(COUNTERING ONLINE FANATIC INDOCTRINATION)
NETWORKS INTERNATIONAL
South India
TechCamp
Bengaluru, 06 - 07 May 2017
Organised by: AVANI, Eco Foundation for Sustainable Alternatives (EFSA), Sheriff Foundation and Talent Promotion Trust
In Partnership with: COVA, US Consulate Hyderabad and IIP

Report

South India TechCamp was organized in Bengaluru on May 6 and 7, 2017 with 35 participants from six states viz- Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. The Participants were oriented by expert trainers from Hyderabad, Chennai and Bengaluru 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. All the Trainers of this Program provided pro-bono services.

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 professional 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 Radicalisation 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 the detailed Report

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). Please Click Here for Operations Note of COFI Networks and Concept and Contents of TechCamps and BootCamps.

South India TechCamp

The South India TechCamp that was organized in Banguluru, India on 6th – 7th May 2017 was an interactive and fun experience to bring together civil organizations, religious scholars, academics, social media experts and journalists from 6 States of South India 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.

The Program

May 6, 2017: Day One

The day started with a Welcome Address by Mr. Maqbool Siraj of Talent Promotion Trust followed by a presentation by Dr. Mazher Hussain giving an overview of the Concept of COFI Networks and the schedule for the two-Day TechCamp Program.

In the first session titled BootCamp the participants were given orientation to different social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, YouTube, Podcasting, Blogging, Emailing, Content Curation and Google Search.

This was followed by a Session very unique to TechCamps called Speed Geeking where the Trainers presented their Fast Paced presentations for five minutes to small groups who moved from one Trainer to the next quickly, covering four trainers and five 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-Harish Kotra
Story Telling using diverse digital/mobile tools- Venkatraman R.
Driving engagement from online to offline- Puneet Murtika

Interactive Sessions - 2
Creating simple website in WordPress– Nasheeda Anjum
Digital Branding- Venkatraman R.

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 Challenge Statements they would identify on Day Two.

The Post Tea Session of Day One was the last engagement for the day and was devoted to Interactive Training Sessions-1

Day Two- May 7, 2017:

Understanding Trolling: A Panel Discussion
The day started with an open discussion with a two-member panel of Venkataraman R. and Mazher Hussain followed by discussion.
Mazher explained how 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. One person can create and post messages from 50 different identities and even if 10 such persons are engaged in trolling, the receiver would think over 500 different people are attacking him and could easily get demoralized. 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.
Venkataraman explained in detail the options available to victims of trolling. First is to initiate action against trolls by requesting owners of Social Media platforms where the abuse is taking place. Second is to lodge a complaint with the police and in most countries appropriate and effective action is being taken though there are still some issues of

anonymity and off shore operations. And finally, he also reiterated that the best bet is to just ignore and develop a thick skin.

The floor was opened for discussion and a lively and informative discussion followed where the participants shared their experiences and proposed creative solutions.

The Panel Discussion was followed by the Interactive Session 2 where the participants learnt in detail about Digital Branding and creating simple websites.

Post Tea Session on Day One: 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 Seven Challenge Statements Framed by Participants:

1- Create news platform for college students to spread positive news through videos and articles.
Team: Mrs. Sudha Reddy, Mr. Shivanand B.K, Master Tarun, Mrs. Padmavathi, Mr. Asadullah and Dr. Mohammad Sayeed

2- How to counter a negative propaganda being propagated on a large scale in conventional and social media against Islam and Muslims.
Team: AM Khan Yazdani (Danny), GS Srinivas, Ahammed Naufal

3- To create a platform where you can get information about the NGOs, Fundings (Scholarships, grants) and fellowship programs related to Education Sector.
Team: Syeda Sufiya, Ebrahim Nasthar, Mohmd Faizal, Janakiraman

4- How to help followers of a religion to understand their own religion, so that they don't face misunderstandings about their religion as is commonly seen.
Team: Najmus Saher, Maqbool Siraj, Omar ali, Abdul Muntaqim, Mujeeb Pasha Tanveer Ilahi

