



**FINAL REPORT FORM
for
WACC-SUPPORTED PROJECT**

This document is for end-of-project reporting. It has two parts: a) Narrative Report; b) Financial Report.

You will need to refer to your Project Application Form, the Agreement with WACC, and your bank statement when completing this form. Please return it with supporting documents and materials to WACC. Please answer the questions as fully as possible.

THE NARRATIVE REPORT

1. Project Title: (as appeared in the Agreement)	‘Ethical Response to New Communication Technologies from Peoples’ perspective’
2. Project Reference Number: (as appeared in the Agreement)	xS10-61 (501)
3. Full Name of Project Holder:	Rev. Vincent Rajkumar
4. Full Address:	PO Box: 4600, 73, Miller’s Road, Bangalore, India, Pin: 5600046
5. Name of Country:	India
6. Period the project was implemented: (from month/year to month/year)	August 2007 to January 2009
7. Project Grant received:	Amount in local currency: Rs.449170.00 Amount in <u>Euros</u> 8100
8. Date(s) Project Grant(s) were received: (as in your bank statement) 1 st remittance 2 nd remittance	8100 EUR

9. Activities

▪ **Workshop on New Media Literacy**

Three Day Workshop for Training of Trainers on New Media Literacy was held during 5,6,7 December 2007 at Centre for Human Potential Development, Nagpur, organized by CISRS in association with Church of North India. It enabled Church youth belonging to Church of North India to discern the characteristics, language, technology and ideology of New Media and critically analyse New Media texts. It also helped to develop them to get trained as trainers who are equipped to impart the New Media Literacy to other youth in their respective areas. Dr. J.H. Anand, Chairman of Asia Region WACC, Dr. Sham P. Thomas, Head of the Department of Communication, United Theological College, Bangalore, Rev. Paramjyothi, Presbyter, CNI, Anil Varghese Tharayath, Programme Associate, National Centre for Advocacy Studies, Pune, Sudipta Singh, Director of Programmes, CNI, Rev.Raj Bharat Patta, Executive Secretary of NCCI for Dalit and Adivasi Desk, and Santhosh George, Research Associate, CISRS were the resource persons of the Workshop. Eighteen Church youth belonging to the various dioceses of the Church of North India participated in the workshop.

▪ **Workshop on 'Understanding Digital Divide in Indian Context'**

Three day Workshop on 'Understanding Digital Divide in the Indian Context' was held during 11th, 12th, 13th July 2008 at Devanandan house CISRS Bangalore. The workshop strived to define Digital Divide and understand it in the historical perspective. It looked into the concept of Digital Divide from the standpoint of the third world and critically examined the role of media conglomerates and Information imbalance between North and South. It differentiated the various digital divides such as Technological Divide, Commercial Divide, Gender Digital Divide, Ethnic Divide etc. in the Indian context. The workshop also brought out a statement highlighting the subaltern critique of ICTs and New Media and the possible measures for bridging Digital Divide in the Indian context. The resource persons were Sashikumar Menon, Director, Asian College of Journalism, Chennai, Dr. Gopakumar Thampi, Director Public Affairs Forum, Bangalore, Dr. M. Peter Singh, Professor, Department of Communication, Tamil Nadu Theological Seminary, Madurai, Venkatesh Prasad, Project Coordinator, Mahiti Manthana, Mysore, Dr. Sebastian Periannan, Rector, St.Peter's Pontifical Seminary, Bangalore, Ms.Roshni Nuggehalli, Research Associate, IT for Change, Bangalore, Rev.Sunil Raj Philip and Rev.Anilal M Jose, M.Th Communication students United Theological College, Bangalore, Thomas Manoj Samuel, Assistant Professor, Gurukul Theological College, Chennai, Anivar Aravind, ICT Policy Analyst and Free Software activist, Ms.Nirmita Narasimhan, Director, Centre for Internet and Society (CIS), Fr. Paulachen Kochappilly, Dean, Faculty of Theology, Dharmaram College, Adv K.P Ranadive, President, Ottashekaramangalam Grama Panjayath, Kerala and Dr. Mohan Razu, Head of the Department of Christian Ethics, United Theological College, Bangalore.

