ICTs for women’s empowerment – learning from best practices

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Overview

- Background
- Case studies from various sectors
- Conclusions
Case Study 1: *Dareecha*: A project of National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences

**Objectives**
- ICT literacy for rural school students
- Training on content access, communication, and content generation

**Target Group**
- Rural school students

Coverage

• 10 schools in Sargodha

The process

• Selected school on the basis of Secure room for lab, electricity, adequate wiring, internet connectivity
• Two teachers/school
• Lab establishment at school
• Inter-school web development competition
Milestones

Web sites developed by female students

- Perceived role of Women

- Domestic Violence:
  http://crulp.org/dareecha/StudentWebPages/Kudlathi%20web%20pages/sofia,saira/index.html
Case Study 2: Remote Patient Monitoring System with focus on Antenatal Care

Objectives
• enable an efficient health infrastructure by exploring advanced scientific and telemedicine techniques

Focus
• artificial intelligence, datamining, large databases, intelligent user interfaces and sensor instrumentation
Objectives
• to improve people’s lives through e-marketing of handmade and embroidered products

Target Group
• disadvantaged people

Image: http://www.digits4change.net/weaving.html
Case Study 4: NCHD: Community Technology Learning Centers (CTLC)

Objectives
• impart basic computer skills
• inoculate life skills while engaging the learners in various Activities

Target Group
• local women residents
• between the age of 16-40
• At least 10 years of Education

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CTLC cont.

Coverage
• 14 CTLC in four provinces
• 8 in earthquake hit areas

The process
• Fee waived off for deserving candidates
• 3-4 months sessions/year

• Graduates, further trained in the data bases & data entry

CTLC cont.

Opportunities

• learners employed in data entry of Universal Primary Education Project & Local government’s projects
• Confidence
• essential income generation
Milestones

- 2638 underserved female successfully completed ICT training
- 307 successful graduates got ICT related jobs, 93 graduates already working, got increments in their salaries
- 235 engaged in data entry of Universal Primary Education
Case Study 5: Visual Anthropology—Woman to Woman Video Project

Objectives
• film interviews ‘to camera’ based on open questions
• Track through the house to see the ordered use of space, relative access of male and female within households, proximity of pollutant latrines to household wells & placement of water taps, drains & latrines to household wells

Target Group
• Non literate rural women in NWFP
Woman to Woman Video Project cont.

Coverage

• Keshki village (near Peshawar)

**The process**
- 3 videos shot
- 1st video—exemplary household, woman using filtered water & washing the hands with soap
- 2nd video—a servant girl, washing pots & pans from running water using ash & not soap
- 3rd video—revealing water taps placed close to latrines
- Videos played back to 50 women
Opportunities

• visual access to houses, never visited before due to clan disputes & class differences

• Increased interest of women engaged in filming, during return visit of project team
Woman to Woman Video Project cont.

Challenges

- Women reluctant to show their videos to public health engineers & male project staff
- No meaningful intervention without sensitizing the decision makers
Woman to Woman Video Project cont.

No Fault Videos – A part solution

- Filmed elderly women - able to lift burqa & interact more freely
- More influential as mother in law & mothers of sons
- Condemnatory tone tp daughter in laws admonishing about the wastage of water
Opportunities

• Project officials & gov. functionaries introduced Participatory Rural appraisal

• An action plan drawn

• Excellent opportunity for illiterate & marginalized segment of society to communicate their views to policy makers
Case study 6: Internews project on Meri Awaz Suno

Objectives
- To highlight issues on sexual harassment in the workplace, child labor, HIV/AIDS, family planning, prostitution, and women in politics

Target Group
- diverse national audience

The process

- Female journalists, able to work as researchers, reporters, presenters and editors
- Produced over 100 radio programs
- 100 fifteen-minute programs for distribution to the nation’s FM stations.

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Conclusions

• Information inequality

• Need to understand and transform the technology to people’s needs

• Information versus knowledge

• Usage of ICTs – structure of power in the world.

• Political will and understanding of gender issues in the ICTs arena.
Policy recommendations

• legal safeguards for ppp models, in IT policy

• Government’s support for replication of projects on women empowerment through ICTs
Thank you!