

Project factsheet information

Project title	Internet Rights Are Women's Rights
Grant recipient	Point of View (POV) 2 New Pushpa Milan, Worli Hills, Mumbai 400018, India +919920340476 www.pointofview.org
Dates covered by this report	01 – 05 – 2013 / 30 – 04 – 2014
Report submission date	23 – 05 – 2014
Country where project was implemented	India
Project leader name	Bishakha Datta bishakha@pointofview.org
Team members (list)	Rohini Lakshané rohini@pointofview.org Krutikaa Jawanjal krutikaa@pointofview.org
Partner organizations	Association for Progressive Communications (APC)
Total budget approved	AUD 19,686
Project summary	More and more women around the globe are users and consumers of the internet - but women's voices are critically absent in shaping and defining the ways in which the internet is used. Internet Rights Are Women's Rights aims to bridge the gap between 'internet rights' and 'women's rights'. How? By building inter-movement engagement, dialogue and an in-country network in India with key partners working on sexual rights, women's rights and internet rights. This would mean building the capacity of rights advocates, activists and organizations in the areas of internet security, privacy and content regulation to defend gender and sexual rights online. It would also mean opening the eyes of internet rights activists to gender issues in cyberspace.

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Project Summary

Tips: It is recommended to **complete this section once you have finalized the text of the report**. It will be easier to go back through to build the summary based on the highlights of the report the project team just put together.

The Project Summary can be up to **one page long**.

It should include a brief justification; an outline of the project objectives to be achieved; the project real timeline and the main activities conducted.

The abstract of the project written when ISIF Asia initially approved the project and the objectives listed in the Grants Agreement signed by APNIC and your organization should be useful inputs when preparing this section of the report.

Justification

More and more women around the globe are users and consumers of the Internet - but women's voices are critically absent in shaping and defining the ways in which the Internet is used. *Internet Rights Are Women's Rights* aims to bridge the gap between 'internet rights' and 'women's rights'. How? By building inter-movement engagement, dialogue and an in-country network in India with key partners working on sexual rights, women's rights and Internet rights. By building the capacity of rights advocates, activists and organizations to gender issues in cyberspace and vice versa.

Project objectives

1. To build a dynamic network of researchers, activists, and policy advocates, members of the technical community to take collaborative action for advocacy, strategizing, research, support and response.
2. To develop a monitoring platform on threats, regulation of online sexual content and practices, and to assess the role and value of the Internet that is potentially impacted by these measures.
3. To make users of the Internet, especially women, aware of Internet rights and of the intersection between women's rights, sexual rights and Internet rights.

Timeline

Activity	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Website	Concept	Materials	Launch	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Completed
Workshop	Concept	Planning	Mumbai		Delhi	Kolkata		Chennai Digital Storytelling	Pune

Activities

All planned activities to build a network, create a platform, and highlight the intersections between gender, sexuality and the Internet have been completed.

Background and Justification

Tips: The reader should be reminded of the **context** your organization is working, and where the project has been developed in.

This section provides a window to **understand the challenges** faced by the community you are working with.

Include a detailed description about the situation **before the project start**, describing any relevant aspects that make the project relevant in such a particular scenario.

The reader should be provided with a clear description about the problem(s) to be addressed through this project and the motivation from your organization and team members to get involved and offer a solution.

There's a gender gap not just on the use of the Internet, but also in how the Internet is shaped and understood. 'Women's rights' and 'internet rights' currently exist in separate silos in countries like India, almost as if they occupy two different worlds. In real life, the relationship between women and the Internet is much closer - like their counterparts elsewhere, Indian women use the Internet in their daily lives, and sometimes outnumber male users on social networking sites. But in the larger domains - of rights, voice, democracy - there is a schism.

This schism plays out in various ways:

1) Women's voices are disproportionately or critically absent in shaping and defining the Internet, including Internet rights and Internet governance

2) Apart from a small minority, individual women as well as women affiliated with the women's rights movement are unaware of their citizenship rights on the Internet. Absence of an awareness or understanding of internet rights means that most women use the internet in ways that are less than equitable, and will continue to do so, unless made aware of their internet rights.

3) Issues that women face online - be it cyber stalking or sexual harassment - are not considered in the panoply of internet rights, because of the absence of online voices raising these issues. Thus 'freedom from violence' is viewed as a right for women offline - but not online. This is not seen as an Internet right or women's rights. The understanding of Internet rights needs to expand not just for the sake of women, but so that we are able to enjoy an Internet that is inclusive, just and has respect for human rights.

