

2017
2018

Catalyzing policy change through research to improve people's lives in the emerging Asia Pacific by facilitating their use of hard and soft infrastructures through the use of knowledge, information and technology.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

At LIRNEasia, we seek to be leaders, not followers. We were among the first to describe the novel business models and user innovations that made the rapid take-up of mobile telephony possible. We began our big data research in 2012, well before big data became a catch phrase. When International Development Research Center (IDRC) Canada announced its engagement with Myanmar, I came to the launch event from Taungoo, where we were already on the ground, teaching telecom policy and regulation to people from the Myanmar government and civil society. When zero rating became controversial, we and Research ICT Africa (RIA), our sister organization in Africa, had already done research that could contribute to the debate. In the same way, we believe we are now at the leading edge of a worldwide swell of interest in issues of information communication technology (ICT) use by the disabled.

It was the year our disability work hit full stride. It's not that we had not thought about using ICTs to help persons with disability live more independently, before. But until the smartphone became more or

less ubiquitous there wasn't much we could think of doing. A few years back we invited Dr. Nirmita Narasimhan to visit Colombo and educate decision makers about ICTs and disabilities. That was our first engagement, but we could not quite figure out what research we could do at that point. Then we included an exploratory module on accessibility in our Myanmar proposal funded by IDRC. We learned a lot from the exploration, especially about the need to understand the challenges of disability from the perspective of the disabled. The opportunity to engage deeply came from the Ford Foundation. Our partners at the Center for Law and Technology had already done work on disabilities in Nepal. Nirmita who had worked with us in Myanmar connected us with people like Dinesh Kaushal, a leader in accessibility software. We brought these different stakeholders together in Nepal, to not only learn from leaders of disabled organizations, but also to feed that learning into a well-designed app design process comprising a pre-hackathon and a hackathon. We also included a module on ICT use by the disabled in the nationwide survey that was

just completed as part of the Nepal research.

As our work with exploiting the potential of the smartphone for improved accessibility was gaining momentum, another foray into app development was drawing to a close. The smartphone app we developed to help inform smallholders supplying export markets with knowledge about good agricultural practices was handed over to the Sri Lanka Department of Agriculture. All this was going on alongside After Access, the major project for the year that is more fully described in this Report.

CPRsouth was conceived as LIRNEasia's principal capacity-building vehicle in 2006. A few years back, we handed over its administration to our sister organization RIA as part of the broadening of its activities to cover Africa. In 2016 we were asked to resume administrative duties. The Myanmar conference was not just a summative event for our work in that country since 2013; it was also where we convinced the CPRsouth Board to try out a new model that would give even more prominence to the taking of research to the policy

process. The results of the new model will only be seen at the Maputo Conference and Young Scholars' Academy in September 2018. In the same way LIRNEasia was reinvented while preserving core values, we will reinvent CPRsouth.

2018 was also significant for another reason. It marked the fifth anniversary of Helani Galpaya's tenure as Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Few think tanks in Sri Lanka had succeeded in leadership transitions. We took this as a challenge and prepared for succession from pretty much the year we started. After several years as Chief Operating Officer, during which time she transformed the internal functioning of the organization, Helani took over as CEO in 2013. The organization has grown and prospered by many measures including the air miles accumulated by the CEO.

All this served us, and me personally, well. I was able to take on interesting though demanding tasks such as taking responsibility for the Innovation, Technology and Industry section of the 2030 Sustainable Development Report commissioned by the President of Sri Lanka, serving as chair of a government committee to

reform broadcast licensing, and at the tail end of the reporting period, taking on the strategic direction of the ICT Agency of Sri Lanka, the country's apex ICT organization. LIRNEasia is about taking the best possible evidence to the policy process so that the people are benefitted. It need not only be through the writing of policy briefs and the convincing of decision makers over the table.




Professor Rohan Samarajiva

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

This year we engaged extensively with global debates on ICTs and work, gender, access and human rights.

For the past two years, one of our largest research projects has been the AfterAccess surveys. LIRNEasia and our long-term research partners in Africa (Research ICT Africa or RIA) and Latin America (Dialogo Regional sobre Sociedad de la informacion or DIRSI) collected what is possibly the largest nationally-representative dataset of household and individual ICT access and use in the Global South. Harmonizing questionnaires and sampling methodologies across over 20 countries in three regions was just the first challenge. Obtaining sampling frames from the national statistics offices in each country was another. Supervising field work and assuring quality meant our statistician and researchers spent more time in the field than in the office for several months. But it is only this kind of demand-side data that allows us to disaggregate by forms of marginalization such as gender, income, education and location (urban vs. rural). And now that the data for the first 18 countries is in (while others are being surveyed) the journey gets exciting. We've used the main thematic

chapter this year to explore the key findings – some which show us how far we still need to go, and some which are heartening.

In the past, we had focused on our regional dissemination and policy outreach. But this year, we branded the AfterAccess project as a Global South initiative. That meant the three organizations engaged in joint global dissemination, reaching key international audiences as a single initiative instead of three individual organizations. We presented the findings to the World Bank, various bodies of the United Nations organization and to civil society.

The AfterAccess data also positioned us well to bid for and win a contract to create a Gender Toolkit for the World Bank's Task Team Leader (TTLs) who work on global infrastructure projects and are now mainstreaming gender inclusivity.

This year, we wrapped up our research on online freelancing and microwork in India, Sri Lanka and Myanmar, and started taking the findings to international and national audiences. This put us right in the middle of the

hot debate on how ICTs are changing the nature of work and what the impacts of the gig economy are. We were often the lone voice arguing against accepted and dreary narratives of gig work in the West replacing previously formal, full-time, safe environments and creating a mass of precariously-employed workers without social or financial safety nets. In our region, where social safety nets didn't exist in the first place, gig work was bringing people into some form of the formal economy. Our recommendation, therefore, was for the platforms that mediate such work to adjust, instead of having governments step in with heavy regulation.

We also went deeper into new research themes – mainly related to how ICTs can improve the lives of disabled persons. The Ford Foundation became an important partner in these activities in Myanmar and Sri Lanka.

The big data team continued its engagement in Sri Lanka, but also had significant international exposure: I was appointed to the board of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, and LIRNEasia partnered with the UN and government

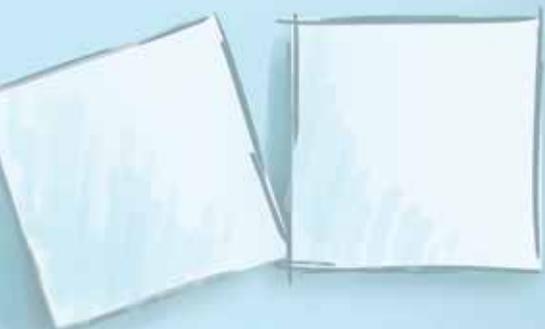
agencies to hold Sri Lanka's first symposium on data for SDGs. Most exciting and most rewarding was seeing DataSEARCH (at the University of Moratuwa), and CitraLab (Sri Lanka's first social innovation lab) being formed closely modelled on principals we had long espoused.

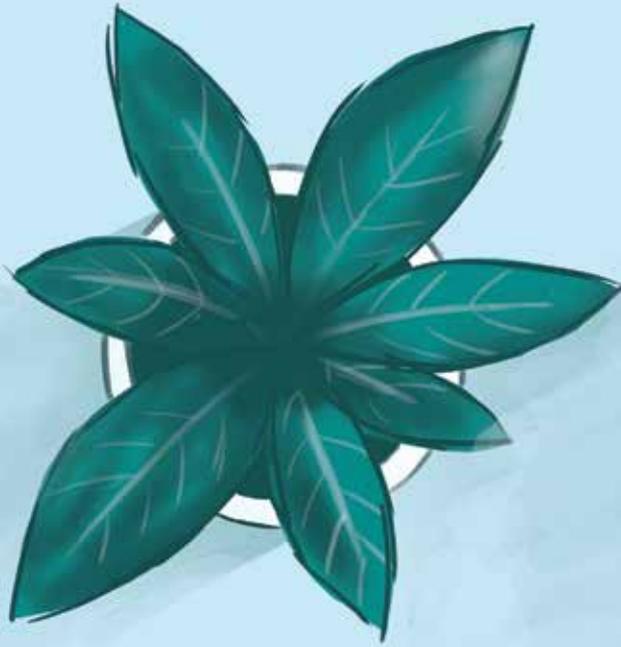
Early 2018 marked my fifth year as the CEO. The research continues to be rigorous, and we are sought after to give input in international, regional and local policy-making processes. This is thanks to the team of researchers who care about the quality of their research, and the finance/admin team who ably support the researchers. We are constantly adding to these teams. Tharaka Amarasinghe joined us at the beginning of the financial year and spent the next three months zig zagging Asia to conduct the AfterAccess surveys. Lasantha Fernando who was on the big data team decided to join us fulltime. Ranjula Perera Senaratne who had worked with us before, stepped in for three months, supporting us on the closing of our Inclusive Agriculture work and Samali Perera joined and is staffing on multiple projects. Suthaharan Perampalam left us to join forces with his wife Mithula

to form their new venture, a market research firm. He continues to engage in our work as a Research Fellow. Entrepreneurial spirit continued as Chathurike 'CD' Athuraliya left us to concentrate full time his AI startup, but remains involved part time with the big data team. Chiranthi Rajapakshe left to pursue important work at the Constitutional Council. Nipuni Udunuwarage and Chatura Rodrigo are now pursuing other opportunities. We wish them all well.



Helani Galpaya
Helani Galpaya





ABOUT US

ABOUT LIRNEasia

Enormous amounts of money are invested annually in ICTs. The potential of ICTs for economic and social progress is substantial though they are not, by themselves, necessarily the answer to higher incomes and a better life. Combined with other factors, ICTs provide means to improve people's capabilities and knowledge so that they may better their lives.

The Asia Pacific is seen as driving the global economy, yet within it lies South Asia, home to the world's largest concentration of poor people. Some of the world's best performing countries, in terms of

ICT industry belong to the region, as well as some of the worst.

ICT use in many developing countries is held back by laws and regulations. Existing policy and regulatory arrangements actively hinder people from using ICTs to better their lives. New, low-cost technologies are very often held back by these laws and regulations.

LIRNEasia is a pro-poor, pro-market think-tank working across the Asia Pacific to change this situation. We conduct in-depth, policy-relevant research on the ICT sector as well as other sectors

(such as transportation, agriculture and health) which can benefit the poorest citizens of the Asia Pacific. We document regional good practices. We then disseminate independent, actionable knowledge, to policy makers, regulators, service providers and the media. We help form policy intellectuals and, on request, provide short-term advisory assistance.

We want to see life improve for people in the emerging Asia Pacific.

Our mandate is to help facilitate the use of hard and soft infrastructures in the region through research that catalyzes policy change.

We believe that the pathway is through better access to and use of knowledge, information and technology.

PEOPLE & CULTURE

LIRNEasia's principal strength is its people. A bunch of curious folk who function best in non-hierarchical environments.

We are excited by ideas. By the possibility of finding practical solutions to real-life problems. We value creativity. We encourage debate. We will never stop learning.

We work in teams: flexibly, effectively, helping each person reach their full capacity.

From the beginning, we have aimed to build a virtual organization. Our physical presence is concentrated in Colombo, as is our administrative core, but much of our work is facilitated through extended networks across the Asia Pacific.



At Nipuni's farewell in January 2018

*WE VALUE
CREATIVITY.*

*WE
ENCOURAGE
DEBATE.*

*WE WILL
NEVER STOP
LEARNING.*



Aparna Surendra | *Graduate Research Associate*

Abu Saeed Khan | *Senior Policy Fellow (Dhaka, Bangladesh)*

Ashwini Natesan | *Research Fellow (Colombo, Sri Lanka)*

Ayesha Zainudeen | *Senior Research Manager*

Ayumi Arai | *Research Fellow (Tokyo, Japan)*

Azamat Ababakirov | *Research Manager*

Babu Ram Aryal | *Policy Fellow (Kathmandu, Nepal)*

Chathura Rodrigo | *Research Manager*

Chathurike 'CD' Athuraliya | *Research Fellow (Colombo, Sri Lanka)*

Chiranthi Rajapakse | *Senior Researcher*

Christoph Stork, PhD | *Senior Research Fellow (Cape Town, South Africa)*

Danaja Maldeniya | *Research Fellow (Ann Arbor, MI, United States)*

Dharshana Kasthurirathna, PhD | *Research Fellow (Colombo, Sri Lanka)*

Erwin Alampay, PhD | *Senior Research Fellow (Manila, Philippines)*

Firas Mohamed | *Researcher*

Gabriel Kreindler | *Research Fellow (Cambridge, MA, United States)*

Gayani Hurulle | *Research Manager*

Grace Mirandilla-Santos | *Research Fellow (Manila, Philippines)*

Helani Galpaya | Chief Executive Officer

Htaike Htaike Aung | *Policy Fellow (Yangon, Myanmar)*

Jagath Perera | *Office Assistant*

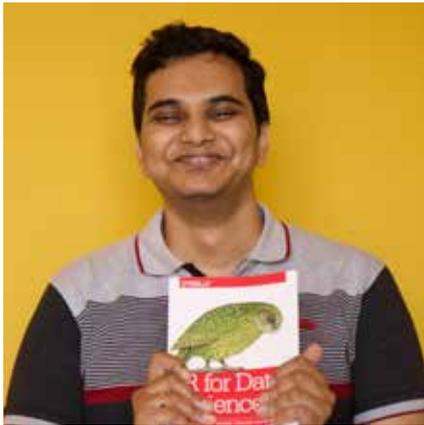
Juni Soehardjo | *Research Fellow (Jakarta, Indonesia)*

Laleema Senanayaka | *Researcher*

Lasantha Fernando | *Senior Researcher*

Moinul Zaber | *Research Fellow (Dhaka, Bangladesh)*

Namali Premawardhana | *Communications Specialist*





Nipuni Udunuwarage | *Senior HR and Operations Executive*
Nirmita Narasimhan | *Policy Fellow (Bengaluru, India)*
Nuwan Waidyanatha | *Senior Research Fellow (Kunming, China)*
M Parvati | *Office Assistant*
Payal Malik | *Senior Research Fellow (New Delhi, India)*
Phyu Phyu Thi | *Research Fellow (Yangon, Myanmar)*
Piyumi Gamage | *Junior Researcher*
Pradeepa Jayaratne | *Research Fellow (Moratuwa, Sri Lanka)*
Prashanthi Weragoda | *Senior Finance Manager*
Priyadharshani Liyanage | *Accountant*
Ranjula Senaratne Perera | *Researcher*
Rajat Kathuria | *Senior Research Fellow (New Delhi, India)*
Samali Perera | *Junior Researcher*
Shazna Zuhyle | *Research Manager*
Sriganesh Lokanathan | *Team Lead, Big Data*
Srimantha Katukurunda | *Operations Coordinator*
Sujata Gamage | *Senior Research Fellow (Colombo, Sri Lanka)*
Suthaharan Perampalam | *Research Fellow (Colombo, Sri Lanka)*
Tharaka Amarasinghe | *Project Manager – Statistician*
Thavisha Perera-Gomez | *Research Manager*
Vigneswara Ilavarasan | *Senior Research Fellow (New Delhi, India)*
Viren Dias | *Junior Researcher*
Yatanar Htun | *Policy Fellow (Yangon, Myanmar)*
Yudhanjaya Wijeratne | *Researcher*
Yuhei Miyauchi | *Research Fellow (Cambridge, MA, United States)*

LEARNING ORGANIZATION

At least 15% of our work day is spent on acquiring new knowledge and skills

We have always prided ourselves on our ability to change our minds, to continue learning. Our colloquiums and journal clubs where we present, question and appropriate or reject new ideas, are at the core of this commitment.

Last year, we thought we ought to measure this. Starting October 2017, we asked our Colombo staff to record how much time they spend on routine work, on implicit learning, and on explicit training, each month. The results were interesting.

On the whole, as an organization, we found that at least 15% of our work day was spent on acquiring new knowledge and skills (Figure 2). Our big data folk, interestingly, spent almost four times the amount of time learning, than their peers on other research or the administrations teams (Figure 3).

We also found that most of our learning came from people outside LIRNEasia, or in the process of work (Figure 1).

