

# Research Paper

**Bridging Digital Divide For Rural Youth:  
An Experience from Computer Literacy  
Programme in Bangladesh**

**Ashirul Amin**

40001

RP-Series

**Research Paper Series**

**40001**

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Dhaka-2006

# Bridging Digital Divide for Rural Youth: An Experience from Computer Literacy Programme in Bangladesh

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Ashirul Amin

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*The views in this publication are those of authors only and do not necessarily reflect the views of the organisations involved in this publication.*

## About D.Net

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D.Net – Development Research Network is a not-for-profit research institution in Bangladesh, established in 2001. D.Net's vision is a society where information and knowledge facilitates all stakeholders' participation in generation of wealth and its equitable distribution for poverty alleviation. Its mission is to become a premier organisation in Bangladesh and beyond by undertaking research and various action programmes in the areas, where information and knowledge can contribute to poverty alleviation, economic growth and peace.

During initial years of activities, D.Net's main focus was research on *Information and Communication Technology (ICT)* for Development. D.Net's in-depth research in the area of ICTs for poverty alleviation has drawn attention of stakeholders not only in Bangladesh, but also across the globe.

Under its Mission 2010, D.Net's five year strategic plan, D.Net conducts research and implements important action programmes primarily in six thematic areas:

- Access to Information and Knowledge
- Enhancing Business Competitiveness for Economic Growth
- Governance and Human Rights
- Human Resource Development
- Institutional Capacity Development
- Economic and Development Policy Research

D.Net also undertakes policy influencing activities, for bringing burning issues before the policy makers and stakeholders to create awareness and to take proper actions.

D.Net has started to play a visible role in the research arena within the national boundary and in South Asia through involvement with BRAC, SAPANA, CENTAD, Sarvodoya and ICRIER. It has also gone beyond South Asia through telecentre.org, Canada; ICTSD, Switzerland; IKED, Sweden; ADB Institute, Japan; and ELDIS, UK. D.Net is a member of Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP), One World South Asia, and PAN Asia Network of IDRC.

D.Net received the *Global Gender and ICT Award 2005*, at the *World Summit on the Information Society* for its innovation – linking new ICT mobile telecommunication for improving access to livelihood information by the poor people, particularly women and the handicapped, through the introduction of the “mobile lady”.

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## About the Series

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The objective of the research paper series is to bring important issues to the readers on various topics of public domain, based on the findings, observations and insights revealed from D.Net's in house research activities and action programmes.

This research paper is an analysis prepared under Theme 4: Human Resource Development

This study throws light on the underprivileged young computer learners in the rural areas and how they have successfully managed not only to gain adequate knowledge but also to utilise the learnt skills to gain employment in selected areas. Through the CLP Programme many students, teachers, parents and members of the community have achieved a positive impact which has changed their lives in many constructive ways.

This research owes a lot to all the diligent staff of D.Net who gave a lot of input in conducting the surveys; the school administration, the teachers, guardians and the students themselves for sharing their views and experiences. This study expresses special thanks to VAB-NJ, without whose sponsorship none of this would be possible.

*D.Net believes that this publication will meet the demand of policy makers, researchers, academics and activists for analysis on the mentioned topic. Readers are most welcome to send their queries, comments, criticism and suggestions for further improvement of D.Net's publications.*

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