

## **Empowerment of farm women through ICTs –**

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Empowerment of women is understood as building the ability and skills of women to gain insight of actions and issues in the external environment which influence them, and to build their capacity to get involved and voice their concerns in external processes in order to make informed decisions. It entails building up capacities of women to overcome social and institutional barriers and strengthening their participation in the economic and political processes for an overall improvement in the quality of their lives.

The need to use information and communication technology (ICT) in empowering farm women can be understood in two ways. Access to information is the key for economic, social and political empowerment of women. ICT poses new forms of learning, education, and health services, livelihood options that would lead to the ultimate goal of farm women's empowerment. The second reason why ICT should be used for women's empowerment is because ICT have the potential to digitally link each and every woman in the world in a network, which opens up endless possibilities for information exchange. This mechanism could be used by farm women in creative ways, both to communicate with other people who are on- line, and also to disseminate information to people in the outside world who are not on-line through the use of convergence and hybrid technologies such as community e-mails, community radio broadcast, tele-centres, newsletters, videos etc. This mechanism forms the skeletal process through which rural women communities could overcome the constraints of marginalization and seclusion, mobilize resources and support, reach out new markets, and open up avenues for life-long learning.

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) are a diverse set of technological tools and resources to create, disseminate, store, bring value-addition and manage information. There has been world-wide recognition of the importance of ICTs as tools to promote women's empowerment, rights and dignity and full participation in the information society by providing immense possibilities for enhancing women's participation in socio-economic and political development for poverty reduction, improve quality of life and achieve gender equality. ICT does not include only the Internet but a gamut of other tools which could be used individually or in convergence with each other to catalyze the process of change in a manner which reduces the skew in knowledge distribution between rich and poor, educated and uneducated, rural and urban, and men and women. There had been many successful applications of ICTs which included the internet and/or the gamut of convergence technologies such as community radios, tele-centres, information kiosks, internet radio, mobile phones, Local Area Network and WAP applications for rural women all over the world India. ICTs as they have tremendous potential and spatial advantage for sharing information sources and knowledge.

### **Concept of Knowledge networking**

The process of synthesis of knowledge possessed across communities, by men and women, with the global pool of knowledge with the scope for further enrichment lays the genesis for knowledge networking. Knowledge networking opens up a new way of interactive communication between government bodies, NGOs, academic and research

institutions, and the civil society. It helps communities, both men and women, to take appropriate steps to recognize and document the knowledge they possess and in reflecting this knowledge in a wider social domain for directed change through the use of information and communication technologies.

Gender mainstreaming becomes a crosscutting theme in all these issues. There is an underlying need to shape the knowledge networks to deliver benefits to all segments of the population so that they are responsive to the poorest and the most disadvantaged communities, which include the women folk especially in rural areas. It is significant to note that engendering of knowledge networks rests on an operational framework that values the contextual knowledge possessed by women and recognizes their capacity to take judicious action based on a given knowledge set. Surveys of women innovators in Kenya and the Philippines show that women's inventions tend to have direct application to improving family and community well being or increasing efficiency. Examples include a power tiller built to farm women's physical specifications and their agricultural practices, and a fireless cooker. Support of women's existing technology activities, recognition of their role as possessors of most of the indigenous knowledge in developing countries, and support of their potential for contributions to community development therefore becomes one of the critical requirements for engendering knowledge networks.

Engendering of knowledge networks opens up avenues for farm women to freely articulate and share their experiences, concerns and knowledge with the possibilities of their further enrichment as the same pass through a gamut of network users. They are instrumental in helping women break from the stereotypical structures and narrow outlooks of the society and from the hegemony of male dominated societal structures. Other benefits include objective and targeted information flows, low communication costs, sharing of best practices and solutions, and opening up of alternate communication channels with farm women, hitherto un reached or under-serviced, and accomplish a deeper geographic penetration.

Through improved use of information and communication technologies, farm women can broaden the scope of their actions and address issues which were previously beyond their capacity. Engendering knowledge networks therefore bridges the knowledge gap existing between rural men and women, builds up awareness among the women communities and their representative leaders, and encourages their informed and active participation in areas which influence them. Knowledge networking models however need not be confined within the closed boundaries of information flows but have the potential to evolve as alternate institutional models for developmental promotion. A range of ICT- models have been used to support the empowerment of women all around the world. In Africa, groups such as the Africa Women's Network of the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) have conducted training workshop to support electronic networking among women's group. In Uganda, the Forum for Women in Democracy uses the Internet and e-mail to research issues for the country's female MPs, and Women's Net is a similar initiative in South Africa. Knowledge networking catalyses the process of women's empowerment as it is based on the mechanism of knowledge sharing and provides avenues for women to come together, build up consensus on issues that affect them and act strategically to maximize benefits through different approaches. Similarly such approaches would also strengthen the women federations in rural India.