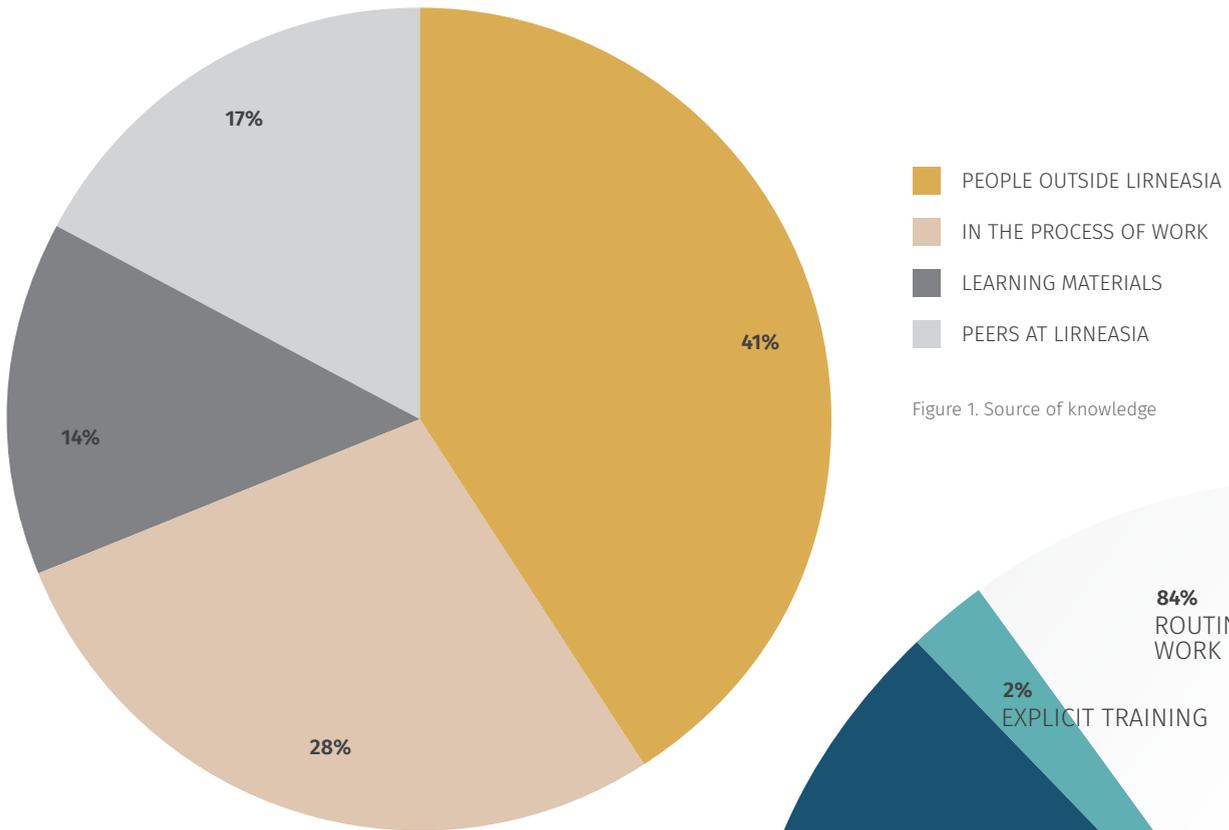


Figure 1. Source of knowledge

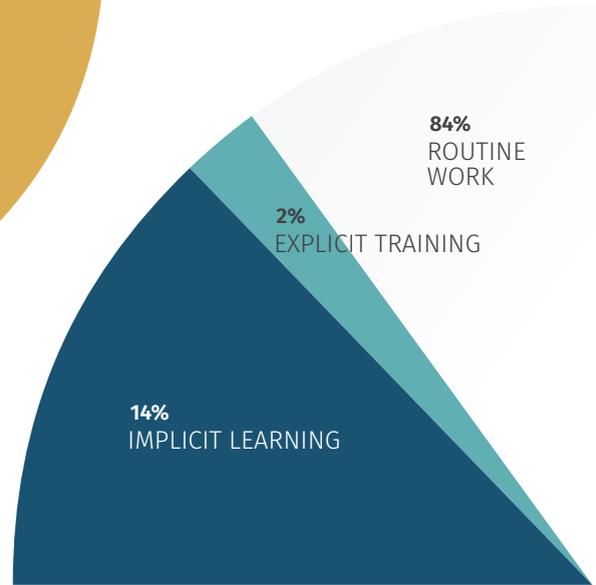


Figure 2. Time spent on learning



Figure 3. Percentage of time spent on learning, by team

Board of Directors

Rohan Samarajiva, PhD
Chair, LIRNEasia

Anoja Obeyesekere
Executive Vice President, Multinet Pakistan (Pvt) Ltd

Lakshaman Bandaranayake
Chairman, Sarvodaya SEEDS

Luxman Siriwardena, MA
Executive Director, The Pathfinder Foundation

Mervyn de Silva
Chief Financial Officer, Sierra Cables PLC

Vinya Ariyaratne, MD, MPH, MSc
General Secretary, Lanka Jatika Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement

Vishaka Nanayakkara
Tech Licentiate – Senior Lecturer, University of Moratuwa

Zinda Shaheen Cader
Former CEO (Sri Lanka), The Nielsen Company

LIRNEasia was incorporated under Sri Lanka Companies Act as a non-profit organization in 2004.
The company is governed by a Board of Directors that represents both the private and non-profit sectors.

Scientific Advisory Councils

William H. Melody, Ph.D. (Chair)
Managing Director, LIRNE.NET | Holte, Denmark

Alison Gillwald, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Research ICT Africa | Cape Town, South Africa

Ashok Jhunjhunwala, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras | Chennai, India

Hernan Galperin, Ph.D.
Research Professor, University of Southern California | Los Angeles, California

Johannes M. Bauer, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Media and Information, Michigan State University | East Lansing, MI, USA

KF Lai, Ph.D.
Co-founder & Chief Executive Officer, BuzzCity | Singapore

Partha Mukhopadhyay, Ph.D.
Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Policy Research | New Delhi, India

Randy Spence, Ph.D.

President, Economic and Social Development Affiliates (ESDA) | Toronto, Canada

Robin Mansell, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Media and Communications, London School of Economics and Political Science | London, UK

Sam Paltridge, Ph.D.

Directorate, Science Technology and Industry, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) | Paris, France

Shalini Kala

Independent Consultant | New Delhi, India

Sherille Ismail, J.D.

*Senior Counsel, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) | Washington DC, USA
(Sherille serves in his personal capacity and not as a representative of the FCC)*

Tim Kelly, Ph.D.

Lead ICT Policy Specialist (Transport and ICT), World Bank Group | Washington DC, USA

Visoot Phongsathorn

Independent regulatory expert | Bangkok, Thailand

Our Advisory Councils consist of international experts from a variety of domains. They help hone our research agenda and bring in new ideas. They provide important perspective to our ongoing work, strengthen our networks and facilitate collaborations.

LIRNEasia Scientific Advisory Council for Myanmar

Robert Anderson, PhD (Chair)

Professor, Simon Fraser University

Thant Thaw Kaung, PhD

Founder and CEO, Myanmar Book Aid and Preservation Foundation

Vicky Bowman

Director, Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business

Nay Lin Soe

CEO, Myanmar Independent Living Initiative

Wai Phyo Myint

Regional Outreach Manager, Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business

Partners

Over the years, we have been lucky to work with organizations that have shared common objectives.

The following is a list of organizations who worked with or supported us during the reporting period:

Athena Informomics India	iRights
BSA Solution	Kantar Cambodia Ltd
Center for Internet and Society, India	Kantar Public Myanmar
Center for Knowledge Societies, India	London School of Economics and Political Science
Center for Law and Technology, Nepal	Measurement Lab (mLab)
Citra Social Innovation Lab	Myanmar ICT for Development Organization (MIDO)
CPR <i>south</i>	Myanmar Independent Living Initiative (MILI)
DataSEARCH	Netradar Mobile Analytics
Department for International Development (DFID)	Nanyang Technological University
Department of Agriculture, Sri Lanka	Nielsen Holdings, Sri Lanka
Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Moratuwa	Pakistan Bureau of Statistics
Department of Town and Country Planning, University of Moratuwa	PepperCube Consultants, Sri Lanka
Department of Transport Logistics and Management, University of Moratuwa	PricewaterhouseCoopers
Dialogo Regional sobre Sociedad de la información (DIRSI)	Research ICT Africa (RIA)
Economic Policy Institute, United States	The Dynamics Research
Ford Foundation	The Global Initiative for Inclusive ICTs (G3ICT)
Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD)	TVE Asia Pacific
GSM Association (GSMA)	United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Sri Lanka
International Development Research Center (IDRC), Canada	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)
Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)	School of Information, University of California, Berkeley
Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi	University of Dhaka
Institute for Economic and Social Research (LPEM) Indonesia	University of Sri Jayewardenepura
Internet Society (ISOC) Nepal	University of Tokyo
Ipsos Research Pvt Ltd	Urban Development Authority (UDA), Sri Lanka
	Vriens & Partners
	World Bank
	Women's Group for Disability Rights (WGDR)

Research ICT Africa (also known as RIA), and DIRSI are our sister organizations. They engage in work that is very similar to ours, RIA in the African continent, and DIRSI in Latin America. These are strategic long-term partnerships built on a common vision for the development of the Global South.

LIRNEasia Team



Research



Admin/Ops



Resident



Non-Resident



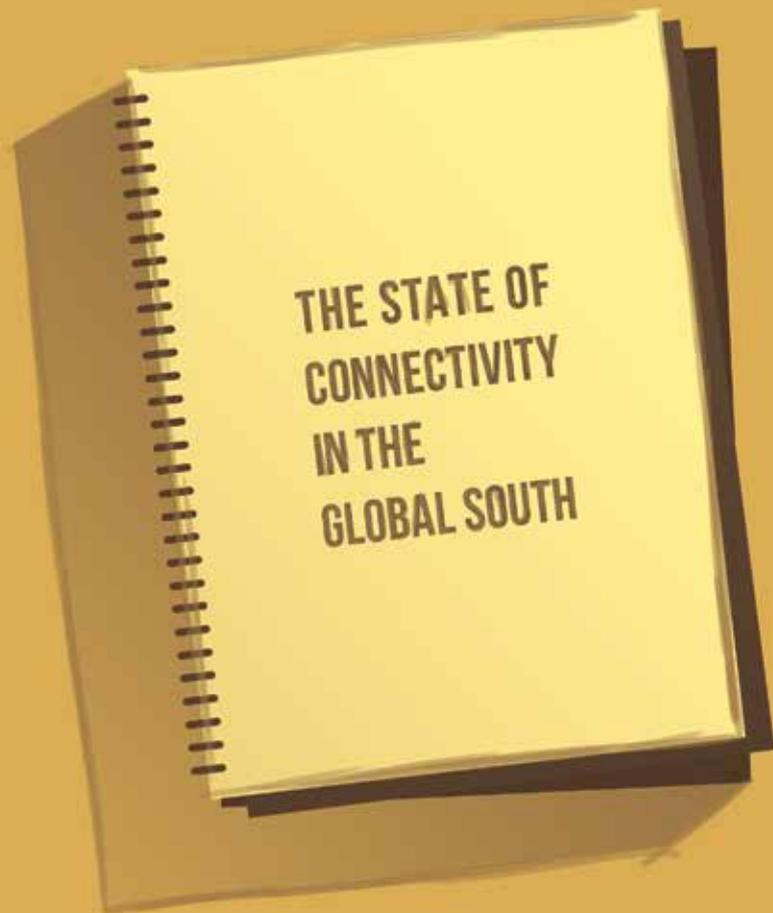
Full-Time



Part-Time







AFTER ACCESS

THE STATE OF CONNECTIVITY IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

We are well beyond the days of monopoly telecom markets, where people waited many years to get a land-line telephone and even then, needed “connections” to important people before they could connect to really important people in their lives. Starting in the late 1990s, telecom markets were liberalized, and government-owned monopoly telcos were fully or partially privatized. New mobile entrants in the markets started competing, and competition-fuelled innovations such as pre-paid, micro-top ups, highly utilized networks, sharing of infrastructure, all led to even lower costs, enabling even the poor to adopt mobile phone services for voice and calls across emerging Asia. A look at supply-side data from the operator networks show SIM card penetration closing in on 100% in several countries and surpassing 100% in others. Of course, we have long documented the problems of counting SIM

cards, and of counting active SIMs and the challenges of multiple SIM ownership by users across Asia. Therefore, the only meaningful way to understand the real level of access and use is by talking to users (and non-users) directly.

We have been doing this since 2006, when we conducted our first national-level survey, representative of those at the base of the socio-economic pyramid. Such Teleuse@BOP surveys were conducted in 2006, 2008 and 2011. In these early surveys, we were surprised by how widespread the use of mobile phones for calling and SMS was, even among people who didn’t own a phone themselves, thanks to sharing of phones. We were dismayed by how infrequent and low the use of the Internet was. It appeared that the mobile revolution in emerging Asia was limited to voice, and to the rich. Similar surveys were

conducted by our colleagues at Research ICT Africa (RIA) too. The conditions were worse – while Asia saw high mobile phone use, and increasingly high mobile phone ownership (albeit keypad phones or feature phones) from 2006 to 2011, Africa had significantly lower access and use figures. Access to electricity and unavailability of signal were still problems in many African countries (unlike in Asia) and affordability was more of a problem than in Asia.

The AfterAccess surveys (summarised at afteraccess.net) is our in-depth examination of the state of access and use of ICT in multiple countries in the Global South. While we have done similar work with RIA and DIRSI (a similar research network working in Latin America), this was the first time we jointly raised funding, and used comparable methodology and research tools to conduct



Nepalese teenagers use a mobile phone in Nagarkot Hill on April 17, 2014

research simultaneously. The work in Asia has been funded by a combination of funders and grants - International Development Research Center (IDRC) Canada, Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and the Ford Foundation.

The surveys are representative of the whole population between the ages of 15 and 65 in the countries surveyed (in Africa and Latin

America, they are representative of everyone above the age of 15). So far, 16 countries have been surveyed, with at least two being added at the time of writing. Over 28,497 people have been interviewed in all the countries so far (in Asia, 11,214 people have been interviewed), using random selection at all stages of sampling. The sample frames consisted of the most granular administrative unit available to us (for example, census

enumerator areas as defined by the national statistical office in Pakistan; wards and villages in India, etc.), and household listing on the field.

The surveys currently completed are representative of over 23% of the world's population and consist the largest dataset on connectivity that we know of. With a margin of error of +/- 3%, it is also one of the most rigorous.

MOBILE PHONE OWNERSHIP AND USE

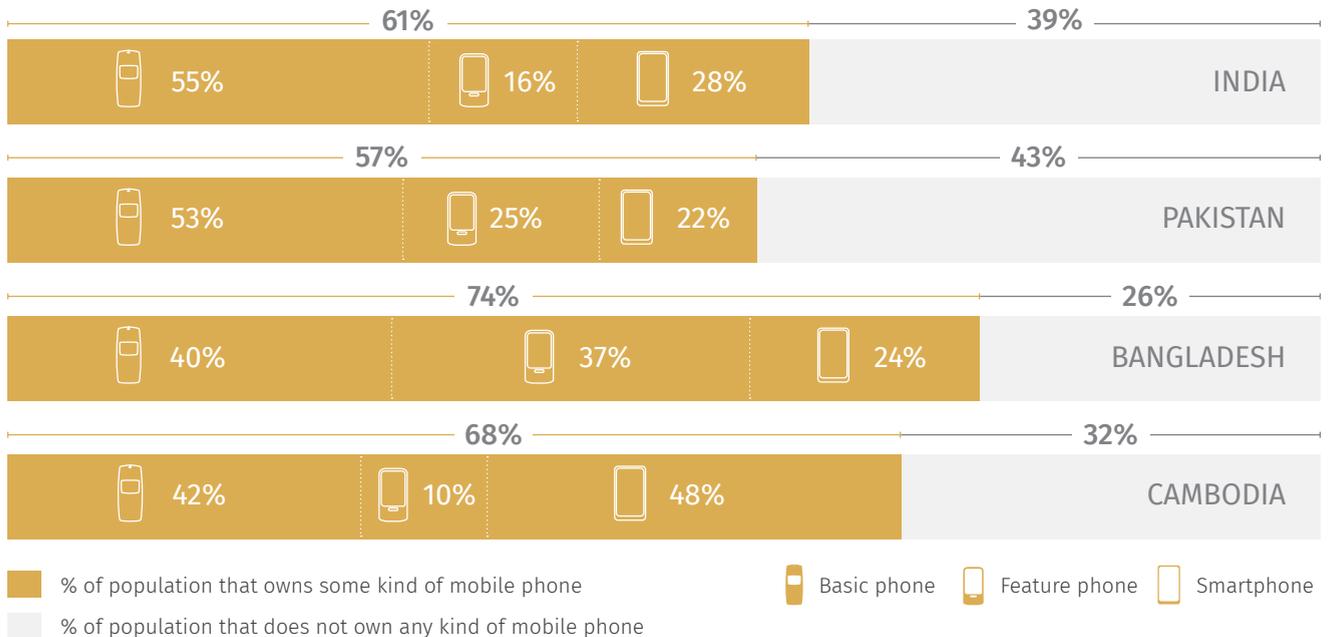


Figure 4. Mobile phone ownership and type of device owned (% of population aged 15-65)

The data shows that mobile phones have indeed penetrated the Global South and more so in Asia – over 61% of people in the Asian countries surveyed own phones. Yet many of these phones are the “old fashioned” keypad phones which don’t allow for Internet access. Far

fewer people own feature phones (still basic phones, but ones that do allow Internet access), and even fewer own smartphones, which are the basic requirement for a good Internet experience (Figure 4).

INTERNET USE

Given the low levels of smartphone use, it is not surprising that Internet use figures are low. But it is disheartening. India, the second largest country by population has just 19% of people between the ages of 15-65 connected to the Internet (Figure 5). The richer countries in Latin America had high use, along with South Africa which is the richest country in Africa.

We were careful to define “Internet use” quite broadly. We asked broad and narrow questions and included a wide range of Internet uses – everything from browser-based Internet use to the use of apps that use data services – in our questionnaires. In the past, we simply asked “have you used the Internet?” and had many people responding “no” but a closer examination of their data revealed that they did in fact use Facebook or other social media, indicating they were unaware that they were “using the Internet” when they were using such services.

In most countries, Internet use was synonymous with social media use, with the majority using social media for a variety of purposes – both leisure and work, personal and professional (Figure 6).

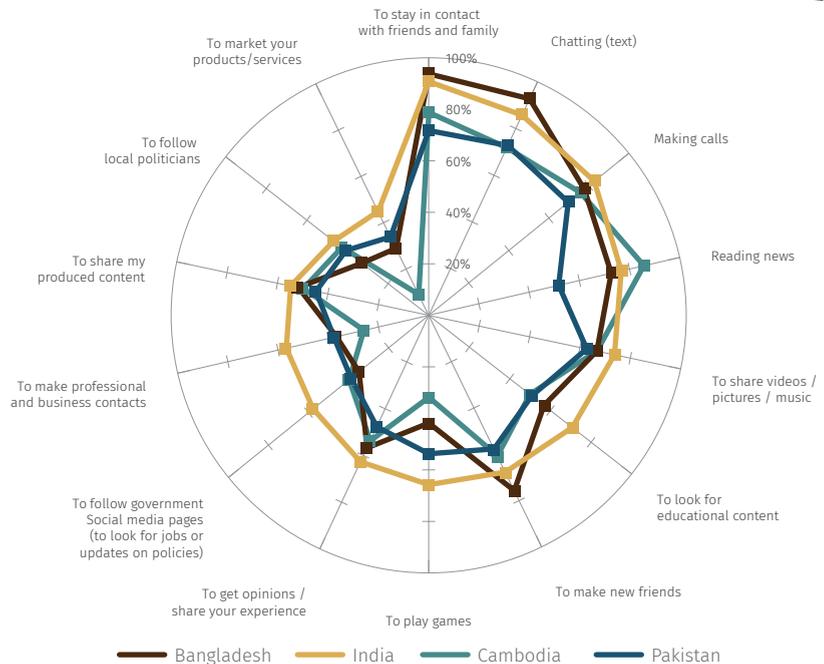
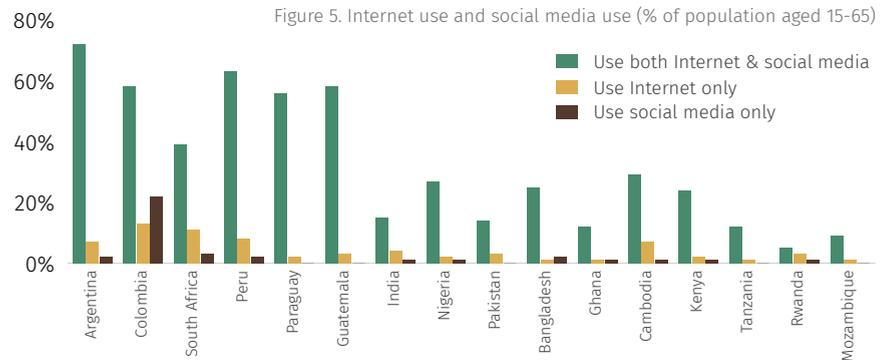


Figure 6. Use of social media (% of social media users aged 15-65)

We asked Internet users about what keeps them from using the Internet even more. While “data costs” were often the reason cited by respondents in African countries, in Asia it was different: in Cambodia (which has the highest connectivity levels among the Asian countries), the most prominent reason was poor connection speeds; in Pakistan it was the lack of time. Data costs were not a major reason for limiting their Internet use in the Asian countries – something borne

out by the fact that the countries surveyed in Asia have some of the lowest prices for data connectivity (when data is looked at on a national level). Of course, for poor people, affordability is still a barrier in all countries (Figure 8).

