Rapporteuring Report (IRHR Training)

DEF conducted a four day (3rd Feb - 6th Feb 2016) residential workshop on the IRHR curriculum and Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Advocacy at United Service Institution of India, New Delhi. This training was specifically targeted towards human rights defenders. The aim was to raise awareness about the impact of the 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.

In brief, the curriculum included the areas mentioned below:

- Importance of ICT tools and the preeminence of access to ICT tools and the internet
- 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
- Digital security practices for HRDs
- Censorship and access to the Internet
- UPR Process and injecting internet rights into the UPR advocacy process

The workshops comprised of 23 participants from various organizations all over the country like HRDA-India, Global Human Rights Communication and many more.

DAY 1

The workshop started with the Introduction to the session by Osama Manzar, Director Founder of DEF where he gave the overview of workshop and encouraged by making the statement that 'We are here to learn from you and not to train you'. Then, the training sessions started with the Nikhil Dey to talk on the Rights for ICT and the Internet.

Session 1: Rights for ICT and the Internet by Nikhil Dey

Mr. Nikhil Dey started the session by sharing his grassroots experience. He started with MKSS (Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan) and how the RTI came into force. Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan is a grassroots organization working in rural Rajasthan. He talked about issues of re-distribution of land and minimum wages. He went further narrating the whole story of laborers at the famine site who were not paid their full wages. The story highlighted on how laborers

demanded to see the records and how the movement for 'Right to Information' began. The struggle of laborers illustrated that the right to information was not just a component of people's

right to freedom of speech and expression but was also a part of their fundamental right under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution-the right to life and liberty.

Then, he put forward some of the slogans that were raised by the people – 'Hamara Paisa, Hamara Hisab', 'Ye Hamara Paisa Aapka, Nahi kisi ke Baap Ka' and mamy more like this.

Further, he shared another experience from Bhilwara district of Rajasthan where students from Dr. Ambedkar Memorial Welfare society worked for the Dalit's rights. In an event, these students put up the concerned issues to Nikhil Dey on ability to process information, hearing acknowledgement with the date, public participation in hearing and protection of complainant.

Then, he spoke on role of internet in getting the people's rights. He gave the example of MNREGA website where around 10 crore people are on mustroll and then said that for the illiterate people in rural area its next to impossible to visit the website of its own where an individual have to go through number of steps to get the all working details.

He also spoke about *e-mitra* kiosks in urban areas which are acting as common service center in providing the government services to people. In these centers, various non-cash services are also available with IT enabled PoS at Ration shops He pointed that these centers are charging more to people in making the services accessible to them.

Various non-cash services would be available from eMitra centres as well as IT enabled *PoS* at concerned institutions like Ration shops for PDS and Medical Institutions for health insurance. The MicroATM is also being deployed in fair price shops for automating distribution of food grains commodities which are acting as a hurdle for illiterate people where they even don't know their pin numbers and only 20% of the people are able to get the services with the help of technology. Another important thing that he pointed out was that 80% of *Jan Dhan* accounts are inactive as these people have only around Rs 500 in their account.

Further, he added that digital media is oppressing the poor and before designing technology for the poor, following fundamental questions should be kept in mind:

- Who chooses the technology?
- What are the means through which technology can be accessible?
- Who designs the technology?
- Who controls the technology?

He ended up his session by saying that 'Technology is the tool for public mustin but it has to be looked by the public and public should be authorized to what to design.'

Session 2: Introduction to ICTs and the Internet by Ravi Guria (11 to 12pm)

The session on Introduction to ICTs and the Internet by Ravi Guria focused on the impact of ICTs and the internet on society/impact of ICTs and the internet on Human Rights. He started the session by putting up some questions like what is digital content, why do we create digital content and what is the most powerful tool to create digital content? The answers that came out from participants were that any material online is the digital content; the digital content is created to share and communicate; and smart phone is the most powerful tool for creating the digital content.