▪ **Workshop on “Understanding India’s Information Society”**

Three day workshop on “Understanding India’s Information Society” was held by CISRS during 13, 14, 15, November 2008 at Ecumenical Resource Centre, United Theological College, Bangalore. The workshop focussed on the characteristics of Information Society in India and the changes taking place in the social practices, labor practices, political processes and in the realm of media and public policies. It also examined the potential of Cyber movements and Cyber communities. A statement was also brought out highlighting the theological and ethical response to India’s emerging Information Society. The resource persons were Rev. Dr. Samuel Meshak, Chairperson, Asia Region WACC, Principal, Gurukul Theological College, Chennai, Rev. Dr. Israel Selvanayagam, Principal, United Theological College, Bangalore, Vivek Vaidyanathan, New Media Activist, Bangalore Fr. Jerry Kurien, Doctoral Researcher, Communication Department, Gurukul Theological College, Chennai, Rev. Dr. Sham P Thomas, Head of Communication Department, United Theological College, Bangalore, Dr. Carol Upadhy, Fellow, School of Social Sciences, National Institute for Advanced Studies, Sri. Karthik Shekar, Secretary General, UNITES Professionals India, Dr. Gopakumar Thampi, Executive Director, Public Affairs Foundation, Prof. Jeevan Kumar, Prof. Department of Political Science, Bangalore University, Prof. Mathew Kurien, Visiting Faculty, MG University, Kerala and Andrew Stevens, Researcher, Queen’s University, Canada.

▪ **Community Radio Action Research**

i) Training and Production.

The Community Radio Action Research was carried out to develop Community Radio as a group medium catering to the people’s needs and concerns at the local level and to assess its relevance and possible impact as a new media tool towards people’s empowerment.

This phase of Community Radio Action Research was carried out during the period 21st January 2008 to 29th February 2008 at Ottasekharamangalam Gram Panchayath, Trivandrum district, Kerala. 15 youths including 7 men and 8 women belonging to the Panchayath (Local Self Government) were trained both theoretically and technically in Community Radio. The training was held at a rented house in the Panchayath with a set up of three rented computers for training and production. The process enabled them to develop the skills and perspectives through a process of participatory learning. The training included Understanding the characteristics of Community Radio, Developing Content of Community Radio by emphasizing local issues and people’s empowerment, understating formats of Community Radio such as features, interviews, panel discussions, news bulletins and drama, developing skills of writing for Community Radio and the Process of scripting, Presentation skills for Community Radio and learning the technical know how of the production including recording and editing. Community Radio by emphasizing local issues and people’s empowerment, understating formats of Community Radio such as features, interviews, panel discussions, news bulletins and drama, developing skills of writing for Community Radio and the Process of scripting, Presentation skills for

Community Radio and learning the technical know how of the production including recording and editing.

After the training, the volunteers prepared scripts based on the local issues they themselves studied, developed scripts, presented the programmes, recorded, edited and finalized their productions. As a result, the 15 volunteers in 3 groups produced locally relevant radio news, documentaries, features and panel discussions. There were altogether 12 productions on local issues and people's concerns. Baiju Chandran, Assistant Station Director, Doordarshan, Satheesh Babu C.S, Secretary, Computer Society of India, Executive Secretary, SPACE (Society for the Promotion of Alternative computing and Employment), Satheesh. I.B the District Panchayath Member, Adv. K.P. Ranadive, President, Ottasekharamangalam Grampanchayath, Maithri Prasad Researcher, Center for Development Studies, Biju Mathew, programme Executive, All India Radio, Trivandrum, Paniyadima John and Stalin, Community media trainers, SPACE, Sreekumar Mukhathala, Program Executive, All India Radio, Trivandrum, Rev. Blysu Varghese, MTh student, Mar Thoma Theological Seminary, Philip Mathew, activist, SEWA and KA Muraleedaran, Director, All India Radio, Trivandrum were the resource persons of the Community Radio Training and Production phase.

ii) Impact Assessment Social Survey and Focus Group Discussions

The Community Radio Programmes produced during the training and production phase were assessed through a series of Focus Group Discussions and Social Survey based on structured questionnaire. The assessment was carried out by making the focus groups to listen to the Community Radio programmes and discussing their content, its contextual relevance, implications and suggestions. The focus groups invited were members of Kudumbasree units (60) (a micro credit network of women operating at state level), farmers (35), Panchayath activists (31), people belonging to water scarce areas (60) and youth (37). The questionnaire Survey was held among the same 223 members who participated in the Focus Group Discussions. The process was carried out during the period 16th December 2008 to 18th January 2009.