These levels of access and use are hardly uniform – those who live in rural areas, those who are female and those who are poorer have lower levels of connectivity and use.

Network rollout has significantly increased the areas in Asia that are covered by a cellular signal. Though this is not often a high speed 4G signal (and sometimes not even a 3G signal), most people have some type of mobile signal and the ability to make a call as long as they have access to a mobile phone. However, there is still a gap in mobile phone ownership between urban and rural dwellers (Figure 7). Our classification of respondents into urban vs. rural

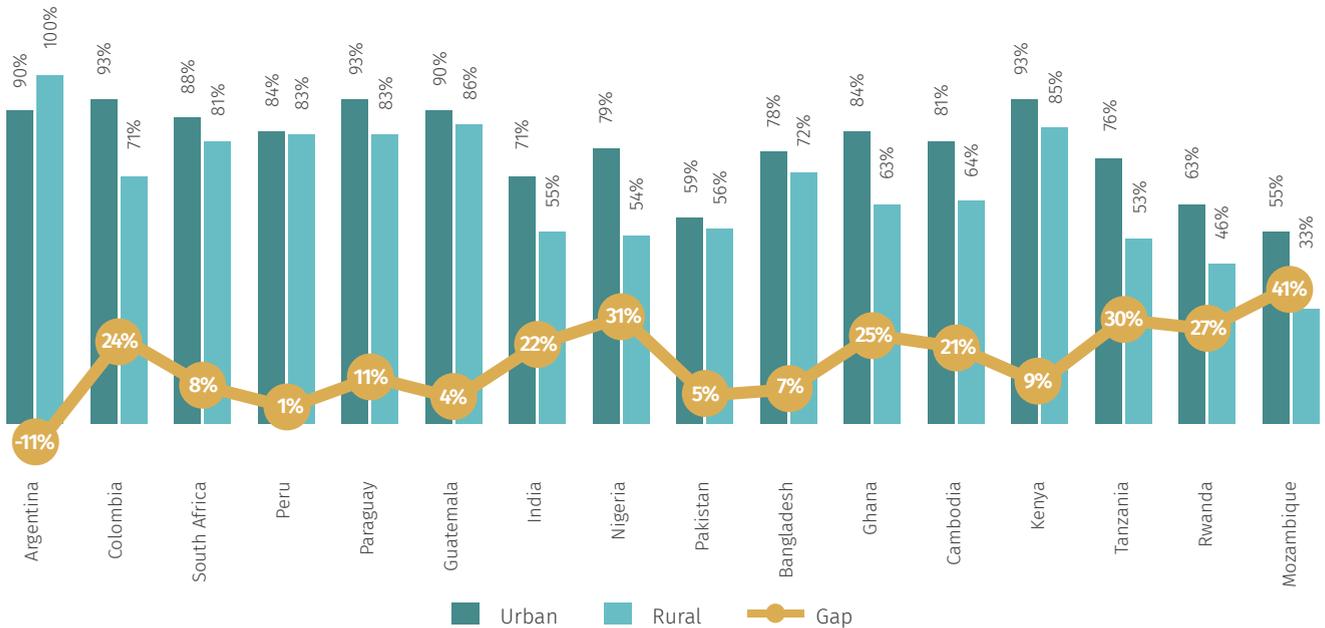


Figure 7. Mobile phone ownership and the urban-rural gap (% of population aged 15-65; % less likely a rural dweller is to own a mobile than an urban dweller)

is based on the location of the respondent's household.

The income disaggregation of the data shows higher levels of mobile ownership among the higher income groups, as expected, but the gap between the richer respondents (those earning above the average income) versus the poorer ones (those earning below the average income) is between 23% (Cambodia) and 38% (Pakistan) in the Asian countries (Figure 9). What this means is that the poorer respondents in Pakistan are 38% less likely to own a mobile than the richer ones, on average. If quartiles or deciles were looked at, the picture would be far bleaker.

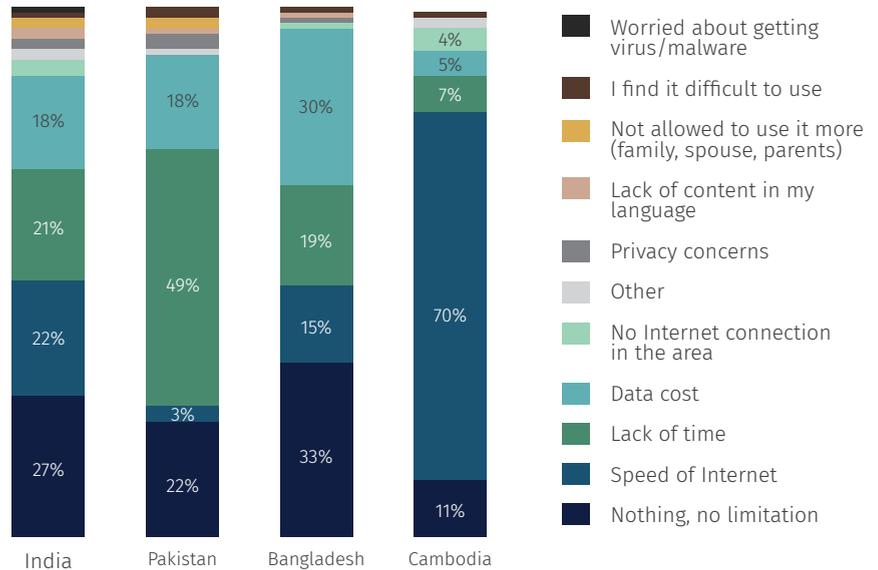


Figure 8. Main reason for not using the Internet more (% of Internet users aged 15-65)

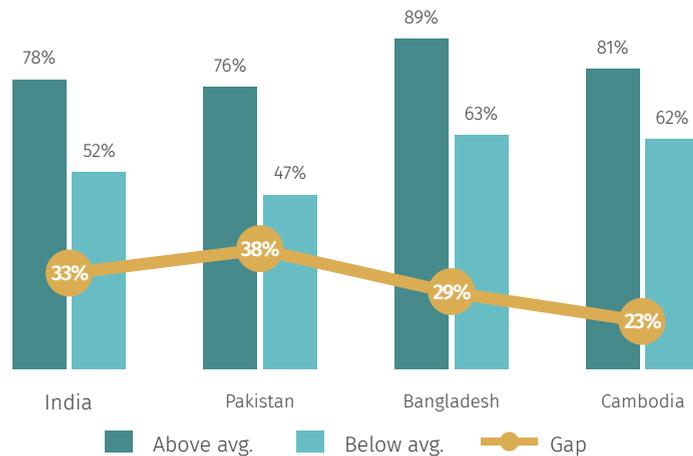


Figure 9. Mobile phone ownership by those earning above average and below average (% of population aged 15-65)

QUALITY OF SERVICE EXPERIENCE

The survey teams in each Asian country carried mobile phones on the field. These had SIM cards from all major mobile network operators and the Net Radar app for broadband measurement. On the field, the enumerator's task and time spent on Internet measurements was minimal but the app collected useful data in the background. We reverse-engineered to calculate distances

between locations in the sampling frame and latitude and longitude coordinates recorded by the app at the time the diagnostics ran. Using a cut-off of a 1 k m radius to the known locations from the sampling frame, we re-classified the data from the diagnostics with an urban-rural tag. This angle of analysis provides insight on the disparity in quality of connectivity between urban and rural locations

that is scarcely cited with evidence. While service quality does differ, rural measures do not always underperform when connectivity is available (see comparisons of latency in Figure 10 and download speed in Figure 11). However, a much higher error rate was reported from rural locations, thereby making the network inaccessible in the first place (Figure 12).

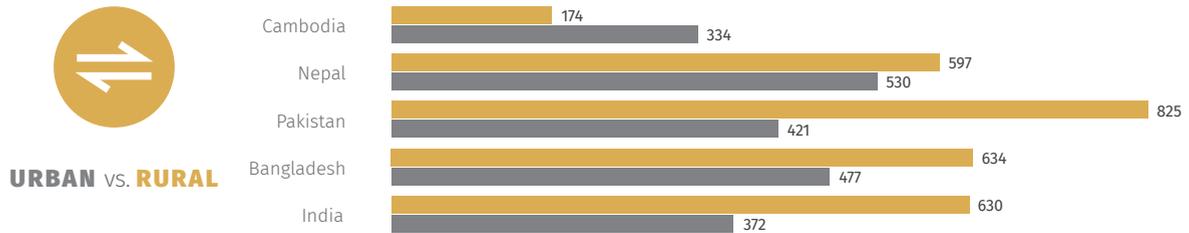
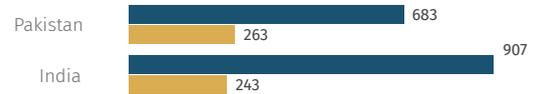


Figure 10. Average latency (ms) urban vs. rural



Figure 11. Average download speed (Mbps) urban vs. rural



URBAN vs. RURAL

Figure 12. Number of network errors observed, IN and BD, urban vs. rural

For instance, when calculated as a percentage of the total samples in India, while the network error rate was 5% in urban locations, it was much higher at 15% in rural locations.

The benefits of access to LTE over 3G technologies are evident. LTE demonstrated better performance as expected (Figure 13). Across all available technologies, download speeds, the foremost measurement often cited when addressing

Internet measurements, ranges from 3 Mbps to 4 Mbps on average. However, latency, an important measure that affects the quality of experience, is a lot worse.

While affordability is an important factor for users to get connected,

quality of service experience can influence value for money and fuel incentive for users to stay connected. It was also cited as a barrier to Internet use (Figure 8).

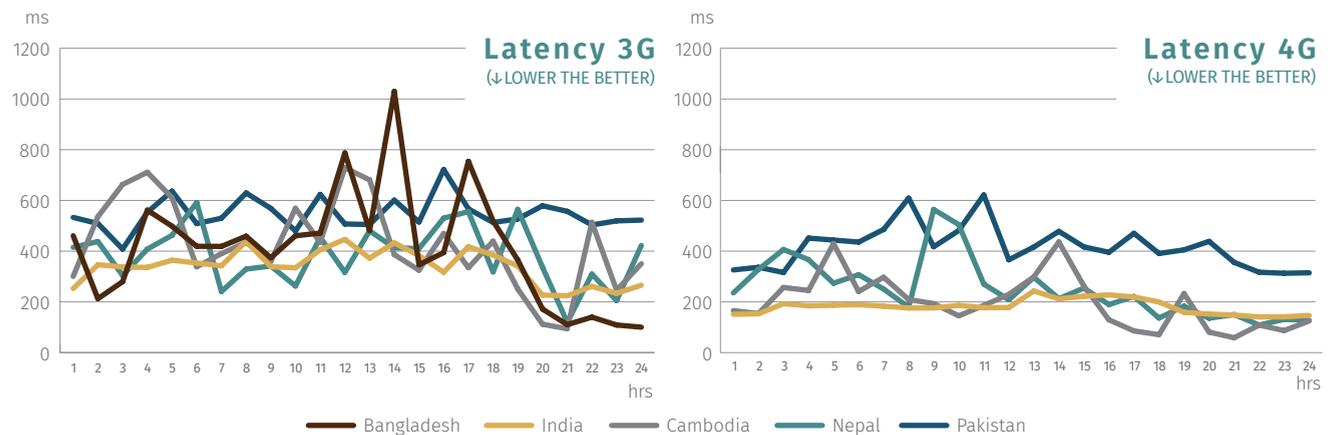


Figure 13. Latency observed in 3G vs. 4G/LTE networks during the course of 24 hours

ONLINE LIVES & HUMAN RIGHTS

Across Asia, social networking apps such as Facebook and WhatsApp were the most popular content, making them synonymous with Internet use (Table 1). But social media isn't just about connecting with friends and entertainment, though of course it is that too. Educational and political information is accessed, professional contacts are made, products and services are marketed, all on social media.

Social media is a primary source of news across the countries – users consume and share news stories on social media. In the context of fake news and ongoing social media controversies, we were interested in finding out how they felt about the news content they came across and what actions they took. There is no uniform narrative – the level of trust in social media is highly varied across countries. Bangladesh in particular had 66% of the social

media users stating they don't trust or strongly don't trust the news they read on social media. Cambodian social media users had high trust, with 46% of people trusting or strongly trusting news on social media (Figure 16).

Trust also impacts the amount and type of personal information people are willing to share on social media. Age, name and marital status are among the most shared, while sexual orientation and political views are the least (Figure 14).

Many are confronted with unwanted material when they are online, though the incidence is truly varied among the Asian countries. Happily, Indian and Bangladeshi social media users report the lowest levels of being confronted with offensive material online across all countries surveyed (Figure 15). Cambodia and Pakistan

have the highest levels, surpassed only by three other countries in Africa and Latin America (Figure 15). Pakistan users also had the highest incidence of a particular form of online harassment – that of online bullying – with 34% of users being bullied, nearly three times the next highest country (Figure 15).

Our research in Myanmar shows that people navigate the challenges online (such as harassment, bullying) at times by creating multiple identities.

	Social networking apps (Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, LinkedIn, Line, ...)	Messaging or chat (text) apps (WhatsApp, Skype, Viber, Line, Talkray, Telegram, Facebook Messenger, ...)	Entertainment apps (movie trailers, celebrity gossip, radio station guides, ...)	Voice apps (WhatsApp, Skype, Viber, Line, Talkray, ...)	Game apps (puzzles, charades, etc.)	News apps (local news, national headlines, technology announcements, sports etc.)	Educational apps (dictionary, learning tools etc.)	Search tool apps (maps, directions, phone numbers, recipes etc.)	Business apps (calculate, convert, translate etc.)	Weather apps (local forecasts, natural disaster updates etc.)	Trading or e-commerce apps (selling and buying online, e.g. eBay etc.)	Transport apps (public transportation info, taxis, e.g. Uber)	Payment gateway apps (e.g. PayPal)
ARGENTINA	95%	89%	27%	89%	19%	49%	34%	51%	28%	57%	43%	31%	
COLOMBIA	94%	86%	43%	86%	32%	41%	39%	49%	22%	42%	23%	15%	
SOUTH AFRICA	52%	45%	24%	45%	32%	25%	27%	30%	13%	26%	8%	10%	
PERU	82%	77%	44%	77%	31%	60%	55%	56%	45%	51%	36%	35%	
PARAGUAY	88%	90%	28%	90%	18%	38%	25%	32%	21%	46%	16%	10%	
GUATEMALA	87%	78%	37%	78%	34%	51%	50%	47%	26%	37%	18%	22%	
INDIA	48%	46%	43%	42%	34%	33%	30%	29%	26%	22%	19%	17%	15%
NIGERIA	52%	43%	28%	43%	31%	37%	36%	28%	25%	18%	8%	6%	
PAKISTAN	25%	25%	13%	24%	15%	12%	10%	16%	14%	11%	12%	17%	7%
GHANA	68%	64%	40%	64%	46%	44%	53%	43%	30%	32%	18%	13%	
BANGLADESH	19%	22%	13%	17%	13%	8%	8%	7%	15%	3%	3%	2%	1%
CAMBODIA	71%	50%	51%	27%	37%	36%	32%	23%	51%	24%	6%	1%	2%
KENYA	30%	26%	17%	26%	16%	16%	16%	19%	13%	10%	9%	9%	
TANZANIA	22%	17%	28%	17%	9%	16%	12%	19%	26%	4%	6%	4%	
RWANDA	12%	16%	30%	16%	9%	17%	7%	18%	24%	2%	4%	5%	
MOZAMBIQUE	20%	28%	16%	28%	17%	15%	14%	12%	8%	12%	5%	6%	

Table 1. Mobile app usage (% of feature or smartphone owners aged 15-65)

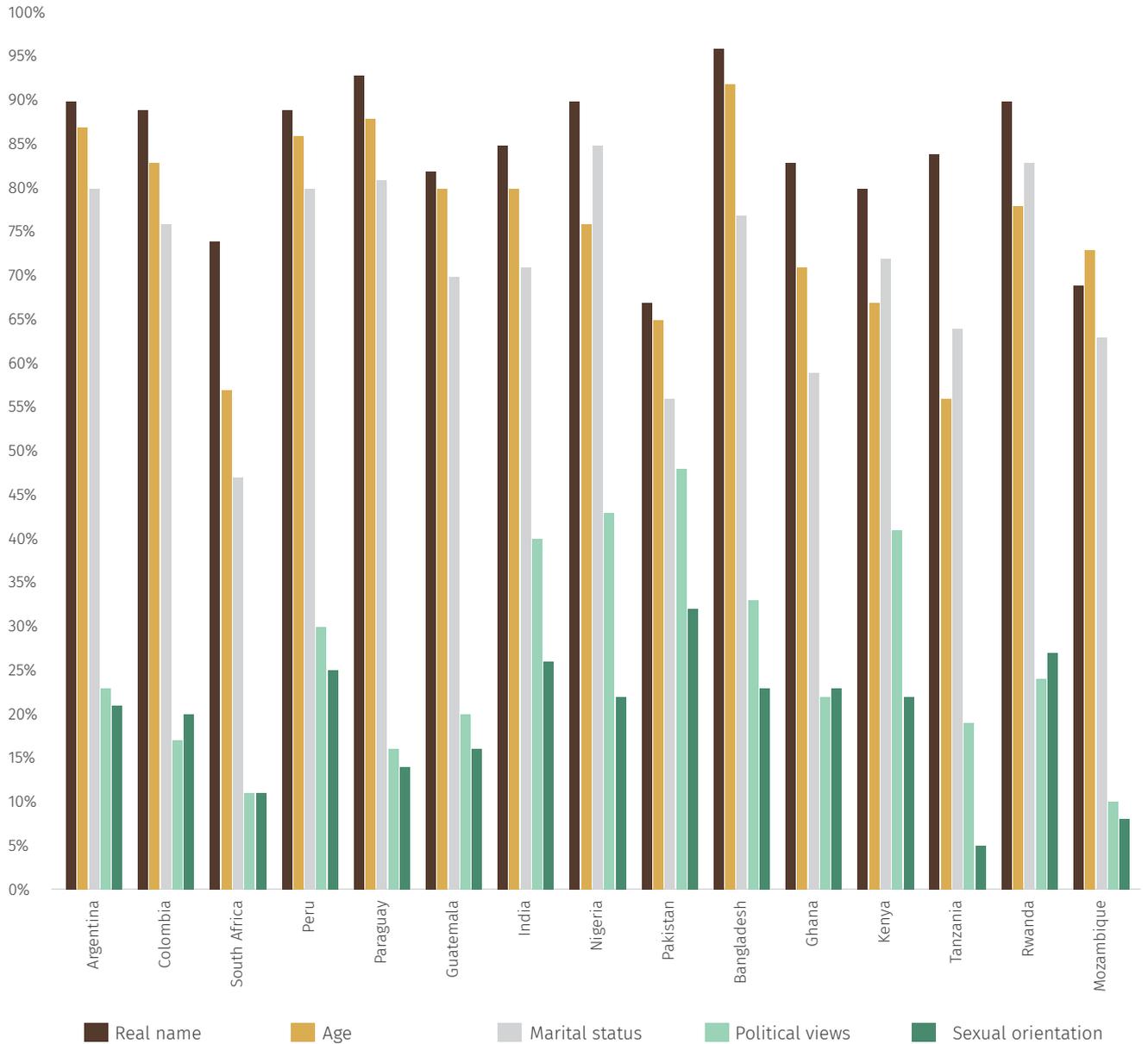


Figure 14. Types of information shared publicly on social media (% of social media users aged 15-65)