5- Stories of Prophets conveyed in an interesting manner and how they interacted with other communities. Intention is to address the misconception about the religious harmony.
Team: Abdul Sinan, Ahmad Raees, Ismail falahi, Md. Noorshanuddin, Sunahar

6- How to counter propagation of fake news that is dominating the social media.
Team: Nafees Ahmed, Abdul Nafih

7- How to counter character assassination of a community or an individual on Social Media.
Team: AzmathullaShariff, Krishna Kumar, Md. Mubashiruddin

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 seven groups to their respective Challenge Statements are listed below:

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Solution Matrix for Challenge Statement 1

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Project Title: **Value Based Education**
Trainer(s) Name: Harish Kotra, Venkatraman Ramchandran
Participants: Mrs. Sudha Reddy, Mr. Shivanand B.K, Master Tarun
Mrs. Padmavathi, Mr. Asadullah, Dr. Mohammad Sayeed

Summary of the problem
Create news platform for college students to spread positive news through videos and articles.

Proposed Solution (Identification of specific technology tools or concepts that   have the potential to solve the problem)

First Month Plan:
- Collection of news and movies and create a repository.

Second Month Plan:
- Identify the writers who would write good stories and case studies

Third Month Plan:
- Technology infra structure

Fourth Month Plan:
- Launch and promotion of news platform among college students

Fifth Month Plan:
- Getting feedback from students and its impact

Sixth Month Plan:
Incorporating the feedback on the stories and the technology infra structure

What steps do you need to take to put the solution into action?

Team Responsibilities
1. Finance

Mr. Shivanand, Dr. Mohammad Sayeed

2. Student Outreach
Mrs. Sudha Reddy, Master Tarun

3. Technology development
Mrs. Sudha Reddy, Mr. Shivanand
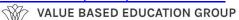
4. Promotion & Marketing
Mr. Shivanand,

5. Story production
Asadullah, Mrs. Padmavathi, Dr. Mohammad Sayeed

Please click the link below to see the prototype prepared as a Solution to this Challenge Statement:
https://valuebasededucationyouth.wordpress.com/
https://creator.ionic.io/share/efcb9518706b

Screenshot of prototypeof the Website and App developed at South India TechCamp
This prototype will be developed as a full scale Project in the next three months.

Solution Matrix for Challenge Statement 2

Project Title: Online portal to project positivism

Trainer(s) Name: Harish Kotra

Participants: AM Khan Yazdani (Danny), GS Srinivas, Ahammed Naufal

Summary of the Problem
There is a negative propaganda on a large scale in conventional and social media against Islam and Muslims. And it is creating an intolerant environment in the society.

Proposed Solution (Identification of specific technology tools or concepts that   have the potential to solve the problem)
   a. Make positive video documentaries and upload them on YouTube.

b. Create an online portal and magazine catering healthy and wealthy news to focus on secular and success stories.

Existing Solutions or Relevant Links
There are many websites working on countering malicious propaganda against under-privileged communities.

What steps do you need to take to put the solution into action?
1. Create a YouTube channel
2. Also an online magazine.

Please click the link below to see the prototype prepared as a Solution to this Challenge Statement:
https://dns2017blog.wordpress.com/
This prototype will be developed as a full scale Project in the next three months.

Solution Matrix for Challenge Statement 3

Project Title: EduScan.in-Website Platform Integrating the Fellowship Programs, CSR Guidelines and Verified Educational NGOs

Trainer(s) Name: Puneet Murthika

Participants: Syeda Sufiya Mohsina, Ebrahim Nasthar, Mohmd Faizal, Janakiraman

Summary of the Problem
There is no platform where you can get information about the NGOs, Fundings (Scholarships, grants) and fellowship programs related to Education Sector

Proposed Solution (Identification of specific technology tools or concepts that have the potential to solve the problem)
Create a website, where all the information related to NGOs, fundings and fellowship programs can be accessed easily.

Existing Solutions or Relevant Link
www.teachforindia.org, www.scholars4dev.com,www.ngobox.org www.ngofundsindia.org

What steps do you need to take to put the solution into action?

- Building a website
- Data collection on funding, grants, scholarships, CSR
- Data collection of fellowship programs, deadlines of application forms.
- Listing of programs of upcoming social events

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

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

Solution Matrix for Challenge Statement 4

Project Title: **Counter Narrative Against Fanaticism (CNAF)**
Countering misconceptions about Religions

Trainer(s) Name: Nasheeda Anjum

Participants: Najmus Saher, Maqbool A Siraj, Omar Ali, Abdul Muntaqim, Mujeeb Pasha, Tanveer Ilahi

Summary of the Problem
Most followers do not understand their own religion. They mistake rites and rituals for religion, e.g., a Muslim would think slaughtering an animal is sacrifice, but God wants us to sacrifice our time, energy, ego and luxuries.
Similarly, a Hindu would think that bursting crackers is expected a good thing to do on Diwali or taking out procession during Dussehra, but actually it is victory of truth over untruth. So the message has been lost.

Proposed Solution (Identification of specific technology tools or concepts that have the potential to solve the problem)
Development of a website focusing upon popular misunderstandings about all the religions.
Post articles to clear the misconceptions about it.
Share these articles through social media like WhatsApp, Facebook etc.

Existing Solutions or Relevant Links

Research on existing narratives available on popular misconceptions, which we will link in our website and Facebook pages.

What steps do you need to take to put the solution into action?

Periodically publish and share articles clarifying misconceptions on different topics in all religions.
Research on existing narratives available on popular misconceptions, which we will link in our website and Facebook pages.

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

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

Solution Matrix for Challenge Statement 5

Project Title: Stories of Harmony

Trainer(s) Name: Venkitaraman R

Participants: Abdul Sinan, Ahmad Raees, Ismail Falahi, Md. Noorshanuddin, Sunahar

Summary of the Problem

Stories of Prophets conveyed in an interesting manner and how they interacted with other communities. Intention is to address the misconception about the religious harmony.

Proposed Solution (Identification of specific technology tools or concepts that have the potential to solve the problem)

Creating a website which will be shared through multiple social media platforms. Content will be provided in different regional languages.

Existing Solutions or Relevant Links

There are a lot of existing material in the form of books, website etc. which are circulating within specific circles of each religion/community. These are not youth friendly and we are mostly focusing on youths.

What steps do you need to take to put the solution into action?

Plan for proposed problem (6 Month)

Month 1: Data collection

Month 2: Story drafting

Month 3: Infrastructure development

Month 4: Launching portal

 Month 5: Sharing among the targeted communities

Month 6: Feedback

Please click the link below to see the prototype prepared as a Solution to this Challenge Statement:

https://story of harmony.wordpress.com/

Screenshot of prototype of the website developed at South India TechCamp

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

Solution Matrix for Challenge Statement 6

Project Title: **Counter exaggeration of facts and fake news**

Trainer(s) Name: Harish Kotra

Participants: Nafees Ahmed, AbdulNafih

Summary of the Problem

Today manifold fake news is arising through social and visual media and we are aware of exaggeration of facts in media also. It affects the society verily and it causes the propagation of fake news throughout the world.

Proposed Solution (Identification of specific technology tools or concepts that have the potential to solve the problem)

- Weekly podcasting on fake news that appeared last week and talk about it.
- Write an article elaborating the reality of news with evidences.
- Disseminate messages on social media
- Identify the person who posted the fake news.

Existing Solutions or Relevant Links

There are very few existing solutions like channel programmes on fake news especially in news channels.

What steps do you need to take to put the solution into action?

Practicing the solution through social media.

Please click the link below to see the prototype prepared as a Solution to this Challenge Statement:
https://www.facebook.com/COFN-1891057577842816/?ref=page_internal

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

Solution Matrix for Challenge Statement 7

Project Title: Know the facts   Counter Narrative Against Fanaticism (CNAF)

Trainer(s) Name: Harish Kotra

Participants Names: Azmathulla Shariff, Krishna Kumar, Md. Mubashiruddin

Summary of the Problem

How to counter character assassination of a community or an individual. Celebrity or influential members of a particular community are selectively targeted with and deliberate intention to harm the image of a particular community by way of targeting the image and blame the entire community by making individual as the community brands. Often people from respectable background are targeted.

Proposed Solution (Identification of specific technology tools or concepts that have the potential to solve the problem)

The creation of App based solution tile "Know the Fact" to create awareness. Note the comments and remarks of an individual and groups counter the comments with a logical answer with explanation

Existing Solutions or Relevant Links

There are very few existing solutions as it's based on the issue of radicalization isn't recognized as a situation.

There are narratives produced by moderate religious scholars from all over the world. We can refer to the researches and messages produced by such scholars for our work with extract from the sources

Next Steps for putting solution into action?

Research on existing conservative narratives based facts on which we will be able to develop a better society away from radicalized bias and thinking.

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

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

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.

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Annexure I
Feedback from Participants and Trainers:
Some Glimpses

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Though I am working in electronic media for the last 15 years and very active on Face Book, I learned many new dimensions of social media at South India Tech Camp. The second day of the Tech Camp was especially more practical and more useful. Special thanks to Venkey and Harish, the trainers of our group. The hospitality was very pleasant and logistics were admirable. It was an event of knowledge and fun. Thanks to COVA and others organizers. - - **A. M. Khan Yazdani (Danny) – Participant from Vijayawada**

Came back after a fulfilling weekend training the participants in Tech Camp Bengaluru to counter online fanatic indoctrination. Facilitated sessions on storytelling, branding and immersed the participants with various digital tools to engage with their communities through social media. We co-built a prototype - a story platform for inter-religious harmony, managed by Islamic Scholars from Kasargod district in Kerala.
We need more such events, especially in local languages - like Malayalam, Kannada and Telugu - to work with participants who are working with complex issues of identity and religion in their communities. If you have digital skills, and can train people in your local mother tongue, PM me. You are more than welcome to be a part of this effort organised by Confederation of Voluntary Associations - COVA. Thank you Mazher Hussainbhai and Deepa Alige **Venkataraman R.– Trainer -in a Facebook Post**

Agenda

Day One - 6th May 2017	
Sign-in	8:45 AM – 9:00 AM
Welcome Address & What is TechCamp - Welcome Address by Maqbool Siraj, Talent Promotion Trust - Overview of TechCamp and COFI Networks by Mazher Hussain, COVA - Logistic announcements by Deepa A G, Avani	9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

BootCamp *- Participants in small groups of 10 to 12 go around in the Round Robin Format to different trainers at different Tables to understand features and applications of Popular Tools and Platforms;* **Round 1- 10.00 AM to – 11:15 AM** **Round 2- 11.15 to 12.15** **Round 3- 12.15 to 1.30**		
Table 1	**Table 2**	**Table 3**
Twitter *(Venkatraman Ramchandran)*	**Content Curation and Google Search** *(Puneet Murthika)*	**Email** *(Nasheeda Anjum)*
WhatsApp	**Facebook**	YouTube and Podcasting

(Nasheeda Anjum)	*(Puneet Murthika)*	*(Harish Kotra)*
Blogging *(Venkatraman Ramchandran)*		

Lunch | Buddy Up
(2 Partners are Teamed up as they enter for lunch- with a member they are not acquainted with
A Note on <u>How to Buddy Up</u> is given to all Partners
 	
Partners are requested to share the following info about themselves with their Team Members
   ● *Share an interesting experience with social media*
   ● *Share a memorable experience from your professional field*
Apart from these, they can share anything under the sun!
	1:30 PM – 2:45 PM