10. Was the project successful? (If possible, please give measurable indicators.)

The project was successful

Measurable Indicators

No	Programme	Measurable indicators
1	Workshop on New Media Literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New media Literacy Manual ▪ Flash presentations ▪ Nineteen Church youth trained as trainers
2	Workshop on 'Understanding Digital Divide in the Indian context'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Papers presented during the workshop (booklet not published) ▪ Eighteen Theological students equipped with understanding of Digital Divide in the Indian Context

3	Workshop on 'Understanding 'India's Information Society'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Papers presented during the workshop(booklet to be published) ▪ Twenty seven Theological students equipped with understanding of Information Society in the Indian context
4	Community Radio Action Research A) Training and Production Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 15 Community Radio Volunteers trained to produce locally relevant programmes using the Free Software 'Audacity' ▪ 12 Community Radio Programmes produced on locally relevant issues such as Women's issues, water scarcity, development concerns, waste management, alternative markets for farmers etc ▪ Newspaper report on Community Radio at Ottsekharamangalam ▪ Community Radio Training Certificates issued to 15 Community Radio Volunteers.
	B) Impact assessment Focus Group Discussions And Social Survey based on Structured questionnaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Photographs and reports of Focus Group Discussions (seventeen) held at the Panchayath. Five for women, five for people belonging to water scarce regions, three for farmers, two for youth and two for Panchayath activists. ▪ Impact Assessment Social Survey Report supplemented by data analysis using frequency tables.

11. Project Beneficiaries

Please describe the actual direct beneficiaries and indicate the number of women and men. Please also mention any indirect beneficiaries.

- Beneficiaries of Workshop on New Media Literacy were 19 church youth belonging to Church of North India. They were trained to become trainers so that they can impart New Media Literacy to others in their respective areas. (Two women and seventeen men)
- Beneficiaries of Workshop on 'Understanding Digital Divide in the Indian context' were Eighteen theological students belonging to United theological College, Bangalore, Dharmaram College, Bangalore, Karnataka Theological College, Mangalore, Andhra Christian Theological College, Hyderabad and Tamil Nadu Theological Seminary, Madurai from South India . (Two women and sixteen men)

- Beneficiaries of Workshop on ‘Understanding ‘India’s Information Society’ were twenty seven theological students belonging to Union Biblical Seminary, Pune, United theological College, Bangalore, Andhra Christian Theological College, Hyderabad, Tamil Nadu Theological Seminary, Madurai and Kerala United Theological Seminary, Trivandrum from North India and south India. (Four women and twenty three men)
- Primary Beneficiaries of Community Radio Action Research were 15 youth belonging to Ottasekharamangalam Gram Panchayath (Local Self Government) including eight women and seven men who were trained as Community Radio Volunteers to prepare and produce programmes.
- Secondary beneficiaries were two hundred and twenty three people who listened to the Community Radio Programmes and participated in the Impact assessment Focus Group Discussions and Social Survey.
- Secondary beneficiaries also include the people of Vattakakkuzhy who got a water project from the Government due to the advocacy done by Community Radio Programme.

12. How have the beneficiaries reacted to the programme activities? What were the impacts of the project and different effects on women and men in the project?

- **Workshop on New Media Literacy**

The feedback from the participants included the following aspects. The workshop helped them to distinguish New Media formats; it helped to know about the information sources and its owners. According to them the session on making their own media was an adventurous experience of searching information on a chosen topic and compiling ideas together. They pointed out that the session on New Media and Representation of the Third World was one of the best sessions of the Workshop. For them the Bible study based on Communication and Gender issues was also very interesting. They requested that more resource persons from North India should have been involved in the workshop. They observed that the wavelength of participants was different and thus some of them grasped well while some found difficult to understand the programme. For some, the technicalities discussed were too much to comprehend. They proposed that the group could start a website, wiki or blog to share news and views collaboratively, create content from various parts of India and continue to work on it even after the workshop.

- **Community Radio Action Research**

i)The Community Radio Volunteers who participated in Training and Production Workshop expressed that they got a good grasp of the theoretical and practical aspects of Community Radio during workshop. The three groups by which they involved in productions expressed satisfaction regarding the choice of resource persons, resource materials, exercises, equipments etc. They expressed that the duration was too limited to accomplish quality productions. They pointed out that

they need more training in software and acquire better skills in audio editing. Most of them expressed willingness to take up Community Radio as major concern in the future. They shared the experience of interacting with Panchayath officials, social workers as well as common people and learning from them regarding various social issues and people potential to create a better society.

ii) The participants of the Impact Assessment Focus Group Discussions (295) and Social survey (223) including women belonging to Kudumbasree units (60), farmers (35), Panchayath activists (31), people belonging to water scarce areas (60) and youth (37) expressed that the Community Radio programmes are relevant and meaningful. They also pointed out that the programmes should acquire more quality in terms of presentation and depth of issues. They expressed that the task of Community Radio is to expose the issues of people to the authorities and facilitate dialogue between people and decision makers. They also expressed that Community Radio work should continue with the participation of all sections of people so that their issues can be adequately represented.

