Digital Nepal
Access to technology

Technology has an undoubted impact on the social fabric and increasingly digital technologists use idealised human-to-digital interfaces to, as they see it, optimise the quality of human to human communications.

SUBODH TRIPATHEE
In two decades of time we have witnessed, you know, huge growth in, er, er, digital technology as well as the telecommunications sector. The radio and TV, you know, access to these kind of, you know, like electronic gadgets. For example, you know, like, the access to radio is around 40%.

MANESH SHRESTHA
What these community radios have done is brought information to the people in the villages and now they are aware of what's happening a, around the world. Because newspaper access is not very widespread. Because, one: of illiteracy and of course because of the geographical variation in the country. But with these community radios which is used, again, used as digital technology, what has happened is people's lives have changed; they now know the prices of let's say, produce farm, produce in the market, for example.

MAHABIR PUN
We are also, mm, using the network to help people to sell their products in the local market. We call it Haat Bazar. So, what we have done is develop an application where people can go and put the things they have to sell. Usually in the, in the rural areas, you know, a goat, you know, a buffalo and a chicken, er, some vegetables sometimes, you know, and potato. Before that, when somebody needs a goat then he has to walk around the villages for several hours and ask people they have something to sell.

SUBODH TRIPATHEE
Access to technology is very uneven. Around 52% of the population lives in mountainous and hilled areas. And access to technologies is, you know, like, very different in urban and in the rural areas. Nepalese society is very much a bonded kind of society where, you know, like, people love to live in big families and, you know, joint families. Also in communities. But with all these digital technologies, the gadgets, er, the internet, people are spending more time with these things and do not need to consult with their friends, their neighbours. So, slowly people are more, you know, reliant on these technologies.

MANESH SHRESTHA
As people in the villages became more aware of the kind of lifestyle people in Kathmandu were, were having, then they wanted some kind of a change.

SUBODH TRIPATHEE
In Hindu culture we have some superstitions, you know, and dig, digital technologies have, to some extent, wiped those superstitions out. With the access to information, people, you know, like, they know that, they know all these things are not true. The monks, they are using mobiles and they are, you now blogging, you know. And they are downloading videos, you know, all these things.

SANGYA DORJE LAMA
I hope that this country, where the Lord Gautama Buddha was born sees a lot of development and lives in a peaceful manner. When I do my social work, I need to be in close communication with people, so even if I don't need to meet them, I use a mobile phone to talk to them.