COFI
(COUNTERING ONLINE FANATIC INDOCTRINATION)
NETWORKS INTERNATIONAL
TechCamp
New Delhi
5th - 6th August 2017
Organised by: COVA in Association with AMAN TRUST & World Sufi Forum
Partners: US Consulate General, Hyderabad and IIP

Report

Delhi TechCamp was organised in Delhi on August 6th and 7th, 2017 with 35 participants. The participants were oriented by expertt Trainers from Mumbai and Delhi in gaining expertise in using Social Media to counter hate campaigns that are dominating the internet and to secure cyberspace for promoting understanding and peace.

Introduction and Background

Youth are at increasing risk of being exploited by recruiters for fanatic and extremist organizations through online and digital indoctrination. Even otherwise, the online media is being increasingly used to spread misinformation to affect disaffection between different communities across the world, especially in the Asian countries. There are many from amongst youth, civil society, journalism, religious groups and computer professionals etc. who are concerned by this growing phenomenon of misuse of social media spaces for fanatic indoctrination but are unable to respond appropriately due to their technical limitations in using social media and absence of a platform for action.

COFI- Networks Program

The COFI (Countering Online Fanatic Indoctrination) Networks Program of COVA in collaboration with US Consulate Hyderabad- India, aims to provide technical skills and ability in handling a range of social media platforms and tools to persons from different fields like religion, media, civil society and social media etc. and who are well versed in religious and social issues and who can therefore effectively counter online fanatic propaganda (against different religious groups and communities) in social and mainstream media spaces both as individuals and also through organised groups. Under the theme of "Countering Online Radicalization in Digital Age", COFI Networks program

was launched through a TechCamp jointly organised from November 27 to 29 2016 by COVA and US Consulate General, Hyderabad in association with the Bureau of International Information Programs of the U.S. State Department. Please CLICK HERE for Concept Note on COFI, Operations Note, Agenda and Reports of Hyderabad, Bengaluru & Mumbai TechCamps.

As a follow up, COFI Networks are being initiated in five countries of South Asia and four countries of South East Asia viz. Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Singapore by conducting TechCamps (of two days) and BootCamps (of one day).

TechCamp New Delhi

TechCamp Delhi, organized on 5-6th August, 2017, was an interactive and fun experience to bring together civil organizations, religious scholars, academics, social media experts and journalists with leading technology experts to master the usage of some popular social media platforms and also co-create social media solutions and strategies to cope with the most pressing challenges faced by the participants in their work.

Mr. Rahul Jalali giving inaugural address and Mr. Mazher Hussain   Welcome Address by Ms. Ankita Gupta

The Program

August 5, 2017: Day One

The day started with a Welcome Address by Ms. Ankita Gupta of AMAN Trust followed by a presentation by Dr. Mazher Hussain of COVA giving an overview of the Concept of COFI Networks and the schedule for the Two-Day TechCamp Program. He also spoke about the phenomenon of trolling and explained that trolling has come of age with full time professionals employed to bombard target persons on social media with negative and abusive content using multiple identities. The objective of trolling is to intimidate and force into silence anyone with whom you differ and the only solution is to realize the hollowness and ill intentions behind trolls, develop a thick skin and continue with our posts and writings to propagate correct perspectives and counter negative ideologies.

Mr. Rahul Jalili, immediate Past President of Press Club of India gave the Inaugural Address and underscored the importance of a program like TechCamp in ensuring proper

use of social media and checking the spread of hate through cyber space that is also a reason for growing disaffection between communities and vitiating society at large. He advised the participants that medium and message are both important and apart from gaining expertise in the use of social media, they should also endeavour to sharpen and strengthen their ideological understanding. He advised that many more people should be brought into the COFI network and offered to provide guidance as required.

Session I: BootCamp:
In the first session the participants were given orientation to six different social media platforms viz., Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, YouTube, Podcasting and Blogging.

This was followed by a Session very unique to TechCamps called Speed Geeking where the Trainers presented their Fast Paced presentations for ten minutes to small groups who moved from one Trainer to the next quickly, covering four trainers and six topics. This method allowed all participants to get to know all topics that are to be covered and select any two for the detailed Interactive Training Sessions. The Topics and Trainers for the Speeding Geeking and Interactive Training Sessions were as follows:

Interactive Sessions - 1
Building Mobile Apps with Zero Coding Knowledge- Mr. Javed Khatri
Creating Compelling Content on Social Media – Mr. Naiyar Azam
Developing Tech based Community Media Strategies –Mr. Sultan
Interactive Sessions - 2
Online Community Building- Mr. Sultan Ahmad
Outreach to Rural Audiences- Mr. Rohit Singh
Digital Security– Mr. Javed Khatri

The Interactive Sessions are designed to provide hands on experience to the participants in creating APPs, websites, blogs, and other social media tools that would prepare them to develop technological solutions to the issues and problems they encounter in their professional work or ideological interactions by framing appropriate Challenge Statements on Day Two.