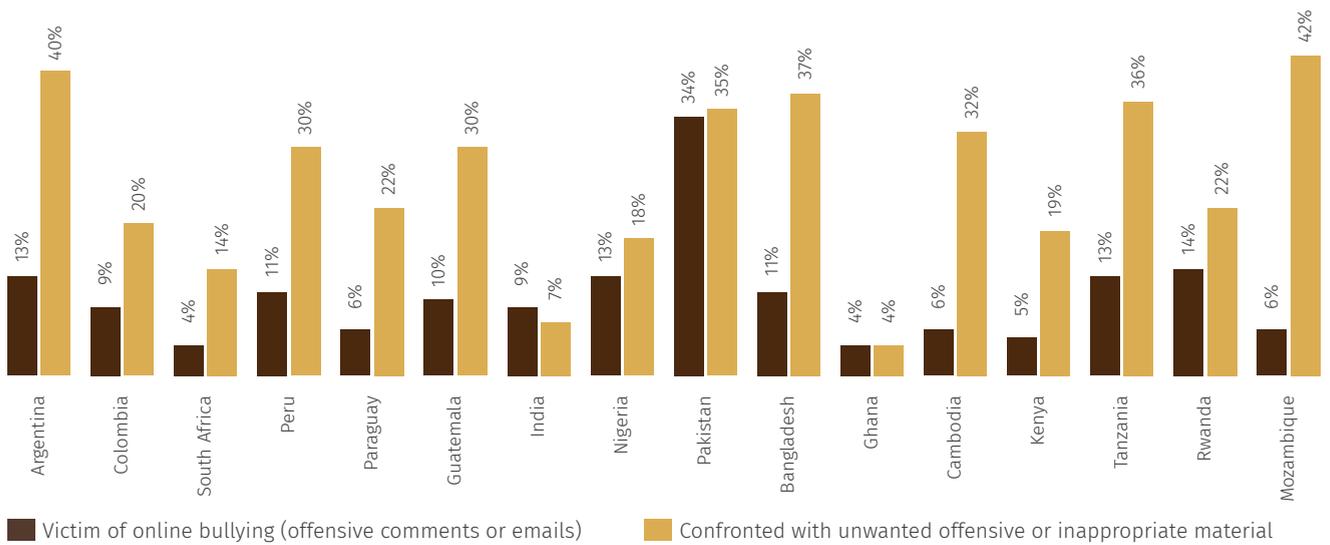


Figure 15. Victim of online bullying (% of social media users aged 15-65)

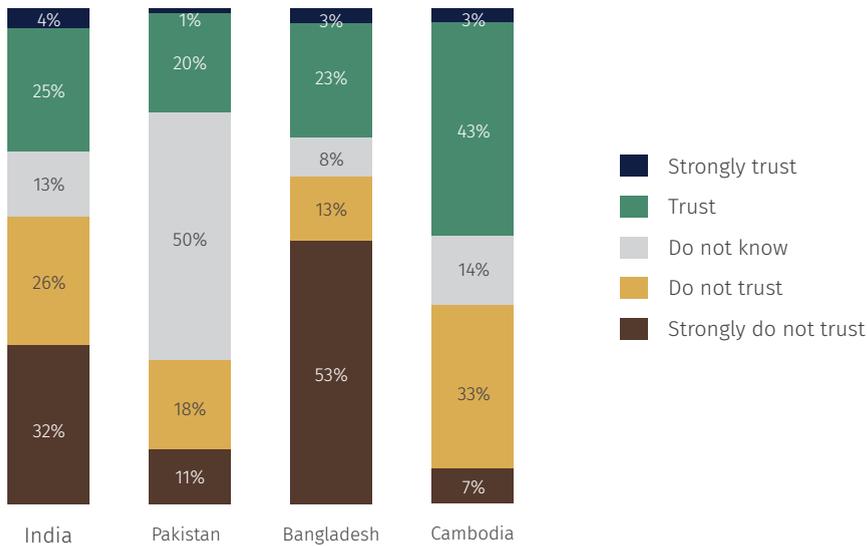


Figure 16. Trust in news read on social media (% of social media users aged 15-65)

WOMEN AND MEN:

Different levels of use, different experiences

The four Asian countries surveyed present a sobering picture of gender disparity. Two of them (India and Pakistan) account for the highest gender gap in mobile ownership among all survey countries (including Africa and Latin America). Bangladesh is not far behind in poor performance, and is only surpassed by Mozambique and Rwanda, the two poorest countries out of the 16 so far surveyed (Figure 17). Given the large populations in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, these gender gaps account for a disproportionate share of the overall Global South gender gap.

The same then translates to Internet use: Bangladeshi women are the least connected, followed closely by those in India and Pakistan. Again, only Mozambique and Rwanda, two significantly poorer countries with significantly lower literacy rates, have Internet

use gender gaps as bad as the South Asian countries (Figure 18).

The gender gap is to a great degree explained by education and income gaps between men and women. In each country, women who are working earn less than men. And fewer women work outside the home – exacerbating the gaps.

The face-to-face interviews that are nationally representative are so far the only reliable way to assess the gendered use of ICTs in a country. Gender disaggregated supply-side data (from operator systems) is unreliable even in countries that attempt to enforce strict SIM registration rules.

Women have a differentiated experience even when they do finally get online. As noted, men and women both face various issues when they are online (e.g. getting their accounts hacked,

being harassed), but women are harassed and face negative experiences because of their gender or in gender targeted ways (Figure 20). Women therefore self-censor: they consistently share less information about themselves (their gender, real name, age, religion, photos and so on) online, according to the data (Table 2).

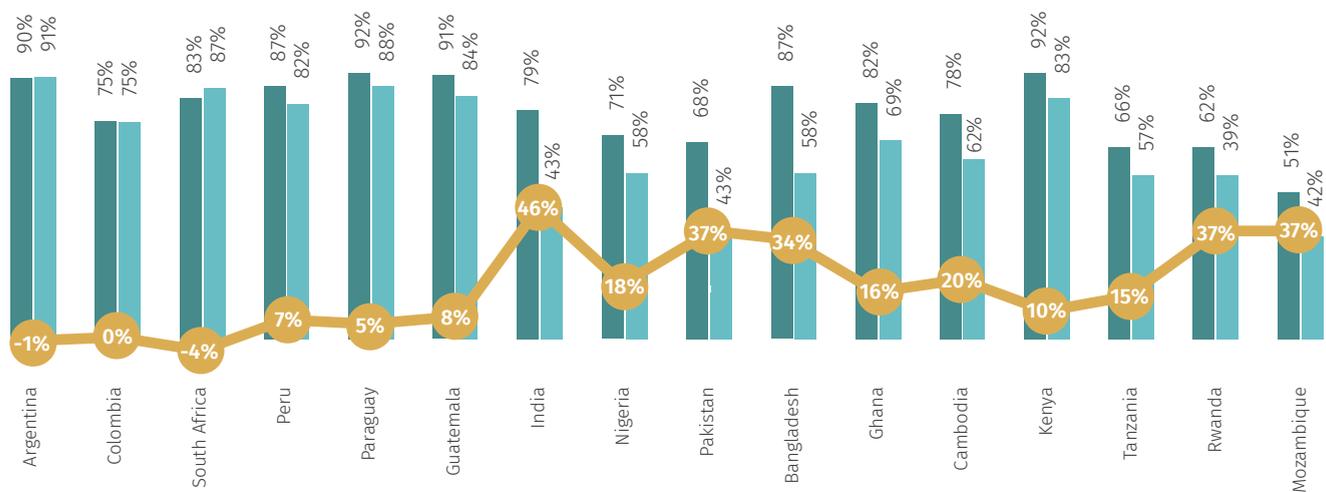


Figure 17. Mobile phone ownership (% of male and female populations aged 15-65; % less likely women are to have a mobile phone than men)

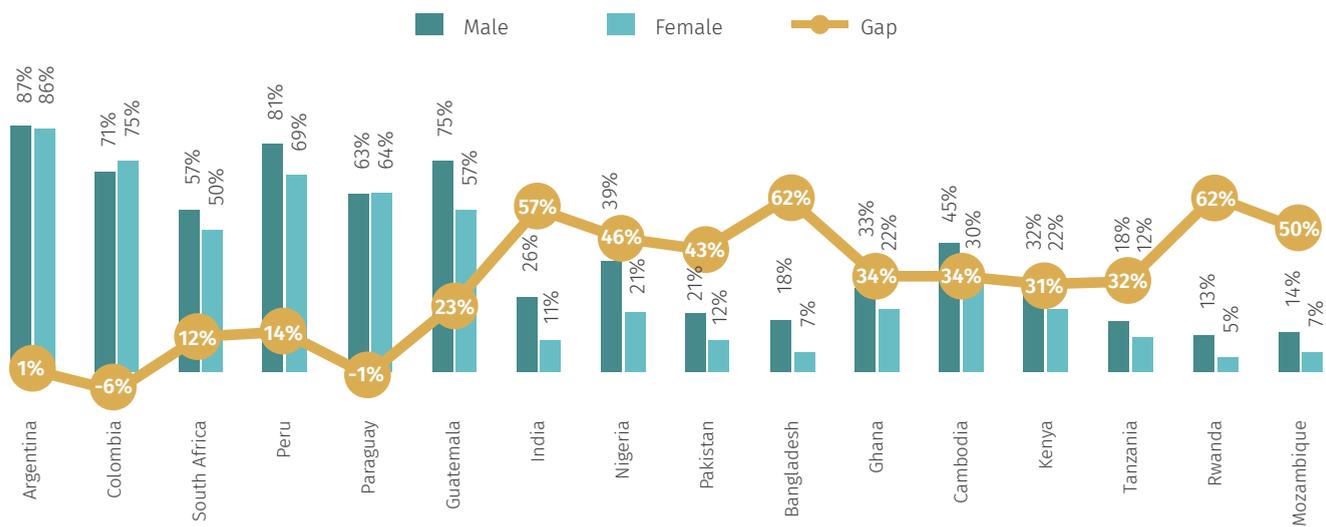


Figure 18. Internet use (% of male and female populations aged 15-65; % less likely women are to use the Internet than men)

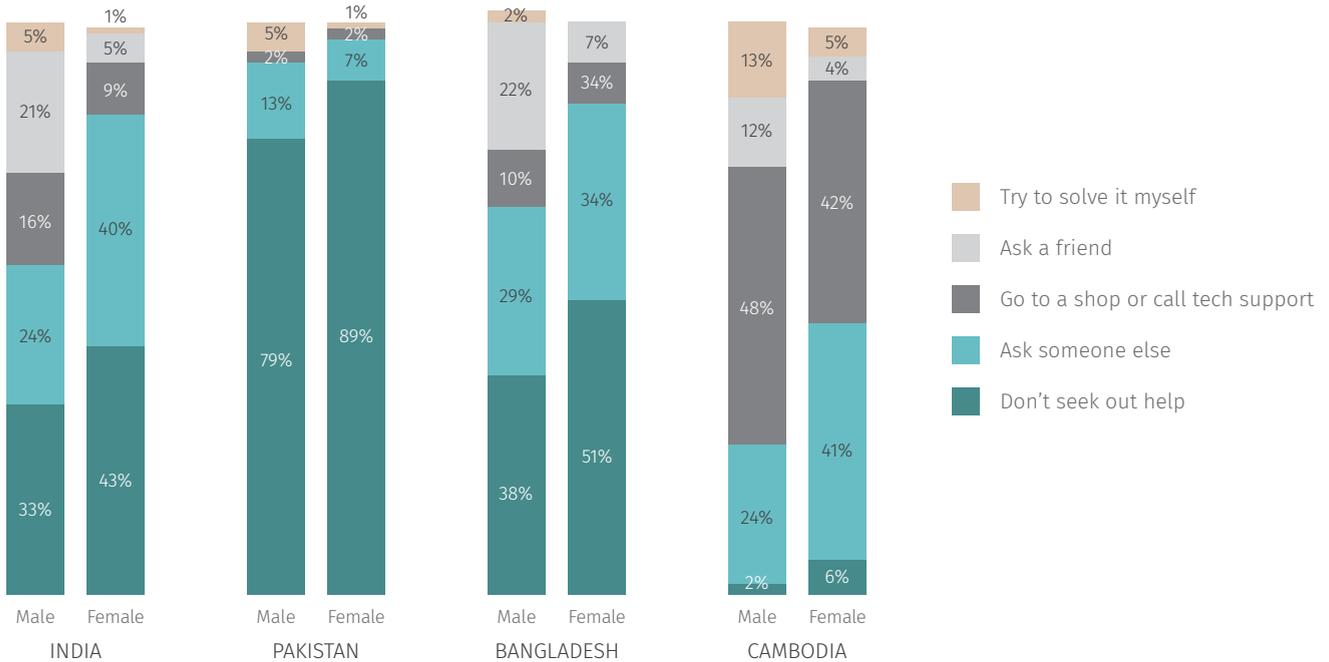


Figure 19. Where respondent seeks out help with technology (mobile, laptops, computers, etc) if needed (% of population aged 15-65). Note: 'someone else' includes family members, neighbors or other acquaintances.

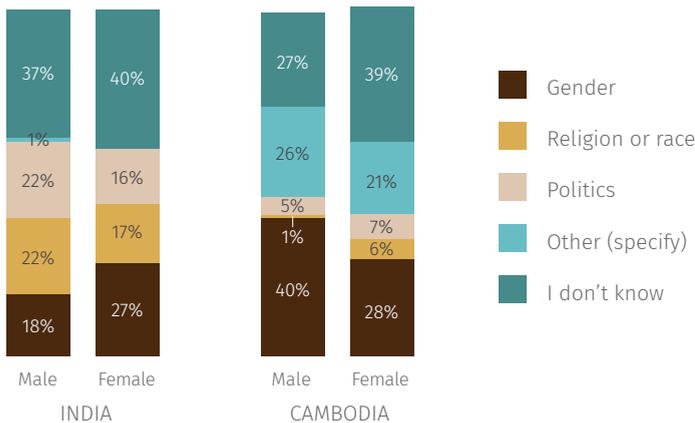


Figure 20. Main (perceived) motivation behind recent harassment (% of social media users aged 15-65 that experienced online harassment)

Women are less likely to have access to networks of technically savvy persons who can help them deal with technical or other issues they encounter when using social media or ICTs in general. While men tend to reach out to others, women are less likely to seek the help of others when faced with an ICT problem (Figure 19).

		Real Name	Gender	Age	Marital status	Mobile Number / Email address	Pictures & videos of you, your family and friends	Religion	Political views	Sexual orientation
ARGENTINA	Male	92%	96%	91%	84%	43%	79%	28%	25%	25%
	Female	87%	94%	83%	77%	29%	81%	34%	21%	17%
COLOMBIA	Male	86%	86%	84%	75%	46%	71%	49%	27%	24%
	Female	90%	88%	83%	76%	32%	86%	41%	11%	18%
SOUTH AFRICA	Male	72%	62%	57%	45%	38%	54%	25%	14%	14%
	Female	75%	64%	56%	48%	35%	53%	31%	9%	9%
PERU	Male	91%	95%	87%	82%	49%	82%	44%	32%	28%
	Female	88%	94%	84%	78%	36%	87%	52%	29%	23%
PARAGUAY	Male	92%	93%	90%	84%	56%	85%	27%	16%	17%
	Female	93%	93%	87%	79%	40%	87%	31%	16%	12%
GUATEMALA	Male	85%	95%	84%	74%	48%	70%	50%	24%	19%
	Female	78%	91%	76%	65%	34%	75%	54%	15%	12%
INDIA	Male	89%	87%	84%	73%	74%	65%	58%	39%	25%
	Female	74%	72%	72%	66%	62%	60%	55%	40%	29%
NIGERIA	Male	88%	98%	79%	85%	83%	87%	80%	50%	23%
	Female	93%	100%	70%	85%	74%	86%	78%	29%	19%
PAKISTAN	Male	75%	66%	71%	61%	64%	53%	68%	54%	37%
	Female	47%	47%	51%	43%	34%	50%	48%	33%	18%
BANGLADESH	Male	98%	97%	93%	78%	72%	79%	78%	35%	22%
	Female	88%	92%	87%	71%	59%	64%	77%	28%	28%
GHANA	Male	85%	91%	72%	56%	72%	88%	72%	23%	25%
	Female	80%	91%	70%	62%	61%	85%	70%	21%	20%
CAMBODIA	Male	67%	74%	56%	46%	72%	85%	32%	13%	9%
	Female	69%	75%	49%	44%	62%	83%	26%	9%	11%
KENYA	Male	80%	89%	67%	74%	65%	73%	63%	46%	27%
	Female	81%	91%	66%	69%	59%	85%	77%	34%	16%
TANZANIA	Male	86%	91%	60%	66%	42%	79%	41%	24%	4%
	Female	81%	84%	49%	63%	49%	79%	49%	12%	7%
RWANDA	Male	91%	90%	84%	82%	56%	82%	63%	27%	31%
	Female	88%	89%	70%	84%	47%	88%	70%	19%	22%
MOZAMBIQUE	Male	72%	75%	74%	65%	45%	73%	32%	11%	8%
	Female	65%	72%	71%	59%	35%	64%	33%	7%	8%

Table 2. Types of information shared publicly on social media (% of male versus female social media users aged 15-65)

E COMMERCE REVOLUTION?

