



Report

Introduction and Background:

Youth are at increasing risk for 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 persons from 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- Networks(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 27th to 29th November 2016 by COVA and US Consulate General, Hyderabad in association with the Bureau of International Information Programs of The U.S. State Department.

TechCamp Hyderabad was designed as a Three-Day, interactive and fun experience to bring together civil society organizations, religious leaders, social media experts, and journalists from

seven countries (representatives from nine countries were invited, but all could not come) with leading international/local technology experts to co-create social media solutions & strategies to the most pressing challenges faced by the participants in their work.

Countries represented at the TechCamp were Bangladesh, Indonesia, India, Maldives, Philippines, Singapore & Sri Lanka will be represented at TechCamp Hyderabad to determine the biggest challenges that need to be addressed in the area of online radicalization and recruitment.

In all 33 foreign participants from seven countries and 16 participants from 6 cities of India attended the program. 5 foreign Resource Persons from 4 countries and 6 Indian Resource Persons conducted the program with great expertise.

Programs

27th Nov, 2016: Day 0

Buddy Up Over Lunch:

Participants of the TechCamp Hyderabad had started arriving from 26th November 2016 at the Leonia Resorts near the city of Hyderabad in Telangana State of India.

The first program started from Lunch on 27th November 2016 with Buddy Up when participants from different countries were teamed up at random in twos and fours as they arrived with a view to generate bonding for the conference and create relationships that could last beyond the Event.

Each participant was asked to share with their partners an interesting experience with social media, a memorable experience from their professional field along with their personal backgrounds including education, profession, hobbies, strengths, weaknesses and vision and aspirations. After this interaction over lunch, all participants were invited to make brief write ups of their Buddies and paste on the “Wall of Fame” in the Grand hall, the main venue for the TechCamp and remained there through the Conference. These write ups provided a very good introduction of each participant to all other participants.

In Post lunch session, participants were divided into 4 Groups namely 1) Journalists, 2) Civil society/NGOs 3) Religious leaders 4) social media practitioners for informal interactions on issues and challenges being faced by them in their fields, the situation in their respective countries and explore possibilities of cross border partnerships and collaborations.

TechCamp Inauguration:

As scheduled, the Inaugural Program of TechCamp Hyderabad started at 7.15 pm with a Welcome address by Bro. Varghese Techanath, Joint Secretary of COVA and Mr. Salil Kader, Advisor, Public Affairs- US Consulate Hyderabad moderated the event.

Thought Leaders Mr. K.R. Vengopal IAS (Rtd) and Prof. Faizan Mustafa, Vice Chancellor of NALSAR addressed the gathering.

Mr. K.R. Venugopal stated that the illogicality of extremism and terrorism is thriving with support of Social media and the same science & technology being used to spread hate and foster violence should be used to counter it. He said by birth all are equal and all the acquired identities should not become reasons for hatred and violence.

Prof Faizan Mustafa in his address opined that where there are human rights violations, there will be counter violence be it in the form of terrorism or other manifestations. In just and equitable societies there won't be any scope for such menace.

Gabriel Hons- Olivier of US Consulate General, Hyderabad and Ms. Jamie Findlater from US Department of State, Washington explained about the commitment of the US Government to counter radicalization in all forms and to equip people to use social media to combat violence and promote amity by organizing TechCamps. It was also mentioned that TechCamps on different themes have been organized in 110 countries reaching out to over 2300 participants.

Dr. Mazher Hussain, Executive Director of COVA stated that the onslaught of identity politics and marginalization of ideology politics across the world is resulting in greater alienation between different communities. This is being further exacerbated by misuse of social media to spread disaffection, hatred and violence between communities. An important strategy to check the spiraling violence could be through informed and effective interventions in social media to prevent spread of hate and promote better understanding to secure justice and peace.

Ms. Linda Roth, Trainer and formerly of CNN and Muhammad Ferdauz of Participant from Bangladesh delivered their messages about their expectations from the TechCamp and plans for future engagement with the process. Dr. Anand Raj Varma, Member of Advisory Committee of COVA proposed Vote of Thanks.

The Inaugural Function was followed by Dinner and concluded with Qawwali, a traditional form of Sufi Music.

28th Nov, 2016: Day One

The day started with an overview of the Concept of TechCamps and an Ice Breaker Session where each participant shared with two other participants the first thought that came to them and this led to the creation of a very interesting narrative of the thoughts, issues and concerns of the participants.

This was followed by a Session very unique to TechCamps called Speed Geeking where the Trainers presented their Fast Paced presentations for 5 minutes to small groups who moved from one Trainer to the next quickly, covering 11 trainer's and a range of topics as illustrated. This method allowed all trainees 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 are listed below:

Topic	Trainer
1 Online/Offline Engagement	Vishwarath Reddy , Recruiterbox, India
2. Storytelling via Digital & Mobile Tools	Linda Roth , Formerly CNN, USA
3. Social Media Marketing / Engagement/ Creating Compelling Content	AmmarKanchwala , Accenture/Google, India
4Hero's Journey: Narratives in Countering Online Radicalization in Digital Age	VenkataramanRamachandran , Cognizant Digital Engagement Practice, India
5. Data Visualization, Mobile Apps	Harish Kotra , Deep Red Ink, India
6. Online Learning	AigerimKhafizova , Kazakistan working with Amal Academy, Pakistan
7. Online/Offline Campaigns	Katie Parsons , 270 Strategies, USA
8. Online Campaign Against Violence	CameliaNistor , NoHateSpeech Campaign, Romania
9. Reaching Rural Populations using SMS or Voice Messages.	Rohit Singh , OnionDev, India
10. Identifying Real News from Fake news	AyesheaPerera , BBC, Sri Lanka
11. Preventing Violent Extremism through Online Learning techniques	Sayeed MA , Swift Software, India

Each Participant could select any two of the Topics for the Interactive Training Sessions.
Each Interactive Training Session lasted 1 hour and 20 Minutes

Framing of Challenge Statement:

Post Evening Tea Session on Day 1 was devoted to framing of Challenge Statements. Participants were formed into groups and worked with Trainers to come up with two challenge statements faced by them 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.

The 7 groups that were formed discussed for an hour and came out with the following 20 Challenge Statements in consultation with the Trainers listed below:

Linda & Ayeshea:

1. How do we come up with a system to alert people that a news item/social post is fake?
2. How can we create a resource of personal stories to bridge differences and connect people on a human level?
3. How can we facilitate people to speak out against abuses perpetrated by members of their Communities?
4. How do we create an online media literacy course?

Harish:

5. How do we add alternative perspectives to people's social media feeds in order to expose them to ideas different from their own?
6. How do we create a resource to help access specific terms and topics across different religious scriptures and their different translations?

Venkataraman

7. How do we engage members of GMB community to increase collaboration between them?
8. How do we use digital storytelling to bring awareness among young voters aged 17-25 yrs to become responsible voters during the upcoming election campaign in Indonesia?

Sayed & Aigerim

9. How to optimize de-radicalization content during web search to encourage alternative content to appear?
10. How to develop a counter narrative against fanaticism through online and offline tools?
11. How to educate K-12 illiterate communities using technology in rural India?
12. How do we build a community using elearning tools for the purpose of de-radicalization?
13. How to create a strategy to highlight the gender aspect in radicalization and recruitment?