Speed Geeking | Fast-paced Project Presentations *Trainers present Fast paced presentations that last for 5 mins 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 four Interactive Training Sessions on offer in the post Tea Session and the First Session on Day 2.*	2:45 PM - 3:30 PM
Coffee & Conversations	3:30 PM - 4:00 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- Harish Kotra** **Table-2: Story Telling using diverse digital/mobile tools- Venkatraman Ramachandran** **Table-3: Driving engagement from online to offline- Puneet Murtika**	4:00 PM - 5:45 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
Understanding Trolling- Panelists: Venkatraman Ramachandran and Mazher Hussain	9:45 AM – 10:00 AM
Interactive Training Sessions-2 *Interactive small group training on low-cost, easy to implement tech based tools and approaches -* **Three Parallel Sessions** Table-1: Digital Branding- Venkatraman Ramachandran Table-2: Creating simple website in WordPress– Nasheeda Anjum	10:00 AM- 11:30 AM
Coffee & Conversations	11:30 AM - 12: 00 Noon
Framing 'Challenge' Statements- Explanation	12:00 Noon - 12:15 PM
Partners Choose a Challenge Statement to Solve and get into Partner Groups	1.00 PM- 1:45 PM
Lunch	1:45 PM - 2:30 PM
Small Group Work on Identifying and Developing Solutions to Challenges	2:30 PM- 3:35 PM
Coffee & Conversations	3:45 PM - 4:00 PM
Preparing Presentations on Project Solutions	4:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Partners sit with the allocated Trainer for their selected Challenge and work to come up with Solutions with the group	

Final Presentations
   - 5 min per team
   - 7 teams
   - Presentations to be creative
   – Should explain the challenge & the solution developed at TechCamp
	4:30 PM- 5:00 PM

Feedback One Trainer and one Participant invited to speak and Online Feed Back by all Participants	5:00 PM – 5:15 PM
Formation of COFI Networks Participants from different cities/states divide into groups to discuss about formation of COFI Networks in their areas and Plan for conduct of TechCamps and BootCamps in their cities	5.15 PM- 5.40 PM
Group Presentations	5:40 PM – 5:55 PM
Vote of Thanks by Syed Abdul Muntaqim of Sheriff Foundation	5.55 PM- 6.00 PM
Group Photos and Close of TechCamp	

TOPICS for BootCamp	TRAINER
Twitter- Understanding the micro blogging platform and its applications	**Venkataraman Ramachandran**
*WhatsApp -*Opportunities and features on the WhatsApp messenger	**Nasheeda Anjum**
Content curation and sharing through Google search and other social media	**Puneet Murthika**
Facebook- Facebook Basics and Building an engaging community	**Puneet Murthika**
Blogging - How to launch your own blog	**Venkataraman Ramachandran**
Email- Mastering Emails and Sending out periodic Newsletters using Email Marketing techniques	**Nasheeda Anjum**

List of Topics for Interactive Sessions

TOPICS	TRAINER
Creating a simple Website for your organization using WordPress	**Nasheeda Anjum**
Building Mobile Apps with Zero Coding Knowledge	**Harish Kotra**
Conducting Webinars through Google Hangouts	**Harish Kotra**
Distinguishing Real News from Fake News	**Mazher Hussian**
Online Learning Tools and Techniques	**Harish Kotra**
Driving Engagement from Online to Offline	**Puneet Murthika**
Driving Engagement from Online to Offline	**Puneet Murthika**
Storytelling using diverse Digital/Mobile Tools	**Venkataraman Ramachandran**
Digital Branding	**Venkataraman Ramachandran**
Podcasting Tools and techniques	**Harish Kotra**

Annexure III
List of Participants, Trainers and Organisers

Name	Address
Abdul Sinan N. M.	Karnataka
Abdur Rahman Siddiqi	Karnataka
Ahammed Naufal P.	Kerala
Ahmed Raees	Kerala
AM Khan Yazdani	Andhra Pradesh
AsadullahMansuri	Karnataka
Azmathullah Sharief	Karnataka
Ebrahim Nasthar	Karnataka
G. S. Srinivas	Karnataka
Janakiraman Durai	Tamil Nadu
Kafeel Ahmad	Karnataka
Krishna Kumar	Karnataka
M.Ismail	Tamil Nadu

