ordinary people the world over. STH also functions as a pressure group, taking up issues such as compensation for land loss due to landslides (especially to farmers), prompt compensation and enhancement thereof for homes which have been lost or damaged by landslides. Thus since its inception, digital technology has been the life blood for SaveTheHills as their entire effort has been wholly based on extensive use of the internet, cell phones/SMS, computers and various associated software.
JUROR’S EVALUATION

Idea Wicket, initiated in New Delhi, India, is essentially a WEB solution to many marketing needs of an increasingly consumerist society. It’s an open platform for anybody who can come up with creative ideas. The power of user generated content is perhaps best exemplified here on IdeaWicket.com. It provides a wicket to bat on, a cricketing phrase, for persons who are full of ideas on innovation, marketing or otherwise. The number of batsmen can be simply unlimited and the results are showing. Have an Idea? Click ideawicket.com.

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

IdeaWicket is India’s first Open Innovation Portal in the private sector. It seeks to connect innovators with innovation seekers. The IdeaWicket innovator community is 10,000 strong and hails from top engineering and science programs in India. It includes scientists, designers, academia, entrepre neur innovators and small companies. IdeaWicket helps in finding solutions for innovation challenges such as - Design challenge; R&D challenge; Ideation challenge; Methods to improve existing products and processes; Call for lower cost substitutes or techniques and Call for Joint development and collaboration interests.
JUROR’S EVALUATION

Water scenario, particularly drinkable water, is worsening worldwide. There are many experiments being undertaken to make the best use of the water resources from what is left. Peer Water Exchange, based in Bangalore, India, has created web-based multimedia exchange platform to share all possible information regarding water - organization doing projects, funding water related initiatives, and even monitoring. Interestingly, all the data on the exchange is generated by the users. If you want to work on water, use the platform to apply for fund and after you get it, put all the info for others to review. Do try!
JUROR’S EVALUATION

Due to explosion in human population and other related issues, greenery is in grave danger of being completely wiped out. Even in the Western Ghats, which are safely one of the world’s true bio-diversity hotspots. BIOTIK, based in Pondicherry, India, comes as a boon to all bio-diversity lovers. It tracks not less than 528 tree species in the endangered regions. It uses a comprehensive software, developed in house, which allows easy back tracking of the trees. Such excellent work in tree conservation is what makes this project unique.

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

The user friendly electronic BIOTIK identikit was developed to identify 528 tree species of Western Ghats, one of the biodiversity hotspots of the world. This application was constructed by adopting a graphical interface system called "IDentification Assisted by Ordinateur“ (IDAO), which integrates the most recent progress of graphical capabilities of the computers. It was designed as a capacity building and research tool in taxonomy, biodiversity and species conservation. The software also allows easy back-tracking of data if any suspicion arises at any stage. So it is a complete tree tracking and conservation package.
Category: m-Content

Pocket Travel Assistant
India

FarmERP Mobile
India

Mobile has become the most powerful medium for the exchange of content, services and building communities. With the high penetration of mobile devices, content and services are becoming essentials in mobile devices.
Travellers in the 21st century are also more sophisticated in their information seeking and research habits, and are no longer content with referring to static print guides about their destinations. PocketWish combines the best of both these trends with its broad-based travel information access on mobile devices. As a mobile mash-up for the global traveller, the scope of PocketWish extends across Asia and beyond. Technically, the application uses content feeds, APIs and custom crawlers, with varying degrees of granularity and presentation. With further improvements in comparison services and interface design for multiple devices, PocketWish will be able to deliver the best of the mobile Web for today's busy traveller.

If one is frequent traveler and of course possesses a mobile, the name Mobilewish perhaps signifies what every mobile user wishes from the gadget. The easily downloadable application PTA or Personal Travel Assistant could be his/her guide in an unknown place. The PTA encompasses all the information any traveler can need while traveling e.g. routes, bank ATMs, hotels, restaurants, up to date local news, and transportation details. This application is unique in its concept, as it provides a mobile mash-up of all non-mobile data sources to make it available on mobile that are useful for any traveler to get real time data about any specific locations around the globe. The idea was to provide the traveler one stop solution in all his travel needs. The application usage can be helpful in improving tourism and travel sector.
Despite much work on ICT4D has focused on the urban environment, focusing on the rural economy is of particular importance for regions like Asia. From price information to security of produce, a wide range of activities can be enhanced with digital media. FarmERP offers grape farmers a useful mobile application for pest and disease management information. The company has also secured buy-in from important stakeholders in the rural economy, such as the National Research Centre for Grapes. Two mobile utilities for grape farmers have been developed in this regard, and information about pesticide brands and dosage is available right in the field.
Category: Jurors’ Distinctions

Automatic Meter Reading (AMR)
India

Gramin Radio Inter Networking System (GRINS)
India

These are special prizes which have been bestowed on compelling initiatives for their innovativeness and most out of the box thinking. The Jurors’ felt unanimously that these two interventions are of far reaching consequences in their respective sectors and hence this special category.
The Power Sector in the country sustains a loss of over 25-30% because of pilferage of electricity, which is a major cause of concern. The weakest cog in the wheel is the human element involved in the reading of the meters and also the easy accessibility of the meters to the customers, a large number of whom tamper with it. A solution to this problem would be to eliminate the human element involved. The MP Dishcom project is doubly effective and a timely one. No only does it cut costs but it also makes the meter reading process transparent. The project is getting laurels for its unique approach towards stopping power pilferage and is a worthy Manthan Award Nominee.

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Electric meters of the consumers across majority of the utilities in the country are read manually and billing is carried out by punching of manually recorded meter readings. A solution has been devised using a set of technologies called AMR (Automated Meter Reading) or RMR (Remote Meter Reading). This has been achieved by providing GSM based intelligent modems for transfer of meter data for complete automation of metering and billing process of its HT as well as LT high value consumers. The Company has a consumer base of around 26.7 lac consumers.
JUROR'S EVALUATION

With the community radio taking off in India in a big way, Gramin Radio Inter Networking System (GRINS) software comes as boon to small time operators. The fact that it can run on any single PC or single board computer makes it doubly beneficial to community radio stations and significantly minimises the infrastructural costs. The system has been designed specifically keeping the rural environment in mind. The ease of its application ensures that more and more people will be able to take advantage of its technology making it a worthy nomination for the Manthan Awards.
Category: The Most Innovative Nomination

Mango Application Framework
India

Innovation stand unique and appealing irrespective of whether a winning or non winning one. In such cases, the core consideration is its distinct way of addressing needs of its target communities, especially for those at the other side of development and digital dividends.
There is no questioning the transformative powers of the mobile phone as a vehicle of social change and social outreach. From simple communication and messaging to advanced agricultural and medical applications, the mobile phone is taking technology to people in pockets which were inaccessible before. But what if these phones, the very instruments of transformation themselves, were inaccessible?

Mango's idea is simple. Create an interface for mobile phones that gives even the cheapest handsets the ability to function like pricier top of the line multimedia enabled phones. It is an idea which has huge implication for digital inclusion. A phone with Mango suddenly has the ability to give even the poorest user a digital window of opportunity.

The Mango Application Framework is designed specifically for terminal devices with limited memory and processing capabilities. It brings along a rich set of PC-based tools that assist in user interface design and application development. As a virtue of the above, the time-to-market is significantly reduced. This platform enables these phones to acquire functionality that would otherwise not be supported in this segment of phones and enables them with "Application on Demand" scenario for this segment. This results in additional benefits for their customers as they can develop applications suited to the customer’s specific needs.
Category: Chairman’s Distinction

Gujarat Common Entrance Test (CGET) 2009, INDIA

e-Scholarship, Uttar Pradesh (Scholarship Management System) INDIA

English Seekho, INDIA

National Web Portal of Bangladesh, BANGLADESH

Sehat First, PAKISTAN

The winning framework is always limited by numbers and quantity equally quality search. Nevertheless, this cannot be only winning indicator as sacrosanct and quality infinite. Competing entries are left out by slender margins. Yet their worth in terms of origin, approach, creativity, magnitude, hostile terrain specific stands tall from the rest. The Chairman’s Distinction is an overarching and holistic way to inspire and encourage efforts to meet challenging socio-economic-cultural-geographical and institutional obstacles the digital way.
GUJARAT COMMON ENTRANCE TEST 2009

ORIGINAL TITLE
Gujarat Common Entrance Test (CGET) 2009

PRODUCER
Manish Bharadwaj, IAS
Madan Padaki
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MEDIA FORMAT
Web/Internet

LANGUAGE
English

WWW
http://www.gtu.ac.in/

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Gujarat Common Entrance Test, GCET 2009 is the Entrance Test conducted by Gujarat Technological University (GTU) for admissions to Masters of Business Administration (MBA) and Masters of Computer Application (MCA) courses in all affiliated Institutions throughout Gujarat. This project serves the needs of the University in automating the examination delivery process and ensuring quicker turnaround time for creating content, publishing question papers, evaluating candidate responses, and announcing results. This project also provides a fully technology based solution for student counselling through online allocation of college seats.

