Hamara Internet

Islamabad

Final Report

January 31, 2017

1. Project information

- ## Project leader

  Nighat Dad - Executive Director

  Nighat@digitalrightsfoundation.pk

- ## Team members

  Luavut Zahid - Program Manager

  Seerat Khan – Advocacy and Outreach Officer [Replacing Ushbah Al-Ain]

  Faisal Shahzad - Trainer

  Hija Kamran – Designer [Replacing Iffra Khalid]

  Ali Kamran Khan - Translator

  Nabiha Meher Shaikh - Researcher

- ## Partner organizations

  n/a

- ## Total amount awarded

  USD 29,093

- ## Period covered by this report

January – December

2. Project Summary

The Hamara Internet (Our Internet) campaign is aimed at raising awareness about digital violence against women, while providing young women with the necessary knowledge and tools to protect their online and offline freedom of expression via comprehensive workshops and trainings. By fostering digital literacy among women, they will be able to not only safety and effectively navigate digital spaces themselves, but will also be able to help their families and friends to protect themselves as well.
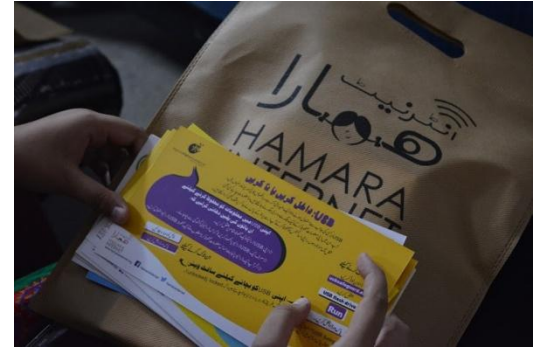
Picture 1: Some of the help materials used in sessions

Picture 2: Session at COMSATS, Lahore

For the current campaign, the Federal, Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan regions were targeted. While three sessions took place at the time the interim report was filed, the remaining two sessions, along with the National Conference, were held by the end of the year.

While the total target of the campaign was to sensitize and educate around 300 students, the program ended up training around 460 students. Our efforts to sensitise women in large numbers were aided in part by the enthusiastic response we got from teachers, students and institute administrations alike. It's no coincidence that we were able to increase the number of trainees by over 50 per cent of our original target.

Under the slogan 'Internet Chalao, Patriarchy Dabao' (Use the internet, destroy patriarchy) we have managed to touch not just students but also female teachers. The more sessions we held the more we were asked by other colleges and universities to hold similar trainings in their institutes as well.

Picture 3: Session at City University, Peshawar

The project set out to work with young female students across Pakistan and was aimed at ensuring that the young women that were included in our sessions didn't just leave with knowledge but were also empowered to take back control of their digital experience.

What we were aiming to do was a little more than just give them superficial information. The program was aimed at ensuring that women would see themselves as owners of online spaces and fought to retain control of the spaces

that they took ownership of.

Picture 4: Session at The Institute of Business Management, Karachi.

Project Background and Justification

While the number of internet users continues to grow exponentially in Pakistan, the number of female users is not growing at a similar speed. Over 75-80% of all online users are male, and unsurprisingly the digital world can often feel like a threatening and unwelcoming place to women and girls.

The Federal Investigation Agency reported that 3,027 cases of cybercrime were reported in the period between August 2014 and August 2015, with 45% of the cases being related to cyber-harassment on social media against women.

Hamara Internet set out to not only help women stay safer in online spaces, but also reclaim the spaces that don't seem to welcome them. With the project we

aimed to smash not just patriarchy but also help women regain - and expand - their access to digital tools and technology. Empowering women in the digital world means helping open up a whole new world of opportunities. Verily, our sessions taught us that women were using the internet for a whole host of things. Some were using the platforms to run their own online businesses, others were using it to conduct entire projects and presentations for their colleges, while many used it to make connections, conduct research and more. When we began this program we wanted to let women know that the possibilities were endless, and by the end it was the women that were teaching us just how endless these possibilities were.

3. Project Objectives

As discussed, ICTs have or are fast becoming essential parts of people's lives in Pakistan, especially women. Through workshops and trainings that utilise up-to-date digital security lessons, Hamara Internet aims to create equal access to ICTs for men and women in Pakistan, to foster digital literacy, to make internet governance inclusive, and to allow women to be able to mark their digital mark and empower themselves online to showcase their talents and abilities. Hamara Internet also aims to make women engage in political discourse that works to develop fair and inclusive access to digital spaces, with respect for women's rights, increasing the capacity building of women in Pakistan. Intersectionality will be a key factor in all sessions - in a nation where women are a disadvantaged group , there are layers of vulnerabilities that must be taken further into account – the disabled, women from ethnic and religious minorities and so forth. Hamara Internet works to be a nationally seeded campaign that will be initiated in the

larger cities of Pakistan where internet usage is increasing exponentially, allowing us to tap into an area that is at the highest risk of online crimes and privacy attacks. It is hoped that universities and colleges will further integrate these workshops and training manuals in the curriculum of schools and colleges, which will help our communities and make our next generations more secure and well-informed. By making it a national level campaign, the skills and knowledge acquired by women via the workshops and training sessions can be disseminated more effectively, allowing for more grassroots coverage and essential awareness building.

