



Building Telecentre Family in Bangladesh: A Workshop for the Social Entrepreneurs and Practitioners

Venue : Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS),
Rangpur, Bangladesh
Date : August 27 – 29, 2006, Sunday - Tuesday
Web site : www.pallitathya.org/telecentre
E-mail : sroy@dnet-bangladesh.org

Organised by:



Development Research Network in association with



and

Supported by:



and



Telecentre movement is gathering momentum across the globe. The variety of form and functions makes the telecentre movement unique and vibrant in many countries of the world. In India, telecentre movement reached a level, where a multi-stakeholder initiative titled *“Mission 2007”* was launched, under which 600,000 telecentres will be established across the country by 2007. While telecentre is essentially a kiosk for communication for the communities, it is evident that only kiosk model is not enough to address the problems of livelihood of rural community, particularly the needs of the underprivileged part. As a result, access to livelihood information and knowledge is becoming the focal point of telecentre. It is also evident that diversified forms of ownership are in existence in parallel. Some people stress on a business model or entrepreneurship, others emphasize on the market failure and stress on the importance of add-in of access to information services with the current services provided by social organisations. Truth may lie in the middle, where a telecentre provides communication services and other ICT services, which generate incomes, and cross-subsidise the access to information needs of the poor and vulnerable including disabled & women. Whatever would be combination of ownership, services and social focus, the underlying common denominator is that ICTs have to play an important role in reducing poverty and empowerment of disadvantaged people.

Successes of various types of models sparked enthusiasm among many national level and grass root level organisations to be involved with the telecentre movement. It is very timely that International networks like **telecentre.org** initiated by International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) inspire the global telecentre movement so that local communities can unleash the potential of ICTs for poverty alleviation.

In this backdrop, Development Research Network (D.Net) in association with Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC) and Young Power of Social Action (YPSA) has organised a three-day training workshop for the social entrepreneurs and telecentre practitioners of Bangladesh for sharing ideas to accelerate telecentre movement in Bangladesh.

Workshop Secretariat Contact:

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OBJECTIVE

To mobilise social entrepreneurs and institutions in building system of ICT-based livelihood information delivery for the rural community.

Workshop participants will be able to

- **MEET** international and regional ICT4D players;
- **LEARN and SHARE** knowledge about cross-sector partnerships and the innovative use of ICT as tools for development;
- **GATHER** solutions to challenges involved forming and maintaining cross-sectoral partnerships in ICT for development; and
- **MAKE** contacts and identify possible new scope for collaboration with telecentre family at Bangladesh.

THE PARTICIPANTS

- Information and knowledge workers bringing grass-root knowledge and credibility
- Telecentre managers and practitioners exchange their experiences
- NGOs working at the grass root level find a possibility to initiative new programmes
- Existing and potential social entrepreneurs in practice can explore their investment opportunity in telecentres
- Institutions having potential to collaborate with telecentre practitioners
- Donor agencies interested in ICT4D may confer the potential of bringing the new way to collaboration.

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

- **Why Access to information is Important?:** The discussion will focus on the scope of leveraging ICTs as regards to ensuring access to information for improvement of livelihood of the poor and underprivileged.
- **Telecentre: How does it Work:** The discussion will focus on different types of telecentre around Bangladesh and abroad and its potential in social development. Discussion will focus on introducing the scope of leveraging ICTs and power of participation of grass root people.
- **Global Telecentre Experiences:** Sharing experiences of the telecentre operation around the globe with special focus on India and Sri Lanka
- **Build your Telecentre:** Providing guideline for various types of telecentre building based on the ingredients available at the organization level.
 - **Presentation of a film on telecentre operation in Bangladesh:** A film (10 minutes) will be showed to the participants.
 - **Development of a telecentre cookbook:** The ingredients of different telecentres and their operation modalities will be presented.
 - **Working session on Building and Operations of Telecentre:** Five (5) groups will be formed and each group will develop their own telecentre picking up ingredients from the cook book.
- **How to Sustain Telecentre: Models in Practice:** Open Presentation on different sustainability models of telecentre
- **Work plan for next 6 months:** Develop an idea what the participant will do in next 6 months.
- **Discussion on Mission 2011 (How to go about it):** An informal discussion with participants about building national coalition for building telecentre in every village of Bangladesh.
- **Filed Visit a telecentre titled "Pallitathya Kednra" in Nilphamari**
 - **Meet the information workers (infomediary):** Sharing experiences about the works and tasks of an infomediary.
 - **Meet the mobile lady:** Sharing works and tasks of a mobile lady
 - **Experience Sharing with Local Community:** Sharing with community about their view on telecentre and its impact on their livelihood improvement including establishing right to information.

IMPORTANT NOTES FOR THE PARTICIPANTS

Registration Fee: BDT 2,500/person.

