Helping those with hearing disability connect with family

When persons with hearing disability are away from home, they must use video calls to connect with their immediate family. Video calling subsidies are provided for this, but their family members do not have the same subsidies and communication with family is therefore restricted.

Summary of Recommendations
Immediate term: provide an additional "family" SIM to persons with hearing disability with video calling subsidies.

The Research

- **LIRNEasia conducted a nationally representative survey** among 15-65-years-old PWDs in Nepal to understand ICT access and use. Four hundred PWDs from 400 households in 100 wards in all 7 provinces were interviewed between August and October 2018. The questionnaire was designed based on the Washington Group on Disabilities Questions. The results are nationally representative with 95% confidence interval and ±9.8 margin of error.

- **LIRNEasia conducted qualitative research** in Provinces No. 1, 2, 3 and 5 in urban and rural locations. The research was designed to understand how ICTs can help ensure independent living for PWDs in Nepal. Grounded theory was applied to identify key themes emerging in interviews of 174 PWDs and nine key informants.

Key Findings

- 1.6% of the population aged 15-65 reported as a PWD
- Only 16% of PWDs have a monthly income. Others depend on family for financial support, including payment of mobile phone and data bills etc.
- Only 32% of PWDs own a mobile phone, almost all (95.5%) with a prepaid connection
- The greatest perceived uses of a mobile phone are the ability to manage social and family relations (33% of PWD mobile phone users) and the possibility of contacting others in an emergency (32% of PWD mobile phone users)
- 41% of PWD internet-users said data cost is the main reason for not using internet frequently.
- Assistive technologies were considered inaccessible, primarily due to affordability

More Information: *http://bit.ly/NPtech4PWD*

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