

CONCEPT NOTE & AGENDA



Meaningful Access with Community Networks

Online Conference



November 20 - December 4, 2020

Organising Partners:



Supporting Partners:



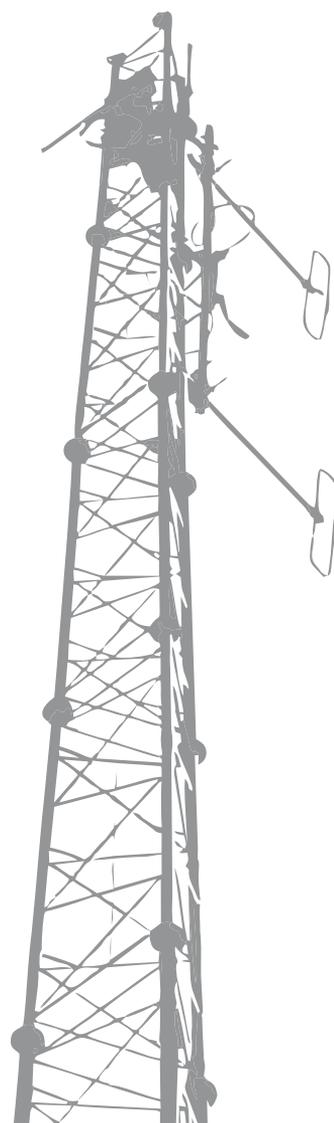
INTRODUCTION: CNX 2020

Since its inception, CNX has played a crucial part in understanding the role, relevance, and evolution of community networks in different contexts. The first edition of CNX, delved into understanding the synergies between community networks and community radios. The second CNX was themed around the "Role of community networks and community radios in leveraging public Wi-fi in Asia Pacific countries". CNX 2019 was an attempt at understanding how 'Community Networks' as a technological alternative, and infrastructurally independent, can be looked at as an alternative to the Internet for people's communication system, with the theme being "Can Community Networks become internet of People!"

CNX 2020 takes place in the midst of a new reality. In the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, the significance of community networks cannot be underlined more deeply. As most people across the globe are forced to remain at home, the internet has emerged as a basic and a necessary need. While half of the world's population is connected online, and the other half remains out of reach. The digital divide is deeper in the least developed countries, where only 19% of people are connected to the internet, when compared to 87% in the developed countries. In India alone, despite the internet and smartphone penetration across the country, there are 300 million citizens who have no internet connectivity of any kind.

In this situation, when groups of people have no access or means to the internet, community networks play a significant role in connecting and empowering rural and underprivileged populations who are still struggling for meaningful access to the internet. The question to ask is how best can connectivity be made more meaningful, and should it be considered a basic right? What are the intersections with other issues that are significant to understand meaningful connectivity at the time of Covid-19? What are the policy and regulatory frameworks for mass adoption of community networks?

With this in mind, the theme of CNX 2020 is "Meaningful Access with Community Networks". Within this, the eleven sub themes address a diverse range of topics which attempt to go into detail about each dimension related to meaningful access with community networks.



OBJECTIVES & METHODS

CNX 2020 will run online from 20th November to 4th December 2020. To ensure maximum engagement and deep learning, without the fatigue that comes with all day online sessions, each day will have only two focused sessions, which will run for 150 minutes in total.

The sessions will be held on Zoom and will be broadcasted live on diverse platforms such as Facebook Live, YouTube, and Twitter.

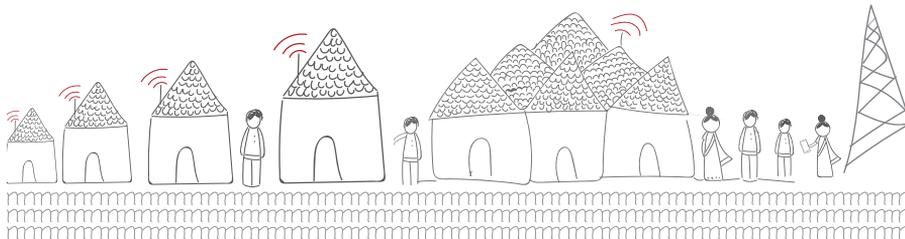
To ensure participant interaction, the sessions will be moderated roundtable discussions of 25 minutes with 3 speakers per session, accompanied by a 15 minute video segment called voices from the communities, followed by a free flowing open mike round for questions and answers.

The second session will run in the same format, and it will be preceded by a short break where posters from the communities will be telecast.



