

The ICT Opportunity for participatory planning: deepening democracy?

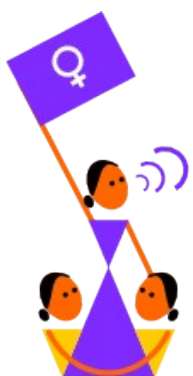
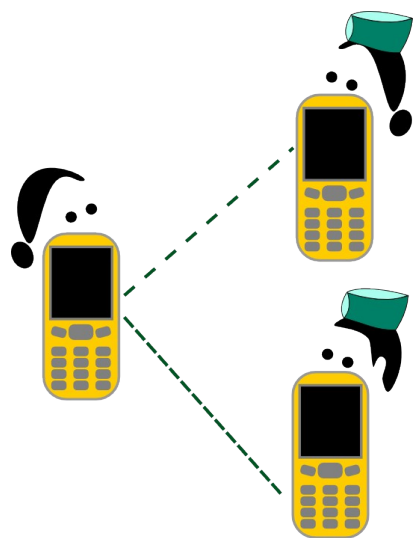
Insights from IT for Change's *Making Women's
Voices and Votes Count* project

IT for Change
July 2015



MAKING WOMEN'S
VOICES AND VOTES COUNT

Participatory Planning: Why the ICT agenda needs attention



Participatory planning is...

- Realising citizens' right to be heard ✓
- Grassroots mechanisms for accountability of local government ✓



Support structure for anchoring ICTs in participatory planning

- ICT-enabled Gram Sabha Resource Centres at GP level
- Equipped with Computer, internet, mobile phone, printer, tablet, projector.
- Use of public software
- Managing Committee of sangha women, anganwadi worker, ASHA, school teacher, elected women, SC/ST Gram Panchayat member, Panchayat President, Secretary/PDO
- Women from community as facilitators
- Resource support state-block-district level.



(a) Community media-based learning dialogues

Citizenship education of women's collectives.

Citizen forums no longer a mere formality.

Evidence-based dialogue..more possibilities.



(b) Creating a culture of community journalism... from screenings to video newsletters



(c) IVRS Peer messaging system

- Bulk voice messaging and call-back possibilities (Opinion polls)



Cellphones as a Tool for Democracy **The Example of CGNet Swara**

ANOOP SAHA

The social media revolution in the last decade was largely powered by communication technology advances, most notably by the spread of the internet. User-generated content, which embodies the power of each individual to get his or her message across to the whole world, has had a transformative quality that has made geographical and social boundaries irrelevant.

Unfortunately, despite India's claim of being an information technology (IT) powerhouse, the internet and computing technologies have had a minimal impact on the objective living conditions of the majority of Indians. The Indian internet almost in its entirety, is Anglocentric, though the language is spoken by less than 12% of the population, according to the 2001 Census of India. Is a similar paradigm-altering platform on cheaper and more accessible technology relevant to rural India possible? We discuss here one such experiment in alternative media deployed in central India, CGNet Swara.



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(d) Household level digitalised datasets for targeted outreach



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1	ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಪೆರಟು	ಯಾರ್ನಿ/ಕೂಟು	ಕುಟು	ಲಿಂಗ	ಯಜ ಪತ್ನಿ	ಕೂಟು ಕೂಟು ಕೂಟು	ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ/ಕೂಟು	ಯೂಟು/ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು/ಕೂಟು/ಕೂಟು
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3	2	05/05/2014	ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು	9448816372	ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು	ATM.ಕೂಟು/ಕೂಟು/ಕೂಟು
4	3	05/13/2014	ಕೂಟು/ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು	8971618808	ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು/ಕೂಟು/ಕೂಟು
5	4	05/16/2014	ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು	BPL	ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು	9611154401	ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು/ಕೂಟು/ಕೂಟು
6	5	05/19/2014	ಕೂಟು/ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು	9738946190	ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು/ಕೂಟು/ಕೂಟು
7	6	05/19/2014	ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು		ಕೂಟು/ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು/ಕೂಟು/ಕೂಟು
8	7	05/20/2014	ಕೂಟು/ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು	8971618808	ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು	ಕೂಟು/ಕೂಟು/ಕೂಟು
9	8											
10	9											



(f) GIS applications



Panchayat level gender score card

- Marginalised group's access to entitlements
- Public infrastructure status mapping: drainage, streetlights, roads.



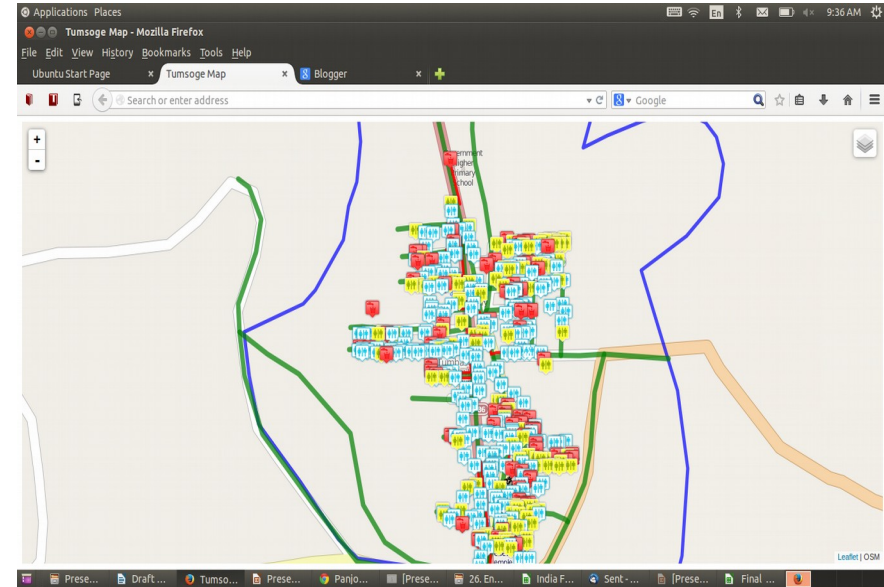
GIS applications

- Backend - Apache or any HTTP Web Server to serve the map on the web to make it accessible via web browser.
- Software - Leaflet.js to display the background openstreetmap layer and various data layers to display custom layers on top of openstreetmap.
- Hardware - GPS device to capture geodata from the ground.



- Thumbasoge: GIS-enabled mapping

- over one-third of the street-lights were not working; irregularities in over 50% of the allotment of toilet subsidies ; and poor drainage facilities in the dalit neighbourhood.



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- The findings were placed before the Gram Panchayat.
- The tangibility that GIS mapping brings to discussions on the performance of panchayats, by generating visual evidence, helped in catalysing healthy debate and dialogue on this issue.