Further he added that technology has changed in the last 10 years and today smart phones have become like computers in our hand. Going on to the technology part, he said that digital content is stored in the binary codes i.e. 0 and 1. He also spoke that in India only 7% of the population has the web connection whereas in US its 77%. Talking about the convergence of IT and Mobile application, he said that 'India to have 651 million smart phones and 18.7 million tablets by 2019.

Going on the trends in 2015, he talked about **e-commerce** market which is poised to grow 36% during the 2015-20. Then, he went on the **social media** as the new empowerment tool. The facts that he discussed were: 143 million social media users in India as on April 2015 and 61% of these users' access social media on their mobile device.

Further, he talked on the crowdsourcing with the examples of ice bucket challenge, rice bucket challenge, pink chaddi campaign, Nirbhaya post, Gangnam style and Kolaveri di. Then, he shared his experience of how technology is helping the people at grassroots level. He talked about *One India Strong India* campaign in North-east to connect people.

His session ended with enlightening the people on Social media as the empowerment tool.

Session 3: FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION BY MAHATAB ALAM,DEBORAH, GEETHA HARIHARAN, JAPREET GREWAL AND GAYATRI KHANDHADI

Mahatab initiated the session by stressing on the idea that freedom of expression is the essence of democracy and it helps inform political debates and is essential to ensure accountability. It is important for both individuals and states. However he also highlighted its limitations such as:

- It does not mention about article 19 (3) – right or reputation of others
- Protection of national security or of public order, or of public health morals / gives visual representation of article 19(1)(a) and 19(1)(b).

He also urged participants to approach organisations like Human Rights Watch, Amnesty, Frontline Defensers, Forum Aid, HRDA etc. to report any violation pertaining to freedom of expression.

Deborah continued to focus on the contents and violations of article 19 and spoke about the challenges such as suppressed expression, suppressed access to content. She also spoke about Frank la Rue report and framework stressing on the idea that internet is the most important instrument of the 21st Century.

Gayatri spoke on how Indian constitution is modeled on UDHR and how freedom of expression is protected by the court. She spoke about how the online and offline spaces are cohabiting and that the government is also shifting from offline to online but are restricting public. She highlighted that freedom of expression is important as it gives a new open space without restriction, it explores new personalities, it also affects the way one advocates or accesses information related to human rights.

She also focused on the challenges we face due to freedom of expression such as access and accessibility online. She stressed that backlash faced for expressing online and criminalization of defamation and hurting religious sentiments should be should be made an offence. Right to religion is personal and should be protected.

Geetha Hariharan initiated the lecture by identifying layers of the Internet:

- ✓ Physical level – optical fiber cables, mobile towers
- ✓ Data link layer – computers or smartphones
- ✓ Network
- ✓ Transport- info gets converted in binary and transported to internet
- ✓ Session wifi –on/off
- ✓ Presentation   is translated back in language
- ✓ Application – Google, files, digital books etc.

While Japreet spoke about blocking access and taking down contents from the internet. Availability of information is crucial for freedom of expression as it passes through several layers.

Officer →Nodal Officer →Intermediaries → communication of … →secretary of Information and Technology

Session 4: SEXUAL RIGHTS BY BISHAKHA DUTTA

Bishakha Dutta has talked on 'sexual rights' at the end of session two of day one. Ms. Bishakha Dutta is the cofounder and executive director of Point of View based in Mumbai, a non-profit organization working in the areas of gender, sexuality and women's right. To initiate her topic she showed a video to the participants and narrated a story of a 13 year old Dalit girl, who stays in a village of Uttar Pradesh. The girl was called 'Bitiya'. Bitiya doesn't have access to internet. In the story Bishakha said how the girl got raped by three upper caste boys of the same village and how they ruined her life by recording everything in their mobile phone and making a pornographic video from that. After completing the story she asked all the participants to look it from the perspective of freedom of expression and stated that there is a girl living in 2015 in India, who stays offline and not in online. But even though she is not online, her life is affected by the digital space. By the giving the example of Bitiya and asking questions to the participants she made all the participants understand what were the impacts of this episode on Bitiya. The impacts she mentioned were:

➢ Barrier in the freedom of expression
➢ Violation of her privacy
➢ Her reputation was taken away
➢ Her Right to Education was taken away
➢ Her Right to love and Right to have family are potentially affected.