The Post Tea Session of Day One was the last engagement for the day where participants were divided into three groups learned to develop their own simple websites using WordPress.

Day Two- Aug 6, 2017:

Announcement and Recap of the Day: Ankita Gupta facilitated all the participants to recall their learnings from day one and also how they are going to apply their learning using social media to address the issue of radicalization and challenges they face in there Professional lives.

The Recap of Day one was followed by the Interactive Session 2 where the participants learnt in detail about Online Community Building, Outreach to Rural Audiences & Digital Security.

Trainers in Action

Post Tea Session on Day Two: Framing of Challenge Statement
Armed with orientation to different social media platforms and equipped with knowledge of developing apps, tools and strategies for informed usage of social media, the participants were now ready to Frame Challenge Statements to identify and express the problems faced by them in their fields of work that technology might be able to address.

The Four Challenge Statements Framed by Participants are:
1. Platform for Facilitation of Interaction of People Across Community
2. Create a Facebook Page, (Workers Awareness)
3. Dealing with fake news, hate speech and misconceptions
4. Humanity against discrimination

Developing Solutions for the Challenge Statements:

The Post-Lunch Session of Day Two was devoted to develop workable solutions for the Challenge Statements identified in the previous Session. Participants divided into groups, teamed with Trainers and spend time till evening Tea to evolve strategies, develop solutions and identify appropriate social

media platforms for workable solutions for the Challenge Statements selected.

The Solution Matrix developed by the four groups to their respective Challenge Statements are listed below:

Solution Matrix for Challenge Statement 1

1. **Project Title:** Platform for Facilitation of Interaction of People Across Community

2. **Trainer Name:** Sultan Ahmad

3. **Participants in the Team:** Aaliya , Noorul Mubin , Ali Ahmad , Santosh.

4. **Summary of the Problem**: We live in a concrete jungle with minimal interaction with even our neighbors. This causes communal disharmony at the drop of a hat. The website is an attempt to connect likeminded, responsible members of society to facilitate interaction with each other

5. **Proposed Solution:** Creating an online platform to connect people who want to help preserve communal harmony

6. **Strategies:** Creating various opportunities and social media platforms for collaboration between Indian citizens

7. **Specific steps to put solutions into action?**

    Sharing positive and peaceful news

8. **Team Responsibilities:** to be developed

9. **Budget Estimate:** Not estimated as of now

10. **Resource Mobilization Strategies:** Human resource mobilization planned

11. **Web Link to the prototype developed-https://bemyguest123.wordpress.com**

12. **Timeline:** This prototype will be developed as a full scale Project in the next three months.

Please click the link below to see the prototype prepared as a Solution to this Challenge Statement: https://bemyguest123.wordpress.com

Screenshot of prototype of the Website and App developed at Delhi TechCamp

Solution Matrix for Challenge Statement 2

1. **Project Title:** Sada-e-sufia-e-hind

2. **Trainer Name:** Javed Khatri

3. **Participants in the Team:** Syed Babar Ashraf, Harish, Mohammed Kamran, Khurshid

4. **Summary of the problem:** Addressing misconceptions + Hate Speeches +Fake News

5. **Proposed Solution:** Website

6. **Strategies:** We collect expert's videos, articles, audio, books and blogs. Discussions with community on current issues. Make youth group for countering against hate and intolerance.

7. **Specific steps to put solutions into action?** Collection of all positive material and collection of positive scholars and link it with Facebook, twitter and other social media to reach more people.

8. **Team Responsibilities:** to be determined

9. **Budget Estimate:** in process

10.**Resource Mobilization Strategies**: To club all the intellectuals, Sufis, peace promoting forum for countering radical forces and promoting peace.

11.Web Link to the prototype developed: **http://sadaesufiaehind.wordpress.com**

12.**Timeline:** This prototype will be developed as a full scale Project in the next three months.