When people do use the Internet, their use is dominated by social media (dominated by Facebook), and messaging apps (such as WhatsApp), which bring a combination of emotional, connective and economic benefits.

But what about more direct participation in digital commerce? Some activities such as doing work over the Internet (online microwork or online freelancing) or finding work online (household help finding their work via job apps) help people earn money. Purchasing goods online or finding accommodation or booking taxis online also bring efficiency gains to buyers. Even more important is online production and sale – be it producing goods and selling online, or selling services online (such as doing microwork, or finding other employment using online platforms and apps). The surveys show that the incidence of use of all these content/

apps is low – only India, with its large market size has significant utilization (Figure 20). In other countries, even awareness is low, and in Cambodia where awareness is higher, it hasn't translated into use of ecommerce activity (Figure 22). On the one hand, this is not surprising, considering low overall Internet access. Yet we know from our extensive study of online freelancing and online microwork that those that are engaged in such work are making substantial income that supplements their other (full time) earnings. And they are doing so despite numerous problems, of which the challenges of receiving payments from overseas buyers is an often-cited one.

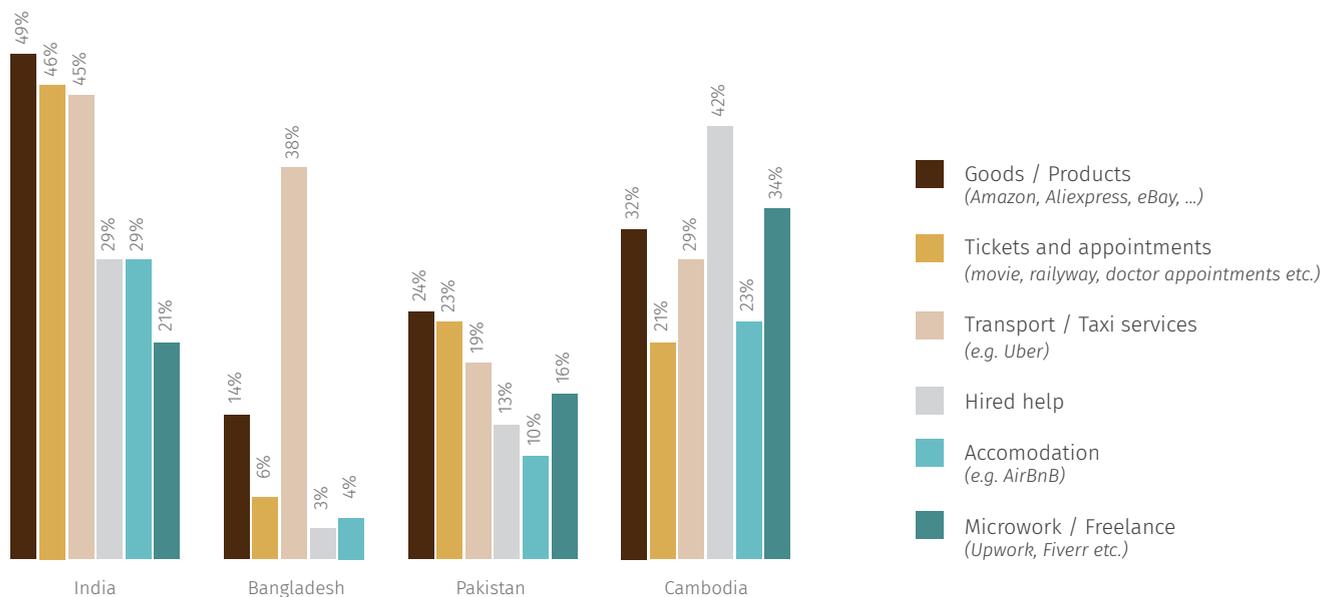


Figure 21. Awareness of platforms for selling goods or services (% of Internet users aged 15-65)

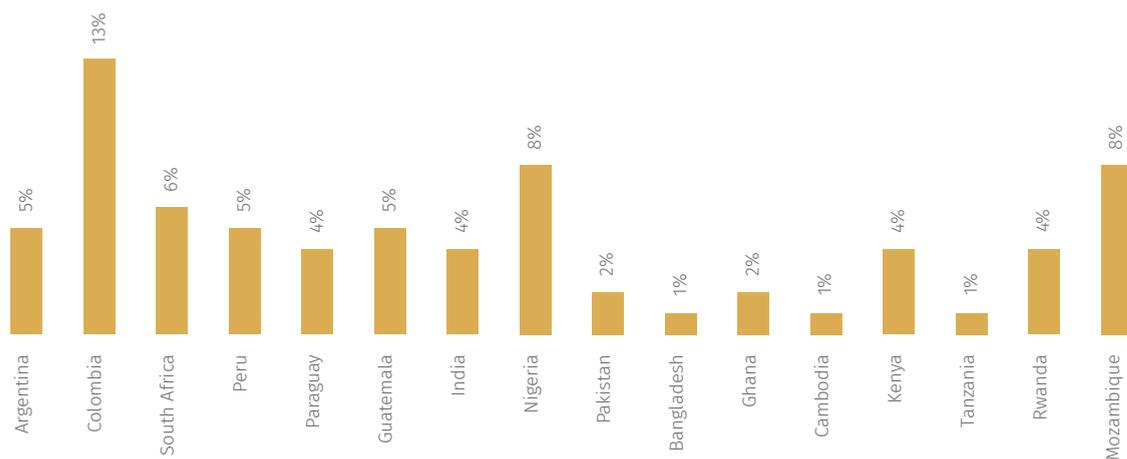


Figure 22. Platform use for selling goods or services (% of Internet users aged 15-65)

NON-USERS

The real value of face-to-face surveys is that it enables us to study those who don't even show up on the supply side data – that is, to study non-users. Still a surprisingly high number of people in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan (64, 67 and 69 percent of non-users exactly) said they didn't know what the Internet was. Increasing the awareness and salience of the Internet among these persons, since awareness is a key barrier, is the first step in adoption. No one in the Asian surveys said that affordability was a challenge – yet again confirming the supply side data which shows that Asia has the most affordable prices for mobile connectivity. This is in total contrast to the (richer) Latin American countries, where the main challenge among non-users cited was affordability of the device, or not knowing how to use the Internet (next steps in getting connected, once users become aware).

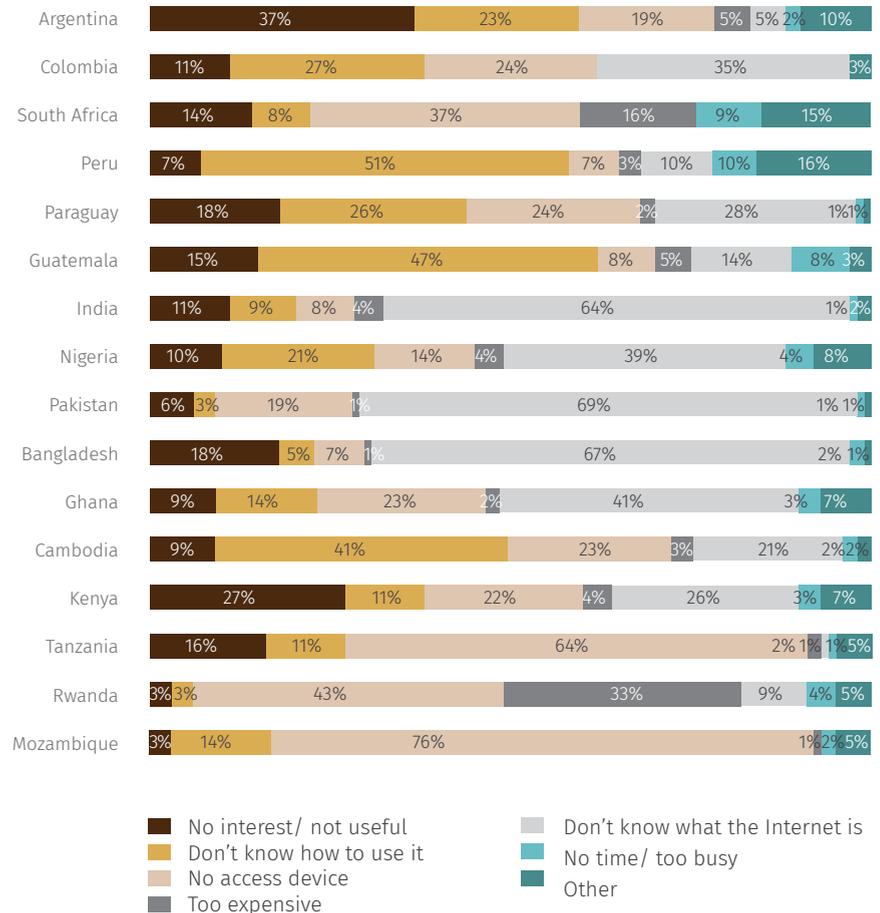


Figure 23. Reasons for not using the Internet (% of population aged 15-65 who don't use it)

THE OUTLOOK



In the Asian countries surveyed, the most cited reason for not being online is that respondents don't know what the Internet is (Figure 23). The need for awareness raising and increasing the relevance of the Internet is therefore important in South Asia. In Cambodia, most don't know how to use the Internet. Here too, increased capacity can be a focus of various stakeholders. For those who say

they can't afford it, the solution is the lowering of prices through higher levels of (meaningful) competition. For many years, LIRNEasia measured quality of service and published results so that users could vote with their feet and switch suppliers, but we did not push regulatory action because networks were still being rolled out in rural areas. However, now is possibly the time to take a more

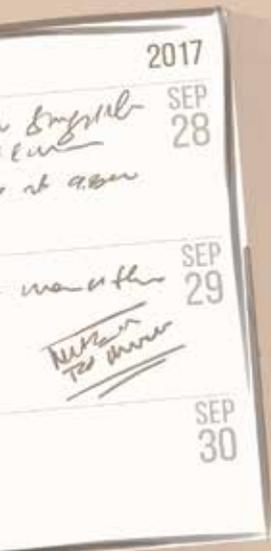
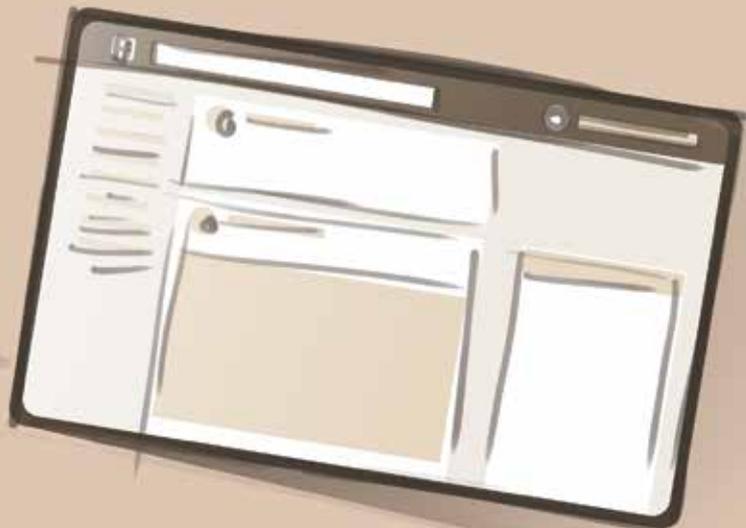
streamlined approach to quality of service – as seen in Cambodia, even current users limit their use due to poor data quality. Data quality is key to moving users from simple downloading to the use of e-commerce and other transactional services online. In turn, this is key to improving their livelihoods.



- ### CHECKLIST
- Mark R... N...
 - Complete...
status report
 - Review...
notes for...
 - Code...
content...
 - Talk...
...

YEAR PLANNER

SEP 25	Review... notes for... run...	check... about... the... ...
SEP 26	Review... the... by... ...	Thank... ...
SEP 27	Three... week... for... ...	



THE YEAR IN REVIEW

BIG DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT

This year has been a year for our work in big data for development to truly be recognized. Helani was appointed to the board of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD) and Sriganesh was appointed to the board of Citra Lab, Sri Lanka's first social innovation lab, a joint initiative between the UNDP and the Government of Sri Lanka. Rohan was also appointed to a second term on the Privacy Advisory Group of the UN Global Pulse.

We continue our engagements with the Government of Sri Lanka in various development domains, supplying insights from our big data work. At the same time, we've also been a catalyst for other similar work. The University of Moratuwa, with whom we collaborate on a number of projects, launched DataSEARCH – a center for data excellence with a strong focus on creating public

goods from big data. Sriganesh, a founding member, plays an active role in fostering multidisciplinary research through the center. He also continues to mentor and advise social scientists in Sri Lanka on leveraging big data through an initiative spearheaded by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

In July 2017 and then again in December of the same year, Rohan engaged with academics, practitioners, and policy makers in India sharing our thoughts on big data for development and governance. Our focus has been on highlighting the need for effective, fit-for-purpose public policy and regulation for big data, including algorithms. In December 2017, Sriganesh was invited to deliver a public lecture on the use of big data for development in Manila. The event was organized by the Center for Local and Regional Governance (CLRG) of the University

of Philippines' National College of Public Administration and Governance (NCPAG).

Over the last several years, the framing of the development discourse has shifted steadily to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We have been active in these discussions. In March 2018, LIRNEasia was proud to partner on Sri Lanka's first National Symposium on Data for Sustainable Development. The event offered a unique national platform to share our views and experiences on the use of data, and big data in particular, for the SDGs. Sriganesh and Thavisha both participated in multiple sessions, with Sriganesh moderating the opening session.

We are proud of what we've already achieved in big data analytics for development, and we pledge to work harder to mainstream the work that we have done in



Thavisha Gomez shared our experience working on big data for the Sustainable Development Goals at SGDdataLK. This was Sri Lanka's first national symposium on the topic, organized by CitraLabs. March 2018. (Image courtesy of United Nations Sri Lanka)



In December 2017, Sriganesh was invited to deliver a public lecture on the use of big data for development in Manila. (Photograph by Joel Regidor/ University of Philippines)

Sri Lanka and beyond, and importantly to help others develop in this space. We are particularly excited to be a part of the International Development Research Center's (IDRC) Big Data for Development Network that was established in early 2018. The network which initially included five nodal institutions covering Africa, Asia, and Latin America is meant to foster big data for development work in the Global South and to bring more Southern voices into the international discourse.

CAPACITY BUILDING



Former Deputy Minister, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Myanmar, U Thaug Tin, and World Bank lead specialist and coordinator of the ICT program in South Asia and East Asia Pacific, Tenzing Norbhu, share the inside story of Myanmar's telecom revolution at the Inauguration dinner at CPRsouth. September, 2017.

Last year, our Annual Report focused on how we impact policy through capacity building: how we sometimes teach policy engagement in formal settings and how we sometimes just become a part of the lives of people who go on to impact and change policy. We did a combination of all of this in Myanmar over the last five years, working with MIDO (Myanmar ICT for Development Organization) to train their staff, conduct

courses and also make policy recommendations with them.

The culmination of these activities came at the beginning of September 2017, soon after the close of our main annual capacity building event, *CPRsouth*, which was also held in Myanmar. The event brought four former regulators to Yangon. We leveraged their presence to conduct a custom-built training course on

regulatory design and practice in the legislative capital of Nay Pyi Taw. The course was targeted towards individuals who were to be employed in the Myanmar Communications Regulatory Commission (MCRC), the proposed independent, autonomous regulatory body.

We believe, firmly, that further training and development within the regulatory body is essential for

Myanmar's ICT sector to continue on the trajectory it has been on since liberalization in 2013. We look forward to being a part of this process, but also trust that MIDO is now able to take a lead on the work.

We followed up on similar training in Nepal last year, with another course this year. We also continue our work with iRights and the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) to mentor fellows from Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Myanmar to organize their National Internet Governance Forums (IGFs), through the IGF Academy. The fellows attended the 12th annual IGF in Geneva, Switzerland as a part of their training.



(L-R) U Thaug Din (Former Deputy Minister, Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology, Myanmar), U Soe Thein (Director General of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunication Department), Helani Galpaya and Nay Phone Latt (Member of Parliament, Yangon Region) at the inaugural session of CPRsouth 2017 in Yangon, Myanmar. September, 2017.

DISABILITY

This is the year our work on disability hit full swing. A few years ago, we invited Nirmita to visit Colombo and educate decision-makers on ICTs and disabilities. That was our first engagement. Then we included an exploratory module in our Myanmar work in December 2017. We learnt a lot, especially about the need to understand the challenges of disability from the perspective of the disabled.

In March 2018 we brought different stakeholders together in Nepal, first at a training course to understand the problems of persons with disabilities in the country, and then at a hackathon to develop solutions. The first event

highlighted the importance of a communications solution for deaf people in Nepal. Deaf and illiterate people are unable to communicate with government officials and other important bodies without a sign-language interpreter. At the hackathon, the winning teams walked away with cash prizes and a pledge of support from the National Telecommunications Authority of Nepal, to implement the final product.

Nepal also lacks a reliable source for accurate numbers on disability. So, we included a module on ICT use by the disabled in the ongoing Nepal arm of the AfterAccess surveys.



Dinesh Kaushal, leader of non-visual desktop access development in India for Publicis.Sapient. and other participants at our Workshop on ICT Accessibility for Persons with Disability in Yangon, Myanmar (December, 2018) and the Hackathon for Accessible and Inclusive ICTs in Kathmandu, Nepal (March, 2018).

Let the Deaf be Heard: Accessible and Inclusive ICTs for Persons with Disabilities

Rajat Acharya grew up in rural Dhading District, 200 miles West of Kathmandu. He had a neighbor, Ram Adhikhari, who was deaf and communicated using sign language. Adhikhari had no formal education beyond the primary grades and taught himself by reading discarded text books. Acharya, a naturally shy child, was afraid of Adhikhari, but his father developed a friendship with the deaf man and learnt sign language. Acharya's family moved from the neighborhood when Rajat was eleven years old, and they lost touch with their deaf neighbor. Ten years later, Acharya, now an IT student, was brainstorming ICT solutions for persons with disability and remembered their neighbor from when he was a child. He looked Ram Adhikhari up on Facebook to find that he was the Principal of Swabalambi Primary School for Deaf Children.

"I was determined to create something that could help deaf people and the students from this school," he says. Acharya was among forty coders, designers and generally brilliant folk - nominated to represent ten of the best-known computer science programs in the country - that came to our hackathon in Nepal. They came ready to code, but we gave them an extended long-play version of your everyday hackathon.

