



Azim Premji
University

Talk: Democratising Media: Using Mobile Phones for Citizen Journalism in Rural Chhattisgarh

Speaker:

Shubhranshu Choudhary, Knight International Journalism Fellow and Founder of CGNet Swara

Date / Time:

August 24, 2012 - 3:30pm - 5:00pm

Venue:

Room 206, Pixel B, APU

Abstract:

The current form of democracy needs many corrections but mankind has found that so far democracy is the best form of governance we have discovered. People who do not have democracy are fighting on the street to get it. Like politics, journalism also affects our today and tomorrow but mass communication still remains aristocratic, top down and one way. Is a democratic form of communication possible? Shubhranshu Choudhary and his colleagues in ChhattisgarhNet (CGnet) Swara (<http://cgnetswara.org/>) have been experimenting to create a democratic communication platform which links the old and new technologies of mobile phones, internet and radio. They are very pleased with its outcome of the experiment and would like to talk about it. They think like politics, journalism should also be democratized and that is possible. For a better democracy we need a better communication system. Like politics, journalism should also become everybody's business.

CGnet Swara is a platform to discuss issues related to Central Gondwana region in India. It allows for wide participation by letting people report as well as listen to news using their mobile phones. To record a message, anyone can simply call +91-80-4113 7280. The recorded reports are not only available via the phone but also on the website.

A Note on the Speaker:

Shubhranshu Choudhary is a Knight International Journalism Fellow and the founder of CGNet Swara. Shubhranshu was a BBC South Asia producer for more than 10 years. He serves as a media trainer for the BBC World Service Trust, the United Nations and Indian universities. He produced the first television coverage of foreign militants operating in Indian Kashmir and conducted the first television interview with the chief commander of Kashmiri militant organization. He was also a reporter for The Guardian's South Asia bureau for two years.