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Community Video Camp to be held in Goa



Goa will witness the first ever community video camp where champions and makers of community video will come together for the first time.

Community video is fast becoming a movement in the country. The low cost of video technology, combined with the whole citizen journalism revolution, means that community video is spreading like wildfire amongst India's poorest informs Stalin K of Video Volunteers, one of the lead innovators in the world of community video. The camp will allow people to see community video in action, first hand. Since 2006, Video Volunteers has trained more than 200 people as community video producers, most of who currently work fulltime in over 300 slums and villages, reporting on their local issues and broadcasting solutions via wide-screen projectors and in some cases, mainstream media. Many of these producers used to be diamond polishers, day labourers or rickshaw drivers, but now these creative men and women have become the voice of their communities. Their films have enabled dalits to fight the practice of untouchability, have brought Hindus and Muslims together in Gujarat, and have enabled communities in six states to come together to take action on critical issues like land rights, water and gender.

The camp will be held from August 10 to 14 2009, with many of Video Volunteers community producers in attendance, as well as media students, journalists, researchers and NGOs. The week includes workshops on video blogging and online advocacy, animation, community feature film, news for mainstream, music video, film without language and community video policy. This camp is an opportunity for furthering the

video practitioners, and to spur the growth of new initiatives that are emerging all around India. The learning and vision of these producers will inspire others about what is possible when communities have a voice that is creative, powerful, inspirational and passionate. This camp will enable some to see a burgeoning movement take off.

Community video is a form of citizens' journalism that is appropriate for communities with low levels of literacy and little access to the Internet. It is media that is made in, for and by communities. Disadvantaged communities are given tools and necessary training to express their needs and knowledge to shout out, to celebrate and to debate in their own voice. And it is spreading like wildfire in India.

The trainers for the camp include: Paromita Vohra, filmmaker and writer, Arjun Chandramohan Bali, writer and film director, Kamayani Bai Mahabal, human rights lawyer and activist with a background in journalism and clinical psychology and Freeman Murray an entrepreneur.

Presenters include: Vinod Pavarala, professor of Communication and Dean, Sarojini Naidu School of Communication, Hyderabad, Sajan Venniyoor, professional broadcaster with the All India Radio (and Doordarshan TV) for over a decade and a half, Frederick Noronha, independent journalist from Goa, Chandita Mukherjee filmmaker and science communicator, Shaikh Nasir and Akram Khan, filmmakers from Malegaon known for their low-budget parodies of Bollywood smash hits 'with a lot of heart, local flavour and ingenuity' according to the Washington Post, Sukhmani Kohli, who has been involved with community theatre for 10 years now and Iaona Literat.

Workshops begin at 10:30 am and continue