

# Review of the 'Gender and Citizenship in the Information Society' (CITIGEN) Research Programme

April 26 – 28

New Delhi



## **Info-lady:**

CHANGE AGENTS: BY THE WOMEN FOR THE WOMEN.

An army of information-literate local young educated women equipped with modern ICTs, reach hundreds of households everyday riding a bi-cycle

**It is now a dignified self-employment based profession**

## **Info-ladies: Connected and are Connecting**













Khudja Begum hasn't slept for days. Looking gaunt and tired, she is trying hard to cope with the arrival of her third child - a baby boy she gave birth to a month ago. Begum looks much older than her 25 years and spends all her day looking after her husband and children and doing household chores till she almost collapses late every day at night.

"The only person I get to talk to is my husband and a few women in the neighborhood," she says, adding the cat's even sometimes when she last stepped out of her village in Chaudharpur, let alone see a doctor.

With circumstances like these, it was no wonder for Khindia when Indira's health started contacted her during the early stages of her pregnancy. "I realized I was pregnant only after Latch confirmed it with a test," says Begum, who learned for the first time what the changes occurring in her own body meant for her and how she desperately needed to improve her nutritional levels to birth a son.

Meerba, a woman who "knows more than a man could ever know" has been an empowering experience for Begum, who doesn't want any more children. She has confided in Akhtar her willingness to use birth control measures without the knowledge of her husband, Muhammad Akhtar, a farmer. "There is more than enough if we want a better future for them," says Begum with her newfound confidence. "But don't tell my husband or the milch," she whispers. 200

Watch Author talks on her blog to take information to people in rural areas, including with a video series of world economic and educational issues. <http://www.ajph.org>

## Two-wheel triumph

Armed with a netbook, medical supplies and a bicycle, Bangladesh's InfoLadies are giving millions of poor people access to crucial information on their doorsteps that will improve their chances in life, writes **Davinder Kumar**

**B**reathed, some even start naked, the kids follow her as if she were the Pied Piper of Hamelin. As thousands cheer someone has arrived! The women abandon their shawls and others guff for attention. The men go on their best behavior, smiling with a twinkle of anxious faces.

In the impoverished neighborhood of Gashadadist in northern Bangladesh, a kind young woman on her last is having a dramatic effect. And each night seems to

It took a just a brief meeting with an individual for the one-odd dollar blunder to finally identify the pest that destroyed his one fairly new after post. "The man had the picture of my crop with the one or two [T. confusus] larvae surrounded by myriads of small caterpillars that had gnawed the leaves," says the man, who had spent a lot of time and money seeking government help to control.

This explains why thousands of Bangladeshi doctors have embraced both online and their laptops, which are making lives easier and arguably better. "In rural areas I'm able to provide an instant solution using my database," says Leitch, who is educated in secondary school level. For skin infections, she sends the patient's picture to the organization's call center in Dhaka, where experts help with diagnosis and advice.

"The access to information campaign is strategically framed by women to bridge the divide," says Monica Chakrabarti of the Indian Science Network, an umbrella

Now the government is backing up its agenda. Bangladesh, "we will use the existing volunteer network for delivering

In a place where women routinely give birth in slugs' barns, the men know of little outside their fields, and the world revolves around the local resources, the sight of a

**Corruption and prejudice**  
The success of the India plan is making its failure of the state more palpable. "We have corruption and political interference in every sector," says Gullal Singh, a state executive officer of Jagdish who distrusts Jagdish is severely affected by all these and is in the process of the past. "Even the ultra-poor excluded from food relief are segregated as Scheduled Caste, Scheduled

The many places there are no doctors for miles, and facilities for mother-and-child clinics are very high. An infidelity can save lives," says Shashidhar Hosang of NCCU Odisha Sahasrabhumi Bhagawati. Government statistics show Bangladesh has only three doctors per 10,000 people.

The 2004 United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Human Development Report said over 20% of the country's

Finding a confidence in an Indian

information and public services through public-private partnership," says Muhammad Mahfuzul Kalam, executive director of Bangladesh Computer Council. The approach for development without per capita subsidy has found wide support. ECDF policy expert and adviser to the Bangladesh Prime Minister's Office Anwar Chowdhury says: "The points of ICT is a net, actually generate income. Communities can run it in financially and socially

is a spectacle. The move to an *Atlanta* apartment with gadgets like a notebook, Gold mobile, blood-pressure monitor and pregnancy kit, all *Atlanta* packed to her shoulder bag. "It was a scandal when I started my rounds two years ago with just a mobile phone," says *Atlanta*. "Now it is none of a phenomenon. The is treated like a champion by people whose lives she's saving with each 'breathe machine'."

**Sakia's Skype story**  
It's been over a year since Rustam Ali left his student home in the small village of Khumla, Bhutanese for a PhD in computer science at Tohoku University in Japan. We left his passport with Sakia Penhony behind with her parents in the same village.



Chandhary's happiness was well-served. The solitary and televisual mode he successfully trading self-segmented to providing ancillary services. "It used to be 150 Taka for 300 in travel and charges to get my blood pressure checked in town," says Mohamed Hossain, a longtime resident. "Lately, it's only 10 Taka for 300." And said Hossain is happy to pay 1,000 Taka (\$20 for each course in his 400-seater eatery.

father belongs to a minority band of "lefties," who are piloting a revolution, or who are giving millions of Bangladeshis, trapped in a cycle of poverty and natural disaster, access to information on their journey to improve their status in life.

Forbes, a Duke University postgraduate, soon realized they were separated by technology as well as distance. Expensive mobile phone calls were the only way to communicate. Kawa to chat with her husband on webcam, she found an Internet café - the only one in the area, 10 miles away in Guilin.



There is also concern that the profile ability of the infidelity model and her superwoman style avatar is being tapped as a persona for all of Bangladesh's 150 Farmers' Union, or Manusher Jonno Federation, which promotes good governance, welfare, education and health care in rural areas.

"An individual's notebook is loaded with content eagerly compiled and translated in local Bangla language," says Mohammad Farhad Uddin of D.Net, a not-for-profit research organization that is pioneering access to livelihood information. "In particular, answers and solutions to some of the most common problems facing people in

In February 2002, the artist's first single hit a record high, including a train ride to the peak of summer," says Pennington. She finally gave up when she grew heavily pregnant. But after Tabata's birth, her months ago she was desperate to show him to his father. "I was convinced when a relative told me that [infinitely] Lubyansky provided Skype video calls on her porch for an affordable price.

*Isabella* now designates its rhinos how to feed and their young ones, and was able to do so via a Skype call session.

in laws and parents were equally amazed to see him at the table end. Lubomir's lifestyle isn't new to some segregation among families where men work evenings and who can only afford to visit home every two or three years.

The strategy of third action, however, attracts the critics' indignation. They are busy telling people how to save their crops or spend money on education. It's hard work

villages, 2-3 Bangladesh households nearly those quarters of the nearly 100 million that live in rural areas. From agriculture to health, sanitation and disaster management, the content follows simple text, pictures and engaging multimedia content.

He couldn't believe his luck either. He had seen his own live-on camera at two months old, lying in his cradle in the remote village. He

"It's either freedom or freedom this side, as its time to have something that keeps you going, says Labovitz. "It brings the world much closer for those who are left behind." **EW**

For young students who are new to both math and division, do you have any problems? "Not that often, but I change my slot and get calls from angry or frustrated ones," says Addison. "They just want to know how the daylight, how there all want to marry me after all."



24

27

11





## **Write3**

GLOBAL VENTURE IN CITIZEN'S CROSS MEDIA JOURNALISM.

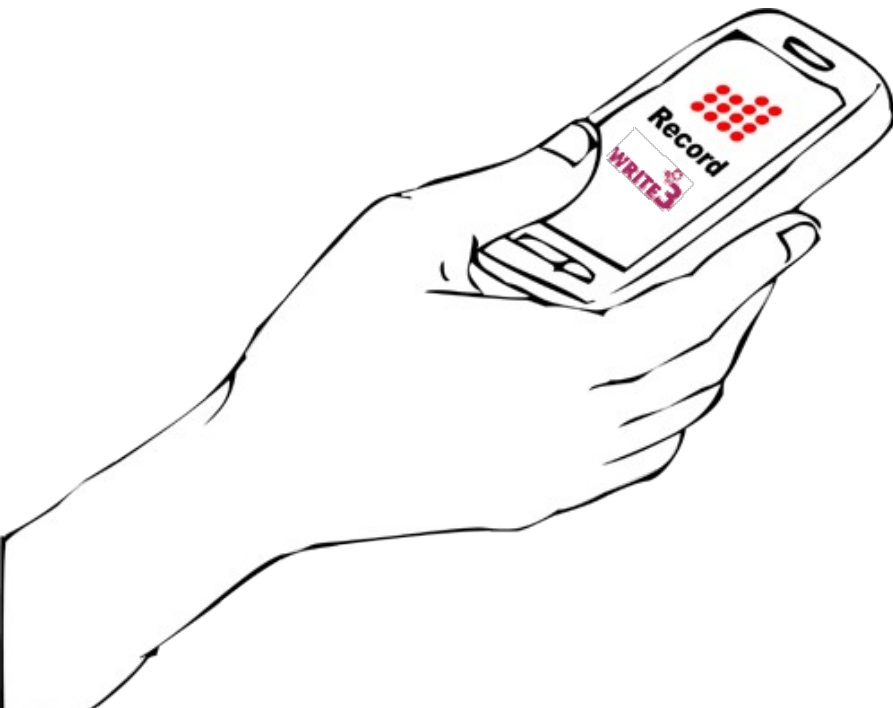
Write3.com is a citizen CROSS MEDIA journalism platform where every individual has an access to it, using the mobile phone. When the access to internet using a PC becomes difficult, you can just use your mobile phone to post your photo, video or write-up on this site thus promoting CITIZEN'S VOICE anytime, anywhere, over any network.

**It is news of the people, by the people and for the people.**



## Write3 Objectives

- to showcase a variety of marginalized voices whilst ensuring accurate and quality content.
- to increase outreach in community voice
- to Introduce new media technology into defining journalism as a social practice
- to ensure freedom of expression and media independence
- to promote social development and economic growth and in empowering citizens
- to promote climate change movement





## Features:

- Journalist signing
- Media registration
- Upload
- Comments
- Make Favorite
- Edit/Post
- Notification
- Create page
- Search
- Add, delete, edit
- Multimedia Article
- MMS, SMS

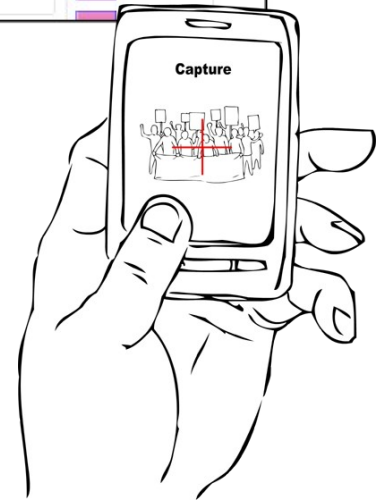




It is news of the people,  
by the people and  
for the people.



be a journalist...





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by the people and  
for the people.



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by the people and  
for the people.



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## Write3.com Citizen Journalism Contest

### Special theme: Women Citizenship

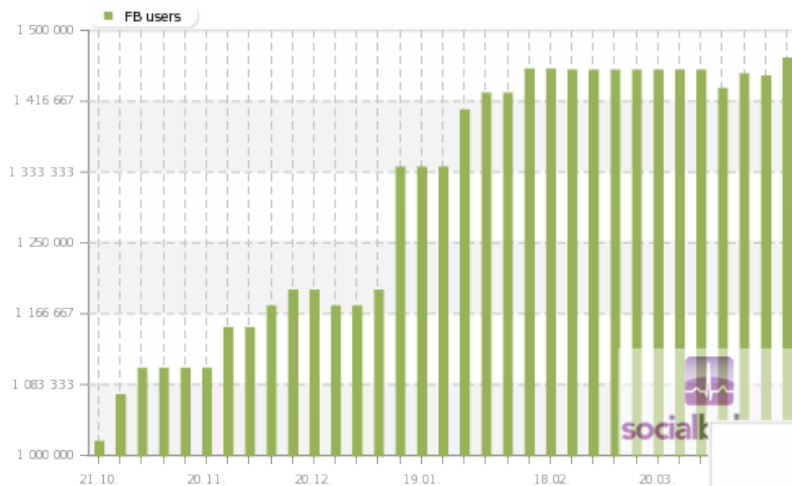
Selected stories are going to be broadcasted in the  
Mainstream media ATN News 24x7 News Channel



**Mainstream Women Organizations are partnered**

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by the people and  
for the people.

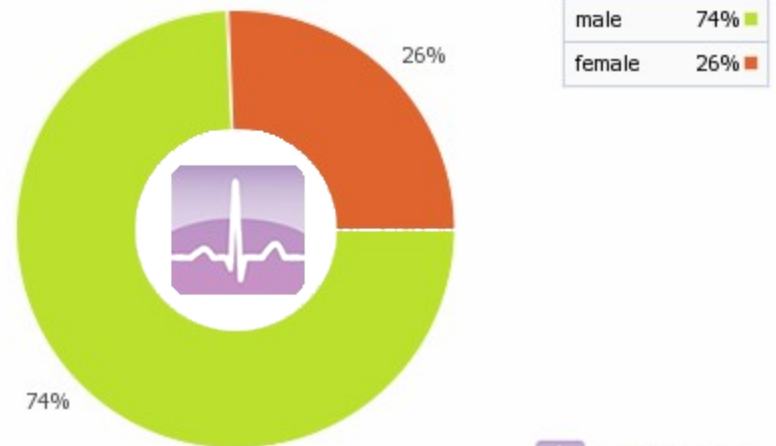
# Women in New Media



## Facebook

**27890 women users  
from outside major cities**

**April 20, 2011**



# More...

**Blog:** ≈1230 women bloggers, many pseudo-name bloggers (as of April 20, 2011)

**Youtube:** 2250+ posting on women rights, women empowerment (as of April 20, 2011)

**Freelancing:** Only 37 women freelancers so far

Sabrina, a physically challenged young lady became runner up in German Radio International Blog contest

# More...

Women are getting victim stalking, blackmail through facebook, youtube and mobile phone

Women are getting connected for pursuing career and getting support in protesting violence

Television is still very strong media both in rural and urban context influencing opinion of women

Radio has become almost obsolete everywhere

Having phone inside house does guarantee women's access