Camelia & Ammar

14. How can we develop alternative narratives responding to hate speech/hate content in news reporting/storytelling/social media?
15. How can I implement "No Hate Speech Campaign" in my country?

Vish & Katie

16. How can we create and sustain an online & offline network of school dropouts?
17. How can we create a campaign to raise awareness of the benefits of going online for

traditional communities?

18. How can we coexist with and use technology to preserve indigenous cultures and traditions?

Rohit

19. How to design Social and Behavioural Change Communication (SBCC) to impact the perceptions and actions of target groups?

20. How to globally propagate all apps, tools and platforms to be developed by all partners of the COFI networks through all relevant tech innovations?

Town Hall: Understanding Trolling

An open discussion took place with the three member panel of Venkat, Ayeshea and Mazher Hussain for 40 minutes followed by discussion.

Ayeshea commented that when one posts a message, opponents who don't like or disagree with it label the commenter as biased and often retort in abusive language including threats of rape or killing with the objective of demoralizing the writer and cause acute mental agony to discourage from further writing and engagement with social media.

Mazher explained in detail 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.

Venkey 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 open for discussion and a lively and informative discussion followed for over 30 minutes where the participants shared their experiences and proposed creative solutions.

29th Nov, 2016: Day Two

Jamie and Mazher began the day with a positive note that this group should continue to bond beyond this TechCamp and should usher in new era in fighting against online indoctrination by carrying forward the work in their respective areas with their efforts and local resources .

Developing Solutions for the Challenge Statements:

Agenda for the morning of Day Two was to develop workable solutions for the Challenge Statements identified on Day One. Participants divided into groups, teamed with Trainers and spend time till evening Tea to select issues / Challenge Statements, evolve strategies, develop solutions and identify appropriate social media platforms for workable solutions.

Post Evening Tea, all the Groups made brief presentations

Projects for Developing Solutions to Challenge Statements

Project- 1

Title: #VerifyIt

Problem Definition:

On account of vilification campaign against the identities like religion, race, sect and gender, distorted content is posted in social media about them and in the absence of verifying mechanisms the viewers, especially youth are misled into radicalization.

Project Description:

This project is a mix of Online and offline platform. The project has a mobile app which will be used to verify social media content and also to equip the youngsters with the necessary skills to critically analyze the veracity of social media content, and then form opinions.

Key Issue Addressed:

Responsible use of social media to reduce intolerance among communities

Collaborating Partners:

Ayesha Binte Towhid(Bangladesh), Sagar Gangurde(India), R.M. MadhuBhashini (Srilanka), Rangika Rathnayaka (Srilanka)

Mentors:

Ayeshea Perera(Srilanka), Harish Kotra(India),Linda Roth(USA)

Steps for Development and Implementation of Solution

- Facilitate online training for the youth leaders who in turn will conduct offline sessions for the youth to have a better impact and outreach.
- The partners need to mobilize the resource people including media, social media experts, mobile companies for garnering support for the app and e-learning portal
- Installing mobile app which will be used to verify social media content by youngsters by equipping them with necessary skills to critically analyze
- Mobilizing the required financial support.

Approach:

a) Online Engagement:

An app to improve online media literacy and Verification

Online resource pool in English & local languages

b) Offline Engagement:

Knowledge sharing sessions for resource pool (i.e. SUSI Alumni, Community Leaders etc)

Crowd sourcing news verification

The resource persons conduct trainings to improve SML skills of youth (age 14-25)

Digital Platform, Apps and tools for Developing and Posting the Solutions

E learning sites, Mobile apps: VerifyIt

Presentation by the Group @:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0BzayUtvYobGvelVaaFJHdE4zaDg>

Timeline: 3 months

Project-2

Title: #Rural Outreach

Problem Definition:

On account of illiteracy, the Rural population is susceptible to misconceptions and hatred triggered by the vested interests and in the absence of redressal mechanism, they continue to subscribe to it resulting in fanning of radicalization.

Project Description:

The project aims to design Social and Behavioral Change Communication (SBCC) to impact the perceptions and actions of target groups who are the existing and potential users of public libraries. Also it aims at bringing about SBCC through IVRS system among the rural illiterate and semi-literate people.

Approach:

Display that community is united /cohesive based on the religious and societal values of the community, by using digital storytelling to preserve traditions and culture.

Key Stakeholders: NGO's, Religious Leaders, Activists, TechCamp Partners, Government

Collaborating Partners:

Marilyn Thipthorpe (Bangladesh), Adjie Pratama (Indonesia), Karen Vina Abellana, (Philippines), Ankita Gupta (India)

Mentor:

Rohit Singh Gram Vaani(India)

Steps for Development and Implementation of Solution

- Raising the level and depth of awareness across communities through - IVRS and Biblio Hub APP
- Keeping the users and potential users informed of the services (educational as well as recreational activities) at their nearest public library.
- Launching Mobile Libraries in selected communities who have restricted mobility (e.g women and children from the marginalized communities).
- Monitoring the ongoing activities and collect feedback from users through IVRS and Biblio Hub APP.

- IVRS and Biblio Hub APP surveys to identify the possible areas of improvement within public libraries.

Digital Platforms, Apps and Tools for Developing and Posting the Solutions

Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Blogger, SMS

Timeline: 3 Months

Project 3

Title: #De radicalizing the University Dropouts

Problem Definition:

Dropouts of University or colleges, a tech savvy and energetic section with a lot of leisure would be the most potential threat to the peace.

Project Description:

In the absence of online and off line interactive tools and mechanisms, the youth especially, the University/ college drop outs, who would be tech savvy are the most likely to become an easy prey to the online Radicalization in the absence of rectifying mechanisms.

Key Issue Addressed:

Creating and sustaining an online & offline network of school dropouts

Creating a campaign to raise awareness of the benefits of going online for traditional communities

Coexistence with and use of technology to preserve indigenous cultures and traditions

Collaborating Partners:

Newaz Md Akbar Hossain (Bangladesh), Linto Emmanuel (India)

Mentors:

Vishwarath Reddy (India, StudentLive)

Katherine Parsons (USA, 270 Strategies)

Steps for Development and Implementation of Solution

- To create an interactive web platform for the university drop outs, the category most susceptible to temptations of radicalization, may spell doom if come under such influence. This platform would facilitate making use of the existing e-learning tools and portals in interactive mode.
- Network with a like-minded groups who are inspired to share the experiences and build communities on their own with the help of face book group.
- Inspired by sharing of a blog, the youth can empower themselves to create positive impactful solutions if they are provided with the right tools, knowledge and community support.

Quote from the Project Leader in the Participant Survey: *"I always wanted to launch my ideas to tackle negative issues, now I am glad to receive the necessary tools to make the idea turn into reality. Since I have a mentor, resources and the inspiration I look forward to creating the platform which will gather a small team to start the initiative to engage dropout students to empower themselves to build a better life with positive outcome."*

Digital Platform, Apps and Tools for Developing and Posting the Solutions:

Facebook page and group; interactive website and blog containing videos audios and reading materials. Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube and Instagram.

Timeline: 3 months

Project 4

Title: #Vote Right

Problem Definition:

There is callousness among the young voters in Indonesia to cast their votes first time due to lack of awareness on how important are the political leaders in influencing their lives. As a result a large number of them are remaining aloof from voting leading to wrong candidates getting elected.