Please click the link below to see the prototype prepared as a Solution to this Challenge Statement: http://sadaesufiaehind.wordpress.com

Screenshot of prototype of the Website and App developed at Delhi TechCamp

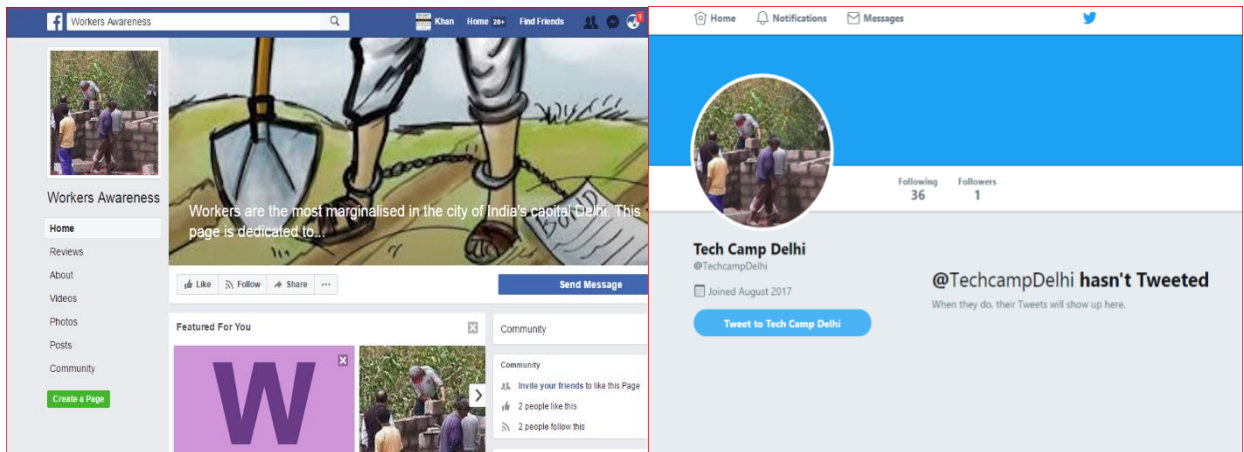**Solution Matrix for Challenge Statement 3**

1. **Project Title:** Create a Facebook Page, (Workers Awareness)

2. **Trainer(s) Name:** Mr. Sultan Ahmad

3. **Participants in the Team:** Md. Zayauddin Jawed, Nikhat Parveen, Rachna, Meenakshi

4. **Summary of the problem:** Outreach to the Marginalized section of society

5. **Proposed Solution:** Facebook Page and Twitter Account

6. **Strategies:** compilation of all information relating to bounded Labour, Labour rights, minimum wages etc; Interviews and case studies of all stake holders creation of Facebook page and Twitter account, Website and other Social Media Platforms to create awareness and broadcast information related to issue.

7. **Specific steps to put solutions into action?**

   Using social media, created the Facebook page, post relevant information about the problem, having practical interaction with the minimum wage workers related to their problems through Video interviews, share recent minimum wages data and information. Also create Twitter account on present subject.

8. **Team Responsibilities:** Creative Team (Md. Zayauddin Jawed, Nikhat Parveen, Rachna). To develop a web based project for minimum wages awareness campaign.

9. **Budget Estimate:** Rs. 5000

10. **Resource Mobilization Strategies:** being developed

11. **Web Link to the prototype developed**

https://www.facebook.com/Workers-Awareness-457576767958570/
https://twitter.com/TechcampDelhi

12. Timeline: This prototype will be developed as a full scale Project in the next three months.

**Please click the link below to see the prototype prepared as a Solution to this Challenge Statement: https://www.facebook.com/Workers-Awareness-457576767958570/ and https://twitter.com/TechcampDelhi**

Screenshots of prototype of the Facebook Page and Twitter developed at Delhi TechCamp

Solution Matrix for Challenge Statement 4

1. **Project Title:** Humanity Against Discrimination
2. **Trainer(s) Name:** Mr. Javed Khatri
3. **Participants in the Team:** Ghulam Rasool, Neelakshi, Vipin, Priyanka, Monu, Purushottam
4. **Summary of the problem:** To fight against different types of discriminations like Gender, Religion, Caste in India.

5. **Proposed Solution:** To build an informative WordPress website to create awareness amongst people in our society.

6. **Strategies:** More focus on identifying the types of discrimination in our society and coming up with appropriate solutions.

7. **Specific steps to put solutions into action?**

8. **Team Responsibilities:** being developed

9. **Budget Estimate:** being developed

10. **Resource Mobilization Strategies:** being developed

11. **Web Link to the prototype developed:**
    https://humanityagainstdescrimination.wordpress.com/

12. **Timeline:** This prototype will be developed as a full scale Project in the next three months.

Please click the link below to see the prototype prepared as a Solution to this Challenge Statement: https://humanityagainstdescrimination.wordpress.com/
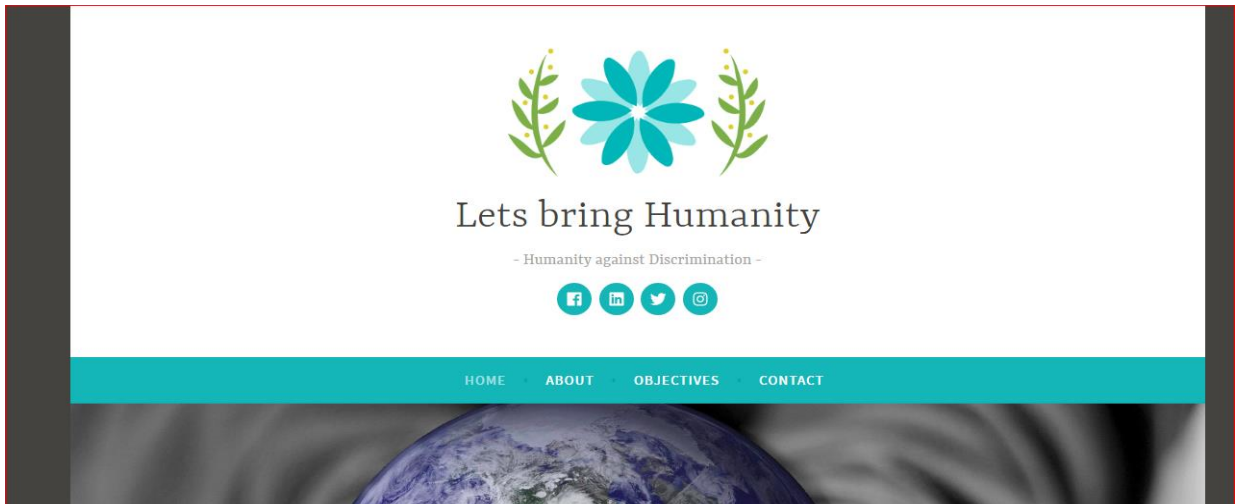
Screenshot of prototype of the Website and App developed at Delhi TechCamp

Post Evening Tea:

All the Groups made brief presentations and shared the prototype solutions developed and that will be further refined in the coming weeks to produce workable products that can be reliably used to address the problems identified.

Valedictory Session: Mr. Kamal Faruqui, Former Chairmen Delhi Minority Commission, delivering the Valedictory address congratulated the Organisers on taking up the issue that is most crusial in present time. He emphasis that Social Media is fast becoming the defining vehicle to form prespectives and for setting Social and Political norms and correct use of Social Media is critical for healthy growth of Society as a whole and to ensure amity and positive relations Communities. He offered to provide all possible assistance to take forward the inititative and to ensure many eminent personalities with positive social prospective to become part of this process. After the Valedictory Address Mr. Kamal Faruqui and Mr. Rahul Jalali distributed the Certificates to all participants.

The program concluded with a Vote of Thanks proposed by Mr. Ghulam Rasool Dehlvi, co-organiser of the TechCamp and National Secretary of World Sufi Forum.

Agenda

DAY 1	
Sign-in	8:30 AM – 9:00 AM
Welcome Address & What is TechCamp • *Welcome Address: By Ms. Ankita Gupta, Aman Trust* • *Overview of TechCamp and COFI Networks by Mazher Hussain, COVA* • *Inauguration of the TechCamp by: Mr. Rahul Jalali, Immediate Past President New Delhi Press Club*	9:00 AM – 09:45 AM
BootCamp • *Participants in small groups of 10 to 12 go around to different trainers understand features and applications of Popular Tools and Platforms;* • Round 1- 09.45 AM to – 11:00 AM • Tea- in between Round 1 • Round 2- 11.00 AM to 12.15 PM • Round 3- 12.15 to 1.30	

Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
Blogging *Mr. Javed Khatri*	**YouTube** *Mr. Naiyar Azam*	**WhatsApp** *Mr. Sultan Ahmad*
Twitter Mr. Javed Khatri	**Podcasting** *Mr. Naiyar Azam*	**Facebook** *Mr. Sultan Ahmad*

