



2020-21 Annual Report



Council for
Social & Digital
Development

Council for Social & Digital Development

AT A GLANCE

The Council for Social and Digital Development (CSDD) stands as a trailblazing research and policy advocacy organization, strategically located at the vibrant crossroads of technology and society. With its headquarters in Guwahati, Assam, within the culturally enriched and predominantly tribal expanse of North East India, CSDD is committed to expertly navigating the intricate landscape where digital progress converges with the diverse tapestry of society.

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MESSAGE

Dear Fellow citizens of the North East India Region,

It is with immense pride and a deep sense of responsibility that I present the first annual report of the Council for Social and Digital Development (CSDD). Established in 2020, CSDD marks a new beginning in our collective journey towards a more inclusive and empowered North East India, driven by the transformative power of social and digital advancements.

The genesis of CSDD lies in the recognition that the North East, despite its immense potential, faces unique challenges in bridging the digital divide. Limited access to technology, inadequate infrastructure, and socio-economic disparities hinders our progress towards a fully inclusive digital society. CSDD was conceptualized to address these challenges head-on, serving as a dedicated platform for research, action research, advocacy, and stakeholder engagement in key aspects of digital inclusion.

Over the past year, CSDD has made significant strides in fulfilling its mandate. We have undertaken research studies to understand the specific needs and challenges of different communities in the region. We have initiated research projects, implementing solutions in collaboration with local stakeholders. Our advocacy efforts have sought to engage together civil society organizations, policy stakeholders, and technology experts to push for inclusive digital policies and programs. We have also fostered knowledge networks and platforms for dialogue, ensuring the exchange of best practices and the co-creation of solutions.

However, we are acutely aware that this is just the beginning. The road ahead demands continued commitment, collaborative action, and unwavering dedication to bridging the digital divide.

In the coming year, CSDD will intensify its efforts in several key areas. We will focus on expanding our research and action research activities, ensuring wider reach and deeper impact. We will strengthen our advocacy initiatives, working towards creating a policy environment conducive to digital inclusion. We will also forge stronger partnerships with diverse stakeholders, leveraging their expertise and resources for greater collective impact.

With optimism and a shared commitment to progress,

Dr Syed S. Kazi

Director, Council for Social and Digital Development (CSDD)

ABOUT US

The Council for Social and Digital Development (CSDD) is a pioneering research and policy advocacy organisation positioned at the dynamic intersection of technology and society. Headquartered in Guwahati, Assam, nestled in the culturally rich and predominantly tribal region of North East India, CSDD is dedicated to navigating the intricate landscape where digital advancements meet the diverse fabric of society.

Key Points

- Research and Policy Advocacy
- Technology and Society Intersection
- North East India Focus
- Evidence Building and Narratives

At CSDD, we strive to unravel the complexities of emerging digital and society-related issues, offering unique insights and evidence-building initiatives tailored to the specific context of North East India.

VISION

Empowering Communities,
Inspiring Change

Council for Social & Digital Development envisions a future where the transformative power of technology is harnessed to empower communities and catalyze positive societal change. We aspire to be at the forefront of creating a digitally inclusive and socially harmonious environment in North East India. Through rigorous research and thoughtful policy advocacy, we aim to foster a region where the benefits of digital innovation are equitably distributed, leaving no community behind.

MISSION

Bridge-Building for
Inclusive Digital Futures

CSDD is on a mission to be a catalyst for inclusive digital development in North East India. Our commitment is reflected in our multifaceted approach

- Evidence Building: Conducting comprehensive research to inform policy decisions and strategies.
- Narrative Creation: Crafting meaningful narratives that highlight the unique digital and societal landscape of North East India.
- Advocacy: Advocating for policies that ensure the responsible and inclusive integration of technology into the region's social fabric.
- Community Engagement: Engaging with communities to understand their needs, challenges, and aspirations, and co-creating solutions for a digitally vibrant and socially inclusive future.

Evidence Building

Advocacy

Narrative Creation

Community Engagement

THEMATIC AREAS



AREAS

CSDD's work is strategically organised into three thematic areas that serve as focal points for our initiatives:

- Research & Advocacy,
- Implementation, and
- Knowledge Networks.
-

These areas represent the core domains through which we channel our efforts to navigate the complex intersection of technology and society. Through meticulous research and targeted advocacy, we strive to influence policies that address emerging challenges.

Our Implementation initiatives bring theoretical solutions into practical realms, fostering tangible impact. Concurrently, our participation in Knowledge Networks underscores our commitment to collaboration, facilitating the exchange of insights and forming partnerships to collectively shape the evolving landscape of social and digital development.



RESEARCH & ADVOCACY

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF NORTH EAST INDIA: AN ANALYSIS

This analysis focusses into the ongoing digital transformation efforts in North East India, recognizing it as a work in progress. Despite government initiatives, the digital landscape faces challenges, with inconsistencies in implementation across states.

The region's inherent laid-back nature poses an additional obstacle to fostering a digitally reliant and progressive community. The analysis identified numerous critical challenges hindering the successful digital transformation of North East India. To address these challenges and promote digital empowerment in North East India, a number of recommendations were proposed. By addressing these challenges and implementing the recommended initiatives, North East India can overcome barriers to digital transformation and pave the way for a more connected and empowered future.



GLOBALIZATION AND THE SIXTH SCHEDULE IN MEGHALAYA- SOME REFLECTIONS

This paper explores the repercussions of globalization on the governance mechanisms outlined in the Sixth Schedule and the Autonomous District Councils in Meghalaya. Globalization, fostering hyper-mobility in the market economy beyond national boundaries, endowed the state's territorial space with a fetish character.

Consequently, protected areas under the Sixth Schedule became increasingly susceptible to transnational market forces. Meghalaya responded by dismantling institutional barriers and regulatory mechanisms in these regions, transforming them into opportunities for private investors. This policy shift, encouraging Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and corporate land acquisition, led to the deregulation of land transfers and corporate investments, ultimately pushing the Sixth Schedule into a state of "terminal crisis."

The proposed project on 'Bridging the Gender Digital Divide in Assam,' project comprises of the following key components cum activities as part of technical collaboration between the partners:

- Survey cum analytical report on 'Bridging the Gender Digital Divide in Assam: Status, Issues, Safety and Opportunities'
- 'Digital Access and Cyber Safe Assam for Women' Seminar / Webinar to discuss issues, challenges and remedies against cyber-crimes on women

BRIDGING THE GENDER DIGITAL DIVIDE IN ASSAM'

- Launch of 'Digital - Cyber Ambassadors / Cyber DOOTS' & organising 'Cyber Safe Assam for Women' Workshop/s
- A 'Bridging Gender Digital Divide in Assam Framework' & 'Cyber Safe Assam for Women' Safety Framework' for institutional responses, remedy and solutions at community, institution and law enforcement levels across the State.

DIGITAL SKILLS INSIGHTS 2021 – Translating Digital Public Policies into Action

This paper focusses into the digital landscape of North East India, a region characterized by over 150,000 effective women-led Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). Despite facing challenges such as geographical isolation, underdevelopment, and limited digital infrastructure, these enterprises, spanning traditional

and emerging sectors, play a crucial role in the region's economic fabric. The digital backdrop, marked by poor connectivity, slow internet speeds, and skills gaps, stands in contrast to the recent commitment of central and state governments to digital policies, particularly emphasized during the COVID-19 pandemic. Against this backdrop, the article aims to scrutinize the necessity, relevance, and capacities for enhancing digital capabilities among women-led SMEs. It seeks to address the need for a supportive policy and business environment, increased digital skills, and heightened awareness regarding the impact of digital policy decisions. The overarching goal is to empower women SMEs to navigate and leverage the evolving technology policy landscape, fostering collaboration for collective advocacy and effective participation in digital incentives. The paper explores how these endeavors can enhance operational efficiency, ensuring alignment with government-defined policy guidelines.



THE ROLE OF THE INTERNET AND INTERNATIONAL INTERNET-RELATED PUBLIC POLICY IN MITIGATING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 AND POSSIBLE FUTURE PANDEMICS

In the context of the ITU CWG-Internet's February 2021 on "The Role of the Internet related public policy in mitigating the impact future pandemics," key insights emerged regarding the challenges and opportunities posed by the pandemic's influence on digital connectivity. The surge in internet traffic during COVID-19 has not been met with improved internet speed, with a 12 percent decline on average. Challenges include centralization of DNS traffic, digital access limited to urban areas, and a lack of computing access, particularly affecting education during the pandemic.

Issues further extend to the fear of pandemic-related cyber threats, increased misinformation, gender digital divide, online harassment, and the rising importance of digital connectivity as an essential service and fundamental right. The need for transparency in internet shutdowns, regionalizing Internet Service Providers (ISPs), standardizing IoTs devices, and ensuring AI deployment for public benefits were highlighted. Additionally, emphasis was placed on recognizing digital connectivity as a fundamental right, with a call for efficient policies and regulatory requirements for fixed wireless access and leveraging 5G to enhance resource utilization. The importance of cloud services in the post-pandemic world was stressed, urging the development of data regulation laws and self-regulation by digital service providers to ensure privacy and safety. Lastly, global collaboration to address common internet governance issues, including multilingual internet access and cybersecurity, was underscored as essential.

DIGITALIZATION & DEVELOPMENT IN NORTH EAST INDIA

This analysis explores the distinctions between 'digitization' and 'digitalization.' Digitization involves the shift from analog to digital, while digitalization employs digital technologies to reshape business models. Recognized as a significant technological trend, digitalization is transforming society and the economy, offering opportunities for education, livelihood, and societal betterment.

Governments and institutions are adopting policies to ensure inclusive digital education.

In the North East region of India, spurred by affordable smartphones and high-speed internet, the area is swiftly becoming one of India's most digitally advanced regions. With a rapidly growing digital consumer base, the region is witnessing a transformative impact on various facets of life.

In the 21st century's communication explosion, with 624.0 million active Internet users as of January 2021, fake news and misinformation pose significant threats to democracy. Deliberately crafted to misinform and deceive, fake news spreads across various platforms, exploiting naivety and ignorance.

NORTH EAST INFORMATION SOCIETY: 2020 YEAR REVIEW

Linked to terms like Misinformation, Disinformation, and Paid news, this surge has led to widespread concerns about its damaging impact on societies and democratic institutions.

Social media platforms, initially intended to enhance lives, have become breeding grounds for misinformation, causing untold suffering. Fear of engaging in genuine news sharing due to the prevalence of fake news has become a notable consequence. Urgent measures are needed to detect and remove such content from all media platforms. The rampant circulation of misinformation, often fueled by hate, not only polarizes communities but also incites unlawful actions. Addressing this challenge is crucial for preserving the integrity of information dissemination and societal harmony

The State Government of Assam has made efforts to enhance the social and economic conditions of the tea tribe community, responsible for 53% of India's tea production. Various public schemes implemented by the State Tea Tribe Welfare Directorate aim to address the community's needs.

**FACTORS DETERMINING
ACCESS TO PUBLIC SCHEMES
INFORMATION AND
ENTITLEMENT BENEFITS FOR
THE TEA TRIBE COMMUNITY**

However, challenges persist in accessing government schemes and social protection measures at the community level. This qualitative study aims to identify specific access-related challenges faced by the tea garden community in Assam, offering nuanced insights to improve the demand and uptake of critical social protection and welfare schemes.



IMPLEMENTATION

Over the past year, the Council for Social & Digital Development has actively executed diverse projects, showcasing our commitment to translating ideas into impactful actions. Explore the following pages for details on our implementation efforts, a testament to our ongoing pursuit of positive societal change and digital development.

NORTH EAST DIGITAL SKILLING & UPSKILLING PROGRAMME (DIGITAL SAMARTH)

COURSE NAME	No. of BENEFICIARIES
PMG DISHA	125
PGDCA (ACVT)	13
DCA (ACVT)	11
BASIC (ACVT)	11
BASIC (CSC)	22
SKILLS COURSE	45





KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS

Council for Social & Digital Development engage in a variety of events covering technology, social development, and community empowerment. Join workshops, seminars, lectures, and panel discussions where experts and enthusiasts share insights, expanding perspectives together.

The 7th eNorth East Award Summit 2019-20

**Psychosocial Care ToT program for implementing partners of UNDP during COVID 19 pandemic:
Organized by NIMHANS, Bangalore and UNDP**

**ITU COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON
INTERNATIONAL INTERNET-RELATED PUBLIC
POLICY ISSUES (CWG-INTERNET): ONLINE OPEN
CONSULTATION on “The Environmental Impacts and
Benefits of the Internet”**



'Sustaining the Pursuit of UN SDG Goals in Post Covid-19 North East India'

7th eNabling North East (enorth East) North East India Regional Online Conference

The screenshot shows a Google Meet window with a presentation slide titled "Impact and Achievements". The slide is divided into four main sections: Students, Teachers, Other Achievements, and Systemic Change. A central yellow circle labeled "Impact and Achievements" is connected to these sections by arrows.

- Students:**
 - Improved interest in curriculum topics - back benchers have become active (HM and teacher interviews)
 - Showcasing 21st century skills like research and analytical skills, authentic learning, knowledge deepening, technical skills (rubric assessment)
 - Computational thinking and collaboration across states (participation in state and national level activities)
- Teachers:**
 - Teachers' shift in pedagogy project based with or without ICT, use of lesson plans in NovVITE Classes.
 - Ownership of ITE-leadership (HM and teacher interviews)
 - Teachers' improvement: Technical skills and use of technology in classroom
 - Beliefs towards technology as an enabler for subject learning (survey)
- Other Achievements:**
 - ITE was presented as the Best Practice by Samagra Shiksha, Assam at MHEID Education Consultation for North-East.
 - Teachers as researchers at international platforms
 - ITE teachers presenting at National ICT Award, 2019.
 - Community based ITE program connecting local community with school.
- Systemic Change:**
 - Budget for training, infrastructure, maintenance, Formation of ITE core group

The meeting interface shows 33 participants in the "People" list on the right. The bottom of the screen shows the Windows taskbar with the time 11:32 on 12-06-2020.

The screenshot shows a Google Meet window with a grid of participants. The "People" list on the right shows 28 participants. The chat window on the right displays a conversation between Dr. Pradip Kumar Sarmah and other participants.

Chat Log:

- Dr. Pradip Kumar Sarmah 12:12: What is the average expenses per students per month
- Dr. Pradip Kumar Sarmah 12:13: yes
- Iban Mawrie 12:15: You can start explaining
- You 12:21: Biswajit paul your presentation is some time later
- a veronica 12:27: Gap analysis before your intervention, how long is this process
- Dr. Pradip Kumar Sarmah 12:34: how you connected with 30,000 community people... How big is your team in ASSAM

The bottom of the screen shows the Windows taskbar with the time 12:35 on 12-06-2020.



7th eNabling North East (eNorth East) North East India Regional Online Conference (Webinar) on

'Sustaining the pursuit of UN SDG Goals Post Covid-19 in North East India'

[With Special Focus on Goal 1-5, 8, 10, 16 & 17]
&
Announcement & Felicitation of Winners &
Special Mentions of 7th eNorth East Award 2019-2020

June 20, 2020 (Saturday)

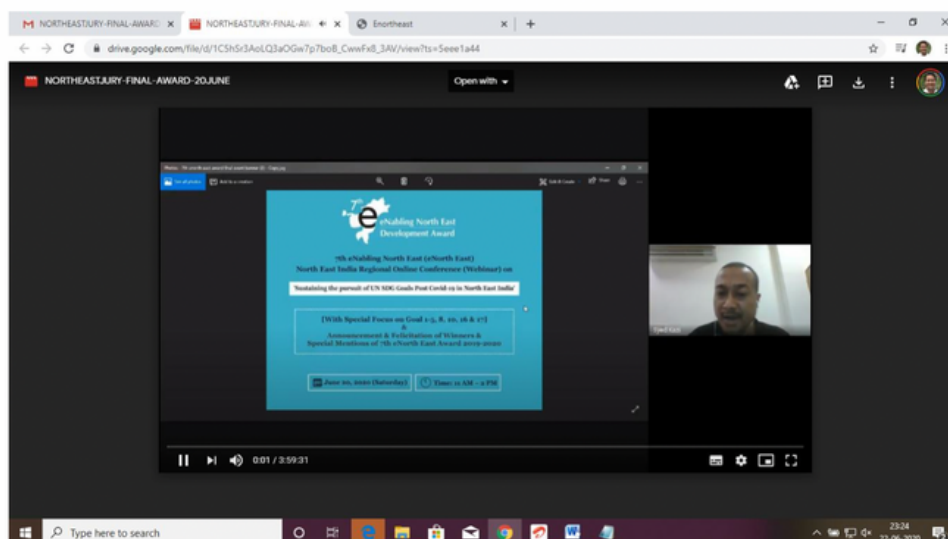
Time: 11 AM – 2 PM



Organisers



Knowledge Partners



FINANCIALS

We thank our stakeholders, especially donors and volunteers, for their crucial support. The Council for Social and Digital Development (CSDD) directs funds to drive positive change at the technology-society intersection in North East India, recognising the significance of financial support for our research and policy advocacy initiatives.

The specifics from the Financial Year 2020-21, showcasing the outcomes resulting from the collective commitment and generosity of our stakeholders, can be found below.

COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL AND DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT CIN: U85300AS2020NPL020529 C/O SYEDA ROUSONARA KAZI SATGAON BAGHARBORI GUWAHATI KAMRUP AS 781022 IN, SATGAON BAGHARBORI GUWAHATI KAMRUP AS 781022 IN, GUWAHATI, KAMRUP, ASSAM, 781022			
Statement of Profit and Loss for the year ended 31 March, 2021			
S. No.	Particulars	Note No.	As on 31 March, 2021
A	Continuing Operations		
1	Revenue from operations (gross)	26	-
	Less: GST	26.a	-
	Revenue from operations (net)		0
2	Other income	27	1,44,000
3	Total revenue (1+2)		1,44,000
4	Expenses		
	(a) Cost of materials consumed	28	-
	(b) Purchases of stock-in-trade	29	-
	(c) Changes in inventories	30	-
	(d) Employee benefits expense	31	-
	(e) Finance costs	32	-
	(f) Depreciation and amortisation expense	33	-
	(g) Other expenses	34	1,33,199
	Total expenses		1,33,199

5	Profit / Loss before exceptional and extraordinary items and tax (3-4)		10,801
6	Exceptional items	35	-
7	Profit / Loss before extraordinary items and tax (5+6)		10,801
8	Extraordinary items	36	-
9	Profit / Loss before tax (7+8)		10,801
10	Tax expense:		
	(a) Current tax expense for current year		2,808
	(b) (Less): MAT credit (where applicable)		-
	(c) Current tax expense relating to prior years		-
	(d) Net current tax expense		-2,808
	(e) Deferred tax		-
11	Profit / Loss from continuing operations (9+10)		7,993
12	Profit / Loss from discontinuing operations	37	-
B	TOTAL OPERATIONS		
13	Profit / Loss for the year (11+12)		7,993

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors

COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL AND DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT

SYED SULTAN KAZI

[DIRECTOR]

DIN:8900528

Place : GUWAHATI

MONICA BANERJEE

[DIRECTOR]

DIN:8900529

Date : 12th August 2021

In terms of our report attached

For M/s. CHARLES & CHANDRASEKAR

Name: CA. S. Rama

Firm No. : 005759S

Membership No. : 133790



udin: U85300AS2020NPL0205

Balance Sheet as on 31 March, 2021

S. No.	Particulars	Note No.	As on 31 March, 2021
A	EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
1	Shareholders funds		
	(a) Share capital	1	-
	(b) Reserves and surplus	2	7,993
	(c) Money received against share warrants	3	-
			7,993
2	Share application money pending allotment	4	-
3	Non-current liabilities		
	(a) Long-term borrowings	5	-
	(b) Deferred tax liabilities (net)	6	-
	(c) Other long-term liabilities	7	-
	(d) Long-term provisions	8	-
			0
4	Current liabilities		
	(a) Short-term borrowings	9	31,899
	(b) Trade payables		
	[(A) total outstanding dues of micro enterprises and small enterprises and (B) total outstanding dues of creditors other than micro enterprises and small enterprises]	10	-
	(c) Other current liabilities	11	-
	(d) Short-term provisions	12	8,708
			40,607
	TOTAL		48,600

B	ASSETS		
1	Non-current assets		
	(a) Property, Plant and Equipment		
	(i) Tangible assets	13	-
	(ii) Intangible assets	14	-
	(iii) Capital work-in-progress	15.A	-
	(iv) Intangible assets under development	15.B	-
			0
	(b) Non-current investments	16	-
	(c) Deferred tax assets (net)	17	-
	(d) Long-term loans and advances	18	-
	(e) Other non-current assets	19	9,600
			9,600
2	Current assets		
	(a) Current investments	20	-
	(b) Inventories	21	-
	(c) Trade receivables	22	-
	(d) Cash and cash equivalents	23	39,000
	(e) Short-term loans and advances	24	-
	(f) Other current assets	25	-
			39,000
	TOTAL		48,600

COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL AND DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT

SYED SULTAN KAZI

[DIRECTOR]

DIN:8900528

Place : GUWAHATI

MONICA BANERJEE

[DIRECTOR]

DIN:8900529

Date : 12th August 2021

In terms of our report attached

For M/s. CHARLES & CHANDRASEKAR

Name: CA. S. Rama

Firm No. : 005759S

Membership No. : 133790



GET INVOLVED

JOIN US IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE



VOLUNTEER WITH US

To apply, send us your applications at csddindia2030@gmail.com



MAKE A CONTRIBUTION : Donate today

To know more about CSDD's work email at csddindia2030@gmail.com





CONTACT US



5th Floor, Girijananda Chowdhury Ln, Bagheswari Than,
Swaraj Nagar, Sarumotoria, Guwahati, Assam 781005



98182 92524
70024 74178



<https://csddindia.in>



csdd@csddindia.in;
csddindia2030@gmail.com