4. Project Activities Completed

The project aimed to do the following: -

- Train over 300 young women [it ended up training 460]
- Create promotional material about privacy and safe online spaces for women
- Create a guidebook/manual for digital security in Urdu
- Create a website that has helpful resources and information
- Conduct a National Conference at the end of the project

For the purpose of this project, we conducted five sessions around Pakistan. At the time that the interim report was being filed, three sessions had been conducted. At this point, all five sessions stand complete, whereas a final National Conference has also been executed during the month of December.

While we trained 460 young women in these five sessions, while the conference itself attracted more than 100 young women from Lahore, Karachi, Islamabad, Quetta and Peshawar.

Promotional material about privacy and safe online spaces for women was created and disseminated in the form of 10 flip cards during the sessions, and during the conference. The cards contain information in both English and Urdu for the ease of their intended audience, and have been extremely well received.

The guidebook/manual has been developed by our trainer Faisal Shahzad and the information contained therein was used during our trainings in different institutes.

Additionally, while this was not a part of our original outputs and deliverables, we have included young female leaders from the communities that we have served. In Karachi, at the Institute of Business Management we invited Bolo Bhi Director Fareiha Aziz and Pakistan Feminist Watch Head Nabiha Meher Shaikh to speak to the young girls in our session. In Lahore, we invited activist and lawyer Angbeen Mirza to speak at COMSATS. In Islamabad, Nighat Dad, Digital Rights Foundation's Executive Director, spoke to the audience, while in Quetta, young activist and lawyer Jalila Haider spoke with the audience.

The women gave additional insight and shared their experiences with the girls. This didn't just help us provide a more relatable speaker but also helped us start a conversation that almost never happens in these institutes. To give an example, when we told the audience in Quetta (where honour killing is a serious

issue) that no woman should ever be killed or raped for using the internet we were faced with some resistance. It was Jalila Haider who spoke to the audience and asked them why rape was shameful for a victim but not for the rapist. Having someone from the locality talk about the issues we were trying to tackle took on a different flavor because the speakers knew the audience, they understood the very soul of the issues that we were trying to tackle, and knew how to contextualize appropriate responses to the issues at hand.

The National Conference pulled together a huge crowd of its own. Under discussion were many contemporary issues relating to gender and digital rights. We managed to not only trend on Twitter but also saw a lot of coverage in local print and electronic media.

5. Project outcomes

List of outcomes

- **Lahore, Punjab Region session completed**

- **Karachi, Sindh Region session completed**

- **Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa session completed**

- **Islamabad, Federal Territory session completed**

- **Quetta, Balochistan session completed**

- **Hamara Internet – Ending Online Violence National Conference, completed**

- Informational flip cards, stickers, badges, goodie bags, etc have also been disseminated to the students that we have trained

- The Hamara Internet website can be visited here: hamarainternet.org

6. Any changes in the design of the project

The only change that was made to our plans was the inclusion of a guidebook that was to be disseminated to students. While a guidebook itself was devised by the trainer Mr Faisal Shahzad, due to budget limitations we could only manage to disseminate flip cards. The cost of the guidebook would not have been possible for us to manage.

There were also changes in the staff during the duration of the project. Our designer left during the month of September and was replaced by Hija Kamran. The Advocacy and Outreach officer also saw a shuffle after Ushbah Al-Ain left to pursue a degree in the UK. She was briefly replaced by a couple of people before Seerat Khan took on the position till the culmination of the project. These changes did not significantly impact the sessions or the deliverables.

The project was able to end on time, including the National Conference at the very end.

7. Dissemination and Chapter presence

At every single one of the sessions that we have conducted so far the Internet Society was given its own time and a presentation regarding their efforts, mission and value was made by Mr. Faisal Shahzad.

Attendees were told how to sign up as members if they wished to join the organization and also told how it would benefit their everyday lives. The sessions did not just tell students how to stay safe and secure online, they also helped them get introduced to the Internet Society as an organization.

As a result of the work that we have done the organization was acknowledged and awarded the Atlantic Council Freedom Award [http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/events/wroclaw-global-forum/freedom-awards]. The award was presented on June 3rd in Poland in front of 450 delegates from around the world.

Moreover, it was also during 2016 that Nighat Dad was awarded the Tulip Award by the Dutch government. The coveted award was given to Nighat to acknowledge the work that the Digital Rights Foundation has been doing to help empower young women. It was because of the Hamara Internet Project, and the change that the organization has been able to provoke through it, that the entire country voted for Nighat to be in the top three spots for the Tulip Award – and she subsequently ended up winning it for the same reason.

In addition to this, the final conference was heavily covered by the media. It also began trending on Twitter soon after the session began in Islamabad on November 28, 2016. The conference discussed a myriad of things, and was very well received overall. It helped highlight the progress that DRF was able to make in its goals because of ISOC. http://nation.com.pk/national/29-Nov-2016/first-cyber-harassment-hotline-goes-live-dec-1

https://www.dawn.com/news/1299175

January 31, 2017

Website: hamarainternet.org.

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/HamaraInternet

Other chapters can also take up the model that we have implemented and apply it through their own networks. There is a great need for more work in this domain, and the more we manage to do the more we realize that there is so much more that needs to be done.