JUROR’S EVALUATION

The Gujarat Common Test (GCET) 2009 was the first online examination conducted by any State Government in India for admissions to the professional courses. This project serves the need of candidates seeking admission through the GCET entrance exam, by providing a unique student experience in test taking, by ensuring a transparent testing & evaluation process. The online counselling saves the candidates (and in many cases their parents) the hassle of travel to a central city for seat allocation. All the procedures were finished in a 45 day period i.e. from 14 May '09m to 10 July '09. It served 22,797 students and saved approximately 205 million rupees and 27,35,640 man hours for the Gujarat Technological University.
PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

E-Scholarship is an Online solution for awarding scholarships to deserving students in the big north Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. Some 3.90 crore students are benefiting out of this statewide scheme and a single portal is facilitating the entire process. A no fuss zero balance bank account has been created for all beneficiaries and the scholarship money is transferred to the respective account every month. The scheme has been appreciated as a definite step forward in delivery of a welfare scheme through the use of Information Communication Technology.

JUROR’S EVALUATION

The e-scholarship portal is designed to utilize the inherent strength of Internet and its excellent outreach and feedback capabilities for ushering in transparency in the disbursal system. New-age banking systems have been integrated & 'no-frill accounts' of students with zero balance facility have been opened by the banks as a major step towards financial inclusion. The piecemeal computerization effort adopted in the past has been replaced with a comprehensive, online, end-to-end service-delivery-oriented solution, resulting in speed and certainty of delivery of services. Besides simplifications and improvements in the ways of working, this approach has brought about a fine balance between facilitation and compliance as a blend of well defined goals and performance metrics.
ENGLISH SEEKHO

ORIGINAL TITLE
English Seekho

PRODUCER
Ninad Vengurlekar

ORGANISATION
IL&FS Education & Technology Services Limited

LOCATION
Mumbai, Maharashtra, INDIA

PHONE
91 22 66947575

CONTACT
ninad.vengurlekar@ilfsets.com

MEDIA FORMAT
Mobile Content

LANGUAGE
Hindi & English

WWW
www.englishseekho.in

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

English Seekho (Learn English) is a language learning program that uses the instructional technology offered by a mobile phone to teach the intricacies of a language to its users. English Seekho is an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) application that can be dialled from mobile phone and consumed 24/7, in the privacy of ones home and at times convenient to the user. The package consists of 45 modules of 5 minutes each. By dialling a fixed number i.e. 129222 the Tata Indicom consumers can avail of the best language learning on their mobile phones in the time and space that they want. In the first few days of its launch 9000 subscribers were availing this value added service. Talks are on with other service providers to extend the English Seekho programme to more sections of Indian populace.

JUROR’S EVALUATION

Two things are in favour of English Seekho programme, the mobile phone’s wide reach and the importance of knowledge of the English language in our daily lives. The program provides comprehensive learning across the widely available and most popular mobile platform - the IVR. It is of great importance that the learning experience is made simple so that the lessons enable each user to effectively pick up a foreign language. Audible learning through the IVR system enables the user to pick up the actual pronunciation of typical English words.
The National portal of Bangladesh is the first citizen service oriented government website of Bangladesh. It aims to provide updated information about Government services through a one-stop online portal. Using this portal citizens get the information related to banking system, entrepreneurship, passport, driving license, trade license, health issues, government holidays, agricultural and education system and so on. Information on current national issues or any important public notification is also available. One can get most frequently used Government forms from here by clicking on "Quick Forms" from the homepage.

As of late, around 200 government agencies have established their electronic presence on the Internet and more of them are opening their websites everyday. It can get quite cumbersome, and sometimes impossible to keep track of all the web activities of the government. To make access to government information and services convenient and time saving, this portal aims to provide a directory service for all the government websites. Furthermore, the available information are grouped in a service centred way. The portal can be accessed by anyone in the world. The information is published in both Bangla (Bengali) and English. As a result, the local people as well as foreigners can use this portal for required information regarding Bangladesh.
Due to many socio-political problems Pakistan has lagged behind in the development of basic services for its citizens. With emerging technologies it is now possible to bridge the time gap as it were. With a low ratio of 74 doctors per 1000 citizens, Sehat First is an attempt to provide basic healthcare facilities through neighbourhood tele-centres across the nation. The video phone tele-health consultation service saved time, money and resources and has been received with a lot of enthusiasm by patients and medical practitioners alike. The simple IP based video phone has enabled access to specialists such as gynaecologists and paediatricians, which these patients would not have been able to consult.
FINALISTS

