IRHR-SOC Training Report

Dates: 14-16 July 2016
Venue: Bangalore, India
Number of participants, with gender breakdown: 12 (5 female & 7 male)

DEF conducted a three-day (14th July - 16th July 2016) residential workshop on the IRHR curriculum and Digital Security at Vindhya e-infomedia Pvt Ltd., Bangalore. It aimed at raising awareness about the impact of internet on their work, increase the levels of accountability mechanisms for internet related rights violations, and advance agendas that improve conditions for the respect and application of human rights online. The workshop laid special emphasis on data-protection & security and secure online communication. In brief, the curriculum included the areas mentioned below:

- Importance of ICT tools and the prominence of access to ICT tools and the internet
- Data protection, secure email and safe browsing practices for HRDs
- Deconstruction of Human Rights and Internet Rights
- Contextualizing FoE, RTP, RTI and Access in the online space
- Comparative trends in FoE, RTP and RTI (India and International)
- Right to Privacy online for HRDs
- Unlawful surveillance of telecommunications
- Censorship and access to the Internet
- UPR Process and injecting internet rights into the UPR advocacy process

The workshops comprised of 12 participants from organizations based in the southern part of the country like WGHR, Sangama, Institute for sustainable development and governance, V-Lead, People's action for rural governance, Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement, CRY and Vindhya E-infomedia.

Day 1: 14th July 2016

The day initiated with an ice breaking session where participants were asked how they use internet in their day to day life, their opinion on internet rights being human rights and other such questions. They were also divided into three groups and group activities were conducted to clear concepts based on internet rights being an extension of human rights and how the kind of inequalities faced in the virtual world are a reflection of the ones faced in the physical world.

The second session was on Right to Information. The session started with an introduction to the history of Right to Information and how it helped the country over the course of 14 years. It also explored the use of RTI in the different rights regime like child rights, labour rights etc.

The last session of the day was on freedom of expression and laws related to it in Indian and International context. The session also provided a list of resourceful websites by as ICCPR, UNDP, ITU, WSIS, IDP, APC, GP-D, ICANN- internetgovernance.org, Diplo.edu, CIS, CCG, ILTB.net, The wire, Medianama, The hoot etc. for the participants to get a better understanding of the issue.

Day 2: 15th July 2016

The day started with recap session. Session on privacy, security and anonymity followed thereafter. Topics covered were: what is Right to Privacy? Types of surveillance- telephone tapping, internet surveillance, Lawful Intercept and Monitoring Systems, Central monitoring system, Network traffic Analysis, National intelligence grid. It also highlighted the problem areas such as no independent oversight, lack of transparency out-dated laws and no privacy legislation.

The next session stressed on how to securely communicate on digital medium. The issues discussed were – Where the threat lies, why there are not enough communication tools, how to assess the risk factors, what we can do to avoid getting tricked and practicing daily security measures.

The session also gave hands-on training to secure password with "Keepassx", to track the traces one leaves while using internet through "tracemyshadow". It introduced the participants to websites like securityinabox.com, ssdeff.org and APC's digital security first aid kit to enhance awareness of security measures already available online.

Day 3: 16th July 2016

The last day had two sessions dedicated to securing online communication. The first session was a recap of the previous day's tools used and solved issues that the participants faced while using them. The day proceeded with training on more security tools such as "ccleaner", "Recova" and "Vera-crypt".

The afternoon sessions were dedicated towards 'Effective Campaigning on Social Media'. The session opened with asking the participants why and how they make use social media platforms in their day-to-day life. An active round of responses gained participants' curiosity on the session to follow. Then, successful social media campaigns were exemplified. These examples covered campaigns with regards to crowdsourcing, crowd-funding or simply for their viral value they held and how the methods they used could be replicated in to other campaigns as well. Afterwards, participants were educated on the various tips and tricks they could follow to maximise attention and, eventually, the popularity of their campaigns. The session was concluded with brief discussion on how one can evade potential risks and dangers while being on social media platforms and ensure security and privacy of their personal as well as organisational information.

The day ended with a session on introduction to Universal Period Review and the topics on which Digital Empowerment foundation is planning to submit its UPR submission.