Project Description:

This social media campaign helps to bring awareness among the young voters about the problems faced by the Jakarta city and citizens and the manifestos published by different parties/candidates to resolve it. This awareness drives the otherwise reluctant voters to go for voting to select the right candidate. It also increases the voting percentage which is a healthy parameter in Democracy besides facilitating voting for the right candidate/party.

Collaborating Partners:

Ni Kadek Diana Pramesti (Indonesia),

Mentors:

Venkataraman Ramachandran (India)

Ammar Kanchwara (India)

Steps for Development and Implementation of Solution:

- Develop a mobile app to download the relevant points from the election manifesto of candidates/parties in a dispassionate way.
- Make use of Social media tools like Facebook, -Instagram, -Twitter, -YouTube
- In offline mode, arrange for open dias for sharing of agendas of candidates and different parties.

Digital Platforms, Apps and tools for Developing and Posting the Solutions:

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube

Timeline: 3 Months

Project -5

Title#: Counter Narrative Against Fanaticism (CNAF)

Problem Definition:

Rigidity of the fatwas has become the hallmark in the Islamic countries which are devoid of broader progressive perspective which, in reality, the Islam advocates. In actuality, this true spirit of Islam is not projected; instead, cruel and dehumanizing dimension is put forth.

Project Description:

How to develop a counter narrative against fanaticism among the Muslim majority communities through online and offline tools is the purpose of this solution. The Islamic countries are highly dependent on the fatwas, which are the outcome of the rigid

interpretations of the religious leaders with a vested interest of retaining their hold. The true Islamic interpretations are moderate and filled with rationality and progressive outlook and these should be made more accessible to the people.

There are very few existing solutions as this is conceived as a counter narrative in the Maldivian community. Their government doesn't recognize this as a problem and therefore very less work has been done to better the situation. There are narratives produced by moderate religious scholars from all over the world which can be made use of in this endeavor.

Collaborating Partners:

Afnan Ibrahim (Maldives), Ahmed Naeem (Maldives), Ghulam Rasool Dehlvi (India)

Mentors:

M.A. Sayeed (India, eSwiftSoftware)

AigerimKhafizova (Uzbekistan, Amal Academy)

Approach:

Design an E-learning course and publish it on Online Platform (www.swifthcm.com)

Steps for Development and Implementation of Solutions :

- Bring out the literature in the true sense of the Islam which can be used online and offline as an E-learning course.
- Disseminate these messages on social media and social networking groups
- Integrate the real content of theIslam which is full of Humanism into the education system and propagate in the vulnerable areas using all forms of media including Radio broadcasting.

Digital Platform , Apps and Tools for Developing and Posting the Solutions

eSwift, Swift HCM, Udemy, Teachable.com, Facebook, YouTube and Twitter

Timeline: 3 months

Project -6

Title#: The Talk Show

Problem Definition:

Non access to technology by the Rural population due to digital illiteracy and being aloof from the accruing benefits out of it.

Project Description:

Display that community is united based on its religious and societal values by using digital storytelling to preserve traditions and culture. Arrange a talk Show with guests from diverse fields; media, human rights activists, religious leaders, and NGOs aimed at empowering the rural communities through use of technology and digital storytelling.

Collaborating Partners:

Solyh Ahmed(Singapore)

Mentor:

Rohit Singh (India)

Digital Platform, Apps and Tools for Developing and Posting the Solutions:

Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Blogger, SMS

The group's presentation is available @:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4zuA5A3Th8dUWJpY0V4NGNmY0k/view>

Project Timeline: 3 months

Project - 8

Title#: Think Outside the Box

Problem Definition:

Most of the netizens consume the information delivered to them on their social media feeds without exploring the alternative information/ perspectives thereby getting driven towards one sided views which lead them towards radicalism.

Project Description:

There are many alternative perspectives online, scattered through the internet. All that is needed is to collate these into a way that is easily accessible and integrated into social media platforms. The web app will allow netizens to sign up using their Facebook or Twitter accounts, giving the app permission to access their news feed and data. Based on the information accessible through their profile, comments they post or follow pages they like, the app could then suggest alternative public pages to follow. This allows them to think out of the box and expose them to alternative perspectives thereby softening the sharp edges of the radical thinking. The idea got floated after the discussions with the journalist on Day 0 on 27th November.

Issues Addressed:

- How to optimize de-radicalization content during web search to encourage alternative content to appear?
- How to develop a counter narrative against fanaticism through online and offline tools?
- How do we build a community using elearning tools for the purpose of de-radicalization?

Collaborating Partners:

Natashya Gutierrez (Philippines)

Mentor:

Harish Kotra (India)

Steps for Development and Implementation of Solutions:

- Development of an app linked to a social media platforms like Facebook or Twitter
- Convincing the owners of social media platforms like facebook, twitter to allow its downloading

Digital platform, Apps and Tools for Developing and Posting the Solutions:

Facebook, Twitter

Prototype for the web app developed at TechCamp is available @
<https://share.proto.io/QCAUJC/>

Check out the full challenge and solution statement here:
<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0BzayUtvtyobGvOGFfMWVjUWhJRFU>

Time line: 3 months

Project - 9

Title: # Community Building through e-Learning

Problem Definition:

Lack of awareness in the communities of K-12 countries and rural India especially among the parents, teachers, religious scholars and influencers with regard to the de radicalization is causing problem.

Project Description:

Community building takes place using e-learning tools for the purpose of de-radicalization, with special focus on K-12 and rural India. It is proposed to have three part solution: (1) Train the trainer through e-content focusing on parents, teachers, religious scholars & influencers; (2) creation of online skill & career development courses (3) use of various mediums of communication to talk about de-radicalization and create awareness; through IVR, SMS, social media, apps and websites, as well as documentaries, short films, song movements.

Key Issue Addressed:

Building a community using e-Learning tools

Collaborating Partners:

Sabir Syayed (India), Deepa AG (India), Syed Abdul Muntaqim (India), Aboobacker Rameez (Srilanka)

Mentors :

M.A. Sayeed (India, eSwiftSoftware), AigerimKhafizova (Uzbekistan, Amal Academy)

Steps for Development and Implementation of Solution:

- Train the Trainers comprising of Parents, Teachers, Religious Scholars & Influencers through e-content
- Train the community in Online Skill & Career development Courses
- Focusing on various mediums of communication namely IVR Bulk Texts (SMS), AV aids like Documentaries, Short films, Song movements

Digital Platform, Apps and Tools for Developing and Posting the Solutions

Facebook, Whatsapp, LinkedIn, Blogs, Twitter, Apps & Websites, AV aids like Documentaries, Short films, Song movements, IVR and Bulk SMS

Time Line: 3 months

Project 10

Title: #CheckMateHate

Project Description:

The #CheckMateHate campaign aims to debunk fake online news propagating hate; share stories of victims of hate; and feature inspiring people espousing values of co-existence & multi-culturalism.

Issues Addressed:

- How can we facilitate people to speak out against abuses perpetrated by members of their communities?

- How can we create a resource of personal stories to bridge differences and connect people on a human level?

- How do we engage members of GMB community to increase collaboration between them?

