ACODE
Art and Collective for Digital Empowerment

LANDSCAPES
OF HOPE
AN INTERNATIONAL NETWORK
FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

DEF
DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT *foundation*

Festive Meet of
ART AND COLLECTIVE FOR DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT

REPORT

Festive Meet of Art and Collective for Digital Empowerment

A-CODE (Art and Collective for Digital Empowerment) is a collective created with the support of various organizations and individuals who are going to work together to find art and expression, culture and heritage. With a larger goal to advocate for the inclusion of arts in social change, our network members use art in various formats to express themselves and tell the world how we can develop as a community.

A-CODE network members have been collaborating with each other through various digital platforms. We hosted the 'Festive Meet of Art and Collective for Digital Empowerment' to provide a space of art and culture to amplify the voices of marginalised communities and raise issues of human rights.

Let Puppets Talk on Data Rights

The festive meet started with a puppet show by the team of Barefoot College from Tilonia, on the importance of data inclusion and rights-based activism. With the use of Kathputli art form, the team presented a narrative of how the world is increasingly becoming more digital but the divide between the urban and rural landscape is deepening the social and economic marginalisation of the communities due to lack of access and digital tools, knowledge of digital rights and financial digital literacy.

Let's Decode A-CODE

A visual presentation on the inclusion of arts in social change and the journey of A-CODE so far was presented by the cohort members.

Watch this video to hear their stories

RITWIKA PAGARI

Council for Social & Digital Development

"Ever since the Pandemic, we saw there were numerous reports of violence against women increasing, which included cybercrimes. We researched and realized that in 2020, 50,035 cases of cyber crimes were reported in one year alone. Through research studies, we got to know women from minority communities tend to be more vulnerable, and more susceptible to such crimes. So, through this study, we will try and find out that the location, rural or urban, access to highways, digital excess, etc. if are factors for this."

Ashwini Singh Shah

Travellers' University

"Our focus is, how do we make Alivelihood, more relatable? How do we make our efforts reach people, specifically our youth by using different platforms through the support of A-CODE initiative? We know the change cannot happen in one year, two years, or five years, as it is a time taking journey. But we are ready for this journey."

JAPLEEN PASRICHA

Feminism In India

We have collaborated with the A-CODE initiative to bring about the information on feminist sensibility and gender issues via social media platforms, such as Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, etc. Further, orgaise social media campaigns which will be on gender and misogyny discrimination. This will surely be helpful in bringing a positive change in our society and give space to the female population for them to express themselves in every aspect of their lives.

BHAWNA JAIMINI

Community Design Agency

"Ever since the Pandemic, we saw there were numerous reports of violence against women increasing, which included cybercrimes. We researched and realized that in 2020, 50,035 cases of cyber crimes were reported in one year alone. Through research studies, we got to know women from minority communities tend to be more vulnerable, and more susceptible to such crimes. So, through this study, we will try and find out that the location, rural or urban, access to highways, digital excess, etc. if are factors for this."

ANSHUL TIWARI

Youth Ki Awaaz

"In my experience, writing is a powerful tool to share our views and it should be used in a way to spread the ground reality to the world. We at Youth Ki Awaaz try our best to share stories of people who are facing troubles or are in urgent need to support. Similarly, we will try and bring our expertise in this collaboration to raise voices of the unheard."

ARTEE

Aahan Foundation

Art has so many forms, such as drawing, dance, singing, etc., and they are performed in different ways as well. We are based in Jharkhand, as the females in our region are not allowed to showcase their talents due to cultural restrictions. So, we at Aahan Foundation are working to break this barrier and help such talented females showcase their skills to the world. Through A-CODE, we want to reach out to more females, so that they can express themselves and their art.

ISHAMUDDIN KHAN

ISPAT

"For all of you, I am a success story, as I never attended formal school, but still, I am able to make a mark globally as a famous Madari (magician). But I want to give back to my community, as without the guidance and knowledge from my elder I would have never been able to achieve all this in my entire lifetime."

Sonal Kapoor

Protsahan India Foundation

"We have to understand that a poor person is not wrong just because he/she is poor. They do not require any form of aid, but he/she just requires a human connection or an internet connection or something like a scholarship which might feel really small to us. We as an organisation started 13 years back with only 19 girls and now, we work with 81,000 females."

Leena Kejriwal

Missing Link Trust

The most powerful thing I had with me was my laptop. Through it, I started various online campaigns to raise funds to support Missing Link Trust projects. We printed over 5000 silhouettes across the streets of Kolkata which was truly an eye opener for its viewers. Later, we created an award winning online application game that has over 1 million organic down loaders."

Swaraj Shetty

Khaana Chahiye

"During the rollout of the lockdown, we knew that people living under a flyover were not receiving any support. So, we went there with 200 meals to distribute, and then we learned that more than 1000 people needed our support. That's how Khaana Chahiye was created and fortunately, now we work with 200 families by providing them with grocery kits to them in Mumbai."

Anurag Kashyap

Shakti Foundation

"We work with female rack pickers in Delhi who make decorative products that we try and sell through various online and offline platforms. I can proudly say that now we have an annual revenue of 90 lakhs through which our female artists are able to support their families."

Open Source Satellite

The Festive Meet was enriched even more through an interactive session on how to make a satellite by hand conducted by Ashhar Farhan, the designer of the BitX, a simple single-sideband transceiver that could be built for a very small outlay taking many of its components from a well-stocked junk box.

SPACE TRYST CUT SHORT

➤ The satellite was scheduled to be launched on Nov 19 by SpaceX but had to be put off because of the wildfire across California

➤ It is now scheduled to blast off into space by Monday night or early morning on Tuesday

➤ Ashhar Farhan, a Hyderabad resident, founded Exseed Space along with Kris Nair in Mumbai

...amakaan, a

Magic See-Saw

Reviving the traditional art of the Madari community through a performance by magician Ishamuddin Khan. A practitioner of an age-old art form that is unique to our culture, Ishamuddin Khan is a street magician. Coming from the pivotal history of being a part of the seven performing tribes in India, he is a man who can depict the history of the universe, starting right from the Big Bang, through his performance. Today, he is a man who is trying to break the stigma that looks at the Madari community as 'needy' and equates their art form as 'begging', and strives to institutionalize performing art forms to make sure that they can be modeled, replicated and passed on.

Let's Brainstorm Together

On this day, with the network members present, we also launched 'Prelude to the Digital Future' and conducted a panel discussion with the authors of the book. The panelists had a discussion around diverse and genuine solutions for creating a digital impetus to empower the MSME sector and the rural economy.

Digital Swaraj Fellowship Announcement

DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION's fellowship program is a one-year experiential leadership journey to bring about a transformation at the grassroots. It is a one-of-a-kind opportunity for the youth to contribute to society as a digital change leader. The fellows will have hands-on exposure to the rural digital landscape and work on innovative solutions to connect people digitally in a meaningful, effective and efficient way.

Let's Rap

Community Design Agency, our A-CODE network member, traveled to Delhi with two young rappers who presented a powerful rap performance. They performed two songs that they had specially written for the festive meet on their powerful journey from the urban slums of Mumbai to become rights-based activists.

Art-Walk

An experiential showcase of art and culture for social change through an art exhibition, calligraphy workshop, interactive painting sessions, showcase of DEF's technology and products of Digikargha made and curated by local artisans of India.

Different rights messages being shown through creativity

Calligrapher artist showcasing his art

A-CODE fellow understanding rights based doodle art

ACODE

Art and Collective for Digital Empowerment

@acode.defindia.org

**#art #socialjustice #regiuem
#magic #festival #digital #theatre
#puppet #empowerment**