"In a community if one person is affected then other persons of the same age group are also supposed to be the victims. Because by seeing the incident of this 13 year old girl the parents of other teenage girls will be afraid of giving them the digital devices as they too get affected like Bitiya" – Ritu Srivastava, Senior Manager, Research & Advocacy, DEF

Bishakha in this context said how the right to free expression is never just a simple matter of one small thing affecting it but an episode like this which has so many sort of implications in many directions can curbs the right of free expression.

After narrating the story Bishakha segregated all the participants in four groups for a group exercise where she gave four different situations as follows:

 I.   Latika is looking for a husband online. She only speaks Bengali.
 II. Atul doesn't think of himself as a man anymore and exploring his gender identity online.
 III. Rekha is doing a social media campaign on the need for sex education in schools and,
 IV. Nisha is a visually impaired who is researching abortion on internet.

She then asked all the participants to find out the top three threats to their freedom of expression online, one or two things which will help in their freedom of expression and the physical and virtual space they can use. After getting answers from all the four groups she herself summarized all the points for the four situations mentioned above.

For situation one she mentioned,

   a) Being a woman Latika will be unsure about online communication.
   b) She will get disapproval from her family.
   c) She may face threats like misuse of her personal information.
   d) Linguistic constraints
   e) She may receive abusive contents.

For situation two,

   a) Anonymised activity online.
   b) Verification of identity on certain platform.
   c) Online activity like videos, posting materials, part of being online groups etc.
   d) Surveillance or private censorship
   e) Access to support groups across the world.

For situation three,

   a) Social Taboo
   b) Online and offline pushback from parents/ school/ public.
   c) Rekha may face technical restrictions.
   d) Space to gain reference material.
   e) Enables propagation.

For situation four,

a) Nisha may get socially stigmatized.
b) As she is blind she may require assistance from others which may lead to dependence.
c) Access to self-help groups.

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Session 1: RIGHT TO INFORMATION BY PANKTI JOG

The first session of day two was on Right to Information which has been covered by Ms. Pankti Jog of Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan. She started her session with history of RTI in India where she said RTI is a very simple and innovative act as it covers a large section. She also mentioned passing of this law has gone through a lot of struggle and many people from the grass-root level had participated in that movement which started in 1992 from Rajasthan. 18 states joined by 2003. Right to Information Act in India was passed in 2005.But many other states were having their own RTI law before 2005 for eg. Tamil Nadu, Goa, Maharashtra, Jammu & Kashmir etc. Then she stated that we have 14700 laws in our country but among them only a few are used by the common citizens or they are not at all useful for the common citizens in their daily life. RTI is one of the laws which is used by more than 7 crore people in 10 years.

After talking about the history of RTI Act she spoke about the uniqueness of RTI Act. While talking on the uniqueness she mentioned, firstly, this law is making our democracy functioning. Secondly, this act needs to be implemented by the government unlike other laws which are implemented by the common citizens. Thirdly, asking questions to the government changed many things. It increases the government accountability and changes the equation that people are out bureaucracy. Fourthly, not only asking questions but it is a tool for empowerment and mobilizing people in the community. Fifthly, it is not only about seeking information but it also

addresses a number of things like social discrimination against minorities, against political discrimination etc.

Pankti mentioned that in Gujarat they have started RTI helpline for answering the queries of people and they got to know only 23 percent of the phone calls are from the government officials who are supposed to give information because they wanted to know how they can share information. It is for questioning the things which are going on from years. It is acting as a magic stick because it says citizens who always were at receiving end can do inspection of document. She thinks that someone looking at her makes her work in a better way. It is the message which the government officials are getting and they are scared of the common people who are going and inspecting their work. Because they know that if these common people start asking question to them, in many cases they will not be able to answer. She also said in schools they give RTI training to students of class three four etc. She told the participants that inspection of document has become very beneficial because sometimes we do not know where the information is lying. When we do not know where the information is or when certain incidence has happened filing RTI will be of help. When we file an RTI the first right we have is getting a certified copy of the document. The second right is to get information in electronic form for example, cd, dvd, floppy etc. Another most important right which we get is to get samples of the materials that have been created out of public money. And if someone finds tampering of information, file an inspection of records and he or she will get the original document.

