

Annexure 1: Proforma consent form

[Annexure to report: *Of Sieges and Shutdowns* by The Bachchao Project and IRDSO (2018)]

The format of the consent form that was signed by the participants of the workshop who were also interviewed.

Introduction and Purpose

We would like to invite you to take part in our research on the use of the Internet and mobile phone by women in Manipur. This is an exploratory study and it can enhance women's access to knowledge media, communications, economic empowerment and relief from gender-based violence.

Procedures

You agree to participate in this research by attending this closed-door meeting held at [redacted location] on [redacted date]. We will note your comments, interventions and responses during the meeting and also conduct face-to-face interviews with you in person at a time and location of your convenience.

The interview will involve questions regarding your use of mobile phones and the Internet while residing in Manipur.

The interview would last about half an hour, but the duration will ultimately depend on your personal availability and willingness. With your permission, we record the interview audio and take notes. The recording is meant to accurately document the conversation, and will be used for transcription purposes only. If you agree to being audio-recorded, but feel uncomfortable at any time during the interview, we can turn off the recorder at your request. If you don't wish to continue, you can stop the interview at any time.

Confidentiality

Your study data will be handled as confidentially as possible and with utmost regard for your privacy in light of the situation in Manipur. All interview recordings and notes will be protected through encrypted files, with password protected devices of which only we will have direct access to. When the results of this study are published or presented, individual names and other personally identifiable information (e.g., employer's name) will be anonymised or pseudonymised.

We will delete the audio records immediately after transcription. When the research is completed, we may save the tapes and notes for future use, such as peer review, but will only retain these records for up to three months after this study is over. The same measures described above will be taken to protect confidentiality of this study data.

You are requested to keep information about your participation in this meeting confidential till the findings of the study are published. In this context, we refer to "confidential" to the

