# Ensuring meaningful access to the Internet for women

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# Introduction: Access to the Internet in India

- Of 1.1. billion people, only 10.2% access the Internet, leaving approximately a billion Indians offline ( www.internetworldstats.com)
- High rates of household mobile penetration – 861.66 million mobile connections in March 2013 (TRAI) but only about 10% of mobile subscribers have Internet access (Intel Women and the Web report).
- Less than 4% of India's rural population is online



# Women and the Internet in India

- 8.4% of women in India access the Internet. A woman in India is 27% less likely than a man to access the Internet (Intel Women and the Web Report)
- 43% of women using the Internet perceived the Internet as being essential to their lives. 40% of women who had never utilised the Internet perceived it as 'not relevant'  (Intel Women and the Web Report).








# Ensuring meaningful access to the Internet for women: Areas of concern

- Entrenched patriarchies
- Contextual relevance
- The imaginary of 'public access'








# Women's rights agenda and the Internet

- The Internet and the women's empowerment agenda
- Women's rights activism and the online public sphere
- Women's rights and Internet governance



# Economic empowerment

- ICT-enabled enterprises and ICT enterprises
- Concerns – Women's double burden(Munyua 2009), limited impact on existing market structures (UNCTAD 2010) that marginalise women's micro-enterprises.
- Insights from the *Kudumbashree* and *Akshaya* programmes of Kerala State
- The SEWA model








# The online public sphere

- A space for subverting mainstream gender norms?
- Countering the threat of online violence
- Censorship and content regulation https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=REP4eqvwkR0
- Women's rights and the spaces of Internet governance



It seems that a cooperative society has never been more realistic in an objective sense but has never been more unrealistic in a subjective sense. The networking of the world advances the idea of bottom-up, grassroots self-organization and of a participatory society. However, ....under the given conditions, humans are confronted with a colonization of ever more spheres of society to an ever-larger extent by economic reason and the competitive logic of accumulation

- Christian Fuchs