On the two days prior, we had talked with disabled person's organizations about the problems they faced, and the potential solutions ICTs could provide. At the hackathon, we first introduced the coders to these problems. Then, the teams were walked through design thinking methodology by Dinesh Kaushal, leader of non-visual desktop access development in India for Publicis.Sapient.

"Anyone can come up with far-fetched ideas for solutions. This is part of the process of a hackathon, to have seemingly crazy ideas," Kaushal explains. "But most of the time we lack the tools of structured thinking that help us turn these crazy ideas into practical, user-friendly solutions."

Kaushal himself was rendered completely blind due to glaucoma at the age of eight. With sheer determination he solved his own problem by developing Screen Access for All, the first open source screenreader in the world.

Following the presentation by Kaushal, the students proceeded to brainstorm and pitch ideas. Ten proposals were made, and each team assigned to one of four mentors selected from leaders in Nepal's tech industry, to develop their pitch over the coming month. Only five of ten teams returned to the actual hackathon. Three walked away with cash prizes of

NPR50,000, NPR30,000 and NPR20,000.

Apart from the cash prizes, the Winning and Runners Up teams were given the opportunity to work with the Nepal Telecommunications Authority to develop their products further.

Acharya's team from New Summit College, came Runners Up with their product, the BahasaBuddy app.

In the month allocated for app development, the team from New Summit made the four-and-a-half-hour drive to Acharya's home, Murali Banjyang in Dhading District, where the Swabalambi school is located. They worked with Ram Adhikhari and the students of the school to come up with Bahasa Buddy, an app which supports those with hearing disability, in the process of learning to read and write Nepali.

The app was created with the deaf community in mind, but it also has the potential to impact the lives of all illiterate people in Nepal. It uses gamification to aid learning, presenting the Nepali alphabet, one by one, allowing the user to trace over the letters, learning to write. When the user learns to write the letter, she is rewarded with "applause". The app also features images of objects associated with each letter and provides sign language translation, allowing the user to take the first steps to literacy, on

her own.

Adjudicators at the hackathon were looking for five key attributes of the product: impact, feasibility, reach, maturity and affordability. The clear winner, on all these counts, was the Mero Sati app developed by students from Prime College.

The idea behind the app was to address the fundamental problem identified at the DPO's workshop the month before: the inability of illiterate deaf persons to communicate with government officials without an interpreter. The app opens to a series of possible environments the user might be in. These include home, school and social gathering among others. Once the user selects the correct location, the app then presents a number of "play cards" which indicate subjects, objects and activities via images which can be selected and arranged to form the idea the user wants to communicate. When the play cards have been lined up, and automated voice "says" what the user wishes to communicate.

"The most useful thing [about the Mero Sati app] is that it could be used immediately," says Manohar Bhattarai, a leading ICT and information economy expert from Nepal who was one of the three adjudicators to assess the apps. "The other thing is that the app is simple."



Rajat Acharya tests the Bahasa Buddy app with deaf students from the Swabalambhi Primary School. March, 2018

The potential impact of the app was demonstrated at the event itself. The hackathon was held at the Institute of Engineering, Tribhuvan University, with food provided by The Bakery Café. The food chain trains and employs 45 hearing and speech disabled staff in ten locations, in a country where deaf people are otherwise considered unemployable. The

Mero Sati app was built for deaf people, so the team decided to trial the app with the deaf Bakery Café representatives at the venue during the hackathon. At the end of the trial, the representative handed the mobile phone back to the team and asked if he could download the app on his phone right away.

DIGITAL WORK

This year we finished the research on online freelancing and microwork in India, Myanmar and Sri Lanka. We interviewed over 450 people in focus groups or one-on-one interviews in the three countries, conducted online surveys with nearly 2,000 respondents in India and Myanmar, and had a national survey answer that answered relevant questions in Sri Lanka.

Our aim was to understand the potential for and barriers to digital gig work increasing employment and income opportunities in these countries, especially for youth and women. We found a range of jobs being done online – software design, translation, graphic design, content writing, website design, ad clicking, social media marketing. In India and Sri Lanka digital gig work was seen as a good way to earn much-needed additional income. In Myanmar, platforms helped create

trust in emerging labor for higher skilled jobs. Those who were constantly upskilling and had an entrepreneurial spirit were more likely to be successful in the long run doing gig work.

Significant problems were encountered in all countries – lack of social acceptance of gig work, lack of legal recognition of gig work making access to formal financial services impossible, electricity outages and slow Internet speeds making timely delivery of work difficult. There were other problems that need policy solutions: many in Sri Lanka (for example) had trouble getting paid from overseas buyers because of regulatory restrictions placed on PayPal, the dominant payment mechanism on platforms. Another set of problems are solvable by better platform design: lack of consequence for buyers who got the job done but never paid; rating

systems that allow buyers to rate workers but not vice versa. But harder to solve is the constant downward pressure on wages due to over supply of labor relative to demand.

Helani presented the findings and used them directly in interventions at various forums: at the United Nations Internet Governance Forum in Geneva; at the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) in Geneva; at the Future of Work workshop at IDRC in Canada; at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden; at the Development Implications of Digital Economies (DIODE) Strategic Research Network in Indonesia; at the Stockholm Internet Governance Forum in Sweden; at the Collaborative Action for the Future of Work design workshop organized by Ideo and the Ford Foundation in Washington DC. Rohan presented the findings



Focus group discussions with current freelancers in Mumbai, India. June, 2017

at the Jaffna Science Association Conference in Sri Lanka. Laleema presented the findings at the National Internet Governance Forum Sri Lanka and the Communications Policy Research South conference in Myanmar.



Helani on the panel at the Stockholm Internet Forum. May, 2017

GENDER

From its inception, LIRNEasia has been concerned with gender, though never focused on it.

Starting with T@BOP2 in 2006, we explored the gender patterns in ICT access and use among the lower income segments of the markets in several Asian countries. We identified the gaps in connectivity (which were, as expected, large in South Asian countries, but not Southeast Asian ones), but also that low income women's usage patterns in the countries we studied were not all that different from low income men's, challenging much of the then-widely-held perceptions/myths (largely based on small-sample surveys in affluent countries) – and also alluding to the idea of intersectionality that many are interrogating in today's context.

Our joint study with the GSM Association's Connected Women program on mobile and Internet use among women in Myanmar in 2015, Mobile Phones, Internet and Gender in Myanmar, allowed us to dive deeper and focus entirely

on gender and understand the complicated and intertwined nature of the economic and cultural barriers that women in Myanmar face in accessing mobiles and internet.

But what has perhaps been the culmination of over a decade of paying quiet attention to gender gaps and barriers, was our work on a toolkit for World Bank (WB) task team leaders, or TTLs, to mainstream gender into its ICT projects. This was an intense but rewarding piece of work which we took on in collaboration with Athena Infonomics and RIA, and involved detailed analyses of the potential gender barriers and opportunities that could arise in the implementation of ICT projects that the WB engages in over the project lifecycle. The scope of work also included developing guidelines to identify the barriers, potential data sources, monitoring and evaluation indicators and more for the key project types.

In recent years, LIRNEasia and sister networks DIRSI and RIA

have been fierce advocates for the collection and use of robust (nationally representative survey) data for policymaking, as compared to frail and anecdotal data sources. The AfterAccess work is an effort to fill the gaps. Being one of if not the largest source of comparable gender-disaggregated data available on ICT access and use, the surveys are positioned to provide evidence of the gender gaps and barriers in the countries that it currently covers. As we keep working to bring evidence to the policy process, with the data that we have in hand, we will also continue to encourage NSOs (national statistics offices) and policymakers to take up similar efforts as these types of (costly but valuable) surveys need to be repeated over time, and beyond the countries that we cover, to ensure the entire Global South is truly connected.

ONLINE RIGHTS

When we started off on T@BoP (TeleUse at the Bottom of the Pyramid) work in 2004, we were asking questions about who was online, who wasn't, and why. Increasingly, now, we are talking about people who are online but not getting the full benefit of the experience. An important part of this conversation is the understanding of what constitutes a person's rights and responsibilities in the digital sphere.

This year we embarked on exploring experience and perceptions of privacy and security with an online survey and qualitative research in Myanmar in September, 2017.

Online privacy in Myanmar seems a different beast. Respondents were more concerned about their social privacy than their institutional privacy. They refrained from using their real names and photographs in order to maintain a degree of anonymity and to prevent others in their network from acquiring too much personal information. Surprisingly, though, multiple social-media accounts and password sharing was considered unproblematic.

Governments and institutions accessing personal data wasn't a main concern, although the inaccessibility of social justice systems was highlighted.

The work impressed us with the importance of contextual nuance in global discussions on social media, and how perception of digital identity informs the conversation on digital privacy.

Helani shared these findings as part of a presentation on Emerging Asian Trends in WSIS outcomes made at the Intersessional Panel of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD) held at Palais des Nations, Geneva in November 2017. Gayani later presented the same at the Myanmar Digital Rights Forum in January 2018.

Based on the richness of what we discovered in Myanmar, we made online harassment one of the thematic focuses of the nationally-representative AfterAccess surveys.

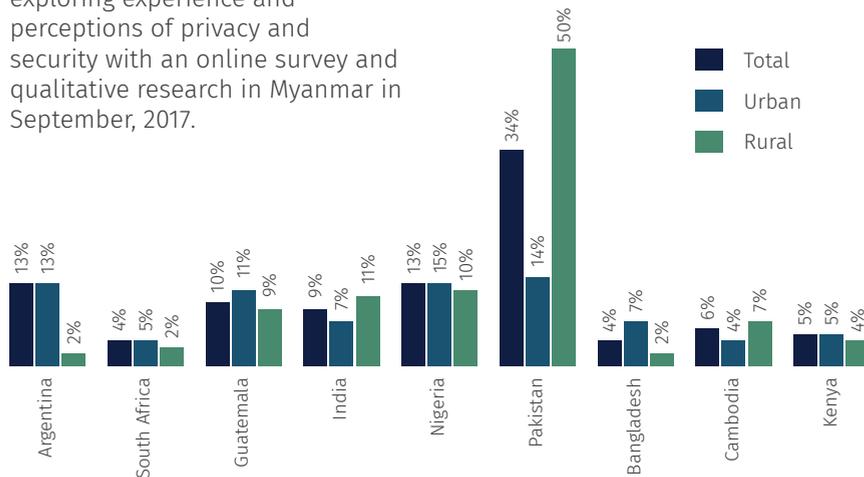


Figure 24. Victim of online bullying (% of social media users aged 15-65)

OpenGov

At LIRNEasia, we believe deeply in openness as a means of developing trust and consensus. It is the root of our corporate culture, the basis for our open access policy on publications, and at times, the hypothesis of our research.

On 14 September 2017 we launched www.opendemarcations.lk, an open data tool for re-demarcating Sri Lanka's electoral divisions. The tool allows users to add or delete electoral divisions to or from proposed electorates, creating new distributions with altered population sizes and distributions. The expectation was that an open system for redistricting would help bring trust and consensus to an often-contentious demarcation process.

Electoral reforms were a key part of the constitutional changes promised by major Parties contesting both the Presidential election in January 2015 and the general election in August 2015. As the 2018 delimitation committee of Sri Lanka (DCSL) noted in its final report:

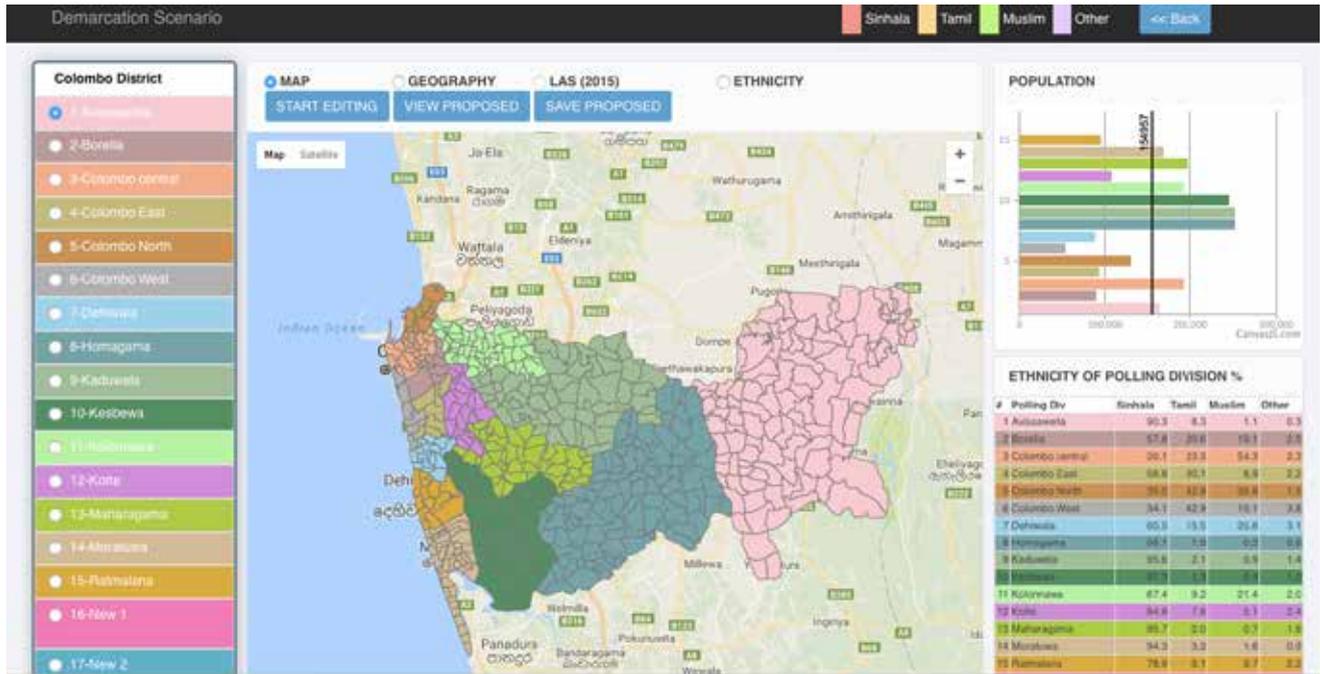
“[O]ften, individuals and institutions that made submissions at the public hearings did not know the demographic facts relating to their own geographical areas. As such, their submissions were based on erroneous assumptions and perceptions. The Committee recommends that, as a national policy, public awareness programs be arranged through print and electronic media to address this unfortunate issue.” (DLCS, 2018, p. 636)

The [opendemarcations.lk](http://www.opendemarcations.lk) tool was meant to fill this gap. And indeed, it empowered civil society groups and small political Parties representing minorities to participate actively in submitting proposals to the 2018 Committee to Demarcate Electorates for Provincial Councils.

We don't imagine that the [opendemarcations.lk](http://www.opendemarcations.lk) tool is the end of the work. Additional tools and engagements are needed to link openness to trust and consensus in the re-demarcation process in Sri Lanka. Delimitation processes do not typically require that a Delimitation Committee

responds to each and every submission. The 2018 Committee, for example, is only required to take all submissions into consideration, but draft its own map and submit it to the Parliament for ratification. The team developed a simple set of tests for use by civil society to conduct self-evaluations of their proposals.

We are encouraged by the fact that our tool helped stakeholders better understand the positions taken by the Committee. Engagement with Parliamentarians using the tool, to help them compare maps presented to them with alternative maps, if they so request, is also ongoing. Our next step is to convince the Delimitation Commission of Sri Lanka and relevant policymakers that it is in their interest to make delimitation data and tools made available openly.



Above: The left panel on the tool lists the electorates reflected in the map (center). On the right are a population graph (top) and ethnicity data (bottom). The map shows grama niladhari divisions which can be added or removed from the selected electorates. Data on the panels (right) reflected the changes made to the map.

Left : Participants at the launch workshop, testing the opendemarcations.lk tool

POLICY AND REGULATION



Helani at the GPSDD Board's inaugural meeting during the UN General Assembly in September 2017.

Everything we do is ultimately about policy and regulation – a question of communicating what's most needed and most effective at the periphery, to the decision-making center. Direct wins are rare, but this year we experienced some. The results of our 2016 nationally representative survey were quoted extensively in Myanmar's Universal Service Strategy document released in January 2018. Our findings on affordability,

ownership of devices, digital skills and the gender gap were used to inform recommendations on the management of the country's universal service fund. The low digital skills of mobile owners especially received significant attention. The document proposed ICT training in schools and alternative learning centers as well as training geared towards women and girls, to close the skills gap, and the gender gap in digital skills.

This year we are better positioned to influence the global debates than we were last year. Helani was appointed to the Board of the Global Partnership on Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD) and Sriganesh was appointed to the board of Sri Lanka's first social innovation lab, Citra Labs. Rohan was appointed, for a second term, to the Privacy Advisory Group of the United Nations Global Pulse.

On December 07, 2016, LIRNEasia launched findings from a series of systematic reviews in Colombo, alongside the World Development Report. The launch event resulted in considerable media coverage on telecom tax structure. Two days later, during a budget debate taking place in the Parliament of Sri Lanka, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs asked that the excessive taxes imposed on data services in Sri Lanka be reversed. The Hansard for December 09, 2016 records that the Deputy Minister tabled LIRNEasia's systematic review report on the impact of mobile devices on MSMEs in Parliament. It took several more months, but a win finally came in August, 2017 when the finance minister announced a 10% cut on data taxes.

In 2017 Shazna led a sub-committee for the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) that consisted of senior government officials from the UN member states. The task at hand was to assess if a revision to the existing ICT Price Basket (IPB) methodology was necessary, with recommendations for a revised method if deemed necessary. The IPB is the only global



Shazna Zuhyle (right) with EGTI chair Iñigo Herguera (left) and Ivan Vallejo of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) (center). September, 2018.

price benchmark for mobile voice and SMS, mobile broadband and fixed broadband that includes all member states. The current methodology was adopted from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2010. Following an approach based on evidence of consumption from all regions,

the proposed revisions were presented at the Expert Group on Telecommunications/ICT indicators (EGTI) meeting in September 2017 in Geneva. A unanimous decision was taken to adopt the new methodology in 2018.

MEDIA PRESENCE

This year, we refined our media tracking. We had so far been tracking multiple researchers and counting these as LIRNEasia credits. We continue to track the media presence of our researchers, but now focus more intently on how LIRNEasia is represented and recognized in the global media. This means the numbers this year are lower than last. But it also means they are more meaningful¹.

India was media-heavy for us in August 2017. The publicity was mostly thanks to our findings on zero-rating and earn-reward apps in India, which were publicized by the funder, Mozilla Corporation. South Asia and Sri Lanka have consistently remained, over the years, where we are most quoted, thanks to our head office being based in Colombo. This year's media presence in Sri Lanka was enhanced by Sriganesh's

presence at multiple big data for development events including the SGDdataLK conference and Arthur C. Clarke memorial events.