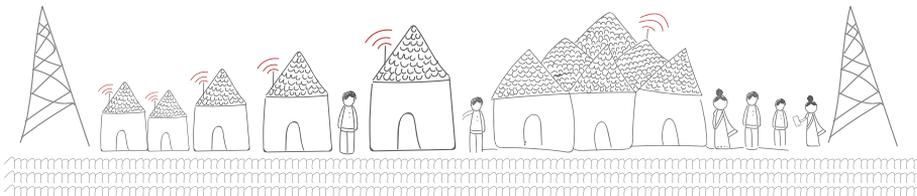
Voices from the community segment: Each session will have a 15 minute segment called "voices from the community" which will feature videos from the locations where community networks are deployed. They will include human interest stories, regional stories, and impact stories in English and in regional languages.

Each day of the conference will in total run for 150 minutes (2hr 30mins per day). Additionally, because of the setup and debrief 30 mints before start and after close, the total time per day will be 3hr 30mins.



CNX 2020 FORMAT

Time	Description
5 min	Introduction of session topics
25 min	Roundtable for speakers and moderator
15 min	Voices from the community
20 min	Question and Answer
Break	
15 min	Poster/video display
5 min	Introduction of second topic
25 min	Roundtable for speakers and moderator
15 min	Voices from the community
20 min	Question and Answer
5 min	Close of Day



CNX 2020-THEMES

Session 1: Community Network Models & Best Practices: There are several community network models in practice across the world, specifically Asia Pacific. This session will discuss the diverse models have been inducted, in different conditions both in terms of technology and community models, where wireless community networks have been in practice. The session will have two modes of knowledge sharing, through a round-table discussion followed by an open mike session, where best practices and case studies will be shared.

Session 2: Access during the pandemic: Saving Democracy, Citizenship & Education: Access has become the most vital and uncompromised necessity during the pandemic because of serious restrictions on movement. Because of the lack of an alternative, many communities have innovated new models which can be used to fast forward connectivity, and access to the internet. However, it is also noticed that many governments have used this dependency on the internet as an opportunity to promote authoritarianism. This session is designed to discuss the complexities as well as the necessity of open access for citizens rights, and sustaining democracy. This session will have two modes of knowledge sharing, through a round-table discussion and an open mike, where best practices and case studies will be shared.

Session 3: Policy & Regulation for Mass Adoption of Community Networks: Even though community networks have successfully been in practice as an alternative method to connect communities to the internet, it has not become a viable alternative in many countries. This session is designed to discuss what kind of policy, advocacy, and design effort is required to make it mainstream and adopted across regions, countries, and communities all over the world so that 3 million people can get connected without delay. This session will have two modes of knowledge sharing, through a round-table discussion and an open mike, where best practices and case studies will be shared.



Session 4: **Community Networks as a Model to fight Misinformation &**

#Fakenews: Community networks are 'closed' networks, with the intrinsic design to have trust based community wide network. Therefore, they enable high value trust based information sharing, and they avoid misinformation and fake news. This session is designed to discuss how community networks can be leveraged effectively and emerge as the ideal model to overcome the pandemic of misinformation and fake news. This session will have two modes of knowledge sharing, through a round-table discussion and an open mike, where best practices and case studies will be shared.

Session 5: #Gender Sensitive Community Networking: It has been observed that there is serious gender divide in the digital spaces, and the internet has been a male dominated. Community networks provide an opportunity to bring gender equity and gender redress, through the understanding of the community in building community networks. This session is designed to discuss the efforts that have been successful in providing gender equity through community networks. This session will have two modes of knowledge sharing, through a round-table discussion and an open mike, where best practices and case studies will be shared.

Session 6: **#Content, Context and Community for Community Networks:**

Community networks are designed to serve the community, be built by the community, and work with the community. The relevance of community networks is in the fact that they have the ability to contextualise local content, local content consumption and production, and local community involvement. This session is designed to highlight some of the best practices related to this. This session will have two modes of knowledge sharing, through a round-table discussion and an open mike, where best practices and case studies will be shared.

Session 7: **Community #Radio & Broadcasting with Community Networks:**

Community networks excel in producing local content, with the local context. It is usually developed, managed, and produced by the community and for the community. Community radio also know the ways to broadcast content and reach out to the larger communities. Hence, they are the best "community based"



practices to expand, and emerge as internet broadcasters, while community network integration into community radio broadcaster is the ideal approach. This session is designed to explore examples of how this approach can show the light of the day to the rest of community radios to also become community network service providers. The session will have two modes of knowledge sharing, through a round-table discussion and an open mike, where best practices and case studies will be shared.