## **Knowledge networks in employment of women**

As a result of the ICT, a high proportion of jobs outsourced by big firms are going to women. Women can now work as information intermediaries between internet and rural folk, who may be agricultural extension agents, or community workers to pass on useful information from internet to local people from anywhere and at anytime and raise that extra income to become more financially independent and empowered. Recently, companies like Ford and General Electric have moved their back-end operations to Asia and employ a large number of women workers having basic information technology and data management skills. New areas of employment such as tele-marketing, medical transcription etc. have also opened up tremendous job opportunities for women. Interestingly, knowledge networking itself requires skilled and trained knowledge workers for disseminating value added information. Jobs such as kiosk operators in information kiosks also have started to go to women.

## **Knowledge networking in creating entrepreneurship for women**

One of the most powerful applications of ICT is electronic commerce. This e-commerce in the context of women's empowerment refers not just to business transactions online but to the promotion of new class of IT savvy women entrepreneurs with adequate technical training. ICT is capable of influencing the entrepreneurial behavior of women by improving their innovativeness, decision making ability, access to various services and ability to coordinate various activities and people. In Mexico, two thirds of small scale women entrepreneurs use computers. In Guyana, a woman run organization, Rupumuni Weavers Society sold large hammocks from locally grown cotton over the Internet to people all over the world very successfully. The best known of the ICT enabled business story is perhaps that of Village Phone Programme in Bangladesh by Grameen Bank. The Bank promoted micro enterprises among women through a wholly owned subsidiary called Grameen Telecom, which enabled women to retail phone calls on their cellular phones, which could be bought with the help of loans from the bank itself. As of October, 2003, a total of 39,000 number of village phones are in operation in nearly 28, 000 villages of 58 districts in Bangladesh.

Significantly, a number of non-profit organizations have diversified their services to provide support to entrepreneur women. PEOPLink (<http://www.peoplink.org/>) is one such non-profit organization that has been helping women communities traditionally involved with handicrafts to put their products on-line in the world market. It is building up a global network of Trading Partners (TPs) that, in turn, will provide services to several community-based artisan producer groups. It equips the TPs with digital cameras and trains them to capture images and edit them in a compressed format suitable for transmission via the Internet. The images of the crafts are placed on the PEOPLink web-page and efforts are made to promote them to retail and wholesale buyers in the industrialized countries. Another project led by Technology Livelihood Development Centre (TLDC) in partnership with Technology Learning Resource center (TLRC) has been assisting women group in Nueva Vizcaya in Philippines integrating with Farmers Information Technology Services (FITS) for marketing their products and exporting to foreign countries like Australia.

ICTs can be gainfully utilized to provide useful information in a preferred format and e business, for the rural women entrepreneurs wherein the Government and private sector organisations could collaborate to bring in sustainable development in livelihoods of farm women or rural women as seen in the example given below where in the ICAR institute is collaborating with two NGOs in Nalgonda district for empowering farm women through agriculture information and facilitating e business to bring about sustainable development in their liveli hoods.

### Knowledge Networks and value-added services to women

Knowledge networks open up alternate channels of communication, which have the potential to deliver the right information to the right person in the least possible time. This attribute of knowledge networks could be harnessed in a number of innovative ways in areas such as sustainable agriculture, tele-medicines, distance-education etc. for the benefit of women communities in rural areas. SEWA Bank in India uses the development communication wing of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) to reach remote villages. Discussions on topics like Panchayati Raj (village governance institutions), women in development, nursery raising of animals and forestry management, savings and credit are beamed to different villages through the use of satellite cable. The viewers can phone in their enquiries that are answered promptly by a panel of experts. Further, village Villianur of Pondicherry in India has become the hub of an information revolution. People in the village, are connected through an on-line database which helps them access required information in their vernacular language. This novel experiment organized by the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) as part of its Bio-Information Village Experiment begun in December 1998 has transformed Villianur into the centre of a local area network. The villagers congregate around the centre to get connected with the latest local news. Women get all sorts of information starting from price of vegetables to health services. Distance education is yet another one of those significant areas where women stand to gain tremendously. Internet and television broadcasts open up avenues for women to continue with their education at their own pace and from the confines of their homes even after having discontinued it due to family or social responsibilities. Cyberbarangayan is another NGO led programme in Philippines that aimed at promoting computer literacy and providing livelihood and employment opportunities among the villagers, wherein 60 percent of trainees included women who availed micro credit services.