▪ **Workshop on ‘Understanding Digital Divide in the Indian Context’**

As a whole group, they appreciated the effort taken by CISRS in pioneering the Theological reflection regarding ICTs and Development debate and held that time was inadequate to grapple with the technological theme with all its complexity. They requested that workshops on themes related to ICTs must be organized more frequently so that theological students can be equipped to confront and to respond ethically to the newly emerging social phenomenon.

▪ **Workshop on ‘Understanding India’s Information Society’**

The participants pointed out that the resource persons were most suitable for the sessions. They mentioned that reading materials given to them were of good quality. They pointed out that the reading material has to reach the participants at least one week ahead so that they can come prepared for the workshop.

They raised criticism that the schedule was too packed, working hours were lengthy and repetitions occurred in a few sessions. They told the topics such as Information society should be included in the theological curriculum. They pointed out that there should be follow up to the workshop by creating an e- community with all the participants of the workshop and organising similar workshops at various theological colleges at local level.

What were the impacts of the project and different effects on women and men in the project?

i). The Action Research Project has brought in a range of experts including the team from All India Radio as well as the team from the Free Software Foundation to facilitate the Community Radio Training. The Volunteers were given opportunity to interact with experts on developing sociological case studies. This has helped them to grasp the concept and practice of Community Radio and thus the programmes were conceived and produced. The People of the Panchayath appreciated the programme wholeheartedly though there were many suggestions put forward for improvement. One of the achievements of the project is the sanctioning of the water project from the Government to the people of Vattakakkuzhy due to the advocacy done by Community Radio Programme. In general, the Action Research was able to intervene in the local

Panchayath and see how the new communication technologies in the form of Community Radio can be used for social empowerment.

ii) The Two workshops on Ethical issues relating to New Communication Technologies such as ‘Digital Divide’, ‘Information Society has created a significant impact on the theological students. These topics are relevant and not dealt with otherwise and thus the workshop created an enthusiasm among them to get exposed to the ethical issues concerning New Communication Technologies.

iii) During the Workshop on New Media Literacy, the Digital resources and Training Manual prepared by CISRS facilitated a process towards discernment of the New Media; its nature, role, function, potential among the Church youth as it was envisaged.

Different effects on women and men

Men’s participation was more during the workshops while women’s participation was more during the Action Research. Among the Theological Students men are majority and thus they came out with their own concerns. Though the women shared space with men, they were not expressive as men.

During Action Research women were more in number and thus they could negotiate more in groups regarding the decision making process. Among the three production groups, two groups were under women’s leadership and women were shouldering the responsibility of scripting and direction. But in all the three groups, the editing process men were dominating since they have more experience working with computer software. The action research on Community Radio made more impact on women as they are the ones who are voicing out their concern in sustaining the initiative by offering their participation and support in the future.

13. Outcome and Outputs of the project: What has your project achieved and what has changed?

If your project produced media, please send a sample copy of audio/video cassettes, CD, VCD, or DVD and label it with title, duration, language used, and date of production. If you can, please send photos with informative captions (digital photos, if possible), newspaper/radio clips, homepage links, etc.

No	Programme	Outcome	Output
1	Workshop on New Media Literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expertise to conduct New Media Literacy Workshops ▪ Manual and resources facilitated a process towards discernment of the New Media; its nature, role, function, potential. ▪ Manual and digital resources on New Media Literacy put in CISRS website will be utilized by the wider society. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New media Literacy Manual ▪ Flash presentations ▪ Report and Photographs of workshop ▪ Address list of participants and resource persons with signatures ▪ 19 Church youth Trained as Trainers

