



Experiences and visions of Indigenous Peoples for digital inclusion and its linkage to a just energy transition and economic empowerment

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Challenges in Connecting the last mile

- No digital connectivity in most community due to poor infrastructure penetration
- Poor supporting infrastructure- Roads, electricity
- No steady electricity supply – intermittent connectivity
- High cost Technology – government program
- Indigenous Youths most vulnerable - first left out
- COVID pandemic impacted IP Children & Youths
- Capacity building and Financial support
- Most communities are Isolated from markets
- Cash economy vs subsistence economy
- Consistency of outreach program



Case Study 1 – Community telecentre 2009

- E- Buayan initiative Bridging the digital divide
- Providing connectivity to remote communities
- 8 hours trekking on salt trails Crocker Range Park
- Provide IT & internet literature program
- Only possible with Renewable energy Mini Grid
- Education based



Lessons Learnt

- Must have local champion to lead
- Only possible with 24/7 electricity supply
- Renewable energy Mini Grid provide the support
- Online marketing, appropriate Product development
- Need to enhance Socio Economic empowerment
- Not sustainable – high cost, low purchasing power
- Can become burden to community



Case Study 2 – Solar Powered SE Development Centre



- Enterprise development approach
- focus on women and Youths
- Productive end use of energy. Created community café and Monthly *Tamu*
- Solar Powered SE Centre and Mini grid provide 24/7 green energy
- Internet Connectivity is part of the system monitoring
- Connectivity through *Starlink* terminal



Lessons Learnt

- Indigenous Women interested to be entrepreneurs
- No digital inclusion without universal energy access
- Digital inclusion and Energy transition can happen hand in hand.
- Small Online business can happen – Online *Tamu* through WhatsApp group
- WIFI coupons sold able to cover monthly subscription
- SE centre also earn DRECS to pay for O&M



Reaching out.. last Mile is should be our first mile



*When the going gets tough,
the tough gets going*

REMOTENESS and CONNECTLESS



*Fulfilling and
Recharging*