



**WORLD WIDE WEB
FOUNDATION**

WOMEN'S RIGHTS ONLINE

REPORT CARD



INDIA

**Measuring Progress,
Driving Action**

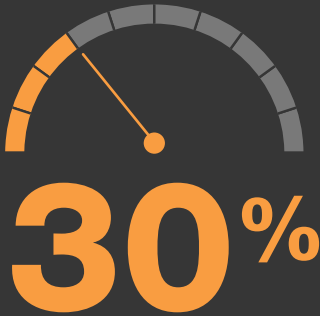


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OVERALL SCORE:



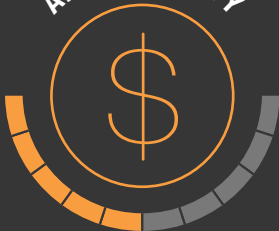
INTERNET ACCESS & WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT



SCORE: **3**

Across the whole of India, only 17% of women are connected. In **poor areas of New Delhi**, few women who are online use the Internet to look for important information on their rights (17%), search for a job (29%) or voice their opinions online (8%).

AFFORDABILITY



SCORE: **5**

Although India comes close to achieving the Alliance for Affordable Internet **affordability target** of 1 GB data priced at less than 2% of average monthly income, one in five people are still unable to afford a basic 500MB package to connect.

DIGITAL SKILLS & EDUCATION



SCORE: **3**

While training teachers in ICTs to improve education outcomes is a part of government strategy, such school initiatives have not taken off uniformly. A lack of reliable electricity supply is a significant obstacle to integrating ICT in education.



SCORE: **2**

Government has launched health information services via mobile phone, but they do not have a reproductive rights approach. Rights-based content on reproductive and sexual health is provided on a smaller scale by some civil society organisations. Additionally, just 1% of women have access to mobile financial services.



SCORE: **4**

Currently the only recourse available to victims of online violence is to seek protection under legal provisions for offline violence. This means that victims are not able to seek redress effectively from local law enforcement authorities. A robust regulatory framework for protection of personal data is also missing in the country.

CLOSING THE GENDER GAP: A 5 POINT ACTION PLAN

- 1 EVALUATE *DIGITAL INDIA* FROM A GENDER LENS.** Digital India, the country's flagship programme for digital empowerment, must be evaluated from a gender perspective, and a concrete strategy and targets for furthering women's empowerment must be designed.
- 2 TRACK INDICATORS ON WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND TECHNOLOGY.** India's statistical systems must evaluate progress towards the UN's goal to empower women through ICTs. This requires the development and tracking of indicators at individual, community and institutional levels.
- 3 PRIORITISE FREE PUBLIC INTERNET ACCESS.** Inclusive and safe public access spaces must be made available through supporting the development of innovative last mile-connectivity models by women's collectives and organisations under the Bharat-Net/ National Optic Fibre Network programme. A universal data allowance focused on women must also be implemented.
- 4 CREATE WOMEN'S DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES.** Digital literacy programmes and curriculum must go beyond technical skills training. They should be re-imagined as a pathway for women and girls' citizenship, supporting their ability to make important life choices.
- 5 END ONLINE GENDER BASED VIOLENCE.** Online violence needs to be effectively addressed through a systemic response to gender based violence, using creative solutions that use the power of data for effective response and inter-agency coordination. The mere introduction of a new law on cyber-bullying or cyber-stalking may not suffice.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

5 GENDER EQUALITY



The United Nations recently made gender-equitable access to information and communications technologies (ICTs) central to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which set the global development agenda until 2030.

Why? ICTs are powerful. They can help to deliver improved healthcare, quality education for all, financial inclusion, more accountable government, and much more. In adopting the SDGs, all countries have pledged to prioritise universal Internet access, and to use ICTs to empower women.

But much hard work lies ahead if we are to translate this vision into reality. A formidable gender gap in Internet access, digital skills and online rights exists - our [Women's Rights Online research](#) shows that in

many communities, women are 50% less likely than men to be online and 30-50% less likely to use the Internet for economic and political empowerment. Women face many barriers - including high costs, lack of know-how, and a scarcity of relevant and empowering content - as well as social and legal obstacles to speaking freely and privately online.

The Web Foundation and partners have prepared these gender audits to help countries assess what they need to do to overcome the gender digital divide. IT for Change has taken the lead, in consultation with other national stakeholders, on identifying concrete steps that government can take in the next year to address the challenges and gaps identified. We hope that this report card and action plan will spark debate and galvanise policy change.

A NOTE ON METHODOLOGY:

We based our scores on 14 simple indicators for which reliable empirical evidence exists, and grading was done in the second quarter of 2016. See the accompanying overview for a description of the indicators and sources used. A full methodology is available on our website.



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