2	Workshop on 'Understanding Digital Divide in the Indian context'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The workshop has successful in educating / exposing theological students belonging to South India to the ethical issues, challenges and possible responses regarding Digital Divide in the Indian context ▪ Booklet on Digital Divide (which will be published soon) will reach more people among Theological students and Christian community as a whole. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Papers presented during the workshop (booklet not published) ▪ 18 Theological students equipped with understanding of Digital Divide in the Indian Context ▪ Report and Photographs of workshop ▪ Address list of participants and resource persons with signatures
	Workshop on 'Understanding India's Information Society'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Workshop succeeded in developing ethical understanding of Information society in the Indian context among theological students belonging to South India and North India ▪ Booklet on Digital Divide (which will be published soon) will reach more people among Theological students and Christian community as a whole. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Papers presented during the workshop(booklet to be published) ▪ 27 Theological students equipped with understanding of Information Society in the Indian context ▪ Report and Photographs of workshop ▪ Address list of participants and resource persons with signatures
	Community Radio action Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community Radio action Research has made a significant intervention at Ottasekharamangalam Gram Panchayath and brought out a study regarding the potential of communication technologies for social empowerment of rural communities in the context of Kerala. ▪ There are only very few Community Radio initiatives in Kerala and first of this kind among the local self governments in Kerala. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Panchayath authorities utilized the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 15 Community Radio Volunteers trained to produce locally relevant programmes using the Free Software 'Audacity' ▪ 12 Community Radio Programmes produced on locally relevant issues ▪ Newspaper report on Community Radio at Ottsekharamangalam ▪ Community Radio Training Certificates issued to 15 Community Radio Volunteers ▪ Report and Photographs of the Training and Production Phase ▪ Address list of Community

		<p>Community Radio programme ‘Jelam Jeevamritham’ as an evidence for water scarcity in the Vattakakkuzhi region belonging to Panchayath and negotiated with the Government and got a water project to the scale of 15 lakh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The people of Ottasekharamangalam Gram Panchayath have responded positively to the Community Radio Programmes and expressed willingness to support and sustain the initiative. 	<p>Radio Volunteers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Malayalam Transliteration as well as English Translation of the Community Radio Programmes ▪ Adv.KP Ranadive, President of Ottasekharamangalam Gram Panchayath presented a paper on Community during the Workshop on ‘Digital Divide held by CISRS in Bangalore during 5, 6, 7 July 2008
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14. Evaluation

14.1 What were the results of evaluating the project?

Community Radio action Research

- The objective of action research was to study the potential of new communication technologies towards social empowerment of a local community. The action research strategy adopted was very relevant as it helped to focus on a local Panchayath Ottasekharamangalam, equipped local youth group, enabled them to produce locally relevant Community Radio programmes and got them evaluated by the Panchayath community themselves.
- The Action Research was implemented with the limited resources available in the Panchayath including three computers rented from a local computer centre and a house rented as training centre. The community radio programmers were disseminated among the people using a stereo player. This has proved to be cost efficient as well as efficient in terms of people’s involvement and response.
- The water supply project got sanctioned for the Vattakakkuzhi region in the Panchayath, the decision of the Panchayath to entrust the upcoming People’s Service Centre to the members of the community radio volunteers and the interest shown by the Panchayath to continue the Community Radio initiative shows the impact and sustainability at the right holder’s level.

Workshops on New Media Literacy

- The objective of developing a new media literacy manual and digital resource is fulfilled and the workshop was held in association with Church of North India at the Centre for Human Potential development, CNI, Nagpur.
- The Digital resources and Training Manual are capable of facilitating a process towards discernment of the New Media and its nature, role, function and potential.
- The New Media Literacy Manual and digital resource will be posted in the CISRS website for free download. The Churches can make use of the resources for youth ministry to empower youth and adolescents to discern the language, ideology and potential of the new technologies. CISRS can offer training workshops for the church youth groups on demand.

Workshops on 'Digital Divide in the Indian context' and 'India's Information Society'

- The objectives of making theological community in India aware of the ethical issues, challenges and possible responses regarding the New Information and Communication Technologies was achieved as the workshops ensured the active participation of theological students from South India and North India
- The workshop on Digital Divide was able to contextualize it in the Indian context by examining the divide in terms of caste, gender, spatial and technological divide. It also strived to develop a subaltern critic of the divide in the Indian context.
- The workshop on Information society examined the shift happened in labour, leisure and lifestyle with the advent of new technologies and analyzed the information economy and politics of information society in the Indian context.
- The theological students endorsed the contextual relevance of the topic. They asked to hold such workshops in every theological college at local level and also urged to include such issues in the theological curriculum

14.2 What were the challenges, difficulties, and/or failures in carrying out the project? Please explain how you addressed these issues.