Partners:

Marisa De Silva (Sri Lanka); Mohammed Khudus (India); Syed Mohammed (India); Natashya (Indonesia); Ankita Gupta (India); Mahmood Zubair (India); MirudhulaThambiah (Sri Lanka); Marilyn Thipthorpe (Bangladesh)

Trainers:

Linda Roth (USA, Ex-CNN)
AyesheaPerera (Sri Lanka, BBC)
Venkataraman Ramachandran (India, Cognizant)

Platforms Adopted:

Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Instagram

Check out their launch video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xO3ahLMOPxU&feature=youtu.be>.

Also on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/Checkmatehate-1801944800044959/>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/CheckMateHate16>)

Timeline: 3 months

Project 11

Title:#According Due Importance to the Women to Counter Radicalization

Problem Definition:

Women play a major role in radicalism and in sustaining radical groups. At the same time, they are also victimized severely and are vulnerable and subservient in such societies, which is against the tenets of any religion. However, the women are glaringly missing from most of the discourses of radicalism and extremism. Therefore, any strategy to highlight this demeaning or unequal treatment is a sure way to counter radicalism

Project Description:

To achieve this, as a strategy it is proposed to reach out to men and women above the age of 15 years through a podcast/audio which can be played on mobiles about the rights of women according to the personal laws of different communities and the constitutions. Through the podcast/audio, widespread myths about women that perpetrate stereotypes are debunked.

Collaborating Partners:

Aditi Bhaduri(India),Ranjan Baruah(India),Siraj Ahmed(India)

Mentors:

AigreimKhafizova(Kazakhstan), Sayeed MA (India)

Steps for Development and Implementation of Solution

- Reach out to men and women from the age of 15 years and above through a podcast/audio

- Download the app and play on mobiles about the rights of women according to the personal laws of different communities and the constitution.
- Debunk the myths and stereotypes about women according to the religious texts and the constitution of the nation.

Digital Platform , Apps and Tools for Developing and Posting the Solutions:

Podcasts

Timeline: 3 Months

Project 12

Title:#AppofApps

Issue Addressed:

- Create a platform to showcase all the apps, tools and platforms to be developed by all Partners of the COFI networks

Partner:

Mazher Hussain (India)

Trainer:

Harish Kotra (India, DRI Consulting)

Platform Adopted:

Web Development, Mobile APP

Timeline: 3 months

Project 13

Title:#ScripturesMaster

Key Issue Addressed:

- Creating a resource to help access specific terms and topics across different religious scriptures and their different translations to become independent of religious scholars in locating verses in different religious texts relating to different themes and issues like women, divorce, war, human rights, jihad, honesty etc.

Trainer:

Harish Kotra (India, DRI Consulting)

Partners:

Mazher Hussain (India) and Br. Linto (India)

Platform Adopted:

Mobile -Android/iOS Development Tools

Timeline: 3 Months

Project 14

Title:#NoHateSpeech

Background:

Trainer Camelia Nistor from Romania guided participants in developing a strategy for bringing the No Hate Speech Movement (nohatespeechmovement.org) to South and

Southeast Asia. The No Hate Speech Movement is a youth campaign of the Council of Europe for human rights online, to reduce the levels of acceptance of hate speech and to develop online youth participation and citizenship, including in Internet governance processes.

Key Issue Addressed:

- Develop alternative narratives responding to hate speech/hate content in news reporting/storytelling/social media?
- Implementing 'No Hate Speech' Campaign across South & South-East Asia

Trainers:

Camilia Nistor
Ammar Kanchwala

Partners:

Nur Djumadil Iman, Syed Muntaqim (India)

Platform Adopted:

Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, Instagram

The group's presentation is available @:
<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0BzayUtvYobGvZ0x5SnBqU3FYems>

Feedback

After the presentations on the Projects to be developed by different Groups, an online survey of feedback from all participants was taken and the TechCamp concluded as scheduled at 5.15 pm with presentation of Mementos to all Participants, Trainers and organizers.

Annexure I

Feedback from Participants and Trainers:

Some Glimpses

33 Foreign Participants from Seven Countries - 16 Participants from 6 Cities of India

5 Foreign Resource Persons from 4 Countries and 6 Indian Resource Persons

(Note: Survey Monkey does not reveal names)

- I loved the overall concept and the approach. Learned so many things which I can implement back home. I can confidently say that I have become so techsavvy after attending this tech camp. Probably the best camp/conference that I have attended so far. Thank you COVA and other organizers for this amazing opportunity. 11/29/2016 5:06 PM
- I cannot ask for more as the trainers, organizers were awesome in arranging the event and the event changed my perspective towards tech and humanity. 11/29/2016 5:21 PM
- Thank you for a wonderful event. It was the first event in which I saw effective products being developed by the end of the program instead of just coming up with ideas. 11/29/2016 5:19 PM
- Absolutely loved the TechCamp. COVA has done a great job organizing it. Since we organize camps and workshops, I have already gotten many pointers. It would have been great if we got the chance to choose more than just 2 training sessions. 11/29/2016 6:26 PM
- The TechCamp provides me an opportunity of extending my network beyond South East Asia. Aside from that, I gained additional knowledge in terms of different tools that can be used in my work back home. Thank you for this opportunity. 11/29/2016 5:04 PM
- I love the hospitality. That makes me think good things of India! 11/29/2016 5:02 PM
- I suggest that you may create zones in various cities and thereby assigning mentors to us so that we can take this forward to a great extent 11/29/2016 5:01 PM
- The whole TechCamp HYD is great! I would love to see this fantastic initiative create greater ripples of change and betterment in more countries across the globe. 11/29/2016 5:00 PM
- Everything was greatly organised. Trainers were experts of their areas. 11/29/2016 5:05 PM
- More information prior to topic would be of help. It would also be helpful if we can have more time with a certain trainers. 11/29/2016 5:00 PM

Feed Back from Trainers

- Great effort, folks!! Can't adequately appreciate the amount of energy all of you put into making these TechCamps a huge success!!! 11/29/2016 5:09 PM
- The logistics and support for this conference were amongst the best I have experienced. Incredibly well done! Thank you for making it easy and fun! 11/29/2016 5:05 PM

- It was a good event and refreshing one to work with people from different countries. Having done 35+ events in India, this format is brand new and very interesting. Cheers to both IIP and COVA teams for organizing it and making it hassle free for me. 11/29/2016 5:00 PM

Feedback: On Facebook and Emails

- Thank you very much for the wonderful event, which is the need of the hour. We're back home safe and already much excited to carry the momentum/ knowledge we've got at the conference. **Nuzaik Huzny Najimudeen**, Participant, Sri Lanka
- Amazing opportunity to participate in the TechCamp and meet so many awesome ppl. Time management was awesome! Probably one of the first/only trainings I've been for that has worked so well to time! Kudos! Pls consider the environment and DON'T have water bottles in future! There was so much wastage and so MANY plastic bottles :(It was terribly sad to see). **Marisa De Silva**, Participant, Sri Lanka
- **Miss my COFI family**, Farhana Sharmin Ali, **Participant, Bangladesh**

