Inauguration – CIRC (in support of Indus Towers) Bahadurpur, Alwar (Rajasthan)
The first rule of any field visit is to start early - I was told. And so hitting the road early in the morning, we set on our journey from Delhi to Alwar. Being my very first field visit, I had many doubts and apprehensions. How the place would be? Would the people be welcoming? All my worries dissolved when I met the very kind and friendly people of Bahadurpur, Alwar.

Amidst preparations...

At around 11 in the morning, us CIRC team members- Mohd John, Shah Alam, Jatin and I reached Bahadurpur, where we were greeted by our Team Member Irfan and regional Coordinator Rehan. Irfan had been staying in Bahadurpur for the past couple of days taking care of all the prerequisites and supervising preparations (from furniture to equipment) before the opening. The inauguration was scheduled to take place in the afternoon. Hence, we ensured that the centre looked orderly, the display material was in its right place and most importantly, all the laptops and digital equipment were checked.

Besides preparations, what touched us all was the warm hospitality the beautiful people of Bahadurpur displayed, making us feel so much at home.
The Inauguration

Hot and humid July afternoon did not quell the enthusiasm of the rural community of Bahadurpur. After all, they too had played a major role in putting the centre together. Children thronged the freshly opened CIRC, hours before the inauguration, soon followed by the adults. And while everybody waited eagerly for the chief guests to arrive, we brought the brand new projector to good use by screening informative programmes.

The newly opened centre flooded with visitors

People enjoyed the programme screening while awaiting the guests’ arrival
At around 3 pm, Chief Guests Dr. Munshi Khan, District Officer - Minority Department, Smt. Kela Devi, Village Sarpanch and Shri Shahun Khan, Village Sarpanch arrived and inaugurated the centre. Following the ribbon cutting moment, the guests were welcomed by gleeful children and cheerful adults.

Irfan commenced the programme by introducing the chief guests to the audience. Afterwards, Jatin came forward and spoke about the importance of computer literacy and how digital tools could make their daily life so much simpler.
Then, the chief guests of the programme were requested to share a few words with the community. Smt. Kela Devi, Village Sarpanch expressed immense appreciation for the CIRC initiative and urged people, especially girls to regularly visit the centre, enhance their computer skills and become a self-reliant. Dr. Munshi Khan too, praised the CIRC concept and shared his views on how digital literacy has the power to transform lives. Digital education is the key to information empowerment - he said.

Overwhelmed by the response from the community and the appreciation garnered from the chief guests, Sr. Project Officer Mohd John spoke out his heartfelt gratitude. He requested the audience to reap the benefits of digital literacy and digital services out of their own Community Information Resource Centre.

Before concluding the programme, Irfan interacted with the community, telling them the importance of computer literacy and how it benefits people from all age groups. He urged people to visit the centre regularly and make digital the way of life. Towards the end, he provided them guidance on how to get registered at the CIRC.
Centre Essentials

Equipped with eleven laptops, one printing/scanning machine and one photocopier, this hi-tech ICT hub in the middle of their rustic rural space is quite a delight for the people of Bahadurpur. People, especially children showed genuine curiosity for learning computers. Their eagerness to become computer literate assured that they will no longer remain an information deprived community. This new CIRC will be led and managed by Centre Coordinator Fateh Singh Gurjar, and Trainer, Akram Khan.
Location Details

Bahadurpur is a small hamlet in Reni Tehsil of District Alwar in the state of Rajasthan. It falls under the Bahadurpur Panchayat and belongs to Jaipur Division. Located 55 kilometers south from the District headquarters at Alwar, Bahadurpur is 111 kilometers far from the state capital Jaipur. Its postal head office is situated in Reni. Bahadurpur Pin code is 301409 and postal head office is Reni. Rajgarh (Alwar), Bandikui, Mahwa, Todabhim are the nearby Cities to Bahadurpur.
Demography

Bahadurpur is a small village in Rajasthan with around 195 residing families. The average sex ratio of Bahadurpur is 862:1000, lower than the state and national average. According to census 2011, the literacy rate of Bahadurpur is 65.25%, compared to 66.11% of Rajasthan. Female literacy is very low, at merely 46.35%. Most of the population of the village belongs to the Schedules Caste category, making over 95% of the total population. Digital infrastructure is in a miserable state. Absence of media tools and information and communication technology is major barrier in the flow of information in this region.

(Source: Census, 2011)