Session 2: ACCESS AS A RIGHT BY RITU SRIVASTAVA

Followed by Ms. Pankti Jog, Ms. Ritu Srivastava talked about Access as a Right. Ms. Srivastava works as a Senior Manager, Research & Advocay in Digital Empowerment Foundation. To start her session she first asked all the participants why access is important as right. For further discussion she started an exercise with all the participants dividing them in four groups just to know what restricts them to access any information and internet. The four different situation discussed by her was,

I. A rich man living in urban India
II. A poor man living in rural India
III. A rich woman living in rural India
IV. A poor woman living in urban India.

After discussing the social, economic, political and technological hindrances faced in these four situations she talked about Affordability, Accessibility and Availability of information and internet and highlighted the definition of broadband in India (2004).

According to Broadband Policy 2004, broadband is defined as "**An 'always-on' data connection** that is able to support interactive services including Internet access and has the capability of the <u>**minimum download speed of 256 kilobits per second (kbps)**</u> to an individual subscriber from the **Point of Presence (POP)** of the service provider intending to provide Broadband service where multiple such individual Broadband connections are aggregated and the subscriber is able to access these interactive services including the Internet through this POP. The interactive services will exclude any services for which a separate license is specifically required, for example, real-time voice transmission, except to the extent that it is presently permitted under ISP license with Internet Telephony".

Followed by the definition of broadband she mentioned the Government, Corporate, Industry Bodies and Content Providers as managers. She further mentioned in detail about the govt. managers. She said, under Ministry of Communication Information & Technology, 1. Telecom Commission 2. Dept. of Telecommunication 3. TRAI 4. Wireless Planning Commission and 5. TEC (Technical Body of Equipment for Approval) work as managers. There are three ISP providers, viz; national, state and district. While talking about the cost she said before 2013 one needed to have bank guarantee and after 2013, for national area the entry fee is INA 30 lakh, for telecom circle or metro area it is INA 2 lakh and for SSA the fee is INA 20000.

About the budget allocated so far she said that, Govt. budget for laying up National Fibre Optic Project was 20,000 crore and already surpassed Rs. 72,778 crore by May 2015 , for private stakeholders the budget was Rs. 300 Crore and about Rs. 18 crore for the print media. 59 panchayets were taken as pilot basis but 66% population said although NFOP has come but it does not work and the people do not know what to do with it. After budget she further discussed about Alternative enablers for decentralizing access and ended her session with the example of optimal bandwidth utilization in Argentina where people at night are using the bandwidth and sharing the day time bandwidth with others at a minimum cost.

Session 3: Right to Privacy- Surveillance and Data Collection by Prashant

Mr. Prashant started his session by asking the participants to tell the top 10 websites that they refer daily. Then, he went on online tracking. He took the example of Uber someone can track us on where we are going and at what time. He talked about Article 21 and said that we don't have Right to Privacy in our constitution.

After that he went on Privacy and Surveillance where he discussed about the types of surveillance- government and private. He also spoke about laws of surveillance in India- Telegraph Act, Information Technology Act and S.91 Code of Criminal Procedure. Important information that he shared was on the 9,000 telephone records that are maintained per month by the central government in India.

After that he went on the Surveillance Mechanism where he covered the following:

- Lawful Intercept and Monitoring systems
- Centralized Monitoring System
- Network Traffic Analysis(NETRA)
- National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)

Session 4: Right to Privacy- Digital Security Training for Human Rights Defenders- by Nayantara

Nayantara Ranganathan from the Internet Democracy Project as the keynote speaker focused on the Digital Security Training for Human Rights Defenders. She started with the physical threats to data and went to Social Engineering which is a non-technical method of intrusion hackers' use that relies heavily on human interaction and often involves tricking people into breaking normal security procedures.

She spoke that for the data to be secured, 3 things have to be fulfilled which are: Authenticity, Integrity and Privacy. She also told about the *password strength* and the time taken to crack the password by a computer. For example-the password like bananas will take less than one day to crack and whereas the password like We Have No Bananas will take around 19151466 centuries to be cracked.

To solve the issue of getting such passwords remember for long time, she spoke about *Keepass software*- a free open source password manager, which helps you to manage your passwords in a secure way. You can put all your passwords in one database, which is locked with one master key or a key file. So you only have to remember one single master password or select the key file to unlock the whole database.
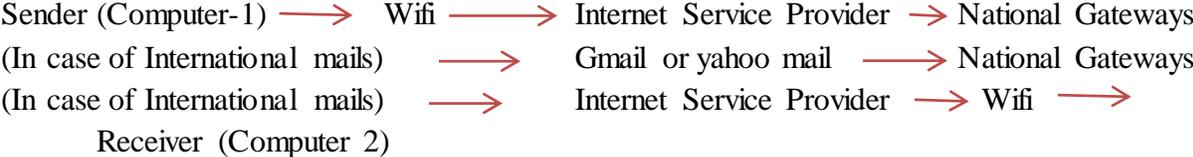
The session ended up with helping the participants in downloading the software and having hand on it.

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Session 1: Digital Security Training for Human Rights Defenders- by Nayantara (10am to 1 pm)

Nayantara Ranganathan from the Internet Democracy Project as the keynote speaker focused on the Digital Security Training for Human Rights Defenders. The session started with the 10 minute activity to know *'where the e-mail goes or travels?'*

The group discussion arrived at the different actors that play role in sending the text or mail.

Sender (Computer-1) ⟶ Wifi ⟶ Internet Service Provider ⟶ National Gateways

(In case of International mails) ⟶ Gmail or yahoo mail ⟶ National Gateways

(In case of International mails) ⟶ Internet Service Provider ⟶ Wifi ⟶

      Receiver (Computer 2)

Then she talked about *Surveillance.* She said that there are two types of data that are under surveillance- Meta Data (Information about the message) and the main content. She said that many times surveillance is justified on the basis of Meta data.

The session further looked at the concept of proxy in browsing that offers a fast, easy and anonymous proxy server site that is blocked. It provides a free and anonymous web browser so you we browse the internet securely, without being blocked from any website. Then, she spoke about **Hyper Text Transfer Protocol Secure (HTTPS)** which is the secure version of HTTP, the protocol over which data is sent between your browser and the website that you are connected to. The 'S' at the end of HTTPS stands for 'Secure'. It means all communications between your browser and the website are encrypted.

The most important that she added into this was how to set up a secure website without going hassle through the *let's encrypt-* a free, automated, and open certificate authority brought by the Internet Security Research Group (ISRG). ISRG is a California public benefit corporation, and is recognized by the IRS as a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

She also spoke on The *Tor Browser* lets us to use Tor on Windows, Mac OS X, or Linux without needing to install any software. It can run off a USB flash drive, comes with a pre-configured web browser to protect your anonymity, and is self-contained (portable).

Then, she went to focus on TOR (anonymity network) that maintains the personal privacy of users as well as their freedom and ability to conduct confidential communication by keeping their Internet activities from being monitored. Tor makes more difficult for Internet activity to be traced back to the user: this includes "visits to Web sites, online posts, instant messages, and other communication forms.

Then she went to the website security. She mentioned about **NoScript** which is a security add-on for Firefox that aims to prevent auto-executing plugins that could put user at risk of malicious scripts, clickjacking and attacks. NoScript works by automatically preventing scripts from executing on the websites user visit. If user clicks on the little NoScript icon in the lower right corner, user will be able to see what scripts are being prevented and decide which they want to allow and which they want to exclude for security reasons.

She engaged all of the participants in all of the activities by downloading the **C Cleaner** and **Bit locker** software. After that the session was made more interesting when she told about **trackography.org** that provides an interactive map that shows where the data is moving and through which companies. She added on by saying *'Trackography provides the snapshot of the third party trackers in over 2,500 media websites across 38 countries'*.

In terms of the data protection, She spoke about 'End-to-end encryption (E2EE)' used for securing encrypted data while it is moving from the source to the destination. The objective of end-to-end encryption is to encrypt data at the Web level and to decrypt it at the database or application server. In this context she suggested to use **Signal app** for communicating. 'Signal uses an advanced end to end encryption protocol that provides privacy for every message every time'. Also **Telegram** is more secure than Whatsapp, they have optional end-to-end encryption and encrypted local storage for Secret Chats. She also asked participants to go through the **autistic.org** and read out the policies related to the email, blog, instant messages etc.; and to login on **Riseup** account that provides secure and private email accounts.

Further going on to recover the files that are accidentally deleted, she asked participants to download **RECUVA software** that recovers file from the windows computer, recycle bin, digital camera card and MP3 player.

After that she went on **email encryption** she explained about public and private keys. Public key is made available to everyone via a publicly accessible repository or directory. On the other hand, the Private Key is confidential to its respective owner. Whatever is encrypted with a Public Key may only be decrypted by its corresponding Pvrivate Key and vice versa.

The session ended with lots of enthusiasm and curiosity among participants to download the software and be digitally secured.

Session 2: UPR Advocacy by Kiriti Roy and Gayatri (2pm to 6pm)

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a unique mechanism of the Human Rights Council (HRC) aimed at **improving the human rights situation on the ground** of each of the 193 United Nations (UN) Member States. Under this mechanism, the human rights situation of all UN Member States is reviewed every 4.5 years. 42 States are reviewed each year during three Working Group sessions dedicated to 14 States each. These three sessions are usually held in January/February, May/June and October/November.

Mr. Kiriti Roy shared his MASUM experience on UPR Process- UN Mechanism and Human Rights. He talked about International Laws of HR- UDHR 10/12/1948, ICCPR & ICESCR 1966, Individual and Collective Rights and Asian Values. He also talked about CERD 1965, ICCPR 1966, ICESCR 1966, CEDAW 1979, CAT 1984 and CRC 1990 as major HR instruments at UN. He also spoke that UN is composed of the General Assembly which is constituted with Security Council, ECOSOC and Human Rights Council.

Further, he said: "The Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system made up of 47 States responsible for the promotion and protection of all human rights around the globe. The distribution of seats is: Asia-13, Africa- 13, Latin America- 8, Western Europe- 7 and Eastern Europe- 6."

He also stated that:

During the UPR examination of India in 2008, only 18 recommendations were made to India and in May 2012, over 80 recommendations were made. India in 2012 replies- since January, 1994 until December 2011, out of 1,429 complaints of human rights excesses received against the personnel of Army and Central Para Military Forces; 1412 have been investigated and 1,332 found false. In 80 cases, where the complaints were found genuine, stringent punishments have been imposed. 17 cases are under investigation.

Ms. Shivani Lal from HRDA spoke on the UPR Advocacy Strategies. She focused on Universal Periodic Review (UPR) as process. She mentioned about Troika- 3 countries' delegates assisting the review. After that she discussed on Pre-UPR that included regional/state level consultation, submission of information and review of information; the UPR Sessions that included to attend the review followed by organizing a screening of the webcast in the country, holding a press conference/statements, making oral statements and submitting a written statements; and Post UPR session that included implementation of recommendation by the state. Then, she focused on how a NGO and other organization can engage in UPR Process. She said:

Any civil society actors, national institutions, NGOs, human rights defenders, local associations, grass root organizations, trade unions, and indigenous people can submit information to the OHCHR, with or without the ECOSOC status. An individual submission by an NGO is limited to 2815 words, excluding footnotes and annexures and a joint submission by a coalition of NGOs can be 5630 words. Submissions have to be to the OHCHR through their online system. When the submission is finalized, one has to login to the online system and upload the document. The deadline for the submission of information is about 6 to 8 months before the session. The National Report, the compilation and the summary as well as NGO submission are usually available on the OHCHR website 6 weeks before the start of the UPR working group.

