IMPACT RESEARCH STUDY: OWNERSHIP, USABILITY, ACCESSBILITY & ACCESS TO RIGHTS USING ICT TOOLS & APPLICATIONS
Report on Survey Research for IMPACT
April 15th, 2015

I.   **Introduction**

New Delhi, India—DEF research team, Rahul Choudhary, Maubani Dutta, and Bijo Abraham, visited Jhansi and Kaushambi in the State of Uttar Pradesh in India to conduct survey research. The team visit the Kaushambi district out of Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh. In 2006 the Ministry of Panchayat Raj named Kaushambi one of the country's 250 most backward districts. It consists of major blocks such as Chail, Manjhanpur, Bharwari, Kashiya, Muratganj, Sirathu, Karari and Kara. The researchers visited interior villages of Mooratganj and Manjhanpur where the locals speak the Bhojpuri dialect.

II.   **Observations**

Economics

Only few people owned major part of the agricultural land and large part of the population do not own any agricultural land. Those that own land are usually of higher economic status and have some form of educational attainment and social recognition.

For example, they are able to hire labourers for the maintenance and upkeep of their agricultural land.   The labourers, however, are generally of lower status in the educational and financial status and therefore do not have the same recognition socially.

Therefore, it is safe to assume that there is a high gap between the statuses of people living in the village.   While there is a section of rich and educated people, there are also a section of poor and educationally backward people. The educated families have awareness about and are using mobile phones, computers, laptops, and internet. They also have awareness about Indian constitution, RTI act, internet and other rights etc.

Furthermore, these communities are able and have enough knowledge to access and get the benefits of every government scheme even if they are are not entitled for the same.

Education

While taking about the educationally backward section of the people, almost all of them, particularly the women, neither have nor know how to operate computer, laptop or internet. The ASHA of these villages who belong to poor section don't know that they are using internet, even when they are registering their beneficiaries online in their mobile phones through the application called REMIND.

Mobile, Internet and Government Schemes

Many in the community have been given the mobile and the training application using process. While a very few people are using mobile phone for calling purposes. They do not possess any formal awareness about Indian constitution, RTI act, internet and other rights etc.

Some in the community don't have the awareness of government schemes of various sectors for which they are entitled to.

Even if some of them are aware of these schemes, they don't know how to apply for accessing these schemes. There are challenges related to knowing where to access the forms and filling out the forms. Due to lack of educational attainment and awareness the people that should be the beneficiaries of the various government schemes fall out while those who are not entitled are getting the benefits.

Agriculture and Environment

The team observed that due to uncertain rain most of the growing crops were ruined.

Challenges

Moreover there are some general problems for using mobile phones, computers, laptops, internets etc. The internet connectivity is very low in the interior villages as towers may not have been set up nearby. So it is very hard for the people there to use internet smoothly.

Electricity is another problem. It is very difficult to charge the devices. Sometimes if power cut is for long time then people have to go many kilometres away to charge their devices whichever they have. However, some of the rich families have owned inverters which they use for themselves during power cut.

Unique observation

Moreover, I met someone who knows and can conduct social research and operate SPSS, Excel, Stata, report writing, sampling, but is still down to earth and engaged in ground level work like farming and animal rearing for which he stays in interior village called Alwara in East UP.

The questions raised by the community are as follows:

- The reason for the survey
- What do they get for being surveyed
- Raised questions on their basic rights and use of internet rights
- Questioned about the quality of life if internet becomes a basic right, how it would affect their daily life. This is due to the fact that they understand that internet and digital devices are for the rich section of the society.
- They have raised a point that even if the internet becomes a basic right, how can they access to internet. For accessing internet they need smart phone or computer which is costly and can't be affordable.

Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh

DEF research team visited the following villages in Jhansi, UP: Baruva sagar, Maroda, Barata, Maharajpura, Kochabhanvar, Futiera, Bazar, Barata ghar, Panchampura, Dunara, Chandrapura, Hardolpuraa, doun, Madura, Parichhatharmal, Jarvo, Harpura, Sanoura villages of Badagaon District of Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh state.

Around 110 people in the respective district were interviewed. The data collection lasted for 7 days.

- Many of the people don't have even mobile phones. They are using their husband's mobile phone for calling
- Some illiterate people are not even using the phone
- In some of the houses, there are more than two phones being used
- Many of the families are poor; they don't have the computer or smart phones. So internet is not being used by them
- Many people are not aware of the Access to the Rights
- Some of them are unaware of violations of laws.
- Very few people have the access to social media like, Facebook, twitter etc

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