Annexure II

TechCamp Hyderabad: Countering Radicalization in the Digital Age

Agenda

Day 0 Nov 27 (Sunday)	
12 noon	Partners & Trainers Complete Registration at Leonia Resort
12:30 PM - 1:45 PM Venue: <i>Central Buffet</i>	Informal Outreach over Lunch Activity 1: Buddy Up <i>2 Partners Team up with members of other countries / cities and break-the-ice over lunch</i>
1:45 PM - 2:15 PM Venue: <i>Grand Hall</i>	Activity 2: Wall of Fame <i>Partners will write notes/appreciation/gratitude about their fellow Partners on post-its and stick it on the 'Wall of Fame'.</i>
2:15 PM - 2:45 PM Venue: <i>Grand Hall</i>	TechCamp Hyderabad Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Overview of the 2 Day Program: Schedule and Topics</i> <i>Intro of TechCamp Organizers</i> <i>Announcements: Logistics and Guidelines</i>
2:45 PM - 3:30 PM Venues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Grand Hall</i> <i>Meeting Room 2</i> <i>Meeting Room 3</i> 	Huddle for Partners <i>Partners break out into following groups for informal interactions:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>NGOs</i> - <i>Journalists</i> - <i>Religious Leaders</i> - <i>Social Media practitioners</i>
3:30 PM Venue: <i>Grand Hall</i>	Break for Tea
6:00 PM - 7:00PM Venue: <i>Grand Hall</i>	Huddle for Trainers <i>Quick catch-up with the Trainers- Introductions followed by the roadmap for the next 2 days of TechCamp.</i>
7:15 PM - 8:00 PM Venue: <i>Party Lawns</i>	TechCamp Inauguration Master of Ceremonies; Mr. Salil Kader, US Consulate, Hyderabad <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome Address: Bro. Varghese Theckanath, Jt. Secretary, COVA Messages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prof. Faizan Mustafa, V.C. NALSAR - Mr. K.R. Venugopal, I.A.S - Mr. Gabriel Hons-Olivier ,US Consulate General, Hyderabad - Ms. Jamie Findlater, TechCamp, US Dept. of State - Ms. Linda Roth, TechCamp Trainer, Ex-CNN, USA - Mr. Muhammad Ferdous, TechCamp Partner from Bangladesh - -Dr. Mazher Hussain, Executive Director, COVA - Vote of Thanks: Dr. Anand Raj Varma, Advisory Council, COVA
8:15 PM - 10:00 PM Venue: <i>Party Lawns</i>	Dinner & Sufi Night <i>(Qawaali performance by Warsi Brothers)</i>

Day 1 Nov 28 (Monday)	
7 am onwards Venue: Grand Hall	Breakfast
8:00 AM – 8:45 AM Venue: Grand Hall	Sign-in, Networking, Coffee & Tea
9:00 AM – 9:15 AM Venue: Grand Hall	Welcome Address & What is TechCamp <i>- Jamie Findlater, U.S. State Department Team</i>
9:15 AM – 9:45 AM Venue: Grand Hall	Spectrogram <i>Partners take their position on a spectrum based on a set of statements to measure level of tech literacy</i>
9:45 AM – 11:00 AM Venue: Grand Hall	Speed Geeking Fast-paced Project Presentations <i>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 a range of opportunities and applications of technology, to advance their missions.</i> (Details listed in Appendix-1: appended below)
11:00 AM – 11:20 AM Venue: Grand Hall	Coffee Break
11:20 AM - 11:30 AM Venue: Grand Hall	Explanation of Interactive Training/ Breakout Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partners can choose only 2 sessions:- Attend one in the morning and one after Lunch - Partners can attend the same session twice
11:30 AM – 12:50 PM Venues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Grand Hall ● Meeting Room 2 ● Meeting Room 3 ● Board Room 	Interactive Training Sessions-1 <i>Interactive small group training on low-cost, easy to implement tech based tools and approaches</i> (Details listed in Appendix-2: appended below)
12:50 PM – 1:00 PM	Group Photo
1:10 PM – 2:15 PM Venue: Grand Hall	Lunch
2:15 PM – 3:15 PM Venues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Grand Hall ● Meeting Room 2 ● Meeting Room 3 ● Board Room 	Interactive Training Sessions-2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trainers to continue in the same rooms <i>Interactive small group training on low-cost, easy to implement tech based tools and approaches</i> (Details listed in Appendix-2: appended below)

3:15 PM – 3:35 PM Venue: Grand Hall	Coffee Break
3:35 PM – 3:55 PM Venue: Grand Hall	Framing ‘Challenge’ statements- Explanation - IIP Team
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM Venues: • Grand Hall • Meeting Room 2 • Meeting Room 3 • Board Room	Trainers & Partners Frame Challenge statements <i>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.</i> - Trainers to continue in the same rooms
5:00 PM – 5:10 PM Venue: Grand Hall	Discussion on Follow on activities and Strategies for development of solutions to Challenge Statements- IIP Team
5:10 PM - 6:00 PM Venue: Grand Hall	Townhall: Understanding Trolling Panelists: Venkataraman Ramachandran, Ayeshea Perera, Mazher Hussain
End of Sessions for Partners	
6:00 PM - 6:15 PM Venue: Meeting Room 3	Trainer <i>Catch-up for Trainers to understand what support they would need to address the Challenge Statements that were framed.</i> To be facilitated by IIP
Debrief	
Close for Day 1	

2 | Nov 29 (Tuesday)

7 am Onwards Venue: Grand Hall	Breakfast, Coffee & Tea
8:15 AM–8:30 AM Venue: Grand Hall	Announcements
8:30AM –9:00 AM Venue: Grand Hall	Partners Choose a Challenge statement from Day 1 to solve
9:00AM–10:30 AM Venues: Grand Hall	Small Group Work on Identifying Solutions- Session 1
10:30 AM–10:50 AM Venue: Grand Hall	Coffee Break
10:50 AM–12:50 PM Venues: Grand Hall	Small Group Work on Identifying Solutions- Session 2

12:50 PM – 1:30 PM <i>Venue: Grand Hall</i>	Lunch
1:30 PM - 1:40 PM Venues: <i>Grand Hall</i>	Videos- Presentations from previous TechCamps
1:40 PM - 1:50 PM Venues: <i>Grand Hall</i>	Mannequin Challenge!
1:50 PM - 2:45 PM Venues: <i>Grand Hall</i>	Developing Project Solutions & Making Presentations
2:45 PM – 4:20 PM Venues: <i>Grand Hall</i>	Final Presentations - 4 min per team - 8-10 teams (min. 3 per team) - Presentations should be creative – Explain the challenge & the solution developed at TechCamp)
4:20 PM – 4:30 PM	Coffee Break
4:30 PM – 4:45 PM Venue: <i>Grand Hall</i>	TechCamp Survey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>IIP Team</i>
4:45 PM – 5:00 PM Venue: <i>Grand Hall</i>	Closing Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>1 Trainer + 1 Partner to be invited beforehand</i> ● <i>Vote of Thanks by Organizer (COVA/IIP/US Consulate)</i>
5:00 PM – 5:15 PM Venue: <i>Grand Hall</i>	Mementos