Name	Product	Price (Rs.)	Available
Women SHGs of Aepoor, Dupahad and Gundrampalli	Germinated & Dried	100/- per Kg	Will be prepared fresh and supplied on order
	Without Germination	70/- per Kg	
	Nirgondi Tailam	70/- per 100 ml	
	Henna Powder	120/- per Kg	
	Moringa Leaf	5/-per100 grams	
	Dried	10/-per 100 grams	

The Kotmale Internet- radio project in Srilanka funded by COL is aimed at discussing current issues concerning the rural community through recording community discussions and broadcasting from Community Broadcasting stations. This effort is strengthened by the Open University Rural Research Unit by undertaking adaptive research in collaboration with rural communities to identify the areas of concern and to facilitate capacity building for addressing the problems faced by them. There are several such innovative models that need to be tried out and replicated on a much larger scale through the involvement of public and private agencies to provide better and value-added services to women with the help of ICTs.

The unrestricted flow of information through ICT processes opens up avenues for men and women to view each other from a different perspective. The sharing of views between communities living in different geographical and cultural sphere will lead to broadening of views and changing of mindsets over time. It is a fact that horizontal level of communication has a greater impact than the vertical communication structures and knowledge networking promotes horizontal flow of information. Men may learn more about the productive roles of women in the wider economy in different cultures and regions, and may become more willing to provide equal spaces to women. The removal of this stereotypical mindset would certainly be a big step towards the empowerment of women especially in rural areas.

### **Barriers in achieving/ realizing the potential of ICTs for farm women**

Keeping in mind that there are indeed potential positive effects of technology on women's lives and a woman's learning, it is important that the barriers to achieving these positive effects be explored and analyzed. Outlining the barriers to women's use of technology and how current practices serve to exclude and/or negatively affect women has drawn the interest of many researchers. Some of the obstacles that must be overcome in order to use technology to best benefit women have been focused on two principal themes that emerge as barriers for women:

#### **Economic barriers**

Economic barriers to women's use of technology are very common and well documented (O'Rourke and Schachter 1997). The cost of buying and using a computer, or other communication technology, remains high and prevents many farm women from having access to computers as a tool to help them in their lives. Purchasing hardware and software is often only the beginning in terms of cost, with Internet access and email often increasing the costs to individuals. Not only is the initial cost of purchasing a computer high but the constant need to upgrade and buy new tools in order to keep up with the technological aspects of computer software and web sites add more cost. The cost of access to communication technologies remains a barrier to women's participation, and without access for all women, the potential for technology to positively affect farm women's lives will only be felt by those who are already privileged enough to be able to afford the cost.

Economics also present an obstacle to women's participation in the use of communication technologies in terms of time. Learning to use new communication technologies requires time commitments from individuals that only the more privileged are able to make. Women who work and take care of family often do not have the time to invest in learning about new communication technologies and their possibilities, let alone having the time to learn how to use them and integrate them into their lives.

Many of these economic issues are exacerbated by the lack of funding available to women and women's groups to help them incorporate and use communication technologies. Increased funding to women and groups that serve them and their families would greatly alleviate some of the economic difficulties and would help to provide more equal services to women in all developing countries like India. Without funding for individual women and women-supportive groups to help them to purchase communication technologies and train themselves and other women, economic issues will remain a significant barrier to women's participation in educational activities provided by these technologies.

Access to communication technologies is often reserved for those who are already privileged in society. Those with money, education, time, and support are often able to participate in ways that others cannot. Women who are institutionally affiliated (whether academic, corporate, or private sector) are more likely to have access to technology than those women who are not. In the context of education, literacy is an important determinant. New communication technologies such as the Internet and e-mail use text very heavily. For those with lower levels of education or those who have difficulty reading large amounts of text, these technologies do not appear very useful. The current problem is that underprivileged groups such as those with low socio-economic status and low levels of education are not likely to get the opportunity to participate in the discussion and use of these technologies. The economic barriers pose an increased problem for those groups in society that are already underprivileged. If concerted efforts are not made in order to improve the abilities of underprivileged sectors of society to use new communication technologies, a widening digital divide and the resulting increase in social stratification should be expected.