Then, the participants raised questions on composition of troika and the process for getting ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council) status. The questions were beautifully answered by Shivani that not only increased the knowledge level of participants but also made their doubts clear.

On ECOSOC status she said, *currently, 4,045 NGOs enjoy consultative status with ECOSOC and in India, CHRI, Amnesty India, Freedom House, Association for Progressive Communication (APC) etc. have the ECOSOC status.*

"UPR is an International tool and we all should try to work in coalition, collaboration and collectively to make the submission more effective than going individual."- Ms. Gayatri Khandhadai, Independent Journalist

Further **Gaya** mentioned that after submitting the report, reviews take place during the sessions of the UPR Working Group which meets three times a year. Following the review by the Working Group, a report is prepared by the troika with the involvement of the State under review and assistance from the OHCHR. This report, referred to as the "outcome report", provides a summary of the actual discussion. It therefore consists of the questions, comments and recommendations made by States to the country under review, as well as the responses by the reviewed State. The reviewed State has the opportunity to make preliminary comments on the recommendations choosing to either accept or note them.

" Sweden and Norway are only the two countries who have made positive recommendation in promotion of Internet Rights"- Ritu Srivastava, Senior Manager, Research and Advocacy, DEF.

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DAY 4

The next started with brainstorming session on UPR and advocacy strategies by the keynote speakers. The session started with the **Ritu**, she focused on the 'Other Stakeholders Report' and showed of the reports of CREA, Center for Reproductive Rights, WGHR submission report and Digital Empowerment Foundation. She also spoke on the report's format. **Gayatri** took it further by elaborating on the format and mentioning points that could help the CSOs and NGOs in writing the report. The points that she mentioned were:

- Be précised and decide on the topics that you want to touch on
- Decide the issues that needs to be highlighted
- Decide framework (both legal and policy) and support the report with concrete examples
- Try to give workable recommendations

Another thing that came out was the official languages in which the UPR report is submitted- English, Spanish, French, Russian, Arabic and Chinese. The concern that was put up by Syed Kazi from DEF was 'what about the grassroots institutions that doesn't have hand on any of the official languages. Gayatri and Ritu replied that such institution can work in coalition with others.

After this, the group activity was performed where the participants were divided into four groups. All of the four groups were given the WGHR reports where the recommendations were made, the participants were asked to look at the progress that has been made since 2012 in India. The points that were made in the group's discussion were:

Group-1 worked on RTE, livelihood, environment, labor, water and sanitation, slum dwellers, housing and land rights.

- All of the recommendations made were accepted by the India as it covered minorities groups, women and children except two.
- Protection of minorities on based of religion and caste are accepted.
- Freedom of expression online is not accepted.
- Recommendations related to child rights are accepted.
- India has accepted many recommendations but not implementation at the grassroots level
- Special Disability Acts that are there in India

Group-2 worked on media rights, privacy, FoE, FoA, protection of journalists, data protection, internet rights and RTI

- Ensure safe working environment of Journalist was accepted. UNESCO came out with the guidelines related to the journalist safety but the condition of India is opposite as journalists were killed and defamation issue
- Ensure the measures limiting the FoE on internet are based on clearly defined criteria in accordance with International Human Rights standards- noted but not accepted by India.
- Righty to Privacy which is not there in India.

Group-3 worked on security forces, extra judiciary killing, prison reform, police reform, torture and illegal arrest.

- The Constitution of India has accepted the visit of rapporteurs
- Capital punishment in India

Group-4 worked on women, sexuality and gender rights, dalit rights, human rights, child rights, disability rights, migrant rights and statelessness

- The government schemes are there in the picture but they are not implemented at the grassroots level.
- PPP model to benefit the state
- Implementation of provisions to human rights are questionable
- Critiques in Right to Food