Annexure III

INTERACTIVE TRAINING/BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Topic	Trainer
1. Distinguishing Real News from Fake news-	Ayeshea Perera , BBC
2. Reaching Rural Populations using SMS or Voice Messages. (SMS/IVR)	Rohit Singh , OnionDev
3. Digital Storytelling tools.	Linda Roth , Formerly CNN &
4. Hero's Journey: Narratives in Countering Online Radicalization in Digital Age	Venkataraman Ramachandran , Cognizant Digital Engagement Practice
5. Online to Offline Engagement -	Katie Parsons , 270 Strategies & Vishwarath Reddy , Recruiterbox
6. Online Campaigning as a Tool-	Ammar Kanchwala , Accenture/Google & Camelia Nistor , NoHateSpeech Movement
7. Data Visualization, Mobile Apps	Harish Kotra , Deep Red Ink
8. Online Learning Tools & Techniques-	Aigerim Khafizova , Amal Academy & Sayeed MA , Swift Software

Annexure IV**List of Participants, Trainers and Organisers****Organizers****Gabriel Hons-Olivier (India)**

Mr. Gabriel Hons-Olivier is the Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Consulate General, Hyderabad. He is a career member of the U.S. Foreign Service. Prior to serving in India, Gabriel served in Malawi, Washington D.C., Iraq, Angola, Guyana and Libya. Gabriel received a master's degree in International Management from the American Graduate School of International Management, in Arizona. He speaks French and Portuguese, and has studied German and Russian.

Jamie Findlater (United States of America)

Jamie Findlater is a Senior Program Manager with the U.S. Department of State TechCamp Program. She works in partnership with U.S. diplomatic missions abroad to design programming that addresses key policy goals. She has led over 50 initiatives in 120 countries, with topics ranging from women's empowerment, to investigative journalism, to countering violent extremism through economic empowerment. She has been associated with the US State Department for a very long time.

Mazher Hussian (India)

Founder and Executive Director of COVA, he has a doctorate in Philosophy, started career in computer field and is engaged in social activism from 1997. Has served on Boards of many national and international organisations including the State Bank of Hyderabad. Specialisations include conflict management, Track II, participatory governance, financial inclusion, disaster management and policy advocacy. Is a recipient of South Asia Star Peace Award.

Salil Kader (India)

Cultural Affairs Advisor Public Affairs Section, U.S. Consulate General Hyderabad Salil Kader has been working as the Cultural Affairs Advisor at the Public Affairs Section, U.S. Consulate Hyderabad since 2009. Prior to joining the State Department, he taught history to undergraduate and postgraduate students for eight years. He has an M. Phil. in History from the University of Hyderabad. His interests lie in history, politics, music, sports and religion.

Resource Persons Profiles – International**Aigerim Khafizova (Kazakhstan)**

Aigerim Khafizova is a Fulbright Fellow from Kazakhstan, passionate about education technology and youth empowerment. She was working on designing youth employment and professional development programs in Kazakhstan, conducted international learning research at leading e-learning platform Udemy in the U.S. Aigerim joined the Amal Academy in Lahore as a Global Academic Fellow in February 2016 and has developed 24 online courses.

Camelia Nistor (Romania)

Originally from Romania, she works on the learning of individuals, groups and organizations across the world using non-formal education. Her work is with young people & policy-makers on questions of racism, intolerance, social inclusion and hate. Since 1998 she has been involved with human rights organizations doing advocacy, campaigns and was recently involved in an online campaign against Hate Speech.

Ayeshea Perera (Sri Lanka)

Ayeshea Perera is the digital editor of the BBC India news website. A Sri Lankan, Ayeshea has lived and worked in India since 2007. She is passionate about digital media and is particularly interested in the impact of social media on journalism. Food is another of her passions.

Jamila Fagge (United States of America)

Jamila Fagge is host and executive producer of Voice of America's Yau da Gobe, a radio program that is using radio and social media to educate disenfranchised youth and population vulnerable to recruitment by extremist groups. Jamila is a strategic thinker and problem solver with over 5 years of inland and overseas experience as an expert in shaping communications strategy for the Voice of America, the U.S. State Department, the Federal Government of Nigeria, nonprofits, and the private sector.

Katie Parsons (United States of America)

Katie Parsons is a Senior Project Manager at 270 Strategies. She has been senior advisor to campaigns in the U.K., Albania, Hungary, Romania, Israel and Palestine, South Africa, Canada. Previously, Katie was International Program Director at The Climate Reality Project. Katie holds a Master's degree in International Public Management and a Bachelor's degree in Public Policy from the University of Chicago.

Linda Roth (United States Of America)

Linda Roth is a strategic communications executive and award winning journalist. She was Wolf Blitzer's producer at CNN for more than a decade, relied upon to manage nearly every aspect of his editorial projects, trips and top newsmaker interviews. Roth counts Emmy, Peabody and Headliner awards among her journalistic honors.

Resource Persons Profiles – India

Ammar Kanchwala (India)

Ammar Kanchwala is an award-winning Digital Marketing professional with 4+ years of experience in digital marketing. Stays on top of the Indian social media scene and is up-to-date with relevant insights, by focusing largely on but not limited to – Indian social media news and case studies, campaigns and articles. Was awarded "Power Digital User" of India 2016 Title.

Harish Kotra (India)

Harish Kotra is a Software Architect. He has powered startups, nonprofits and educational institutions by building tools, apps and websites for them. He has been associated with AngelHack, Geeklist, Weekend Ventures, and Pioneers, to name a few. He has also mentored students from premier Indian engineering institutions like IIT and BITS by conducting summer internship programs.

Rohit Singh (India)

Rohit Singh has now been working in the social development sector for over a decade. A Certified CSR Assessor by URS Worldwide (USA), he has worked in NGOs, funding agencies and social enterprises. His role has been around managing large scale development/disaster management programs, fostering partnerships and strengthening communication platforms. Over the last couple of years, Rohit has been working with the Technology Development, Content Innovation and Community Mobilization teams of OnionDev (previously Gram Vaani), innovating social media platforms for diverse groups.

Sayed M.A (India)

12 years of experience in managing Software Projects. Designed & conceived the idea of Software tool, Swift HCM (www.swifthcm.com) to empower Human Capital for organizations. A speaker on Thought Leadership & Social activities. My passion as a leader is to create systems that empower organizations to the highest level of performance.

Venkataraman Ramachandran (India)

Venkataraman Ramachandran works as a consultant on Social Media and Brand Storytelling. He has worked with startups and large corporations, playing various roles in strategy and marketing functions. He has taught Social Media in India's leading educational institutions. He is an avid blogger and digital storyteller across diverse web mediums.

Vishwarath Reddy (India)

New Media Entrepreneur and Product Manager. Has a keen interest in entrepreneurship, UI/UX & dreams of building an organization with a lasting impact. At 21, he co-founded Student Live, a platform for students to publish content and connect with fellow students. The team managed to build a 100+ college network and 5000+ student base.

Profiles of Partners- International**Ayesha Binte Towhid (Bangladesh)**

She is a Journalist, Social Activist and independent documentary filmmaker, Feature Writer @ New Age. She has served as the Campus Ambassador of BRAC Social Innovation Lab. Founded Ongkuron, a community service organization aimed to engage youth in social work. Ongkuron has impacted 3500 people since 2010.

Fahad Ibna Wahab (Bangladesh)

Phad is running a Video Content Creation Platform called Movians.com based in Dhaka, Bangladesh. In Movians they train the unskilled youth generation to become skilled and make their living by making videos. They are already working with some of the top brands of Bangladesh and have trained more than 25 people who have already benefitted from this training.

Farhana Sharmin (Bangladesh)

Student, Independent University, Bangladesh. Has experience in Event Management and Youth Leadership Training.

Marilyn Thipthorpe (Bangladesh)

She has worked as a teacher at Sacred Heart Tutorial. Has held the position of Feature Editor at the Daily Our Time a local daily which has a joint venture with The New York Times. Currently I hold the post of Sub-Editor at the Dhaka Tribune at the Central News Desk.

Muhammad Ferdaus (Bangladesh)

Muhammad Ferdaus is a Research Associate in Disaster Management in BRAC University, Bangladesh in partnership with the European Union. He has received advanced training in Disaster Management from the University of Huddersfield, UK. As one of the '199 Global Young Leaders Fellow on Women Deliver', he participated in the youth leadership and advocacy training in Denmark.

Newaz Md Akbar Hossain (Bangladesh)

Empowered youth and developed innovative tech solutions for the past 3 years. Has strong knowledge in Business, leadership, entrepreneurship & psychology.

Swadesh Chandra Mandol (Bangladesh)

Associated with Satyadharma Mahamandal since 1992 to propagate humanity, integrity and equality and to change our society's values positively based on human rights issues, protection and prevention against violence.

Mr. Adjie Pratama (Indonesia)

I am a Muslim who loves Allah, Prophet Muhammad and wanted to create peace in the world. I like the development of cutting-edge technology and I work as a teacher of Natural Science and an Android Application Developer.

Ni Kadek Diana Pramesti (Indonesia)

Ni Kadek Diana Pramesti from West Java, Indonesia loves to write, read and travel. She is a student of Padjadjaran University majoring in Journalism Studies. On campus, she is actively involved in the movie and press community. Along with her studies and on campus activities she actively volunteers with Gerakan Mari Berbagi and Turun Tangan, both organisations based in Jakarta.

Nur Djumadi Ilman (Indonesia)

Nur works at the Centre for Inter-religious Dialogue and Cooperation among Civilisations. The organisation works to bridge gaps between communities, promote dialogue and establish rapport with members of diverse groups and promote team cohesiveness.

Afnan Ibrahim (Maldives)

Afnan is the Project Coordinator at Transparency Maldives for the Judicial Watch Project. She has conducted research on lawyers' perception of Judicial Issues. Has worked on Maldivian Democracy Network and their recommendations on the Gender Equality Bill were accepted by the Parliament of Maldives

Ahmed Naeem (Maldives)

Ahmed Naeem is a Political Science student and has been working with CSOs since 2012. He has taken part in many human rights campaigns including the ones organized by Transparency Maldives. This includes the RTI campaign, Asset Declaration campaign and campaign of the missing journalist Ahmed Rilwan.

Bona Dea Mendoza (Philippines)

Bona has been working for the Asian Bridge Philippines for 11 years, first as a Program Coordinator and then as Director since 2012. She has done her Master's at Sungkonghoe University in South Korea majoring in Inter-Asia NGO Studies.

Karen Vina S. Abellana (Philippines)

Karen is a Project Officer at Al Qalam Institute for Islamic Identities and Dialogue in Southeast Asia, Ateneo de Davao University. The University is committed to conduct inter faith and intra faith dialogue within the Ateneo community in Mindanao. The end goal of dialogue is for them to define their commonalities of values and principles as a true Mindanaon.

Natashya Gutierrez (Philippines)

Bureau Chief, Rappers First International Bureau in Indonesia since 2015. Has experience of 5 years in Multi Media Reporter

Muhammad Solyh Bin Ahmad (Singapore)

Solyh Ahmed from Singapore has done Management with Major in International Business from Royal Holloway, University of London. He is working as an Instructional Designer and is an Educator, working with youth. He is involved in both domestic and foreign initiatives, for example, a refugee aid project in Istanbul with İnsana Yardım Derneği.

NurDiyanaH Binte Anwar (Singapore)

Diyana is an analyst with the Centre of Excellence for National Security at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS). She attained her MSc(Asian Studies) from RSIS, and her BSocSci (Hons) in Political Science from the National University of Singapore. Her research revolves around identity, multiculturalism, social policies, inequality, and the relations between state and society.

Dr. Aboobacker Rameez (Sri Lanka)

Dr. Aboobacker Rameez is a Senior Lecturer in Sociology, from the Department of Social Sciences, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka. He has completed his doctorate (Ph.D) at National University of Singapore (NUS). His area of work is conflict resolution. His interest includes ethnicity, social issues, social change, and issues related to Sri Lankan Muslims. He is social media savvy

Marisa Florence De Silva (Sri Lanka)

Marisa is a journalist at The Sunday Times. She is an activist and works on grievances faced by war affected communities of the North and East of Sri Lanka. She also uses social media channels to carry out campaigns, disseminate information, mobilize support and engage in constructive debate and discussion.

Mikal MirudhulaThambiah (Sri Lanka)

She has been a professional Journalist for the past 7 years. She has been mainly reporting on religious and communal reconciliation, post war scenario in Sri Lanka- mainly on issues faced by minority communities in the current political- economic – social and cultural context.

Mohamed Fairouz (Sri Lanka)

Media Trainer & Editor of a National Tamil daily, and weekly Newspaper and Online publication (www.vividelli.lk) for the last 5 years. He has participated in a program conducted by United States Department of State on 'Media Literacy Promoting Civil Society through New Media'. He has conducted around 60 workshops and media seminars for school and university students and Journalists around the country.

Nuzaik Huzny Najimudeen (Sri Lanka)

Nuzaik Huzny Najimudeen is an enthusiastic social worker, working for over 5 years with many social service organizations in the areas of Development and Justice. He is the founder and leader of the research activities for Center for Awareness and Social Obligations, in Sri Lanka, which focuses on educating the public in selective areas of attention.

R.M. Madhubhashini Rangika Rathnayaka (Sri Lanka)

Madhubashini is producer of a short film 'The Wind and Silence' on post war psychological trauma of war affected women. Her P.G. research was on Utilizing Digital Media for effective diplomacy in post conflict and developing scenario' from 2009-2013. She did New Media and Journalism from University of Oklahoma USA and worked as Spokesperson for Save the Children.

Profiles of Partners – India**Abdul Muntaqim Syed**

I specialize in teaching Arabic language and Islamic studies. I have bachelor degree in Islamic studies and master degree in modern Arabic and have 10years experience in education field. Working with Sheriff Foundation, dedicated to the service of the deprived-from children to the aged and the disabled.

Ashutosh Shukla

I work with the DNA news paper as a special correspondent now, I have been assigned communities, RTI and Aam Aadmi Party to report on. Stories by me include those that talk about demands of communities, their grouse and complains, their aspirations, what they want to do and what their opinions are on subjects into which they get drawn into.

AditiBhaduri

Aditi Bhaduri is a journalist and researcher, specialising on strategic affairs, foreign policy and gender. She writes for the Indian and international media, has contributed to numerous volumes, and translated literary and archival works from Russian to English.

Ankita Gupta

Ankita Gupta is a development professional, passionately driven to work over issues pertaining to rights of children and women especially in ethnic and armed conflict affected regions. As a budding researcher, author and writer she likes penning her field observations on effects of conflict on youth & children.