Session 8: #Training & Cadre Development for Community Networks: Internet is gradually going to become more localised, as people and communities in remote areas get connected. With the internet penetrating deeper into the communities through community networks, it is important to develop local capacity for developing, managing, maintaining and sustaining the network. It is imperative to create local cadres that know local content and context, and are a part of the locally developed community networks. This session is designed to discuss the way in which this can take place. This session will have two modes of knowledge sharing, through a round-table discussion and an open mike, where best practices and case studies will be shared.

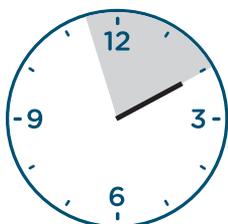
Session 9: #Partnerships & Collaborations for Community Networks: Community networks while considered to be affordable and participative in terms of local participation, also require multiple stakeholders. They require financial assistance, donor backing, technological assistance, and so on. This session is designed to understand how different stakeholders can come together and make networks successful, and also look at ways to enhance collaborative efforts and partnership across different stakeholders. The session will have two modes of knowledge sharing, through a round-table discussion and an open mike, where best practices and case studies will be shared.

Session 10: Connecting #Indigenous Communities: The tribal, aborigines, and indigenous communities always live in remote areas, away from industries and cities. They are always the last populations to be digitally connected. These communities are also culturally rich with their own linguistic and social practices,

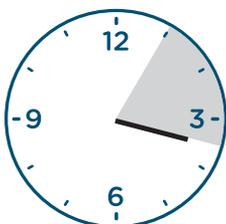


and norms. While they require digital connectivity and the internet as anyone else, it is important that community networks practice sensitivity and inclusion without violating and polluting their practices. This session is designed to understand this and discuss the ways in which it is possible. The session will have two modes of knowledge sharing, through a round-table discussion and an open mike, where best practices and case studies will be shared.

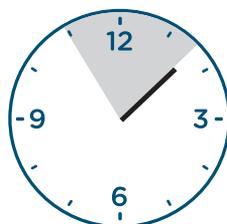
LOGISTICS - CNX TIMINGS



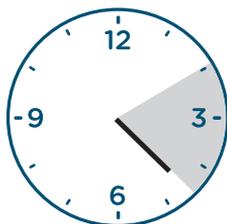
DELHI
1130-1400



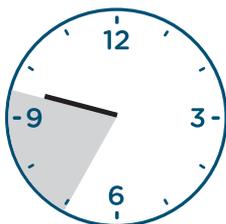
BANGKOK
1300-1530



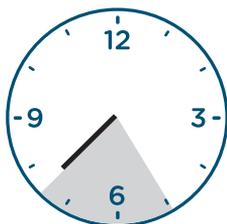
ISLAMABAD
1100-1330



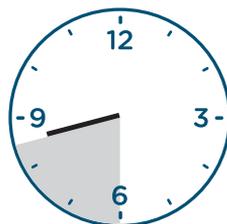
SINGAPORE
1400-1630



SUVA
1900-2330



SYDNEY
1700-1930

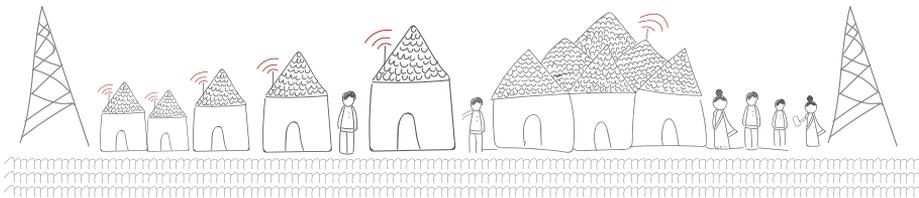


UTC
0600-0830



CNX 2020 FORMAT

Day	Theme
20th November 2020	Community Network Models & Best Practices Access during the #pandemic: Saving Democracy, Citizenship & Education
23th November 2020	Policy & Regulation for Mass Adoption of Community Networks Community Networks as a Model to fight Misinformation & #Fakenews
26th November 2020	Gender Sensitive Community Networking Content, Context and Community for Community Networks
30th November 2020	Community #Radio & Broadcasting with Community Networks Training & Cadre Development for Community Networks
2nd December 2020	Partnerships & Collaborations for Community Networks Connecting #Indigenous Communities
4th December 2020	Closing



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