

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23



Council for
Social & Digital
Development



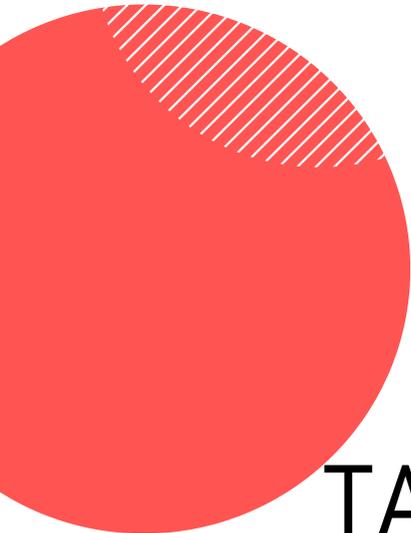


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Message from our Director

Syed S Kazi

Founder & director

Fellow citizens of North East India, It is with immense pride and satisfaction that I present the Council for Social and Digital Development's (CSDD) annual report for 2022-2023. This past year has been a defining one for our organization, a period marked by research, advocacy, implementation, and the building of robust knowledge networks. We have strived to be a catalyst for positive change in the lives of the people of our region, focusing on the crucial pillars of social and digital development.



Research and Advocacy

- We undertook a groundbreaking study on the cybercrimes and digital vulnerabilities of women in Assam, shedding light on the unique challenges they face in the online space. This research has informed our advocacy efforts, urging policymakers and tech companies to create a safer and more inclusive digital environment for women.
- We delved into the intricacies of Rural Women Entrepreneurship (RWE) through a knowledge partnership that combined research and pilot implementation. This initiative, spanning across Assam and West Bengal, has provided valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities faced by rural women entrepreneurs, paving the way for more effective interventions in the future.

Implementation and Knowledge Networks

- Our team played a pivotal role in the preparation of the CSR Report 2020-2021 for North East India, contributing to greater transparency and accountability in corporate social responsibility efforts across the region.
- We actively fostered knowledge exchange and collaboration through workshops, seminars, and conferences, bringing together stakeholders from diverse sectors to share best practices and address critical development challenges. These knowledge networks have become invaluable platforms for collective action and innovation.
- We provided knowledge partnership and project design support for 2 major projects – ‘BOLT- Internet Roshni’ providing internet access and services to vulnerable Tea Tribe & Adivasis in Assam; and pilot implementation of the ‘Rural Women Entrepreneurship’ (RWE) programme in Assam and West Bengal.

Looking Ahead

As we step into the new year, we remain committed to our mission of empowering the people of North East India through social and digital development. We will continue to conduct cutting-edge research, advocate for meaningful policy changes, implement impactful projects, and nurture knowledge networks that drive sustainable progress.

This report is a testament to the dedication and hard work of the CSDD team, our partners, and the communities we serve. We are grateful for your continued support and collaboration. Together, let us build a brighter future for North East India, a future where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.



SYED S KAZI

FOUNDER & DIRECTOR
COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL AND
DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT (CSDD)

WHO ARE WE

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.

Key Points

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

At Council for Social & Digital Development (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

The Council for Social & Digital Development aims to harness technology's transformative power for positive societal change, creating a digitally inclusive and socially harmonious environment in North East India. Through research and policy advocacy, we strive for equitable distribution of digital innovation benefits, 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.

Through these pillars, CSDD endeavors to build bridges between technology and society, fostering a harmonious coexistence that embraces progress while preserving the rich cultural diversity of North East India.



EVIDENCE BUILDING:



NARRATIVE CREATION



ADVOCACY



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



THEMATIC 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

Committed to leveraging technology for societal improvement in Northeast India, the Council for Social & Digital Development spearheads transformative endeavors. Our dedication to Research & Advocacy is apparent in the thorough analysis of baseline data, resulting in meticulous baseline and endline reports for a range of projects. The overview above encapsulates key initiatives, underscoring our commitment to fostering a digitally inclusive future.



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.

ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER (CIRC) & STRENGTHENING THE LOCAL DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM

Soochana Adhikar Kendra Progress Report

Soochana Adhikar Kendra' stands as a collaborative initiative between TATA POWER and DEF, with the Council for Social & Digital Development (CSDD) serving as the dedicated knowledge partner for this transformative project. Together, we are engaged in the execution of a community-based program designed to enhance the livelihoods, skill development, and employability of rural women and youth within the information economy. Simultaneously, we strive to deliver public and private information services to rural clients in a need-based, relevant, and cost-effective manner, embodying our commitment to empowering communities through knowledge and skill enhancement."

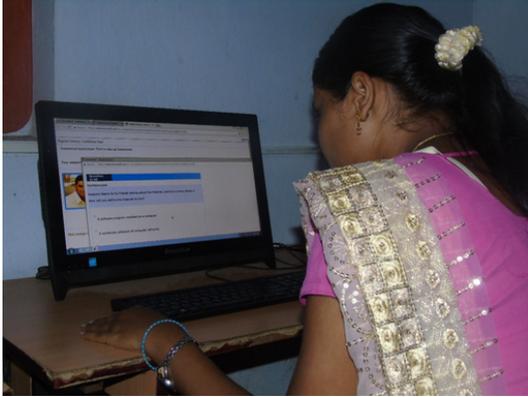


The centers engaged with the community in Muzaffarpur and Samastipur Districts, benefiting 1441 individuals. Of these, 1167 received Digital Literacy training through both online and offline sessions, covering practical computer and smartphone usage. Operational in four centers in Muzaffarpur and two in Samastipur, the activities included Yojana Camps, Digital Literacy training, Online Services, and Social Media awareness. Sochnapreneurs played a vital role in bridging the digital gap, offering online services like ticket booking and job applications, while also educating the community on social media usage. Training covered search engines, email communication, basics of computers and smartphones, internet usage, online health services, and online banking. CSC Centers were established to provide various services, and the ongoing application process aims to expand the reach and impact of the Sochna Adhikar Centers.

NORTH EAST DIGITAL SKILLING & UPSKILLING PROGRAMME (DIGITAL SAMARTH)

Under Digital Samarth, the Council for Social & Digital Development implemented many courses. They are mentioned below along with the no of beneficiaries.

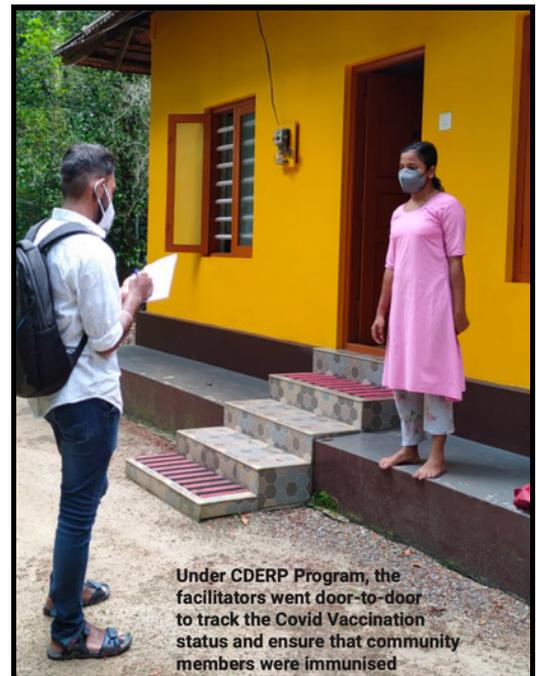
COURSE NAME	No. of BENEFICIARIES
PMG DISHA	195
PGDCA (ACVT)	44
DCA (ACVT)	52
BASIC (ACVT)	44
SKILLS COURSE	56



FIGHTING COVID-19 DISASTER THROUGH DIGITAL INTEGRATION

Under CDERP 3.0 DEF took an integral approach to use its nationwide digital social entrepreneurs to identify affected communities and digitally empowering them to fight the threats and losses and access the rights, entitlements and opportunities.

