Capacity Building & Outreach Strategy around Internet Rights Human Rights (Curriculum)

By

Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF)
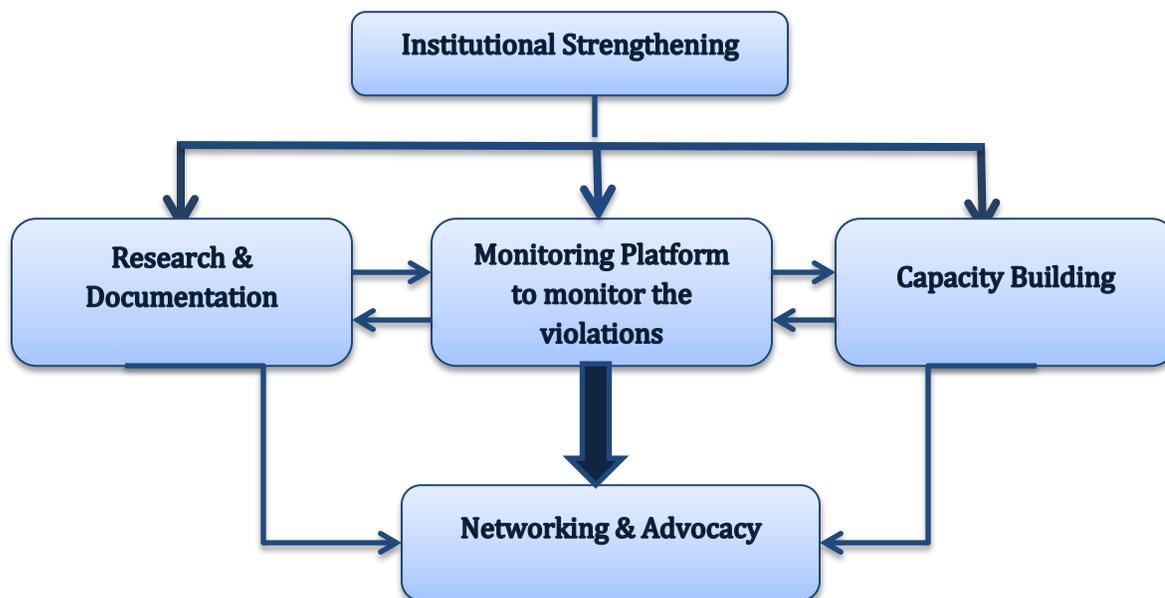
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A. INTRODUCTION

1. Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF), India project partner of APC IMPACT is working to protect and promote online human rights in India—right to freedom of information, right to freedom of expression (FoE) and the right to freedom of association.

2. There are 4 major pillars to achieve the larger objective of the project. These pillars are
   a) Research, Documentation & Monitoring: to understand the state of internet rights and freedom in India on basis of Former Special Rapporteur, Frank La Rue framework. The Research has examined and interlinked challenges in relation to FoI and FoE online. On the basis of these challenges, monitor the violations that can be reported, documented and addressed through Networking & Advocacy.
   b) Capacity Building activities will take place with stakeholders[1] to improve understanding or awareness, skills and knowledge, and strategies around FoE and FoA. In this regard, it is critical to capture credible and legitimate FoE and FoA violations online and offline, particularly those that have not been reported in mainstream media.
   c) Networking & Advocacy among stakeholders is followed and backed by capacity building. Identified monitored violations will help further in documentation of UPR (Universal Periodic Review) and further amplifying DEF's campaign in relation to freedom of expression (FoE), freedom of assembly and association (FoAA) and the right to information (RTI) online. This will further support in strategizing regional and international advocacy activities in order to get recognition on Internet Rights.
   d) Institutional Strengthening of the organization in the local, national, regional and International level to promote internet freedom

3. DEF will adopt the approach of connecting its 3 pillars together to achieve the larger objective of the project. The below figure depicts on these pillars are interconnected and help in overall objective