Our engagement with Myanmar ends in August 2018. We attempted a number of engagements with media over the reporting period, which did not yield as good results as we expected. Nevertheless, our consistent engagement with telecom sector developments in the country, through Myanmar ICT for Development Organization (MIDO), meant we still had considerable coverage in South East Asia, and in Burmese language publications.

AfterAccess, the body of research that has taken up much of our attention this year, and is the theme of this Annual Report, also generated the most media attention. LIRNEasia and AfterAccess together received

The year's mentions:

- 13 COUNTRIES**
- 97 PUBLISHERS**
- 8 LANGUAGES**
- 11 LIRNEasia FOLK CITED OR QUOTED**

¹As meaningful as Google Alerts allows them to be.

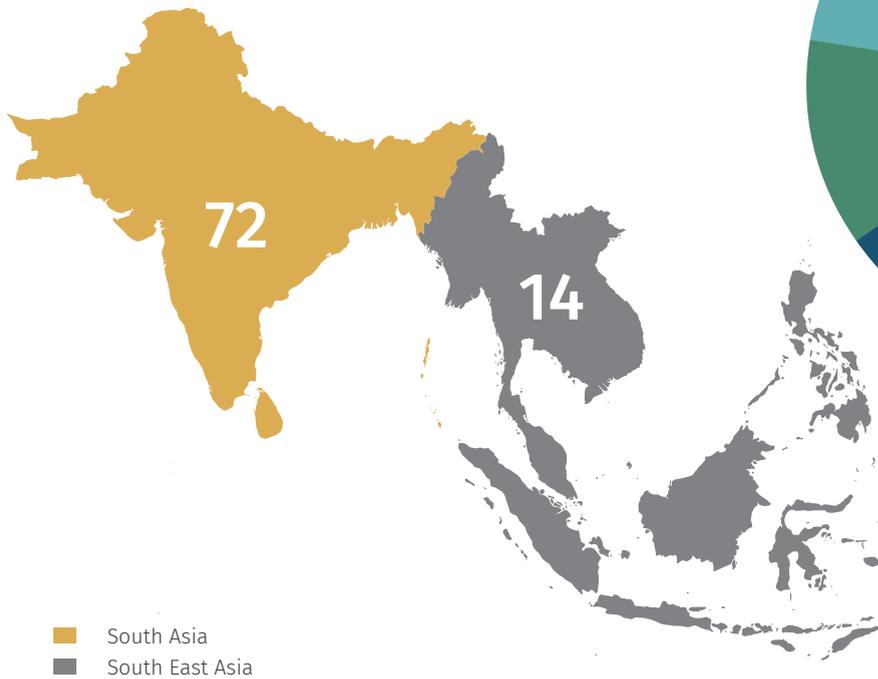


Figure 25. Media mentions by region

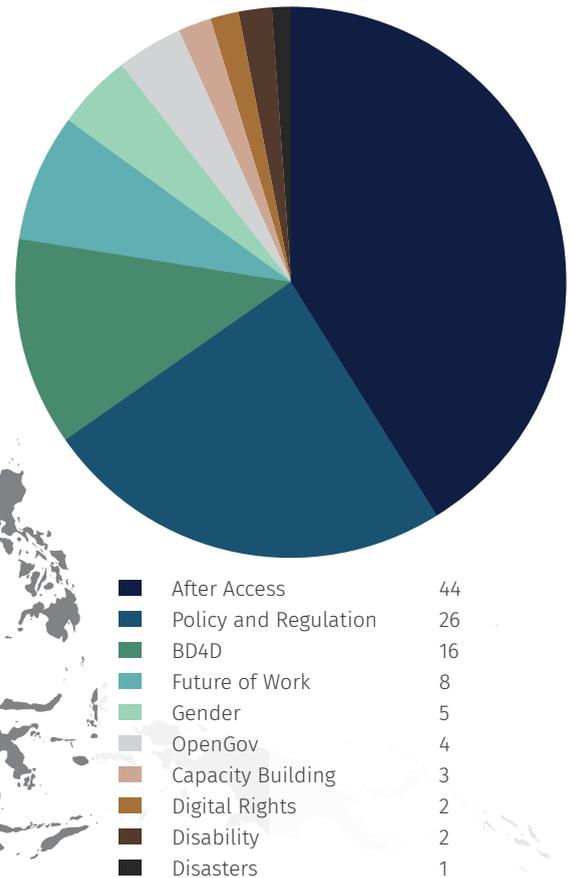


Figure 26. Media mentions by theme

almost consistent coverage throughout the year, generating at least 44 of the total 145 records.

Big Data for Development is one of the globally hot topics we engage with, and both Helani and Sriganesh were invited to multiple global events to engage on the topic this year. Their presence, and

other mentions of our big data work generated nearly a tenth of all our coverage.

Our policy fellow Abu Saeed Khan continues to engage in affairs of policy and regulation in Bangladesh, keeping us regularly mentioned in the media there. He, together with Rohan and

Shazna consistently engage on current topics related to Policy and Regulation of ICTs through opinion pieces and TV appearances. Discussion on indicators, rankings, policies and regulatory issues generated at least 26 media mentions for us during the reporting period.

MOTHERS (AND FATHERS) AT WORK

We have always been proud of the room with the red telephone-booth door; the LIRNEasia TARDIS. It has many names: the baby room, the kids room, the multi-purpose room, the middle room, and the list goes on. The toys, the bean bags and most importantly the shrieks of excitement and laughter that fill it not-often-enough, are a sign of our commitment to doing good work and raising great families.

Nearly half of LIRNEasia's current employees are parents. We set up this room in 2015 in the hope that it would make balancing multiple roles easier for these mothers and fathers, particularly those with young children. The expectation is built around mothers, but it is when fathers play the role that mothers can contribute better to the workforce. We are proud to say that the room has been useful not only to almost all the mothers on our team, but also to the fathers. They've played a role, and enabled



Shazna, mother of two, (L) on the “Female Futures Forum” panel at the Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week, October, 2017



Helani was featured in Echelon Magazine's issue on Women and Work. March, 2018.

their partners to contribute to the workforce, whether at LIRNEasia or elsewhere.

We support parents who pursue professional careers. And it seems this counts. Although many still center the discussion on parenting and professional careers on women, we are glad to be a part of it.

Both Helani and Shazna made a presence this year, in forums focused on women and employment. Helani was featured in a special issue of Echelon magazine titled 'Women and Work' in March 2018. Shazna was featured

in the Business Times and invited to speak on a panel at the 'Female Futures Forum', part of Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week held in October 2017, Colombo.

We understand the importance of parents being present in their children's lives. And we appreciate the difficulties that come with juggling multiple roles and responsibilities. We are glad to set an example and look forward to seeing more fathers become part of the conversation.



All of LIRNEasia's babies at the time were invited to the opening of the creche at our Colombo office. April, 2015.

A YEAR FOR SOCIAL MEDIA BANS?

Early March 2018, a Buddhist truck driver was killed in Digana, Sri Lanka, in a road rage incident. In the ensuing violence, Buddhist mobs attacked mosques and Muslim-owned establishments in the area.

The problem escalated, they said, because of social media. Racist messages were thought to be spreading via Facebook groups, WhatsApp and other messaging systems, so government imposed a nation-wide ban on these platforms over the ensuing week.

Sri Lanka has previously shut down telecom networks for short times in areas where military operations were underway. But the country-wide shut down of specific applications was unprecedented. A cursory qualitative analysis showed that just over 10,000 individual accounts were generating racist content: a mere 0.2% of the 4.5 registered Facebook accounts in Sri Lanka. We were acutely aware, on the other hand, of the damage the block could cause to individuals and businesses that relied on these platforms for daily communications.

On March 15, the New York Times published Rohan's opinion piece, "Banning Social Media Won't Stop Hate Speech". "There is no doubt that social media companies need to do more," he wrote, "But focusing too narrowly on one company or platform is a mistake."

In course of our work in the region we had developed relations with decision makers in government as well as with senior people in service providers. Rohan had previously made arrangements for Facebook to provide training for government information officers and helped the Elections Commission of Sri Lanka to assess the potential of social media in their work. He introduced Facebook's senior officials in the region to government officials. The ban on Facebook, WhatsApp and Viber was originally meant to last only three days. It was nearly a week before it was lifted.

Mere days later, the New York Times and The Guardian ran their stories on the Cambridge Analytica scandal. Indonesia's Communications Minister

requested proof from Facebook that the Indonesian users' (who make up 11-percent of all Facebook users) data was not compromised. If the evidence wasn't forthcoming, he would block Facebook in Indonesia and take legal action, partly to avoid potential manipulation of the upcoming presidential election.

In July 2017, we had conducted indicative surveys among households and individuals in Indonesia, on Internet access and use. We knew that of respondents who owned small enterprises, 85-percent used social media to market their products. Given that small and medium enterprises contributed 60-percent of Indonesia's GDP and 90-percent of employment in 2017, we thought it important to point to the not-insignificant role of social media as an economic enabler in Indonesia.

Ayesha, who headed the research, quickly worked with Ibrahim Kholilul Rohman, who has been an engaged member of CPR*south* and published an opinion piece in the local language as well as in English in The Jakarta Post.

“...as a starting point, banning Facebook cannot be seen as a wise decision at the moment, considering that people are starting to economize this platform particularly in the SME sector, which plays an important role in Indonesia’s economy.”

We were one among a number of other voices pointing out the potential problems of blocking Facebook in Indonesia. On Friday, 27 April 2018, the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology of Indonesia announced that the Facebook ban was ruled out. We celebrated.

As Rohan wrote in the New York Times:

“A foundation of mutual distrust and fear — not access to social media — is the necessary condition for the mobilization of violent mobs. Governments can’t dismantle that foundation alone. Media companies of all kinds must accept responsibility and deploy artificial intelligence and plain old elbow grease to the task. And people of good will must play their part by calling out falsehoods and reporting those responsible. Banning social media after the mobs have started running is mere political theater.”

The New York Times

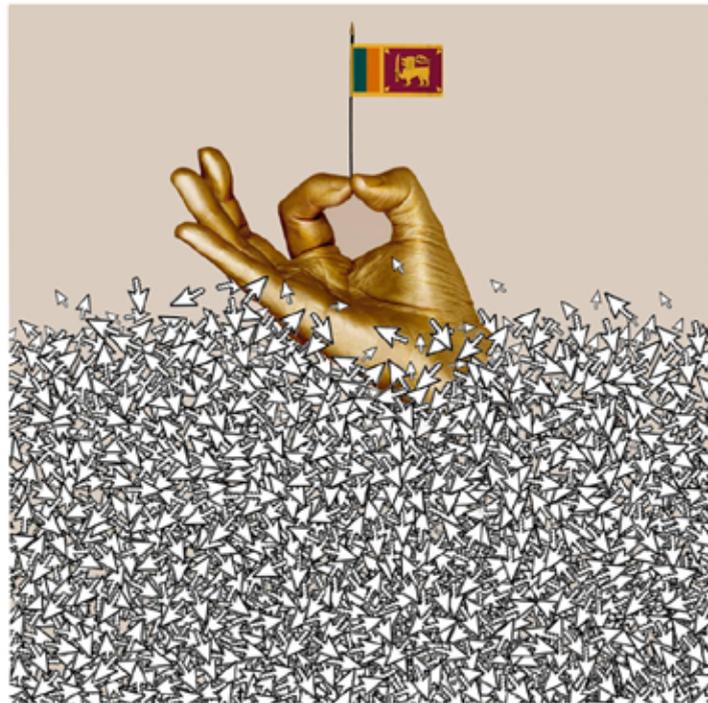
Opinion

OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR

Banning Social Media Won’t Stop Hate Speech

By Rohan Samarajiva

March 15, 2018



Rohan’s opinion piece, published in the New York Times of March 15, 2018

A blue desk with a lamp, a notebook, and a calculator. The lamp is on the left, casting light on a calculator. The notebook is on the right. The text 'FINANCIAL REPORTS' is overlaid on a light blue box in the bottom right.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the shareholders of LIRNEasia

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of LIRNEasia ('the Company'), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2018, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company as at March 31, 2018, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Sri Lanka Accounting Standards.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Code of Ethics issued by CA Sri Lanka (Code of Ethics) that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code of Ethics. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF MANAGEMENT AND THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with Sri Lanka Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matter related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SLAuSs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at Sri Lanka Accounting and Auditing website at: www.slaasc.com/auditingstandards/auditorsresponsibility. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

REPORT ON OTHER LEGAL AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

As required by section 163 (2) of the companies Act No. 07 of 2007, we have obtained all the information and explanations that were required for the audit, and as far as appears from our examination, proper accounting records have been kept by the Company.

Wijeyeratne & Company
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
Colombo, 03rd August 2018

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2018

	NOTES	YEAR ENDED 31.03.2018	Rs.	YEAR ENDED 31.03.2017	Rs.
TURNOVER	3	36,757,639		26,378,444	
Other Income	4	1,807,288		1,059,731	
		<hr/>		<hr/>	
		38,564,927		27,438,175	
Administration Expenses		(27,009,645)		(24,872,224)	
		<hr/>		<hr/>	
PROFIT FROM OPERATIONS	5	11,555,282		2,565,951	
Finance Cost		(1,225,888)		(1,187,343)	
		<hr/>		<hr/>	
PROFIT BEFORE INCOME TAX		10,329,394		1,378,609	
INCOME TAX EXPENSE	6	(1,030,268)		(202,452)	
		<hr/>		<hr/>	
PROFIT FOR THE YEAR		9,299,126		1,176,156	
Other Comprehensive Income		-		-	
		<hr/>		<hr/>	
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR		9,299,126		1,176,156	
		<hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>	

The Accounting Policies and Notes set out on pages 76 through 93 form an integral part of these Financial Statements.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31ST MARCH 2018

	NOTES	31.03.2018	Rs.	31.03.2017	Rs.
ASSETS					
NON CURRENT ASSETS					
Property, Plant and Equipment	7	1,796,566		1,978,111	
Term Deposit	8	19,934,267		15,006,681	
Deferred Tax Asset	9	916,407		754,884	
		<u>22,647,240</u>		<u>17,739,675</u>	
CURRENT ASSETS					
Trade and Other Receivables		5,574,898		3,347,520	
Cash and Cash Equivalents		86,947,102		82,059,515	
		<u>92,522,000</u>		<u>85,407,035</u>	
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>115,169,240</u>		<u>103,146,710</u>	
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES					
RESERVES					
Retained Earnings		14,546,488		5,247,362	
Exchange Equalization Reserve		1,341,818		892,503	
		<u>15,888,306</u>		<u>6,139,865</u>	
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Projects	10	59,880,154		70,666,685	
Retirement Benefit Obligation	11	7,851,230		6,370,611	
		<u>67,731,384</u>		<u>77,037,296</u>	
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Trade and Other Payables		30,425,084		19,966,396	
Income Tax Payable		1,124,466		3,153	
		<u>31,549,550</u>		<u>19,969,549</u>	
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		<u>115,169,240</u>		<u>103,146,710</u>	

The Board of Directors is responsible for the Preparation and Presentation of these Financial Statements.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Directors ;

DIRECTORS

1. _____ 2. _____

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2018

	YEAR ENDED 31.03.2018	Rs.	YEAR ENDED 31.03.2017	Rs.
Cash Flow from Operating Activities				
Profit Before Tax	10,329,394		1,378,609	
Adjustment for				
Depreciation	1,133,546		1,202,152	
Provision for Gratuity	1,408,607		1,364,293	
Profit from sale of property Plant and Equipment	-		(51,542)	
Cash Generated from Operating Activities before changes in Working capital	<u>12,871,547</u>		<u>3,893,512</u>	
Changes in Working Capital				
Trade and Other Receivables	(2,227,378)		1,233,197	
Trade and Other Payables	<u>10,458,687</u>		<u>1,767,600</u>	
Cash Generated from Operating Activities	21,102,856		6,894,309	
Gratuity Paid	-		(1,290,643)	
Tax Paid	(62,067)		(229,641)	
Exchange Equalization Reserve	461,821		3,489,509	
Net Cash Generated from Operating Activities	<u>21,502,610</u>		<u>8,863,534</u>	
Cash Flow from Investing Activities				
Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment	(900,907)		(1,314,032)	
Proceeds from sale of property plant and Equipment	-		51,555	
Investment in Fixed Deposits	(4,927,585)		(337,759)	
Net Cash Used in Investing Activities	<u>(5,828,492)</u>		<u>(1,600,236)</u>	
Cash Flow from Financing Activities				
Funds Received from Project	(10,786,531)		28,627,902	
Net Cash Generated from/ (Used In) Financing Activities	<u>(10,786,531)</u>		<u>28,627,902</u>	
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	4,887,587		35,891,200	
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Year	82,059,515		46,168,315	
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the End of the Year (NOTE A)	<u>86,947,102</u>		<u>82,059,515</u>	
NOTE A - Cash and Cash Equivalents at the End of the year Bank and Cash Balance	<u>86,947,102</u>		<u>82,059,515</u>	

CHANGES IN EQUITY STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2018

	RETAINED EARNINGS	Rs.	EXCHANGE EQUALIZATION RESERVE	Rs.	TOTAL	Rs.
Balance as at 01.04.2016		3,347,226		617,725		3,964,951
Prior year Adjustment on Deferred Tax		<u>723,980</u>		-		<u>723,980</u>
Comprehensive Income						
Net Profit for the Year		1,176,156		-		1,176,156
Movement During the Year		<u>-</u>		<u>274,778</u>		<u>274,778</u>
		<u>1,176,156</u>		<u>274,778</u>		<u>1,450,934</u>
Other Comprehensive Income		-		-		-
Total Comprehensive Income for the year		<u>1,176,156</u>		<u>274,778</u>		<u>1,450,934</u>
Balance as at 31.03.2017		5,247,362		892,503		6,139,865
Comprehensive Income						
Net Profit for the Year		9,299,126		-		9,299,126
Movement During the Year		<u>-</u>		<u>449,315</u>		<u>449,315</u>
		<u>9,299,126</u>		<u>449,315</u>		<u>9,748,441</u>
Other Comprehensive Income		-		-		-
Total Comprehensive Income for the year		<u>9,299,126</u>		<u>449,315</u>		<u>9,748,441</u>
Balance as at 31.03.2018		<u>14,546,488</u>		<u>1,341,818</u>		<u>15,888,306</u>

NOTES

To The Financial Statements - 31St March 2018

1.0 CORPORATE INFORMATION

1.1 Domicile and Legal Form

LIRNEasia is a Company limited by guarantee incorporated and domiciled in Sri Lanka. The registered office of the Company is located at No.12 Balcombe Place, Colombo 08, Sri Lanka.