The C-DERP (COVID Digital Emergency Relief Program) was initiated to combat the third wave of the pandemic and aid vulnerable communities. Operating in 24 states, 130 districts, and nearly 5,000 villages, the program facilitated access to basic needs during the crisis. SoochnaPreneurs, acting as Information Entrepreneurs, served as frontline workers, providing access to government entitlements, education, livelihood, food, and health. In many instances, they were the sole access point for these services. Despite government relief programs, information did not reach all households, and SoochnaPreneurs played a crucial role in raising awareness and assisting with the application process.



The Covid Emergency Relief Programme (CDERP-3.0) was launched during 2022-2023 by the Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) and the US India Policy Institute (USIPI), with Council for Social & Digital Development (CSDD) as a knowledge and project design partner to implement the project by DEF



A training on how to use SkillBot, a self-learning tool to facilitate digital literacy

The initiative aimed to enhance the skills and capacity of communities most affected by the pandemic. CDERP 3.0 sought to provide solutions for essential supplies, social security measures, access to livelihoods, healthcare, education, and financial services.

With a focus on sustainable Response, Relief, Recovery, and Resilience (RRRR), the primary objective was to empower affected communities with access to essential commodities, social protection, digital financial services, alternative livelihood opportunities, and digital skilling consultation and counseling. CDERP 3.0 specifically supported marginalized communities (SC & STs), minority communities, and educationally backward communities across four verticals: health and nutrition, education, rights and entitlements, and livelihood.

CDERP 3.0 Impact: Advancing Gender Inclusion for 60,000 Women

Gender inclusivity has been a central focus throughout the CDERP 3.0 initiative, with substantial engagement from women evident across all verticals during the implementation phase. Activities were strategically designed to include women, such as upskilling initiatives for Self Help Group members and Anganwadi health workers—groups predominantly composed of women.

Efforts extended to need-based training, encompassing mobile phone and social media skills for women involved in project implementation. Within the livelihood vertical, specific emphasis was placed on women's participation. In instances where applicable, computers and tablets were provided to support the establishment of small businesses for persons with disabilities and rural women. The CDERP 3.0 initiative actively prioritized and fostered gender inclusion in all its endeavors.

DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT OF TEA TRIBE & ADIVASIS IN ASSAM :

BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES, LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY (BOLT)

In collaboration with the Council for Social & Digital Development (CSDD), the Internet Roshni project was implemented during 2022-2023, addressing the profound lack of internet access among the Tea Tribe and Adivasis in the challenging Tea Garden regions of Assam. CSDD played a pivotal role by providing knowledge and project design support throughout the initiative. The terrain's specificity and the high cost of infrastructure setup had made the area unattractive for traditional telecom and internet service providers. To overcome these challenges, the project leveraged existing limited mobile data networks, booster devices, and concentrated Community Internet Libraries (CILs) to provide internet access, information, and resources.



The success metrics highlighted several achievements in reaching remote communities:

- **Last Mile Access:** The project provided last-mile internet access to 50 Tea Tribe and Adivasi communities, covering 31 Panchayats in 5 districts, benefiting 13,538 community members.
- **Community Involvement:** Community Internet Libraries, managed by local youths as Soochnapreneurs (Information Entrepreneurs), played a crucial role in enabling access.
- **Integration with PM WANI Scheme:** The project seamlessly integrated with the Prime Minister Wireless Access Network Interface (PM WANI) scheme, ensuring connectivity in line with government initiatives.
- **Empowering Women:** The project facilitated internet access for young girls and women, reaching out to 6,037 individuals with information, opportunities, and services.

In assessing success, the project demonstrated achievements such as channelizing aspirations, overcoming cost and device challenges, providing a voice to the voiceless through virtual communities, ensuring environmentally sustainable access, and offering trusted guidance to the local community in navigating the digital world. The tangible impacts included enabling scholarship applications, facilitating digital wage transactions, and fostering an environmentally conscious approach to internet access.