### **Awareness barriers**

In addition to the lack of economic resources to support women and women's groups integrating new communication technologies in their everyday lives and activities, there is also an awareness barrier that must be overcome before the full, positive potential of communication technologies in women's lives can be realized. There are three types of awareness issues that act as obstacles to women's use of communication technologies: awareness of personal ability, awareness of the utility of communication technologies, and awareness of available resources.

One of the most fundamental barriers that must be encountered and overcome before new communication technologies have the ability to positively affect women's lives, is the lack of personal awareness many women have of their skills and abilities in relation to technology. Many women express fear and anxiety when introduced to new communication technologies because of a perceived lack of knowledge and awareness (McDonald and Spencer 2000). Without the realization that they have many skills suitable for use with technology, women will have difficulty getting beyond their fear and understanding the possibilities that communication technologies hold for their lives.

A second awareness barrier faced by many women is the lack of knowledge about what communication technologies are useful for and possibilities they hold. Women approach communication technologies as tools and need to understand their utility before they invest

their hard-earned time and money in them. There needs to be increased awareness created through trainings, meetings, and campaigns about the possibilities communication technologies hold for women and their lives, before those possibilities will be embraced and fought for by women.

The third awareness barrier that needs to be addressed is the lack of knowledge about available resources to help women to learn more about and use communication technologies. For those women who have overcome the previous two awareness barriers and wish to learn more about communication technologies and benefit from the possibilities they can offer, there is little information available to help them. While both government and community-based programs for funding and training exist in India, many of these are not widely advertised and remain unknown to the vast majority of women. Moreover, there are other opportunities that surface regularly, but no efficient and useful way for women to be kept aware of them. This lack of information concerning resources available to help women learn about and use technology prevents many women and women's groups from accessing those resources. Given that women's economic and time constraints are often barriers to their participation in using communication technologies, increased awareness of these resources would greatly benefit many women.

### **Overcoming the barriers**

The barriers to women's use of new communication technologies, as discussed above and in other reports, are complex and interrelated. This results in difficulties when attempting to provide solutions to the problems. There are numerous possible ways to overcome the barriers as there are many different ways to approach the issues.

In terms of overcoming the economic barriers leading to a lack of access to communication technologies, efforts must be made to reach marginalized groups and encourage and support their engagement with technology. One of the best ways to reach marginalized groups is to gain access to existing and well-established networks. These could include community and resource centers, support groups, rural community groups, and strong 'virtual' communities (such as Senior Net). Projects could use these groups' information dissemination channels to keep individuals well informed of different types of opportunities that can help them further their skills and knowledge in regards to technology.

Supporting and training the people that sustain community-based networks and centers is, to a certain extent, more practical than trying to help each individual member. Providing resources, up-to-date information, and training for the community centre staff and volunteers can make them better equipped to help their members learn basic or more advanced technological skills, gain access to training programs, and more generally, motivate them to learn more by keeping them informed of the many opportunities that already exist. Other forms of support are also necessary to ensure that all women can participate and benefit from the information disseminated through community centers and networks: child care arrangements for women attending workshops and training, training sessions and other types of activities to help women further their education and working skills and resources (access to a computer) so that women are able to successfully complete distance education courses, etc.

In order to overcome some of the awareness barriers discussed above, a database of resources and opportunities for women in relation to new communication technologies should be established. The development of a large resource centre that lists all learning, training, and funding opportunities from educational institutions (including formal, non-formal, experienced- based, etc), government programs (such as Canada's Community Access Program, VolNet, and School Net), and co-operative style programs would help to make more women aware of theresources and opportunities available to them and help to increase general awareness of the possibilities that exist in relation to new technologies and women's learning.

In order to make this database useful for a wide spectrum of women, information would need to be disseminated in non-electronic formats as well as electronic ones so that people without access to the necessary technology will also be aware of existing opportunities. Up-to-date information regarding funding opportunities, especially under-publicized and under-utilized government programs should also be disseminated through as many means possible. This will help to raise awareness and make these programs more visible.