Scholarship: Twenty (20) scholarships will be provided for the participants which includes registration fees, transportation, accommodation and food.

Traveling Expense: The participants will bear the cost of travel while the actual cost will be reimbursed after the workshop. *(Please keep the original ticket for reimbursement)*

Accommodation and Food: The organisers will arrange accommodation and food for the participants

Per Diem: No per diem will be provided by the organisers.

Registration Deadline: July 31, 2006.

About the participants: All the participants are requested to bring a short bio-data along with a photo (softcopy) for archiving.

Documentation Preparation: All the participating organization is requested to bring one pager on their organizations existing or potential activities related to information and knowledge sharing using ICTs. Please also bring your organizational brochure, annual reports, CDs, posters etc. for distribution, display and documentation.

ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS


Development Research Network (D.Net)

D.Net is a premier research organization in Bangladesh undertaking research and action programs in the areas where information and knowledge can contribute to poverty alleviation, economic growth and peace. Established in 2001, D.Net has undertaken inter alia, action research on identifying the information and knowledge gaps of the society and thus develop a sustainable mechanism to create an enabling environment for multi-stakeholders practitioners in Bangladesh and beyond.

 Development Research Network	D.Net Secretariat Development Research Network (D.Net), 6/8, Humayun Road, Block B, Mohammadpur, Dhaka 1207, Bangladesh Telephone: +880 2 8124976, +880 2 8156772, +880 2 91 1424, Fax: +880 2 8142021, E-mail: info@dnet-bangladesh.org , Website: www.dnet-bangladesh.org
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Bangladesh NGOs Network on Radio Communication (BNNRC)

Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC) is a national networking body working for building a democratic society based on the principles of free flow of information, equitable & affordable access to Information, Communication Technology (ICT) for remote & marginalized population..

 promoting communication technology for fairer world BNNRC	BNNRC Secretariat House: 13/1, Road:2, Shamoli, Dhaka 1207, Bangladesh Telephone: +880-2-9130750 +880-171-881647 Fax: +880-2-9129395 E-mail: info@bnnrc.net , Website: http://www.bnnrc.net
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Young Power in Social Action (YPSA)

YPSA is a youth led and focused voluntary social development organization established on 20th May; 1985. YPSA exists to participate with the poor and vulnerable population with a commitment to bring about their own and society's sustainable development.

 YPSA	YPSA Head Office House # F 10 (P), Road # 13, Block – B, Chandgaon R/A, Chittagong – 4212, Bangladesh. Telephone: + 88 – 031 – 672857, Fax: 031 – 2570255 Email: info@ypsa.org , ict4d@ypsa.org Website: http://www.ypsa.org
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ABOUT THE SPONSORS

Telecentre.org


Telecentre.org exists to build bridges between people working in telecentres around the world. It's about sharing knowledge and learning together and thus reinforcing a global movement by finding ways that people, communities and networks can connect over common issues.

 telecentre.org	Telecentre.org Secretariat telecentre.org, P.O. Box 8500, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1G 3H9 Telephone: 1 613 236 6163 Fax: 1 613 567 7749 E-mail: telecentres@idrc.ca , Website: www.telecentre.org
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UNDP Bangladesh

UNDP is the UN's global development network, an organization advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.

As part of its commitment to the people of Bangladesh, UNDP established the ICT for Development Team to leverage the potentials of ICT in furthering Bangladesh's development process. The ICT4D team works with the government, NGOs and civil society to undertake strategic interventions aimed at expanding access to ICT and harness it to meet national development priorities

 UN DP	UNDP Secretariat UN Offices, 18th Floor, IDB Bhaban, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka 1207, Bangladesh Tel: + 880 2 811 86 00 Fax: + 880 2 811 31 96 Email: registry.bd@undp.org Website: http://www.un-bd.org
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ABOUT GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE PARTNERSHIP (GKP)

GKP is the leading international multi-stakeholder network committed to harnessing the potential of information and communications technologies (ICT) for sustainable and equitable development. Ranging from grassroots practitioners to policy makers, GKP members and partners are innovators in the practical use of ICT for development (ICT4D).

Through GKP, governments, business and civil society organizations, share their experience, ideas, issues and solutions to unleash the potential of ICT to improve lives, reduce poverty and empower people. While fostering meaningful exchanges and learning, GKP also provides the platform for building effective multi-stakeholder partnerships (MSPs) to generate innovative and practical solutions to development problems, and creates opportunities for scaling up ICT initiatives and spreading their benefits. Working together, GKP members increase their organisational influence and visibility. Learn more about GKP by visiting www.globalknowledge.org.

Building Telecentre Family in Bangladesh: A workshop for the Social Entrepreneurs and Practitioners
is a **Partnership Initiative by GKP Members.**

Join us!

Please nominate your representative to share your experience, learn from others and built a network for Bangladesh Telecentre Family.