DIGITALLY ENABLING RURAL WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS (DRWES)

Towards ICT Enablement of RWEs in Assam and West Bengal

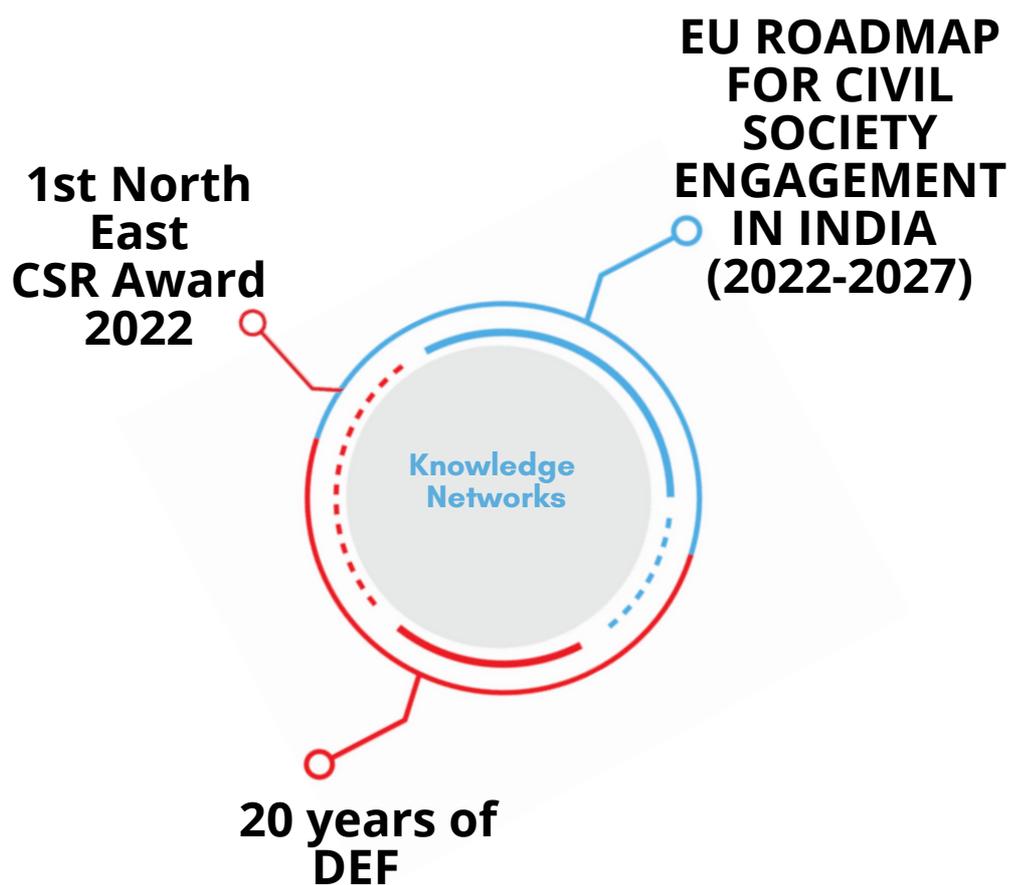
The DRWE is an initiative, led by DEF where CSDD offered essential knowledge and project design support from 2022 to 2023. To enhance the Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLPFR) in Assam and West Bengal, the Big Bets Collaborative (BBC) Programme is dedicated to creating a sustainable entrepreneurship environment for rural women. This initiative focuses on fostering inclusive, technology-enabled, and environmentally sustainable Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The 'Big Bet' aims to empower rural women by scaling entrepreneurship, providing them with agency and independence.



The intervention strategy involves enhancing social infrastructure to encourage and support women entrepreneurs in initiating or scaling business ventures. One critical aspect of the BBC programme for Rural Women Entrepreneurs (RWEs) is to identify and analyze market demand, pricing, profit margins, and sales channels. The pilot phase, conducted in Kamrup and Karbi Anglong districts of Assam and Murshidabad and Nadia districts of West Bengal, targeted seven value chains: Handloom and Handicraft, Livestock, Tea, Agriculture, Food Processing, Piggery, and Dairy.

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.





PARTNERSHIP & SUPPORT

We express our gratitude to our valued partners, allies, interns, volunteers, supporters, and donors who have been steadfast co-travellers on our transformative journey. It is through their unwavering support that we persist in our mission to forge a digitally enabled society where no one experiences digital deprivation, and last-mile connectivity is a reality.

Your collaboration fuels our commitment to bridging the digital divide and creating a future where technology serves as an inclusive force for all.



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 2022-23, showcasing the outcomes resulting from the collective commitment and generosity of our stakeholders, can be found below.

COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL AND DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT				
C/O Syeda Rousonara Kazi, Satgaon, Bagharbori, Guwahati, Kamrup, Assam, India -781022				
CIN No. - U85300AS2020NPL020529				
Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2023				
<i>(All amount in Hundreds, unless otherwise stated)</i>				
PARTICULARS	NOTE	AS AT 31.03.2023 (In Rs.)	AS AT 31.03.2022 (In Rs.)	
A. EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
(1) Shareholder's Funds				
(a) Share Capital	2	-	-	
(b) Reserves and Surplus	3	8,701.71	1,019.79	
		8,701.71	1,019.79	
(2) Non-Current Liabilities				
(a) Long-term borrowings		-	-	
(b) Deferred tax liabilities (Net)		-	-	
(c) Other long term liabilities		-	-	
(d) Long-term provisions		-	-	
(3) Current Liabilities				
(a) Trade Payables	4	-	-	
-Total outstanding dues of micro enterprises and small enterprises		886.07	1,142.40	
-Total outstanding dues of creditors other than micro enterprises and small enterprises		-	-	
(b) Short -Term Borrowings	5	-	-	
(c) Short-Term Provisions	6	2,946.08	626.58	
(d) Other Current Liabilities	7	2,474.70	955.60	
		6,306.85	2,724.58	
Total		15,008.56	3,744.37	
B. ASSETS				

B. ASSETS			
(1) Non-Current Assets			
<i>(a) Fixed Assets</i>			
(i) Tangible Assets		-	-
(ii) Capital Work-In-Progress		-	-
(b) Long Term Loans and Advances		-	-
(c) Deferred Tax Assets/(Liabilities)		-	-
(d) Other Non-Current Assets		-	-
(2) Current Assets			
(a) Trade Receivables	8	5,753.64	1,620.00
(b) Cash and Cash Equivalents	9	5,581.53	279.60
(c) Short-Term Loans and Advances		-	-
(d) Other Current Assets	10	3,673.39	1,844.77
		15,008.56	3,744.37
Total		15,008.56	3,744.37
Summary of significant accounting policies	1		

PARTICULARS	NOTE	For the period from	For the period from
		01.04.2022 to 31.03.2023	01.04.2021 to 31.03.2022
		(In Rs.)	(In Rs.)
INCOME			
Revenue from Operations	11	35,752.88	7,804.24
Other Income	12	17.12	-
Total Income		35,770.00	7,804.24
EXPENDITURE			
Direct Programme Expenses	13	12,042.82	3,955.75
Employee Benefit Expenses	14	7,875.00	60.00
Depreciation & Amortisation Expenses		-	-
Finance Costs	15	17.70	-
Other expenses	16	5,506.48	2,522.05
Total Expenses		25,442.00	6,537.80
Profit / (Loss) Before Tax		10,328.00	1,266.44
Tax expense:			
- Current Tax		2,646.08	326.58
- Deferred Tax		-	-
Profit / (Loss) after tax		7,681.92	939.86
Earning per equity shares			
Basic & Diluted (in Rs.)		-	-
Summary of significant accounting policies	1		

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

As per our report of even date

For Garg Abhishek And Associates

Firm Regn. 028975C

Chartered Accountants





CA Abhishek Garg

M No. 449612

Proprietor

UDIN: 23449612BGWQVW6293

Place: Ghaziabad

Date: 04.09.2023

For COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL AND DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT



Syed Sultan Kazi

(Director)

DIN:08900528



Monica Banerjee

(Director)

DIN:08900529



GET INVOLVED



VOLUNTEER WITH US

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

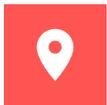


MAKE A CONTRIBUTION : Donate today

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



CONTACT US



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