E-GOVERNANCE
NREGAsoft – Online Monitoring of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGA)
NIC, Delhi, INDIA

Online filing of RTI Complaint and Appeal
Delhi, INDIA

e-Nagrik Sewa
Jharkhand, INDIA

Using Mobile Technology for Local Governance at Panchayati Raj bodies/m-Governance using ICT for PRI’s
West Bengal, INDIA

e-Scholarship
Uttar Pradesh
INDIA

E-Lokshahi
Maharashtra, INDIA

Housing On-line Monitoring and eGovernance System (HOMES)
Andhra Pradesh, INDIA

Computer Jagat
BANGLADESH

COMMUNITY BROADCASTING
Radio Sagarmatha
NEPAL

Vasundhara Vahini 90.4 MHz
Baramati, Maharashtra, INDIA

RadioVeRVe
Karnataka, INDIA

E-HEALTH
nirog.info
Jharkhand, INDIA

Pregnancy, Child Tracking & Health Services Management System
Rajasthan, INDIA

Hospital Management Information System (HMIS)
Gujarat, INDIA

LCT – Low Cost Teleradiology
Karnataka, INDIA

eClinician
Kerala, INDIA

Aarogyam
Uttar Pradesh, INDIA

Monitoring of Vehicle Movement using GIS / GPS in Corporation of Chennai
Tamil Nadu, INDIA

E-NEWS
TopNews.in
Punjab, INDIA

E-LEARNING
Easynow
Delhi, INDIA

upscportal.com
Delhi, INDIA

Tiger’s Job (Bagher Chakri)
West Bengal, INDIA
**E-EDUCATION**
Gujarat Common Entrance Test, (GCET) 2009 – An online computer based testing system for admissions in Professional Courses

Implementation of shared computing technology in 5,000 government schools in Andhra Pradesh
Tamil Nadu, INDIA

**M-CONTENT**
News at Fingertips / Mutho-Sangbad
BANGLADESH

mKrishi – Potato
Maharashtra, INDIA

State Bank Mobile Banking
Maharashtra, INDIA

Digital Goa SMS News Service
Goa, INDIA

MAT (Metal / Alcohol / Temperature ) Mobile Sensor on Open Source Hardware – Software Platform
Gujarat, INDIA

Multilingual Text Renderer for Mobile Phones
Maharashtra, INDIA

SMS based Complaints Tracking System for 'Turant Chovis' scheme (CTS)
Maharashtra, INDIA

FarmSoft
Madhya Pradesh, INDIA

**E-CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT**
Sumagasoft - Sri Lanka [Explore Sri Lanka – Tour Organizer (Version 3.00)]
SRI LANKA

MAM Movies
Gujarat, INDIA

MyWebERA
West Bengal, INDIA

CLICK TO ROOT / GRAVE ONLINE
West Bengal, INDIA

**E-BUSINESS & COMMERCE**
FarmerNet
SRI LANKA

Campus Fever Online Application Forms
Madhya Pradesh, INDIA

Zimblee (A Yureekah Company)
Maharashtra, INDIA

E-Commerce for SMEs - Sri Lanka
SRI LANKA

iXiGO.com
Haryana, INDIA

**E-ENTERPRISE & LIVELIHOOD**
Ubuntu at Work Trust
Karnataka, INDIA

Dynamic Market Information Support for Agri-Horti Produces through www.tnau.ac.in and www.indg.in
Tamil Nadu, INDIA
THE JURY PROCESS
THE GRAND JURY 2009

OSAMA MANZAR
Chairman, The Manthan Award
Founder & Director, Digital
Empowerment Foundation

PRATEEP V. PHILIP
Indian Police Services
Founder — Friends of Police,
Chennai

RAJEN VARADA
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UN Solution Exchange, UNESCO,
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MADANMOHAN RAO
Knowledge Management Expert and
Dr Madanmohan Rao is co-author of
the forthcoming book, "ICT4D:
Learnings, Best Practices and
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Rural Development, Andhra
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International Development Resource Centre (IRDC)

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Nepal: ITPF (IT Professional Forum)
Sri Lanka: ICTA (Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka)

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Nominations 380
Categories 13
Winners 45

Community Broadcasting

e-Business

culture & entertainment

e-Education

e-Enterprise & Livelihood

government

e-Health

e-Inclusion

e-Learning

e-Localisation

e-News

e-Science & Environment

m-Content

Digital Inclusion for Development

Department of Information Technology
Ministry of Communications and Technology
Government of India