

ABC Capacity Building Projects

India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal

Report by Dipendra Manocha

OBJECTIVE

- Availability of content in least developed countries
- Building basic library infrastructure to bring in efficiency and accountability
- Compatibility with international standards
- Holistic solution of Kit, Content and Confidence
- Fill technology gaps

CHALLENGES

- Lack of library infrastructure with registration of members with bonafide print disabilities and book distribution system and records
- Lack of capacity to produce accessible digital books
- No connectivity with publishers. Thus all accessible books were to be republished from scratch
- Technology gaps of TTS, OCR, screen reading software, DAISY players and braille conversion software in local languages
- Lack of holistic solution
- Braille presses not connected to new digital book resources

INDIA

Project Activities and Outcome

- Meetings and seminars for orientation, awareness and acceptability: 6 states and 500 beneficiaries
- Collaboration with one Central Government and 9 State Text Book Boards to adopt inclusive publishing policy and work flow.
- Government of Rajasthan adopted policy of preparing master digital files in Unicode based font in EPUB 3 format
- Accessible book production training in 9 states, 125 beneficiaries
- Production of 170 titles covering 40000 pages in accessible format
- 700 students received book reading device with content and training
- Building capacity in 8 braille presses to use available accessible E-text resources

Additional Outcomes due to capacity building programme

- Launch of Multi-agency combine Online library with 320000 titles; 26000 members
- About 4000 daisy player/android devices distributed to end users by Government of India
- 120000 pages covering 300 titles of higher education produced in accessible format
- text books of senior school classes of several States produced by Indian organisations and Bookshare
- Screen reading software and daisy player released in high quality seven Indian languages

Bangladesh

Project Activities and Outcome

- Meetings and seminars for orientation, awareness and acceptability - Given to 100 end users.
- 60 resource persons trained on production of accessible book format
- 40000 pages covering 200 titles of higher secondary and university books produced in accessible format
- 52 students received android reading device
- 110 students received training on usage of android device
- Approx. 500 persons with blindness purchased android devices
- About 50 books downloaded and given to 100 students from ABC Books service
- Till date 3000 direct recipients of accessible books from YPSA library

Bangladesh

Additional Outcomes due to capacity building programme

- Access to Information (a2i) Programme, Prime Minister Office in collaboration with YPSA has been recognised as champion for accessible books project by the UN world Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prizes 2017. ITU.
(<http://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/stocktakingp/en/Database/Search?pld=1449307128>)
- Government of Bangladesh and YPSA produced Bengali language accessible dictionary.
- Draft copyright amendment prepared with exceptions clause
- Android devices, daisy players, NVDA and screen reading software now available in high quality Bengali voice

Sri Lanka

Project Activities and Outcome

- 80000 pages covering 400 titles of educational books produced in accessible format and to be uploaded to ABC books service.
- 50 daisy players provided to teachers with visual impairment.
- 133 persons with blindness or low vision received Awareness and library services user training
- Sinhala language support added in Liblouis
- Development of Sinhala Language OCR

Additional Outcomes due to capacity building programme

- Ratified Marrakesh treaty on October 2016
- Sinhala TTS introduced on Android
- 150 person with blindness are new android users for text only E-pub books
- Books on call, telephony based online audio books library with 300 users
- 67 daisy players, distributed to university students, free of cost, by government of Sri Lanka
- Structured library system with combined catalogue with 2500 titles and 1100 members
- Draft copyright amendment prepared with exceptions clause

Nepal

Project Activities and Outcome

- 56 representatives from 18 organisation were trained on accessible book production
- 25000 pages covering 140 titles produced in accessible format
- 154 students received android devices along with content and training
- ADRAD staff trained for ABC Books service, 21 books downloaded

Additional Outcomes due to capacity building programme

- Marrakesh treaty approved by cabinet, pending approval from parliament.
- Treaty law of Nepal says all ratified international treaties are seen as domestic laws.
- From next year government will start providing book reading devices to students
- Text book publishers have already adopted Unicode based font for their master files.
- Government has adopted a policy to use Unicode based font for all digital content and websites.
- Nepali language goggle TTS released on Android devices

BUDGET

Country	Amount	Funded By
India -Saksham	49,600	Government of Korea
India - Skoll Foundation project	49,800	Skoll Foundation
Bangladesh	58,940	Government of Australia
Sri Lanka	55,325	Government of Australia
Nepal	47,640	Government of Australia
Total	261305	