As women become aware of the possibilities and opportunities new communication technologies offer them, established networks may be used to create virtual ones. By connecting existing networks through technology, people will become more aware of what other networks and support and information systems exist. The more women can identify with others and develop a "network consciousness," the easier information sharing will be. In other words, solidifying links between community learning and other types of centers and the various groups that work toward social justice and equity will strengthen the community-based sector by creating a strong network identity.

The problem of a lack of awareness of personal skills relating to communication technologies may be overcome through the approach taken in introducing women to technology and in training them to use it. By avoiding top-down, non-interactive, centralized information and knowledge, it will be possible to foster a horizontal-type culture of information dissemination which should allow women to participate equally and feel that their skills and knowledge are valued.

The image displays two screenshots of web portals designed for women's empowerment and agricultural information. The left screenshot is titled 'Indigenous plants and their uses' and features a table with columns for Picture, Botanical Name, Common Name, Vernacular Name, and Purpose. The right screenshot is titled 'Biodiversity' and includes a picture of a plant and a detailed description of its medicinal uses.

Picture	Botanical Name	Common Name	Vernacular Name	Purpose
	<i>Custard apple</i>	Vaidi grape, Vaidi grape, Winged treebine	Hallelu (Telugu), Hajo (Hindi)	Curing Arthritis బిల్వము తేలు తయారు చేయడానికి ఉపయోగపడుతుంది.
	<i>Shoe flower</i>	Mandara	(Telugu)	Flowers are useful for purification of blood, gynec problems. Leaves are useful for anti dandruff. రక్తశుద్ధికి మరియు స్త్రీలకు సమస్యలకు, ముత్యం అంటుంటుంది. దుంపిని తయారు చేయడానికి ఉపయోగపడుతుంది.
	<i>Neem</i>	Vepa	(Telugu)	Neem discoloration is used as bio-pesticide against Helicoverpa. అణచివేయడానికి ఉపయోగపడుతుంది. దుంపిని తయారు చేయడానికి ఉపయోగపడుతుంది.
	<i>Custard apple</i>	Sethabam	(Telugu)	Leaves are ground into powder and then boiled for half an hour. This boiled liquid is then purified and then water is added. This liquid is used for spraying against Red gram pod.

Attempts should also be made to sensitize women to the commercial and governmental imperatives that shape technology and its uses, as well as to women's historical role in shaping technologies (such as the telephone and, more recently, email communication for



mobilization)to help them develop an ability to act at the local level from a global perspective. In order for these strategies for overcoming the barriers to become realities, more than material and financial resources are needed. If the goal is to create sustainable models that promote women's education and advancement in society I rural areas, new forms of societal participation and production must be created so that women can become more involved in current and future learning and training opportunities.

### **Setting up prototype ICT models**

Women will not be able to benefit from knowledge networking processes unless specific ICT- models are created which are targeted to the needs of the local women community. This learning could then be disseminated by creation of start-up CD-ROMs or websites that contain information and the necessary software tools for setting up simple ICT models that women can initiate at the community level. For example, prototype models of a web-site which displays e- mail and postal addresses of all the local district level government officials could be created so that women could use e-mail or e-mail-to-fax technologies to influence local area governance. Models may also be created on the lines of setting up virtual shops for marketing of local handicraft and skills or on how to search for information pertinent to the local women community such as on health issues, horticultural information etc. Further, emphasis needs to be given to the creation of gender sensitive local content portals that would encourage local participation and lead to generation of knowledge relevant to local communities.

### **Building partnerships**

In order to build effective and sustained engendered knowledge societies - it is necessary to involve strategic stakeholders from both the public and the private sectors. These include government bodies, corporate firms, financial institutions and the NGOs. Fostering corporate partnership in ICT ventures and raising venture capital funds for social development projects become important lines of thought. This could be done through a plethora of ways such as ICT based advertisement, using existing corporate infrastructure for opening of tele-centres, bringing about transfer of technical expertise from corporate to the development sector etc. Through the World Computer Exchange (<http://www.worldcomputerexchange.org>), for example, brokers donate working, surplus, Internet-accessible computers and monitors from large U.S. companies and ship them to schools in developing countries to facilitate the use of technology and experiential education in education reform. There is a need to explore many more such useful models of participation of the private sector in social development projects.