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[1] Stakeholders include: human rights defenders (HRDs), academic and research institutions, universities and colleges, SMEs and corporate actors, government institutions like National Human Rights Commission, CSOs, technical community, and multilateral institutions, chambers of commerce, among others. The list of stakeholders is attached as an annexure 1

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                    │ Institutional Strengthening  │
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┌──────────────────┐    ┌──────────────────┐    ┌──────────────────┐
│   Research &     │───▶│ Monitoring Platform│───▶│ Capacity Building│
│  Documentation   │◀───│  to monitor the   │◀───│                  │
│                  │    │    violations     │    │                  │
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                    ┌─────────────────────────────┐
                    │   Networking & Advocacy      │
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B. METHODOLOGY

1. DEF will firstly strengthen capacities within its capacity particularly within DEF trainers who are providing "DIGITAL LITERACY" training on the ground. Therefore DEF will itself create 7 level 1 trainers who will further provide training targeting various stakeholders (defined above).
2. Master Trainer with a support from Level 1 trainer will further conduct training programmes on IRHR curriculum among various stakeholders. The objective is to conduct 4 training programs in various parts of India which includes: North and Northeast India, West, and South
3. Furthermore, DEF will collaborate with organisations such as human rights institutions, academic institutions, CSOs, working in human rights and sexual rights . Partnerships and collaborations will lead to capacity building and institutional strengthening to better monitor human rights violations. This approach will yield maximum benefits for collective advocacy and systemic change based on data and evidence.

C. STAKEHOLDERS TO BE TRAINED

DEF Resources	Master Trainer creating and strengthening capacity of DEF resources.
Human Rights Organizations & CSOs:	Human rights organizations and defenders like Working Group on Human Rights (WGHR); Asian Centre for Human Rights (ACHR), CREA, POINTS of VIEW, etc. who may have direct field knowledge and information around FoE or human rights violations
Educational Institutions	Colleges and university students are more likely to use the internet and social media to gather online and mobilize offline for campaigning on social and environmental causes or other human rights causes. In this context, they may be using online social media tools but their level of awareness on internet rights with human rights may differ

DEF Centres	DEF is already providing Digital Literacy Programme in rural communities through its physical centres. Therefore, giving orientation towards internet rights and human rights to use ICT tools and internet to exercise their right to information, freedom of information, expression and association will further expand upon the concept of IRHR, responsibilities of the Indian citizen, do's and don'ts of IRHR, and other basic information to exercise their rights
Government	Government institutions like State Human Rights Commission who does not incorporate online rights as part of human rights, yet

D. IRHR Curriculum

For India, it is necessary to complement government and civil society efforts around digital literacy training by adding digital citizenship and security to the IRHR curriculum across all levels. This would help citizens understand their rights, roles and responsibilities, and protection mechanisms against security threats in the digital age. Briefly the curriculum would include the following points:
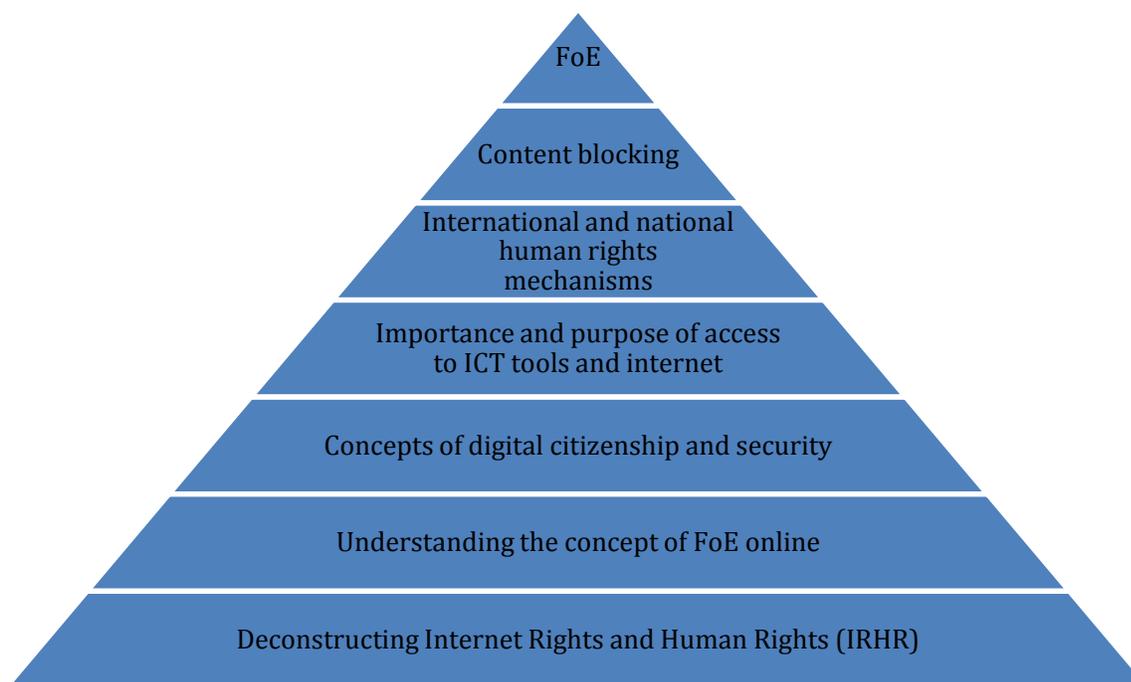