4) If we consider the Internet as a public good, with open content and access as a right, women should have full and equal access to this right, with all that it implies. If we consider the Internet a democratic space, we need women to participate as equal citizens in this democracy. If we consider the Internet a space where multiple discourses can jostle to challenge discriminatory norms and thus strengthen democracy, we need women to participate in and shape these discourses. But they don't - and they won't, until they understand why and how they must do this.

Project objectives

Tips: Please include here the **original objectives** as listed on the Grant Agreement.

If any objectives were modified, added or removed during the reported period this should be explained/justified.

1. To build a dynamic network made up of researchers, activists, policy advocates and members of the technical community working on sexual rights and women's rights to take collaborative action for advocacy, strategizing, research, support and response. This will support greater engagement and participation of gender/sexual rights

activists in the area of Internet rights and regulation by facilitating information exchange, knowledge sharing, discussions and strategizing for collaborative action.

2. To develop a monitoring platform on threats, regulation of online sexual content and practices, and to assess the role and value of the Internet that is potentially impacted by these measures. This will render visible the specific threats and challenges faced by individuals and organisations working on gender/sexual rights in their ability to use the internet in their work, which will in turn, inform strategies on democratising internet use and governance. For example, by informing capacity building efforts on digital security by Internet rights organisations, and Internet governance debates on the area of openness and security at the Internet Governance Forum.

3. To make users of the Internet, especially women, aware of Internet rights and of the interplay between women's rights, sexual rights and Internet rights. (In other words, answering the question: Why should women care about Internet rights?)

Users and uses

Tips: Discuss with your project team who would be the future users and how they would use the findings throughout the project lifecycle. The uses identified should relate to the theory of change that you have discussed with your project team. The discussion about theory of change, users and uses, will be a very important input to your communication strategy: depending on who the user is and of what use will be the findings, a communication strategy can be developed. For example, if the users of the findings are policy makers and the use is to influence a change in the regulatory framework, which communication approach will work the best?

Who will be the user of these findings?

What are the more relevant things the project team wants to learn about or evaluate through the lifecycle of this project?

The users of these findings would include the following:

- Gender rights activists in India and globally
- Sexual rights activists in India and globally
- Internet rights activists in India and globally
- Internet users in India and globally, particularly female users
- Media and journalists covering technology or gender
- Policymakers and non-profit organizations working on gender, sexuality or internet rights
- Technical communities working on internet policy and development

All these constituencies would use the findings of this project to broaden and deepen their own understanding of the intersections between gender, sexuality and the Internet, and to build informal networks that advocate for policy change on these issues.

Given this, the site we have developed for this project, www.eroticsindia.org is both one of the project's key output and a communication strategy to reach out to and build this network.

Indicators

Tips: Indicators help to **measure project's progress**. Indicators help the objectives that were set by the project team to be affordable, tangible, and measurable. They help to verify the success and rewrite the course in case we are not achieving it. An indicator could be quantitative (percentage, amount) or qualitative (perception, opinion). The ISIF Asia secretariat suggests the SMART approach to indicators:

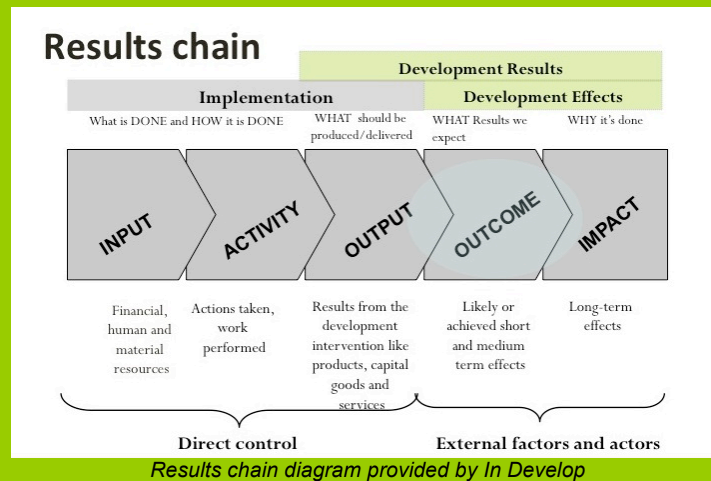
- S** Specific
- M** Measurable
- A** Achievable (acceptable, applicable, appropriate, attainable or agreed upon)
- R** Relevant (reliable, realistic)
- T** Time-bound