From a macro-level perspective, there has been very little research done to understand the information needs of women in terms of the strategic information they wish to receive or produce. A knowledge-sharing model that puts women in greater control over the kind of information they need and produce becomes fundamental to the empowerment for women. For an all encompassing knowledge networking which empowers the women, thegovernmental and international agencies need to follow an innovative approach to ICT based knowledge networking supplemented by start-up and capacity-building support, and making full use of available technologies in the simplest ways.

Incubator initiatives therefore need to be launched for the creation of dynamic, result-oriented ICT models that focus on social benefits rather than individual profits. UNDP, for example, in partnership with the Cisco systems have started the NetAid Initiative (<http://www.Netaid.org>) that uses the Internet to fight extreme poverty. This has resulted in not just flow of funds but technical expertise and skilled human resource power from corporate entities to explore new ways of eradicating poverty. The NetAid recently launched its Mother and Baby Survival Program to provide cleaner and safer environments for childbirth to expectant mothers and newborns in Rwanda. This programme is based on generating funds through individual donors in the North using e-commerce tools. Prospective donors can log on to the web-site and donate on-line which will make it possible to provide "mother and baby survival kits" to mothers in Rwanda at an affordable cost. Needless to say, this innovative ICT- initiative has met with tremendous success.

### **Strategies for efficient utilization of ICTs for women**

- Inculcate confidence in women and security in the use of ICTs
- Promote close cooperation between Internet Service Providers & consumers to incorporate a gender perspective in codes of conduct and guidelines on internet content.
- Promote positive use of the internet through capacity building
- ICT capacity building in women's organizations to enhance their capability to transfer knowledge to their target groups
- Encourage ICT industry to develop applications for young girls that will promote positive self-development and computer skills
- Encourage development of locally relevant content in local languages by and for women, design content to overcome barriers of literacy
- Include gender perspective and coordinate gender activities in all domains of national ICT policies and legislation including education and that all stakeholders including women's organizations participate in the drafting
- Compile best practices of women in ICT and education, and promote their dissemination including through libraries, databases, fora and websites
- Promote awareness of ICT to rural women through broadcasting media and demonstrate the benefits of ICT in exhibitions and other fora
- Provide affordable ICT assets, resources, and bandwidth to rural areas through community access points such as tele-centers
- Support the development of IT interface language and local content related to activities such as crafts, handicraft, agriculture, fisheries, livestock, savings and loans for women
- Strengthen ICT based network opportunities by building on existing women's community network
- Encourage the development of partnerships between and among governments, NGOs, private sector, corporations, community, academic institutions, and different stakeholders to promote information sharing and entrepreneurship development
- Mobilize resources to invest in ICT for development with specific reference to the advancement of rural women

## **Conclusion**

Knowledge networking through ICT has created high expectations in terms of opportunities for women. However, it needs to be realized that information and communication technologies by itself cannot be an answer to all problems standing in the way of women empowerment but it does bring new information resources and can open new communication channels for the marginalized communities such as women. It offers new approaches for bridging the information gaps through interaction and dialogue, building new alliances, inter-personal networks, and cross-sectoral links between organizations. The benefits include increased efficiency in allocation of resources for development work, less duplication of activities, reduced communication costs and global access to information and human resources. Last, but not the least, the inception of ICT has opened a window for lifelong learning for women. Learning and training continues throughout women's lives as new skills and competencies gain value, and this ensures that avenues for women to expand their roles from household economy to a wider market economy remain forever open. Therefore, an effective policy towards initiating socially and economically viable ICTs would go a long way towards empowerment of the future generations for a better world.

## **Learn to use Cell phone & internet for networking**

- Using cell phone to send SMS, Group SMS and making speed dial.
- Using internet sites like Way 2 SMS, Full on SMS etc., to send SMS & Group SMS at free of cost.
- Sending email, Vernacular email to individuals and groups, ex: using Google translation and transliteration functions.
- Database to be created to fulfill the vertical and horizontal networking needs for efficient functioning (list to include fellow women members of SHGs, contacts of relevant GO, NGO and Private organisations, institutions, relevant stake holders, customers for the products etc.)
- Required information, for example, on fields like Name, Designation, Organisation, Address, Cell, Office /Residence phone, email address etc. for the tables to be designed for database using MS Access (by using professional help) for enabling automatic and online updation. This will be useful for dynamic search and reports.
- Learn to use developed database for fulfilling networking and information needs