Mohammad Nafees	Hyderabad
Mohammed Akhlaqur Rahman	Karnataka
Mohammed Faizal V. C.	Karnataka
Mubashiruddin K. H.	Hyderabad
Mujeeb Pasha	Karnataka
Padmavathi A.G.	Karnataka
Shaikh Wahid Ansari	Karnataka
Md Noorshanuddin	Karnataka
Sunahar.U	Pondicherry
Syed Naveed	Karnataka
Syeda Sufiya Mohsina	Karnataka
Tanveer Ilahi	Karnataka
Tarun R	Karnataka
Umar Ali	Tamil Nadu
Asha Ramesh	Karnataka
Najmus Saher	Karnataka
Masood Faraz	Karnataka
Savitha R	Karnataka
Dr Mohammad Sayeed	Karnataka
Shivananda B K	Karnataka
Sudha Reddy	Karnataka

List of Trainers:
1. Harish Kotra
2. Venkataraman Ramachandran
3. Puneet Murthika
4. Nasheeda Anjum

List of Organisers:
1. Maqbool Siraj
2. Deepa A. .G
3. Syed Abdul Muntaqim
4. Mazher Hussian
5. Sameer Showkin Lone

What is TechCamp?

TechCamp is a worldwide program organized by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of International Information Programmes (IIP) in partnership with U.S. Embassies in countries throughout the world. Through a variety of hands-on demonstrations and trainings, TechCamp trainers/facilitators work closely with participants to brainstorm free, low-cost, and easy-to-implement solutions and strategies that can address the challenges identified during TechCamp.

Topics for TechCamps range greatly; anything from investigative journalism in Latvia, to Elections in Ghana, to health communications in Colombia all following a similar format.

Participants are not required to be tech-savvy to attend a TechCamp. The aim is to expose participants to the type of technologies and strategies that could impact the work that they do through a series of exercises like "speed-geeking," interactive training, challenge statement brainstorming, and solution-building. The new learning can be used to develop tangible solution or evolve appropriate strategies for the ongoing work.

It is expected that the participants stay connected with the TechCamp network both through Online platforms like Facebook, mailing groups etc. and also offline.

About Organisers and Partners:

AVANI

Avani is an independent and registered non-profit organization, we work with business, and government and grassroots communities to inspire new thinking, build creative partnerships and develop practical solutions.

Bureau of International Information Programs

The U.S. State Department's Bureau of International Information Programs is a worldwide outreach platform for public diplomacy. IIP partners with policy experts and missions abroad to design and execute outcome-oriented programs.

COVA

Networking for Responsible Citizenship and Global Peace, COVA (Confederation of Voluntary Associations), is a national network of voluntary organisations working for communal harmony in India and peace in South Asia.

Initiated in 1995 to address the issue of communal riots in Hyderabad, COVA has since grown to facilitate the formation and growth of 16 networks. COVA also collaborates with organisations in the neighbouring SAARC countries to promote peace in the region.

Eco Foundation for Sustainable Alternatives

Eco Foundation for Sustainable Alternatives (EFSA) is a non-profit organization. EFSA is a proactive response to the innumerable disparities that impair the cohesive growth of the inhabitants of the Mother Earth and the systems that sustain them.

EFSA's ethos is primarily to pursue a social and economic order based on principles of wellbeing and social justice devoid of disparities, and in enabling humanity coexist with the ecosystem.

Sheriff Foundation

Sheriff Foundation is Charitable- Educational and Research Foundation. The Foundation has helped children from the less privileged backgrounds in supporting various educational programs courses and also have adopted many Urdu Government schools in Bangalore.

Talent Promotion Trust

Talent Promotion Trust has been engaged in guiding and counseling the students since 1987. It has been holding orientation programs for students and extending assistance to those in need of financial help. It has so far helped around over 6,000 students to acquire degrees and diplomas.

U.S. Consulate General Hyderabad:

Established in 2009, the U.S. Consulate General in Hyderabad is the first U.S. diplomatic office to open in India since India's independence. It is but one reflection of the United States' commitment to strengthening its relationship and engagement with the people and Government of India. The Hyderabad Consular District includes the states of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.

In Media:

Click Here for full news report