1.2 Principal Activities and Nature of Operations

To support economic and other reforms in networked economics that would enable people in Sri Lanka and Asia to better use information and communication technologies (ICTs) and complementary infrastructures, through dialogue, policy and regulatory advice, research , development, consultancy, training and other activities.

1.3 Date of authorization for issue

The financial statements of L I R N E a s i a, for the year ended 31 March 2018 were authorized by the Board of Directors on the 31st of July, 2018.

2.0 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

2.1 Basis of Preparation

2.1.1 Statement of Compliance

The Statement of Financial Position, and Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Equity and

Statement of Cash Flows together with the Accounting Policies and Notes (the “Financial Statements”) of L I R N E a s i a as at 31 March 2017 and for the year then ended, have been prepared in accordance with the Sri Lanka Accounting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities (“SLFRS for SMEs”) as issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka and the requirement of the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007.

2.1.2 Basis of Measurement

The financial statements of the Company are prepared on an accrual basis and under the historical cost convention except otherwise stated.

2.1.3 Functional and Presentation Currency

Financial Statements of the company are presented in Sri Lankan Rupees (LKR), which is the Company’s functional currency and all financial information presented in Sri Lankan Rupees has been rounded to the nearest Rupee, except when otherwise indicated.

2.1.4 Use of estimates and judgments

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with SLFRS for SMEs, require management to make judgments, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgments about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognized in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

2.1.5 Events after the End of the Reporting Period

All material events after the end of the reporting period have been considered and where appropriate adjustments to or disclosures have been made in the respective notes to the financial statements.

2.1.6 Foreign Currency Translation

All foreign exchange transactions are converted to United States Dollars, which is the Company's reporting currency at the rates of exchange prevailing at the time the transactions are effected. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated to United States Dollars equivalents at the end of each reporting period using the closing spot foreign exchange rates.

Non monetary assets and liabilities measured at historical cost are translated using exchange rates that existed when the values were determined. Non monetary assets and liabilities measured at fair value are translated using the exchange rate that existed when the fair values were determined. The resulting exchange difference is recognized in the profit or loss for the period.

2.1.7 Materiality and Aggregation

Each material class of similar items is presented separately in the Financial Statements. Items of a dissimilar nature or function are presented separately unless they are immaterial.

2.1.8 Going Concern

The directors have a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Company therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

2.2 Revenue and Expenditure Recognition

2.2.1 Revenue Recognition

Revenue is recognized to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Company, and the revenue and associated costs incurred or to be incurred can be reliably measured. Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, net of trade discounts and taxes.

Project Management Fees

Revenue represents the project management fees earned during the year.

Other sources of income

Other Income is recognized on an accrual basis.

Gains and Losses

Net gains and losses of a revenue nature arising from the disposal of property, plant and equipment and other non-current assets, including investments, are accounted for in the income statement, after deducting from the proceeds on disposal, the carrying amount of such assets and the related selling expenses.

Gains and losses arising from activities incidental to the main revenue generating activities and those arising from a group of similar transactions which are not material, are aggregated, reported and presented on a net basis.

2.2.2 Expenditure Recognition

Expenses are recognized in the income statement on the basis of a direct association between the cost incurred and the earning of specific items of income. All expenditure incurred in the running of the business and in maintaining the Property, Plant and Equipment in a state of efficiency has been charged to the income statement.

For the purpose of presentation of the income statement, the “function of expenses” method has been adopted, on the basis that it presents fairly the elements of the Company’s performance.

2.3 Taxation

Current Taxes

The current income tax charge is calculated on the basis of tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date and generate taxable income. The tax expense for the period comprises current income tax and deferred tax. Tax is recognized in profit or loss, except that a change attributable to an item of income or expense recognized as other comprehensive income is directly recognized in other comprehensive income.

Deferred Taxation

Deferred tax is recognized on differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities in the statement of financial position and their corresponding tax bases. Deferred tax liabilities are recognized for all temporary differences that are expected to increase taxable profit in the future periods as a result of a past transactions or events.

2.4 Property, Plant and Equipment

Cost and Valuation

All items of property, plant and equipment are initially recorded at cost. Subsequent to initial recognition, property, plant and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment in value.

Cost includes expenditures that are directly attributable to the acquisition of the asset. Purchased software that is integral to the functionality of the related equipment is capitalized as part of that equipment.

When significant parts of property, plant and equipment are required to be replaced at intervals, such parts are recognized as individual assets

with specific useful lives and depreciated accordingly. Similarly, when a major inspection is performed, its cost is recognized in the carrying amount of the plant and equipment as a replacement with the earlier cost being de recognized.

The carrying values of property, plant and equipment are reviewed for impairment when events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable.

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognized on disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal. The gain/loss on derecognition of an item of property, plant and equipment is included in profit or loss in the year the asset is derecognized.

Depreciation

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of assets less their residual values over their estimated useful lives, using the straight line method. Depreciation for an asset begins when it is available for use and ceases when the asset is de-recognized.

The following rates are used for the depreciation of property, plant and equipment.

ASSETS	%
Computer	33.33%
Furniture and Fittings	25%
Equipment	25%
Vehicle	25%

2.5 Impairment of Non Financial Assets

At each reporting date, property, plant and equipment and intangible assets are reviewed to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If there is an indication of possible impairment, the recoverable amount of any affected asset (or group of related assets) is estimated and compared with its carrying

amount. If estimated recoverable amount is lower, the carrying amount is reduced to its estimated recoverable amount, and an impairment loss is recognized immediately in profit or loss.

If an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset (or group of related assets) is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but not in excess of the amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognized for the asset (group of related assets) in prior years. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognized immediately in profit or loss.

2.3 Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities

Initial Recognition and Measurement

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognized only when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. A Financial Asset or a Financial Liability is recognized initially at the transaction price (including transaction costs except in the financial assets and financial liabilities measured initially at fair value), unless the arrangement constitutes in effect a financing transaction where on initial measurement the Financial Asset and Financial Liability is measured at the present value of future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar instrument.

Subsequent Measurement

Financial Assets and Liabilities are measured at amortized cost using the effective interest method at each reporting date. In measuring the amortized cost, the amount at initial recognition,

- 2.4** minus any repayments of the principal, plus or minus the cumulative amortization derived through the effective interest method minus any reduction for impairment in the case of financial asset.

Derecognition

A financial asset is derecognized when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled or the

company transfer to another party substantial all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset or the company, despite having retained some significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party and the other party has the practical ability to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party.

Financial liabilities are de recognized only when the obligation in the contract is discharged, is cancelled or expires.

2.7 Impairment of Financial Assets

At the end of each of reporting period, company assesses whether there is objective evidence of impairment of any financial assets that are measured at cost or amortized cost which loss is recognized in profit or loss.

If in a subsequent period, the amount of an impairment loss decreases to the extent that it can be related objectively to the previously recognized impairment loss, then the previously recognized impairment loss shall be reversed in the profit or loss directly.

2.8 Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments held to meet short-term cash commitments rather than for investment or other purposes.

For the purpose of cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents consist of cash on hand and deposits in banks net of outstanding bank overdrafts (if any) which are repayable on demand and investments with short maturities.

2.9 Retirement Benefit Obligation

Defined benefit plan – Gratuity

Gratuity is a Defined Benefit Plan. The Company is liable to pay gratuity in terms of the relevant statute. In order to meet this liability, a provision is carried forward in the statement of financial position, equivalent to an amount calculated based on a half month's salary of the last month of the financial year of all employees for each completed year of service, commencing from the first year of service. The resulting difference between brought forward provision at the beginning of a year net of any payments made, and the carried forward provision at the end of a year is dealt with in the income statement.

The gratuity liability is not funded nor actuarially valued.

Defined Contribution Plans – Employees' Provident Fund and Employees' Trust Fund

All employees are eligible for Employees' Provident Fund contribution and Employees' Trust Fund contribution in line with respective statutes and regulations. The Company contributes the defined percentages of gross emoluments of employees to an approved Employee's Provident Fund and to the Employee's Trust Fund respectively, which are externally funded.

Obligations for contribution to Employees' Provident and Employees' Trust Fund covering all employees are recognized as an expense in profit or loss as incurred.

2.10 Provisions, Contingent Assets and Contingent Liabilities

Provisions are recognized when the company has a legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events at the reporting date, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required to settle the obligation and the amount of obligation can be estimated reliably.

The provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at each reporting date with changes at

each reporting date taken to profit or loss.

When the effect of time value of money is material the provisions are measured at the present value of the future amount required to settle the obligation using a pre tax rate reflecting the current market assessment of the time value of money and specific risks relevant for the obligation. The increase in provision due to time passage is recognized as a finance expense in the profit or loss.

2.7 All contingent liabilities are disclosed as a note to the financial statements unless the outflow of resources is remote.

Contingent assets are disclosed, where inflow of economic benefit is probable.

3.0 REVENUE

	YEAR ENDED 31.03.2018	Rs.	YEAR ENDED 31.03.2017	Rs.
Income Recieved	36,757,639		26,378,444	

4.0 OTHER INCOME

Interest Income	1,807,288		1,008,189	
Profit on Disposal of Property Plant and Equipment	-		51,542	
	<u>1,807,288</u>		<u>1,059,731</u>	

5.0 PROFIT FROM OPERATIONS

The following items have been charged in arriving at operating profit.

Audit Fees	92,868		111,387	
Consultancy Fees	6,670,870		5,678,400	

6.0 INCOME TAX EXPENSES

The provision for Income Tax has been made on the profits for the year adjusted for taxation purposes in accordance with Inland Revenue Act No. 10 of 2006.

	YEAR ENDED 31.03.2018	Rs.	YEAR ENDED 31.03.2017	Rs.
Current Taxation	1,183,258		77,542	
Under Provision of income tax for the year of assessment 2015/2016	-		133,748	
	<u>1,183,258</u>		<u>211,290</u>	
Deferred Tax	(152,990)		(8,838)	
	<u>1,030,268</u>		<u>202,452</u>	

7.0 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	FURNITURE & FITTINGS	Rs.	COMPUTERS	Rs.	EQUIPMENT	Rs.	MOTOR VEHICLES	Rs.	TOTAL	Rs.
COST										
As at 01.04.2017	2,067,513		5,672,056		3,308,430		8,606,584		19,654,583	
Additions	14,424		430,736		455,747		-		900,907	
Exchange Equalization Reserve	58,049		165,389		99,877		240,332		563,647	
	<u>2,139,986</u>		<u>6,268,181</u>		<u>3,864,053</u>		<u>8,846,916</u>		<u>21,119,137</u>	
As at 31.03.2018	<u>2,139,986</u>		<u>6,268,181</u>		<u>3,864,053</u>		<u>8,846,916</u>		<u>21,119,137</u>	
ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION										
As at 01.04.2017	1,889,561		4,225,776		2,982,182		8,578,953		17,676,472	
Charge for the year	81,636		849,960		174,319		27,631		1,133,546	
Exchange Equalization Reserve	81,636		131,973		86,141		240,332		512,553	
	<u>2,052,833</u>		<u>5,207,709</u>		<u>3,242,642</u>		<u>8,846,916</u>		<u>19,322,570</u>	
As at 31.03.2018	<u>2,052,833</u>		<u>5,207,709</u>		<u>3,242,642</u>		<u>8,846,916</u>		<u>19,322,570</u>	

	FURNITURE & FITTINGS Rs.	COMPUTERS Rs.	EQUIPMENT Rs.	MOTOR VEHICLES Rs.	TOTAL Rs.
NET BOOK VALUE					
As at 31.03.2018	<u>114,683</u>	<u>1,060,471</u>	<u>621,412</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,796,566</u>
As at 31.03.2017	<u>177,952</u>	<u>1,446,280</u>	<u>326,248</u>	<u>27,631</u>	<u>1,978,111</u>

8.0 TERM DEPOSITS

	YEAR ENDED 31.03.2018	Rs.	YEAR ENDED 31.03.2017	Rs.
Fixed Deposit - NDB	<u>19,934,267</u>		<u>15,006,681</u>	

9.0 DEFERRED TAX ASSET

Balance at the Beginning of the year	754,884	-
Prior year adjustment on Deferred Tax	-	723,980
Provision for the year	152,990	8,838
Exchange Equalization Reserve	8,533	22,066
Balance as at end of the year	<u>916,407</u>	<u>754,884</u>

10.0 PROJECTS

	YEAR ENDED 31.03.2018		YEAR ENDED 31.03.2017	
		Rs.		Rs.
Vriens & Partner		1,910,406		268,880
Nanyang Technological University - SIRCA		-		679,514
PUCSL Project		-		(22,152)
University of Alberta Project		-		402,096
FORD 2		3,130,065		11,060,679
University of Washington Big Data Project		402,913		2,967,319
Mozilla Corporation India		-		516,765
London School of Economics		-		314,863
PWC DFID		(12,490,874)		1,008,734
IDRC- Agri BPO		(8,910,960)		16,865,308
IDRC - Big Data		-		6,262,237
IDRC - Big Data for Development		11,480,373		(1,383,056)
IDRC - Network Economy in Myanmar		(4,430,837)		16,868,229
IDRC - Turning Evidence		13,632,201		-
IDRC - Digital Access Project		16,101,372		14,857,270
CPR in Africa & Asia		10,178,318		-
FORD 3		20,824,227		-
Household Survey on ICT Access		4,315,694		-
World Bank Project		3,737,257		-
		<u>59,880,154</u>		<u>70,666,685</u>

11.0 PROVISION FOR RETIRING GRATUITY

Balance at the Beginning of the year		6,370,611		5,969,692
Add : Provision made during the year		1,408,607		1,364,293
		<u>7,779,217</u>		<u>7,333,985</u>
Less: Payment During the year		-		(1,290,643)
Exchange Equalization Reserve		(72,013)		327,269
		<u>7,851,230</u>		<u>6,370,611</u>

12.0 DIRECTORS INTEREST IN CONTRACT

Prof. Rohan Samarajiva who is a director of the organization received a sum of Rs. 6,003,652.64/- from the LIRNE asia as consultancy fees during the year.

13.0 PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENT

Deferred tax asset which had not been considered in prior Accounting periods has been adjusted in the current year's financial statements.

DETAILED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2018

	SCHEDULES	YEAR ENDED		YEAR ENDED	
		31.03.2018	Rs.	31.03.2017	Rs.
REVENUE					
Income Received		36,757,639		26,378,444	
Other Income	1	1,807,288		1,059,731	
		<u>38,564,927</u>		<u>27,438,175</u>	
Less : EXPENSES AND OUTGOINGS					
Administration Expenses	2	27,009,645		24,872,224	
Finance Cost	3	1,225,888		1,187,343	
		<u>(28,235,532)</u>		<u>(26,059,566)</u>	
PROFIT FOR THE YEAR		<u>10,329,394</u>		<u>1,378,609</u>	

SCHEDULES TO THE STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2018

	YEAR ENDED		YEAR ENDED	
	31.03.2018	Rs.	31.03.2017	Rs.
1 OTHER INCOME				
Interest Income	1,807,288		1,008,189	
Profit on Disposal of Property Plant and Equipment	-		51,542	
	<u>1,807,288</u>		<u>1,059,731</u>	
2 ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES				
Audit Fees	92,868		111,387	
Consultancy & Research Fees	6,670,870		5,678,400	
Courier Charges	85,843		114,208	
Training & Educational Expenses	680,716		281,415	
Professional Fees	438,529		357,954	
Furniture Fittings Hiring and Maintenance Charges	663,160		634,521	

	YEAR ENDED		YEAR ENDED
	31.03.2018	Rs.	31.03.2017
			Rs.
2 ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES CONTD.			
Printing and Stationery	796,709		836,979
Telephone Charges - Local and International	615,674		590,408
Water	81,723		105,726
Travelling Expenses	153,507		122,200
Staff Welfare	471,326		735,279
Casual Wages	128,686		121,338
Office Maintenance	678,874		879,263
EPF	667,422		550,473
ETF	166,848		137,609
Salaries	5,561,924		4,587,218
Business Development Expenses	352,783		350,522
Web Maintenance	363,052		364,637
Insurance	531,003		455,083
Newspaper / Magazine, Advertising	133,515		4,761
Rent	939,059		885,691
Electricity	464,280		512,913
Depreciation	1,133,842		1,202,152
Subscription	36,343		227,117
IT Services	74,408		138,845
Vehicle Maintenance	259,823		319,296
Colloquium Expenses	29,435		38,120
Conference & Workshop	14,381		-
CSR Expenses	-		112,583
Provision for Gratuity	1,408,607		1,364,446
Surcharges	63,524		-
Staff/Strategy Development	3,069,000		2,946,000
Fuel for vehicles	-		105,677
LA Image Building	181,910		-
	<u>27,009,645</u>		<u>24,872,224</u>
3 FINANCE COST			
Bank Charges	647,283		752,622
Exchange Loss	578,605		434,721
	<u>1,225,888</u>		<u>1,187,343</u>

SCHEDULES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31ST MARCH, 2018

	Rs.
1 Trade and Other Receivables - Rs. 5,574,897.76	466,342
Deposit and Advance Others	264,720
Interest Receivable	3,515,157
Pre-payment (SCHEDULE 1.1)	1,328,679
Other Receivables	5,574,898
	<hr/> <hr/>
1.1 Pre-payment - Rs. 3,515,156.93	
Insurance	135,342
Rent, Furniture and Equipment Hire	3,133,679
Ceylinco Travel Insurance	61,905
Economist Digital Subscription	53,616
Fairfirst Insurance	14,456
Fritzpace	10,070
Lalanee Perera	92,504
Vijithayapa Book Shop - Economist	11,314
Accsoft Accounting Package	2,271
	<hr/> <hr/>
	3,515,157
2 Bank Balance - Rs. 86,947,101.64	
HNB-Saving A/C- CAD	3,380,110
HNB-Current A/C- LKR	379,862
HNB-Saving A/C- USD	78,309,857
NDB-Current A/C- LKR	149,262
NDB-Saving A/C- USD	1,161,972
NTB-Current A/C- LKR	2,209,954
Petty Cash Imprest	20,000
Cash in hand	1,336,085
	<hr/> <hr/>
	86,947,102

	Rs.
3 Trade and Other Payables - Rs. 30,425,083.96	
Accrued Expenses (SCHEDULE 3.1)	15,864,287
Other Payables	10,412,693
Direct Non Related Project Expenses	4,148,104
	<hr/>
	30,425,084
	<hr/> <hr/>
3.1 Accrued Expenses - Rs. 15,864,286.88	
Audit Fee Payable	94,198
Staff Development Provision	15,597,250
Insurance Payment	172,839
	<hr/>
	15,864,287
	<hr/> <hr/>



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