Figure 2: Elements of IRHR Curriculum

E. TRAINING METHODS

The team believes it is necessary to incorporate various methods of training to communicate complex subjects around IRHR-FoE online. These include:

- Lecture orientation to IRHR curriculum
- Focus group discussions around case studies
- Do's and Don't's of FoE online

- Use of various exercises, postages, games, theatre and skit to communicate complex subjects around FoE online
- Use of films and videos

F. CHALLENGES

In delivering the IRHR training program, DEF will encounter challenges at the organizational and the grassroots level. Some of the challenges are listed as follows:

- Knowledge management
- Slow or no response from the grassroots community
- Sustainability of the program
- Uncertainty of response from the local, state or central government

G. TIMELINE

June 2015

- Revise the IRHR training curriculum to suit India needs, opportunities and challenges, based on the training program in Jakarta
- Conduct a pilot training program within DEF resources in New Delhi and incorporate the findings in the IRHR curriculum
- Devise a monitoring framework to measure the quality and outcomes of the training

July 2015

- Conduct a training program with colleges and universities, DEF Centres in New Delhi, Haryana and Chhattisgarh
- Conduct training programme along with Points of View & Crea

August 2015

- Conduct a training program with at least 5 DEF Centres in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Uttarakhand, and Odisha
- Conduct the training programmes with other HRD institutions and CSOs

September 2015

- Conduct training program with at least 5 DEF Centres in Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh
- Conduct the training programmes with other HRD institutions and CSOs

October 2015

- Draft a quarterly report that discusses the findings of the training programs in selected geography
- Conduct training program with at least 5 DEF Centres in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana,

November 2015

- Compile the responses and reports to structure the outcomes report
- Conduct training in states that have not been covered or missed in the preceding months

December 2015

- Draft a monitoring report based on the monthly or quarterly feedback received from the training programs

H. MEASURING DIRECT AND INDIRECT OUTCOMES

Outcome can be measured in both direct and indirect ways. For example, the factors for direct outcomes include:

- Number of partnerships or collaborations formed for capacity building and training
- Number of DEF centres covered
- Number of people covered in each training
- Number of people trained on internet rights at Centres level
- Regions covered in India where there is high probability of human rights violations (i.e. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Northeast states of India)
- Number of human rights violations or cases documents or recorded[2]

The factors that can be considered for indirect impact or qualitative impact are as follows:

- Quantity and quality of Tweets or Facebook posts and the use of social media for training
- News articles published in regional or local newspapers in the local language or dialect
- Qualitative responses from local residents and trainees

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[2] *Human rights violations or cases referred to here are not reported in mainstream media*