Deepa AG

She is presently working for an organisation called EFSA - Eco foundation for sustainable alternatives. She started her work with the organisation as a volunteer and now coordinates programs and takes care of their administration. Her work has been primarily with children, women and communities in urban and rural Bangalore.

Ibrahim Rizwan Nadwi

Myself Ibrahim Rizwan Nadwi, I did my schooling from Mahad Nadwatul Ulama and graduated thereafter from Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama. Presently I am a lecturer at a religious college (JamiatulMominat al-IslamiaLKO) & connected to an N.G.O which promotes education for women.

Ghulam Rasool Dehlvi

Ghulam Rasool Dehlvi is writer and columnist with The Asian Age, Deccan Chronicle, News18, Dainik Jagran, Firstpost, CNN, Voice of America etc. He is well-versed in classical Arabic & Islamic Studies and Comparative Religion. He has extensively researched and written on countering Online Fanatic Indoctrination, for example "Tweeting Jihadism: How the online onslaught of Islamic State can be countered".

Mohammed Abdul Khuddus

His BE from Osmania University, completed his Masters in Electrical Engineering & Computer Science from University of Illinois, Chicago, USA. He worked for AT&T Bell Labs, USA for 15 years. He has worked for over 25 years as a Telecom Professional. He is also very active in social work and has set up an NGO called Student Development Association & Muslim Professional Network. He is a recipient of Global Award for Social Service by Motorola in 2007.

Mufti Zubair

Associated with madrasa e Rahamania at Talabkatta, Hyderabad, Maulana Zubair has been working against fanatic indoctrination in association with many religious groups and educational institutions

Maqbool Siraj

Been a journalist since 1978 and worked with Indian Express, "The World Review" UK in India and BBC World Service in Bangalore Currently writes for 'The Hindu', Bangalore edition, 'Deccan Herald', Bangalore; and work as a researcher with National Law School of India University, Bangalore.

Ranjan K Baruah

Social entrepreneur and independent journalist focusing on youth and development issues, he has been working with young people in different parts of north east for more than a decade for

vibrant civil society. He is a recipient of National Youth Award from Ministry of Youth and Sports in 2014. Founder of North East Youth Foundation

Sabir Jamal Sayed

Sabir Jamal Sayed has done his Engineering from BITS, Pilani and MBA in Marketing and is currently pursuing his PhD in Digital Marketing from Mumbai University. He is also Director Information Technology at two different organisations. He has over 20 years of experience in the field of IT, Software, Development and Education.

Sagar Gangurde

Sagar is the Director of Indian Programs at Seeds of Peace. In this role, he designs and implements programs and activities that focus on the core leadership capacities needed to advance peace. Sagar has a background of Mechanical Engineering and is a former Teach For India Fellow. He also holds a Master's in Human Resources from JBIMS, Mumbai.

Sangamitra Malik

I have great respect for the diversity of India. I believe that in India we should appreciate the difference that is there in languages, cultures, rituals, food habits, clothes, caste, community and religion. I have been working to spread the message of peace and harmony between communities through approaching school and college students and people of all ages..

Syed Mohammed

He is the principal correspondent and columnist with the Times of India, Hyderabad. He covers Minority Affairs with a special focus on issues of the Muslim community. He has covered incidents of communal violence, interviewed families of those alleged to have links with the so-called Islamic State. His work also involves study of several socio-political groups and religious organisations.

Shahiuz Zaman Ahmed

Dr. Shahiuz Zaman Ahmed is an Assistant Professor in History, SPP College, Sivasagar, Assam. A recipient of Peace Fellowship of IPSCR, Mumbai is one of the experts of Fact Finding Teams of CSSS, Mumbai and All India Secular Forum on various social issues. Dr. Ahmed is a part of Peace Movement initiated by IIPDS, Thailand and AISF.

Tirath Raj Maudgil

Tirath Raj is a senior citizen whose present and future thrust is to start a Centre for abandoned elders, work on a project to depict True Islamic Principles. He has lived his life in an open manner and believes in the following philosophy: "Anyone can achieve their fullest potential, who we are might be predetermined. Destiny cant be changed but it can be challenged. Every man is born as many men and dies as a single one.

Linto Emmanuel

Being part of Centre for Human Rights and Sustainable Development and Good Governance have given me a great opportunity o work for the rights of the poor. After joining Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel I worked as a teacher in India and at Lima in Peru. My interests are learning and developing new skills and sensitivity to the poor and marginalized.

Profiles of Organizers – International

Jessica McCue (United States of America)

Jessica McCue is a Program Manager with the U.S. Department of State's TechCamp Program. In partnership with U.S. Embassies and Consulates and organizations abroad, she plans and implements TechCamps. She ensures the program addresses the mission's policy goals and connects participants with the best tech tools and resources available.

Meredith Gloger (United States of America)

Meredith Gloger is a Regional Policy Officer in the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Information Programs, where she coordinates follow-on and evaluation efforts for the TechCamp Program. She served previously as an Acting Unit Chief and Public Diplomacy Desk Officer in the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs' Office of Press and Public Diplomacy. In this capacity she was managing diplomacy efforts in 13 countries.

Sam Gordon (United States of America)

Sam Gordon is a Program Manager with the U.S. Department of State's TechCamp Program. Prior to working on this initiative he managed global health programs to combat pandemics with USAID, designed international education exchanges, and wrote travel and culture articles for Lonely Planet and other publications. Sam actively serves as a Fulbright Alumni Ambassador.

Profiles of Organizers – India

Ajay M (India)

Senior Accounts and Finance officer of COVA, always works behind the scenes to ensure the show goes on smoothly!

D.R Vinod

He has worked for a Public sector bank for 38 years and is now associated with the Refugee program of COVA. He is dedicated to philosophy of peace and communal harmony, respect for diverse cultures and religions. Contributing articles for different newspaper he has special interest in Urdu & Hindi Literature

Israr Ahmed- India

A Technical Writer by profession, Israr has diverse experience in the IT, Ecommerce, oil & gas and manufacturing industries. He holds a degree in Mechanical Engineering from JNTU. Israr is a voracious reader, profound learner, Mixed Martial Arts aficionado and animal enthusiast. He has a long list of hobbies.

Nabeel . K Adeni – India

My business cards say things such as Digital Strategist, Head of Operations, Founder, Program Manager and Changemaker. I'm passionate about building platforms- for intellectual discourse and designing systems- for efficiency & user-friendliness. I've organized TEDxSecunderabad, FailFests and Twestival. And, spoke at various conferences in India, U.S.A, Pakistan & Sri Lanka.

Naseer Siddiqui- India

State Coordinator of COVA, he is in social activism since 18 years and specializes in community mobilization, networking and advocacy. He is also engaged in working with refugees from 12 countries living in Hyderabad.

Varsha Rajan Berry- India

A professional based in Mumbai, with 17 years of experience in the field of research, activism and network building in the social sector on the issues of peace and justice, democracy and human rights with a vision to facilitate a conflict free world. Has played a key role in setting up various peace networks at local, national and regional level. Brought out and presented papers at national and international forums. Currently she is associated with COVA & Mrinal Gore Interactive Centre for Social Justice and Peace in South Asia and working on the politics of South Asian Masculinity and how it plays out in every sector and issue of society.