Baseline	Indicators	Progress	Assessment	Course of action
Absence of India-specific information on gender, sexuality, and the internet.	1) Launch of India-specific site at www.eroticsindia.org 2) Publication of high quality India-specific articles on gender, sexuality and the Internet. 3) Growing readership of articles.	1) Website launch completed 2) Publication of articles ongoing as per plan (31 articles since launch) 3) Several articles reprinted in genderit.org, Sexuality Policy Watch etc. which reach global audiences.	The website has received ~ 8700 page views from ~4100 unique visitors since launch (Nov 11, 2013), and been widely shared on social media. It has nearly 30 feed subscribers and 10 email subscribers.	Continue on same track, adding more article categories, writers, posts and targeting larger number of readers each month.
Absence of forums and avenues for in-depth discussions on gender, sexuality, and the Internet.	Presence of key gender, sexuality, and Internet rights groups in 5 city-level meetings (Mumbai, New Delhi, Pune, Kolkata, Chennai)	27 key activists from these sectors attended the 1 st meeting, held in Mumbai in Nov.	The first city-level meeting got off to an excellent start. All key players attended and the discussions were of very high quality. http://eroticsindia.org/category/connect-your-rights/mumbai/ for coverage.	Continue on same track, adapting content in each city to city-level needs and priorities and co-hosting meetings with members of network as a network-building strategy.
		Second 26 key activists from these sectors attended the second meeting, held in New Delhi in Jan.	At the second city-level meeting, all key players attended and the discussion was of very high quality. View http://www.eroticsindia.org/tag/tangled-like-wool-delhi/ for coverage.	
		Third Around 60 students and 10 activists attended the third meeting held in Kolkata in February.	At the third city-level meeting held in Kolkata in February, students of humanities and law from various colleges in the city were present, along with faculty, activists, NGOs, and mediapeople. View http://eroticsindia.org/category/connect-your-rights/kolkata/ for coverage	
		Around 20 key activists attended the fourth meeting held in Chennai in April.	At the fourth city-level meeting held in Chennai in April, activists in the fields of LGBT rights, disability rights and women's rights were present.	
		Around 30 activists attended the fifth meeting held in Pune in May.	At the fifth city level meeting, around 30 activists working on gender rights, sexual rights and access were present apart from lawyers and media-people.	

Project implementation: understanding the chain that leads to results

Tips: This is the most important section of the report. Here, the reader will **understand the processes and operational issues** of your project and how they contribute to the achievement of the objectives and the theory of change behind the project implementation.

Is possible that the project team's understanding of the development problems to be addressed with this project will have evolved or **changed** from those described when the project was originally submitted and approved. If that is the case, please share what motivated the change and what course of action has the project team identified.



Narrative - project implementation

This project – Women’s Rights Are Internet Rights – aims to reduce the gender gap that exists online, by building an informal network and strengthening the capacities of activists working in India on gender, sexuality or internet rights. We are targeting not just activists, but also users of the Internet, particularly women who are active on blogs or social media in India.

Our strategy to build this network and strengthen the capacity of activists consists of two planks:

- 1) A website on gender, sexuality and the Internet – www.eroticsindia.org.
- 2) City-level workshops/meetings with activists working on gender, sexuality or Internet rights.

Both the website and the workshops/meetings are platforms to create and exchange the knowledge and information that are sorely needed to help gender/sexuality rights activists understand internet rights and factor these into their work – and vice versa.

The Association for Progressive Communications (APC) is our global partner on this project. As global partner, APC helps us participate in the global discourse on gender, sexuality and the Internet by:

- 1) Sharing with us information or issues that are critical or of high relevance globally.
- 2) Facilitating our participation in global meetings such as the Internet Governance Forum.

‘Gender’, ‘sexuality’, and ‘the internet’ currently exist as three separate silos. We are partnering with three organizations on this project, each of who specializes in one of these areas. Our thematic partners for this project are:

Gender Association for Progressive Communications (APC) <http://www.apc.org/>

Sexuality Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action (CREA) <http://web.creaworld.org/>

Internet Internet Democracy Project <http://internetdemocracy.in/>

Our thematic partners help us by offering perspectives on an issue from their area of expertise (so we don’t have to build this expertise in-house). For example, the Internet Democracy Project provides us an ‘Internet rights’ lens into the issue of online pornography, while APC provides the ‘gender lens’ on the same issue, and CREA brings a ‘sexuality’ lens to this issue. This helps us provide the network we are building with much richer, deeper, diverse and nuanced insights and perspectives on an issue, a multi-polar approach, rather than a uni-polar one.

While our thematic partners’ perspectives shape our website, we are also working with city-level partners on organizing the five city-level workshops in Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai and Kolkata. Our city-level partners are:

Delhi	CREA	http://web.creaworld.org/	Workshop in Jan
Kolkata	Sanhita		Workshop in Feb
Chennai	Prajnya	http://www.prajnya.in	Workshop in Apr
Pune	CCDS	http://ccds.in	Workshop in May

These city-level partners will help identify key activists in their cities, and shape the workshop agenda to ensure it meets city-level needs. The activists who attend these meetings are, in a sense, project beneficiaries – they also participate by making presentations at the city-level meetings and engaging in discussions.

Input	Project activities	Outputs	Outcomes	Timeline	Status	Assessment
Workshop Coordinator hired	Meeting logistics (venue, food, invitations, etc.). Contributed content to eroticsindia.org. Managed EroTICs India Facebook page.	Conducted one city-level workshop.	Increased knowledge, information on gender, sexuality, internet rights.	September 2013- January 2014	Completed	1 st city-level workshop was very successful, with 27 key participants and high-quality discussions.
Social media executive hired	Manages EroTICs India Facebook page, Twitter account, G+ account.	Promoted Erotics India events and content from the blog. Dissemination of content pertaining to ICTs, gender and sexuality.	Increased visibility for eroticsindia.org. Networking among activists and also the general public with interests in the topics eroticsindia.org covers. Creating awareness and dissemination of information about sexuality, gender and Internet rights issues.	January 2014 – April 2014	Completed	Facebook: 306 Likes Average Reach: 84 Average talking about this: 47 Twitter: 808 tweets, 241 followers, 365 following G+: 9 subscribers
Text and video consultants hired to report on the workshop	Writing a report of 2 meetings (Mumbai and Delhi) in parts, AV recording of talks and presentations	9 blog posts submitted and 6 published (Mumbai), 2 blog posts submitted and published (Delhi), 18 videos created (11 Mumbai, 7 Delhi) http://www.youtube.com/user/EroTICsIndiaPoV/videos	Increased knowledge, information on gender, sexuality, internet rights in diverse forms.	November 13 – December 31, 2013 (blog posts, Mumbai) November 11 – November 27, 2013 (videos, Mumbai) January 28- February 17 2014 (blog posts, Delhi) January 28 – January 31, 2014 (video, Delhi)	Completed (text and videos)	~1200 page views on the 6 blog posts from the Mumbai meeting and ~250 page views on the two posts from Delhi meeting. Videos uploaded on YouTube got 2,664 views and 6,211 minutes of viewing time. Videos uploaded on eroticsindia.org received ~500 page views.
Editor hired for planned blog	Implemented website security. Maintenance of frontend and backend of the site. Wrote and edited blog posts. Uploaded videos and graphics. Handles Twitter account and Facebook page along with the Social Media executive. Also handles YouTube channel and website video gallery	EroTICs India blog operational	Increased knowledge, awareness and information pertaining to the different streams on the blog – Connect Your Rights (documents Erotics India workshops), Online pornography (amateur porn, feminist porn etc.), Online security, Gender and Tech, etc. Widening perspectives and bringing in gendered perspectives on technology.	October 2013 – April 2014	Completed	6,974 visits; 12,017 page views; 1 min, 53 sec average visit duration on eroticsindia.org (From launch date November 11, 2013 to May14, 2014) YouTube: 19 videos, 3 playlists, 18 subscribers.
Web developer hired for video gallery on blog	Developed and implemented a video gallery which enabled us to host video content on our server.	Video gallery operational with 20 videos.	Presence of the videos on EroTICsIndia reduces dependence on third party sites such as YouTube.	December 2013 – February 2014	Completed	~ 400 page views were received on the video gallery.
Formal partnerships developed with non-profits in other cities	Meeting logistics (venue, food, invitations, etc.) in other cities.	Conducted 2 city level workshops	Increased knowledge, information on gender, sexuality, internet rights. Built discourse on gender, sexuality and the Internet.	January 2014- May 2014	Completed	Second, third, fourth, and fifth city-level workshop successful.



Delhi Workshop



Calcutta Meeting



Chennai Meeting



Mumbai Meeting



Pune Meeting

Project outputs, communication and dissemination activities

Tips: Take into account that the reader of your report has not been involved in project implementation, so readers do not have any further knowledge besides the information you are providing here.

This section of the report will allow you document the communication and dissemination efforts that the project team has conducted, which might be part of a specific communication strategy design as part of the project, or in place for the organization as a whole. When possible, please provide information about strategies in place and the rationale behind them.

Lessons can be learned from many aspects of project implementation, covering a wide variety of aspects such as technical, social, cultural and economical. Taking the rationale behind the project and its objectives can serve as a framework to draw your conclusions. Lessons can be identified by project partners, beneficiaries and general staff from the organization. A project diary and other activity records can serve as a tool to reflect during project team meetings and immediately after project activities are conducted.

Outputs are immediate, visible, concrete developmental change that is the tangible consequence of project activities, under direct control of the project team.

Example of possible outputs to report are:

- New products and Services (software, online platforms, applications);
- Information sharing and dissemination (publications, conferences, multimedia, social media);
- Knowledge creation (new knowledge embodied in forms other than publications or reports, such as new technologies, new methodologies, new curricula, new policies);
- Training (short-term training, internships or fellowships, training seminars and workshops) and
- Research Capacity (research skills; research management capacity and capacity to link research to utilization of research results).

Project outputs	Status	Assessment	Dissemination efforts
Information sharing via the creation of www.Eroticsindia.org	Website lives with 40 articles and 20 videos.	Introducing new topics pertaining to the intersection of gender, sexuality and the Internet, which have never before been considered in the Indian context in the online space. Knowledge creation via the publication of high quality content written by authors who have a personal interest in the topics. Videos created by a highly skilled editor.	Promotion of eroticsindia.org through its Facebook and Twitter profiles. The profiles are followed by individuals and organisations in the gender rights, LGBTQI and Internet rights space. Dissemination on the Erotics mailing list and Feminists India mailing list. Documentation of the Erotics India workshop held in New Delhi in February 2013 published. Articles on topics such as the ICT use of rural and semi-rural women and amateur porn in India published.
Day-long Erotics India workshop held in Mumbai (November 11, 2013).	Completed first city-level workshop in Mumbai. Work in progress: Workshops in Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Bangalore. 27 activists attended the day-long workshop. Eroticsindia.org officially launched. Video and text content generation for eroticsindia.org	Positive feedback offered by the participants of the workshop. Discussions, talks and presentations on crowd mapping for VAW, proposed ban on online porn, online activism, online gendered abuse, sex work and the Internet, sexual expression and the Internet, online porn, violence and harm, Erotics India 2011 study; free speech, gender and sexuality.	45 gender, sexuality and Internet rights activists invited. 27 attended. Text and video documentation of the workshop published.

Project outputs	Status	Assessment	Dissemination efforts
Day-long Erotics India workshop held in New Delhi (January 28, 2014)	26 activists attended the daylong workshop. Video, photo and text content generation for eroticsindia.org	Discussions, talks and presentations on the proposed ban on online porn in India and the responses of 5 civil society organisations to it from the prism of freedom of speech, Internet rights, privacy, etc.; links between porn and violence, amateur porn in India and consent, and feminist porn.	59 gender, sexuality and Internet rights activists and bloggers invited. 26 attended. Text, photo and video documentation of the workshop published.
Day-long Erotics India workshop held in Kolkata (February 22, 2014)	Around 60 students and 10 activists attended the daylong workshop. Photo and text content generation for eroticsindia.org	Discussions, debate, talks and presentations on the proposed ban on online porn in India, gendered abuse online, online crowd mapping tools to fight offline violence, amateur porn and consent, and online sexual expression.	80 students and faculty from various city colleges were invited. 70 attended. Photo documentation of the workshop published. Text documentation under progress.
Day-long Erotics India workshop held in Chennai (April 29, 2014)	Around 20 activists attended the daylong workshop. Text generation for eroticsindia.org	Discussion and talks on amateur porn from the lens of consent, online gendered violence, the journey of the queer community on the Internet in India, and the intersection of disability, gender, sexuality and technology, and conceptualising a feminist Internet.	55 activists were invited, 20 of them attended. Text documentation published.
Day-long Erotics India workshop held in Pune (May 14, 2014)	Around 35 activists attended the daylong workshop.	Discussions and talks on online gendered violence; agency, risk and morality online, conceptualising a feminist Internet.	50 activists were invited, 35 attended. Photo, video documentation available.

Project outcomes

Tips: This section should be completed **ONLY** for the final report.

ISIF Asia expects you to report about the **outcomes** of the project as defined in the table below, based on the project implementation section of this report. Project team is encouraged to discuss the questions provided below to guide the reflection:

Can you identify and describe the relationships between the activities implemented and the social, economical, cultural and/or political benefits of your project implementation?

Outcomes can be defined as:

- Medium-term effects
- Effect of a series of achieved outputs
- Should capture the changes for the beneficiaries
- Take place during the life of project/strategy
- Influence but not direct control

The project outputs (website + workshops) have led to the following outcomes, which are a mix of social, cultural and political benefits:

- Increased attention paid to gender and sexuality in several meetings on Internet rights in India (please see Impact section for full list of meetings so far) and explicit inclusion of gender in most such meetings organized by others (not by us).

- Increased understanding among Internet rights activists in India that gender and sexuality may underlie key Internet rights issues such as access, privacy, anonymity, surveillance etc. For example, access: even when infrastructural barriers are cleared, families restrict young women from using mobile phones for fear that they will talk to young men on these. Thus these gender/sexuality barriers are real barriers to access in the lives of young women and must be dealt with to enable real, meaningful access for all.
- Donor interest in issue of gender, sexuality and Internet as evidenced by American Jewish World Service (AJWS's) recent inclusion of this issue in 'mapping of gender and sexuality field' in India. (Project leader interviewed for this mapping).
- Deeper research, activist and policy understanding of the need to advocate for digital 'norms' and 'cultures' that enable women to participate online, particularly in the context of gendered harassment and abuse that are barriers to participation.

The non-existent discourse around gender, sexuality and Internet is literally being built through this project: a beginning we intend to build on systematically.

Project management and sustainability

Tips: Please comment on the general project **administration, staffing, procurement**, etc. specially those aspects contributing to the fulfilment of the project objectives as well as those that have delay project implementation.

Indicate **how the project team has strengthened its capacity** and work towards sustainability with the support provided by ISIF Asia? (new equipment, training, improved administrative skills, lessons learned from the project). Has the organization increased its research or administrative skills of the team involved? Has the project allowed for a particular contribution to capacity building of women or marginalized social groups? Special attention should be paid to the expected or unexpected impact on marginalized social groups.

Have you done **anything different** to provide administrative support for this project **besides your “business as usual”** processes and procedures? Has the project inspired change inside your organization?

Sustainability is to be examined not only in terms of staff retention and financial stability of the organization supporting the project but about the communities' appropriation of benefits perceived from project implementation.

The ISIF Asia Secretariat is very interested to learn if this project has generated opportunities for future development (new funding from partnerships, sponsorships, investment or other funding mechanisms), please provide details.

Please explain if the ISIF Asia grant has helped to consolidate your organization and how. If any of the project activities will continue after the end of the ISIF Asia grant, please describe how your organization is planning to support future developments.

This project has required continuous iteration and improvements in staffing to fulfil its aims. When we started in May 2013, we imagined that a project coordinator would be able to handle all of it – workshops, website, dissemination etc. Wishful thinking! Each of these requires adequate time and relevant skills and expertise – if they are to be done creatively and carried out effectively.

Since September 2013, we have expanded the team to include the following members:

Project Leader	Bishakha Datta	Part-time (leading other projects at the org)
Editor, Website	Rohini Lakshane	Full-time; handles social media too
Workshop Coordinator	Sangeeta Kalia	Half-time (no need for full-time)
Text consultant	Menaka Rao	Freelance during workshops
Video consultant	Piyush Garud	Freelance during workshops
Writers (2)	Richa Nigam	Freelance on specific themes
	Saurav Datta	Freelance on specific themes
Social media executive	Krutikaa Jawanjal	Half-time

So a project which had budget for one full-time coordinator and a part-time project leader had to somehow find the resources to take on many more – this has been the biggest challenge and learning.

Impact

Tips: This section of the report does not refer to the project activities, but about the “bigger picture”. It will be desirable if the project team can reflect on the **impact that the project has contributed to as part of other actions implemented by your organization and/or your partners.**

Impact refers to the influence the project may had on the way people does things through the use or adoption of the project outputs; changes in the context the project was implemented; changes in the community the project has been working with; and/or changes inside the organizations that have participated in the implementation or the relationships established through the project’s implementation.

Impact is often impossible to measure in the short term and is rarely attributable to a single activity. Impact can be linked to a vision or long-term development goal that your organization might be working towards.

It can be identified as a logical consequence of achieving a combination of outputs and outcomes.

Impact is usually measurable after the project life and is outside the direct control of the project team and the organization.

Within six months of the project going into gear, we are seeing the following broader impact/s:

Internet rights activists - both in India and globally - are steadily including gender and sexuality at key meetings on the issue. This impact is seen via speaking opportunities that have arisen in the last six months. During this time project members have spoken on the links between gender, sexuality and the internet at the following meetings and workshops, on invitation:

- Internet Governance Forum, Bali, Indonesia, October 2013 (Plenary session: Human rights and internet rights)
- Internet and Society Institute, Pune, India, February 2014 organized by Centre for Internet and Society (Keynote address: The web we want)
- RightsCon, San Francisco, USA, March 2014 organized by Access (Panel: Online gender violence - no one's liability, everyone's responsibility + Lightning talk: Beyond Porn: Sex, rights and the internet)
- Symposium on Violence Against Girls, Mumbai, India, November 2013. (Women and online abuse, Findings of a study the Internet Democracy Project)
- National Consultation on Women and Media, New Delhi, February 2014 (Plenary: Issues new media ignores and how to make gender matter: access, abuse, activism)

- Global Meeting on Gender, Sexuality and the Internet, Port Dickson, Malaysia, April 13-17 2014, Association of Progressive Communications (Panel: Imagine A feminist internet)
- Mapping Digital Media, New Delhi, May 2014 organized by National Law University's Centre for Communication Governan (Panel: Digital activism)

Some of these impacts are directly linked and can be traced. For example, Brett Solomon, executive director, Access, attends talk on gender, sexuality, internet by project leader, EroticsIndia, at IGF Bali, and approaches her with an invitation to speak on the same issue at RightsCon. At RightsCon, the project leader is one of 20 activists invited to a closed-door meeting with high-level Facebook and Google officials - who attended this Silicon Valley-based conference, a rare opportunity to bring concerns directly to their attention.

Gender and sexual rights activists in India are beginning to include online rights in their work, specially as it applies to these domains.

Again, this impact can be seen from the number of invites extended to members of the Erotics team to speak on these issues (on which there is little expertise in India). These opportunities include:

- Seminar on Violence against Women and Girls, Mumbai, December 2013 organized by Vacha, a women's right non-profit organization.
- National Consultation on Women and Media, New Delhi, February 2014 organized by Ministry for Women and Child Development.
- Sexuality, Gender, Rights workshop, Kolkata, March 2014 organized by Sappho, an LBT organization.

Overall Assessment

Tips: This section of the report is extremely valuable for the ISIF Asia secretariat as it provides evidence about the role and relevance of ISIF Asia contributions in the Asia Pacific region.

Tips: Briefly provide your own views on the value and importance of the project relative to the proposed innovation, investment of time, effort and funding involved. Include the strengths and weaknesses of the project and the steps taken to strengthen the credibility and reliability.

This is your opportunity to conduct a team reflection about the value of the project for the organization. The following questions might help you to prepare a substantive overall assessment.

- To what extent the project meet its objectives?
- What were the most important findings and outputs of the project? What will be done with them?
- What contribution to development did the project make?
- Were certain aspects of project design, management and implementation particularly important to the degree of success of the project?
- To what extent the project help build up the research capacity of your institution or of the individuals involved?
- What lessons can be derived that would be useful in improving future performance?

- Project activities started three months later than scheduled (due to delayed recruitment of project staff). Even so, with a tight monthly plan in place, we were able to meet our three key objectives – creating a network, building a platform, identifying intersections between gender, sexuality and the internet – well beyond our expectations. The project, its website, and the meetings are now well known among diverse constituencies working on any or all of these issues – 'Erotics' is a household name or common reference or go-to point in India.

- As planned and expected, the two most important outputs of the project were the website at www.eroticsindia.org and the city-level workshops, all of which have been held till date. We plan to raise funds to carry on the website and do a second round of workshops in 2014-15; this is just the beginning. There is great demand for the workshops from organizations working in different cities – we already have invites from Bangalore and plan to do a round of similar workshops in new cities, as well as a second round, which is more intensive, in cities already covered in the first round.
- In the process of doing the workshops and the website – both of which are key networking activities – we have also identified numerous issues and speakers to build the budding 'gender, sexuality and internet rights' discourse. We have also expanded this discourse from 'internet' to 'digital', to cover a much wider cross-section of women who are part of digital spheres via cell phones, including feature phones. Issues identified include: links between disability, gender and digital rights; links between sex workers and digital rights; use of technology such as crowd mapping to address offline violence against women; gender and privacy; gender and surveillance; consent as a key online issue for women etc.
- The project made a significant contribution to development by centring the voices of women on issues related to the Internet in India; there is no other project that is focusing on this. While individual women do contribute to the Internet rights, freedom and policy space, they do not always bring a gender angle with them – this project brings gender sharply into focus in the debate on Internet rights.
- The project design of online-offline, or website-workshops, contributed greatly to the success of this project. Other significant contributing factors: recruiting the right editor for the website; flexibility on the project leader's part, enabling better matching of skills and assignments. For instance, the website editor was initially recruited for another project, but was assigned to this given her skills, interests and expertise – both technically and thematically. Point of View's location at the cusp of gender, sexuality and the Internet helped us form the right partnerships in all these areas, and our 15 years of experience means we have both the knowledge and the credibility (among multiple stakeholders) to take on this cutting-edge project.
- This project is continuously and consistently expanding our research skills, since we are writing about new areas, which require investigation and multiple lenses or frames. We have identified several areas needing research to deepen the discourse and to create a gendered understanding of digital domains. We are exploring the possibility of seeding different kinds of research for this purpose, including peer-led research among young women.
- The biggest lesson learned is the need to conceptualize such projects with teams consisting of complementary skills – the range of skills needed in this project is too great for one person to embody. The range of issues is also far beyond an individual's knowledge base. Thus a range of persons is needed to do justice to a multi-dimensional project of this kind. Another lesson learned is to rise longer-term funding for such projects so that the outputs, outcomes and impacts can be sustained. We are in the process of doing this.

Recommendations

Tips: Include any recommendations in this section that you and your project team, the organizations supporting the project and the community you worked with, would like to make to other practitioners or researchers on the field facing similar problems or implementing similar solutions.

Please take a minute to share recommendations with the ISIF Asia secretariat that might help to improve the support provided.

Key recommendations:

- Include 'gender' as funding criteria across all grants by explicitly asking the question: How does your project benefit women? A gendered understanding is needed at levels to build a free and open Internet for everyone, right from research to advocacy to technical development. Having gender as criteria will at least encourage all applicants to think about this category and how it might apply to their work; this is a good starting point.
- Ensure researchers in particular do not carry out gender-blind research, but include questions or components to understand how women and men may have differing experiences of digital space. Otherwise it is too commonly assumed that research questions are universal, and apply to all genders, when in fact, this is not the case. The right questions need to be in place for the gender dimension to emerge.
- We are delighted with the ISIF Asia support; this enabled us to begin something we would otherwise not have been able to do. However, we need longer-term support to carry on this work, so any steps towards this end would help projects like ours. Thank you!

Bibliography

Tips: Include complete bibliographic references to all sources (printed, on-line, quotes, etc.) used to prepare the different sections of this report. The APA style guide offers examples about how to reference a variety of sources. <http://www.apastyle.org/learn/quick-guide-on-references.aspx>(as accessed on 3/7/2013).

Please see www.eroticsindia.org

Whose Internet Is It Anyway? Feminist Voices in Governance and Decision-Making (Global Information Society Watch 2013)

Internet, Democracy and the Feminist Movement (Anja Kovacs, Critically Absent: Women's Rights in Internet Governance, 2012)

Female Internet Users in Mumbai: Negotiating Intimacy and Harm (Manjima Bhattacharjya and Maya Ganesh, 2011, APC)

There is little scholarship on this issue; we hope to generate more and add to this in the year ahead.