**Group Photo	Lunch**	1:30 PM – 2:30 PM
**Speed Geeking	Fast-paced Project Presentations** *Trainers present Fast paced presentations that last for 5 minutes where small Partner groups move from one Trainer to the next quickly, to learn about four opportunities and applications of digital tools and techniques to advance their missions. Partners can choose any two of the Six Interactive Training Sessions on offer in the post Tea Session and the First Session on Day 2.*	2:30 PM - 3:00 PM
Coffee & Conversations	3:00 PM - 3:15 PM
Interactive Training Sessions-1 *Interactive small group training on low-cost, easy to implement tech based tools and approaches -* *Each Participant attends One Session of choice:* **Three Parallel Sessions** **Table-1: Building Mobile Apps with Zero Coding Knowledge- Mr. Javed Khatri** **Table-2: Creating Compelling Content on Social Media – Mr. Naiyar Azam** **Table-3: Developing Tech based Community Media Strategies –Mr. Sultan**	3:15 PM - 4:45 PM
Creating simple website in WordPress- For all Participants to be divided into three groups	4:45 PM - 6:00 PM
Conclude for the Day	6:00 PM
Day 2	

Sign-in	8:45 AM – 9:00 AM
Announcements + Day 1 Recap	9:00 AM – 9:15 AM
Interactive Training Sessions-2 *Interactive small group training on low-cost, easy to implement tech based tools and approaches –* *Each Participant attends One Session of choice:* **Three Parallel Sessions** **Table-1: Online Community Building- Mr. Sultan Ahmad** **Table-2: Outreach to Rural Audiences- Mr. Rohit Singh** **Table-3: Digital Security– Mr. Javed Khatri**	9:15 AM- 10:45 AM
Coffee & Conversations	10:45 AM - 11:00 AM
Framing 'Challenge' Statements- Explanation: Ms. Ankita Gupta & Mr. Gulam Rasool Dehlvi	11:00 AM - 11:15 AM
Trainers & Partners Frame Challenge Statements *Small group discussions to identify specific challenges faced by Partners in their fields of work that technology might be able to address, both by looking at options available, and by focusing on specific topic areas*	11:15 AM - 12:30 PM
Partners Choose a Challenge Statement to Solve and get into Partner Groups	12.30 PM- 1:00 PM
Lunch	1:00 PM - 1:50 PM
Small Group Work on Identifying Solutions to Challenges	1:50 PM- 3:00 PM
Developing Project Solutions & Preparing Presentations *Partners sit with the allocated Trainer for their selected Challenge and work to come up with Solutions with the group*	3:00 PM - 4:15 PM
Coffee & Conversations & Feedback	4:15 PM - 4:30 PM
Final Presentations	4:30 PM- 5:00 PM

• 5 minutes per team • 5-6 Teams (min. 3 per team) • Presentations to be creative Should explain the challenge & the solution developed at TechCamp	
Formation of COFI Networks	5.00 PM- 5.30 PM
Valedictory Session • *1 Trainer + 1 Partner to be invited to speak* • *Closing remarks on Trolling by Mr. Mazher Hussain* • *Valedictory Address by: Mr. Kamal Faruqui, C.A., Former Chairmen New Delhi Minorities Comission* • *Vote of Thanks by: Mr. Gulam Rasool Dehlvi – World Sufi Forum*	5.30 PM- 6.00 PM
Close of TechCamp	

TechCamp Topics Covered by Trainers

TOPICS	TRAINER
Blogging - How to launch your own blog	Javed Khatri
Twitter- Understanding the micro blogging platform and its applications	Javed Khatri
You Tube - how to make your presentation upload, download & visible publicly	Naiyar Azam
WhatsApp – Opportunities and features on the WhatsApp messenger	Sultan Ahmad
Facebook- Facebook Basics and Building an engaging community	Sultan Ahmad
Pod Casting– Tools & Techniques	Naiyar Azam

Proposed List of Topics for Interactive Session

TOPICS	TRAINER
Creating a simple Website for your organization using WordPress – by three Trainers for three groups.	Javed Khatri, Sultan Ahmad & Naiyar Azam
Building Mobile Apps with Zero Coding Knowledge	Javed Khatri
Creating Compelling Content on Social Media	Naiyar Azam
Developing Tech based Community Media Strategies	Sultan Ahmad
Online Community Building	Sultan Ahmad
Digital Security	Javed Khatri
Outreach to Rural Audiences	Rohit Singh

Sno	Trainers Name	City
1	Javed Usman Khatri	Mumbai
2	Sultan Ahmad	Delhi
3	Naiyar Azam	Delhi
4	Rohit Singh	Delhi

Sno	Partners & Organizer Name	City
1	Gulam Rasool Dehlvi	Delhi
2	Jamal Kidwai	Delhi
3	Radhey Shyam	Delhi
4	Ankita Gupta	Delhi