- *Community Radio Action Research*
During the month of August 2007 Kottukal Gram Panchayath in Trivandrum district of Kerala was identified for the implementation of the Action Research on Community Radio. The Research Associate with help of the NGO named Santhigram held a series of orientation and planning meetings with the Panchayath authorities and visited 12 wards to meet ward members and youth. In spite of this background work, the first Training Workshop organized on 10th October 2007 was boycotted by the Panchayath members. The main reason behind this was the enmity between the NGO and the Panchayath Leadership. Thus we had to withdraw from Kottukal Panchayath. This has made a delay of three months in starting the Action Research. Therefore, we asked for a three months' no-cost extension from WACC for the project at the point of submission of the half yearly report.

- After the failure at Kottukal Gram Panchayath, Ottasekharamangalam Panchayath, Trivandrum district, Kerala was identified in November 2007 in order to implement the Community Radio Action Research. Panchayath Committee approved the proposal to implement Community Radio Action Research in their Panchayath. In this case the Panchayath shared the responsibility in organizing and implementing the action research.
- After completing the production phase was successfully, plans were made in order to disseminate the programmes to the people. One of them was to organize meetings by the volunteers themselves. Though planning was made, only one out of four meetings took place due to the diminishing interest of youth in reaching the programme to people.
- Another plan was to help the Panchayath to start a Village Information Centre at Ottasekharamangalam to sustain various community media platforms along with Community Radio narrowcasting among the people. This proposal was made in association with the free software NGO, SPACE with assured support in technical training. But the Panchayath couldn't take up the proposal.
- Finally in July 2008 in association with the Panchayath, the social survey and Focus Group Discussions were planned assigning a Panchayath member as chief organiser of the Impact assessment phase. But unfortunately, the executive committee of CISRS had decided to stop all financial transactions for an interim financial review from August 2008 to October 2008. Therefore, the plan of conducting social survey and focus group discussion could not take place.
- Thus, at the end of the three months' no cost extension period, the project could not get completed. Therefore, we again requested for two more months till December 2008 to complete the project. After the stoppage of funds, it was difficult to pursue the Panchayath once again to support in carrying out the impact assessment social survey and focus group discussions.
- Finally, the Panchayath agreed to support the impact assessment phase and the process began in December 16, 2008 and concluded on January 18, 2009 with 17 focus group discussions with various focus groups within the Panchayath.
- *Workshop on New Media Literacy*
The organising part of the Workshop on New Media Literacy was difficult for CISRS as we are based in Bangalore where as the workshop has to be organised in the North India. Church of North India came in support and they organised the youth from various CNI dioceses in North India. They also arranged the venue, accommodation and food for the workshop. The Manual on New Media Literacy had no models in the Indian context. Thus it was a challenge to develop one. Mediact (Media Education for Awareness and Cultural Transformation), Trivandrum came in support and collaboratively we developed the manual on New Media Literacy as well as digital resources for the workshop.
- *Workshops on 'Digital Divide in the Indian Context' and 'India's Information Society'*
The workshops were to be conducted in Bangalore with the participation of the theological students from both South India and North India. Since the Research Associate was based in Trivandrum Kerala, he had to go to Bangalore to make the arrangements for venue, food and accommodation. The staffs of CISRS at the

national office were very supportive in making local arrangements. United Theological College associated with CISRS in conducting the second workshop and provided venue, food and accommodation. There was difficulty in identifying right resource persons as the topics are fresh areas with very few people and NGOs are working on them. The NGO representatives who are part of the project monitoring cell helped immensely to get introduced NGOs and activists working in ICT related issues.

The majority of theological students are men and therefore women participation in the workshops was less compared to men. Theological Colleges such as United Theological College, Karnataka Theological College, Gurukul Theological College, and Tamil Nadu theological Seminary, ensured participation of women. Few of the participants had difficulty in understanding deliberations in English, while more number of them had difficulty in expressing in English. But in South India itself there are four major languages, it was not possible to change the medium to vernacular languages. Moreover, many of them were exposed to the debates on ICTs for the first time and therefore they had difficulty in grasping the technical terms and their implications. They have put forward suggestions to overcome the obstacles in the future by organising workshops at theological colleges at local level.

15. Other comments, if any.

- Theological students who participated in the workshops on ethical issues related to New Communication Technologies requested that such workshops must be organised at theological colleges at the local level.
- There is a request from the part of the Panchayath to continue the Community Radio Action Research for at least for one more year so that on regular basis programmes can be produced and narrowcasted.
- There is a request from the Kerala Council of Churches to organise New Media Literacy Workshops at various theological colleges in Kerala. They have also requested to conduct seminars on Digital Divide at the local units of Kerala Council of Churches.

16. Name of the person submitting the report: Rev.Vincent Rajkumar

Position: Director, CISRS

Date:13th February 2009



Signature: