

Community Media Networks: envisioning the future (Session 331)



WSIS+20 FORUM
HIGH-LEVEL EVENT

27-31 May 2024
Geneva, Switzerland

Convenors:
ICT4D Collective ,
ACORAB/CIN , BNNRC,
TaC-Together, Youth
IGF, Cape Town TV,
CEMCA, ICT4D.at

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Agenda



- Introduction: Tim Unwin
- Community media over the last 20 years: a retrospective (Moderator: Philomena Gnanapragasam)
 - **Pramod Tandukar** (Executive Director, ACORAB, Nepal)
- Success stories: (Moderator: Philomena Gnanapragasam)
 - **AHM Bazlur Rahman** (CEO, Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication)
- Lessons learnt (Moderator: Paul Spiesberger)
 - **Dr. R Sreedher** (Tele Learning and Community Radio Practitioner) (Video)
- Visions for the future: the prospects and how we get there (Moderator: Paul Spiesberger)
 - **Philomena Gnanapragasam** (CEO Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development)
- Resolving the challenges of digital transition (Moderator: Tim Unwin)
 - Opportunity for audience to raise issues and panel to respond
 - Conclusion: ways forward for digital community media

Community media over the last 20 years: a retrospective



Pramod Tandukar (Executive Director, ACORAB, Nepal)

(Moderator: Philomena Gnanapragasam)





Community media over the last 20 year: a retrospective

Prepared for Session 331:

Community Media Networks: Envisioning the future

WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event 2024

May 29, 2024

Pramod Tandukar

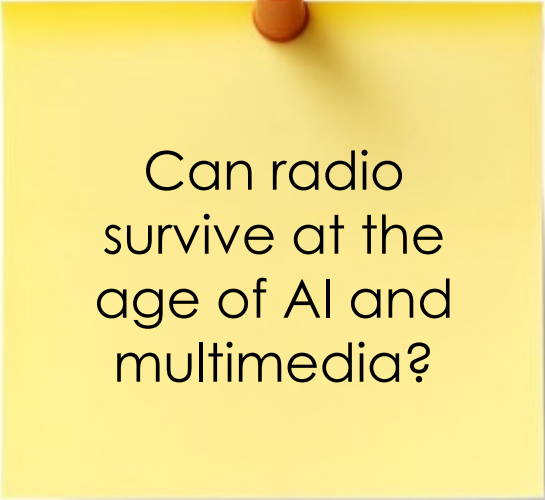
Executive Director, ACORAB




Community Radio in Nepal

Community radios in Nepal have been instrumental in promoting local voices, fostering development, and strengthening democracy over the past 27 years, playing a critical role in addressing various socio-economic issues.

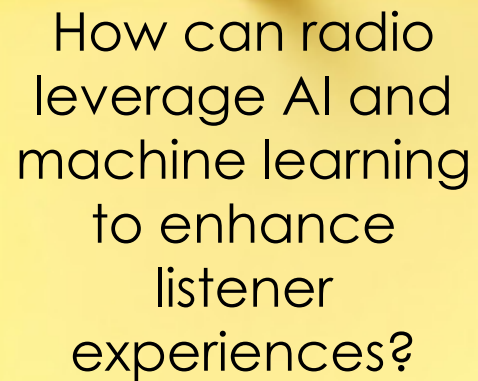




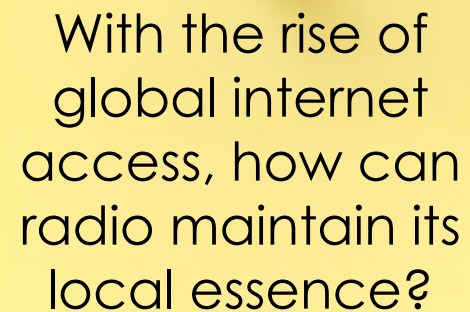
Can radio survive at the age of AI and multimedia?



What unique content can radio can offer?



How can radio leverage AI and machine learning to enhance listener experiences?



With the rise of global internet access, how can radio maintain its local essence?



How are new technologies transforming radio?



Drivers of crisis in community radio sector

- Navigating uncertain paths and a state of sleepwalking
- Dilemma on adoption of multimedia approaches
- Youth generation shifting away from community radio sector



Shifting Gear



Tim Unwin

Another way of looking at this is that the UK has an over-bloated university system that needs to be fundamentally changed so that it becomes fit for purpose. A starting point should be that it should strive for excellence rather than mediocrity.



THETIMES.CO.UK

Universities must make drastic changes to avoid closure, watchdog warns



Shifting Gear



STRUCTURAL REFORM 2.0

Improvements in the organizational, regulatory, financial, and operational frameworks that govern community radio stations.



EMBRACING A MULTIMEDIA APPROACH

Community radios should not just be one of the community media outlets but should evolve into comprehensive community media platforms themselves.



FIT FOR PURPOSE

Dealing with systemic challenges, and revisiting all institutional and organizational aspects for necessary improvements and adjustments



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Strengthening engagement of community radio stations in their respective communities to remain relevant and responsive to community needs



Call for Action:

Safeguard the legacy of community radios and make them more dynamic, inclusive, and resilient beyond the next decade so as to contribute to the WSIS agenda



The **cost of inaction** in the radio sector would be significant and multifaceted, impacting not only the media landscape but also the broader community





Thank you

Success stories



AHM Bazlur Rahman (CEO, Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication)

(Moderator: Philomena Gnanapragasam)





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Community

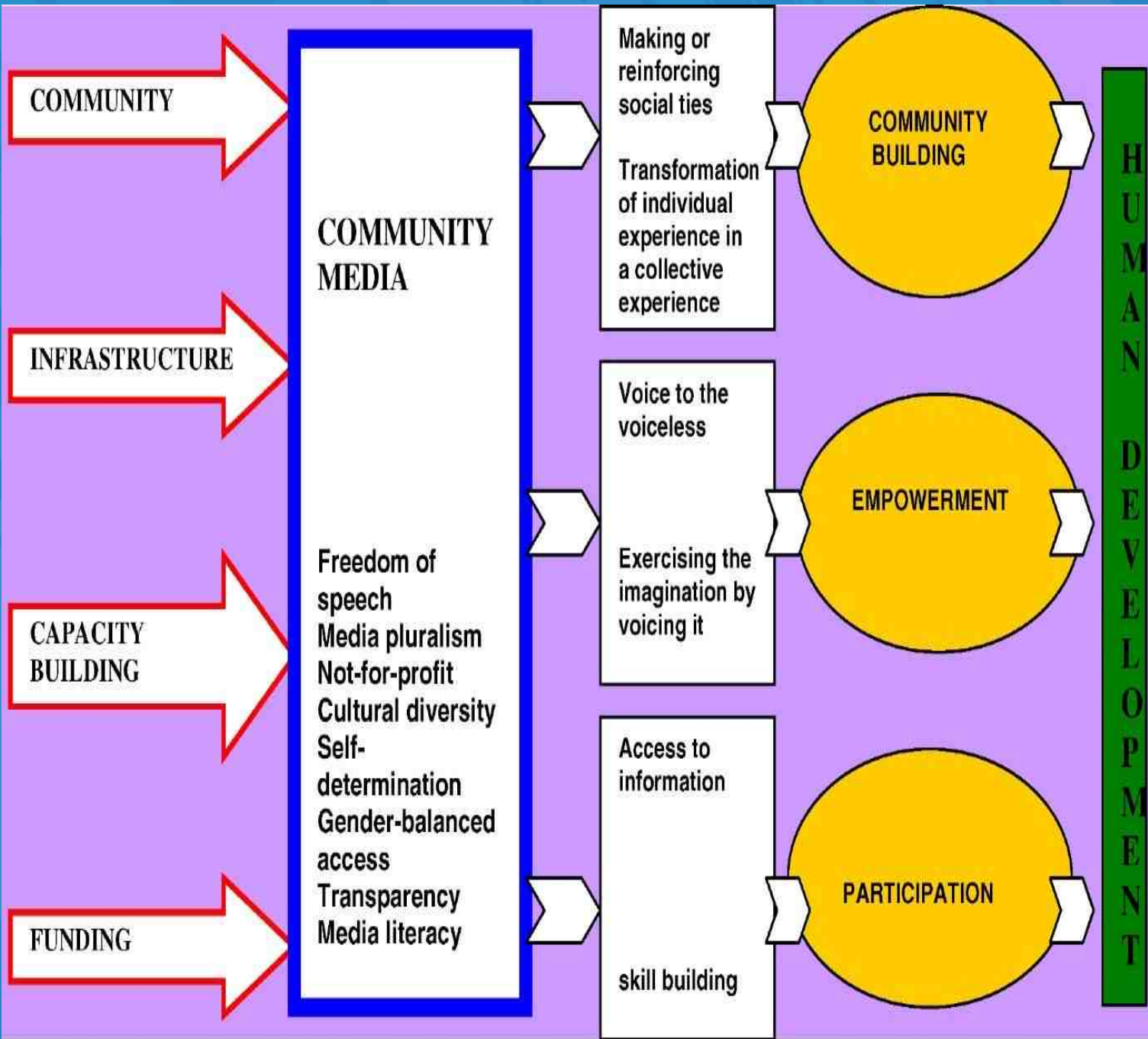
Media

Networks:

Envisioning the

Future

AHM Bazlur Rahman
Chief Executive Officer
Bangladesh NGOs Network for
Radio and Communication



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Review Action

Lines: C-9



WSIS ACTION LINE 9
MEDIA

Knowledge Societies

Knowledge
Creation

Knowledge
Preservation

Knowledge
Dissemination

Knowledge
Utilization

Pluralism

Human Needs and Rights

1. Protecting human rights

1. Freedom of expression

1. Universal access to information and knowledge

2. Respect for cultural and linguistic diversity; and quality education for all

Sustainable livelihoods framework

Key

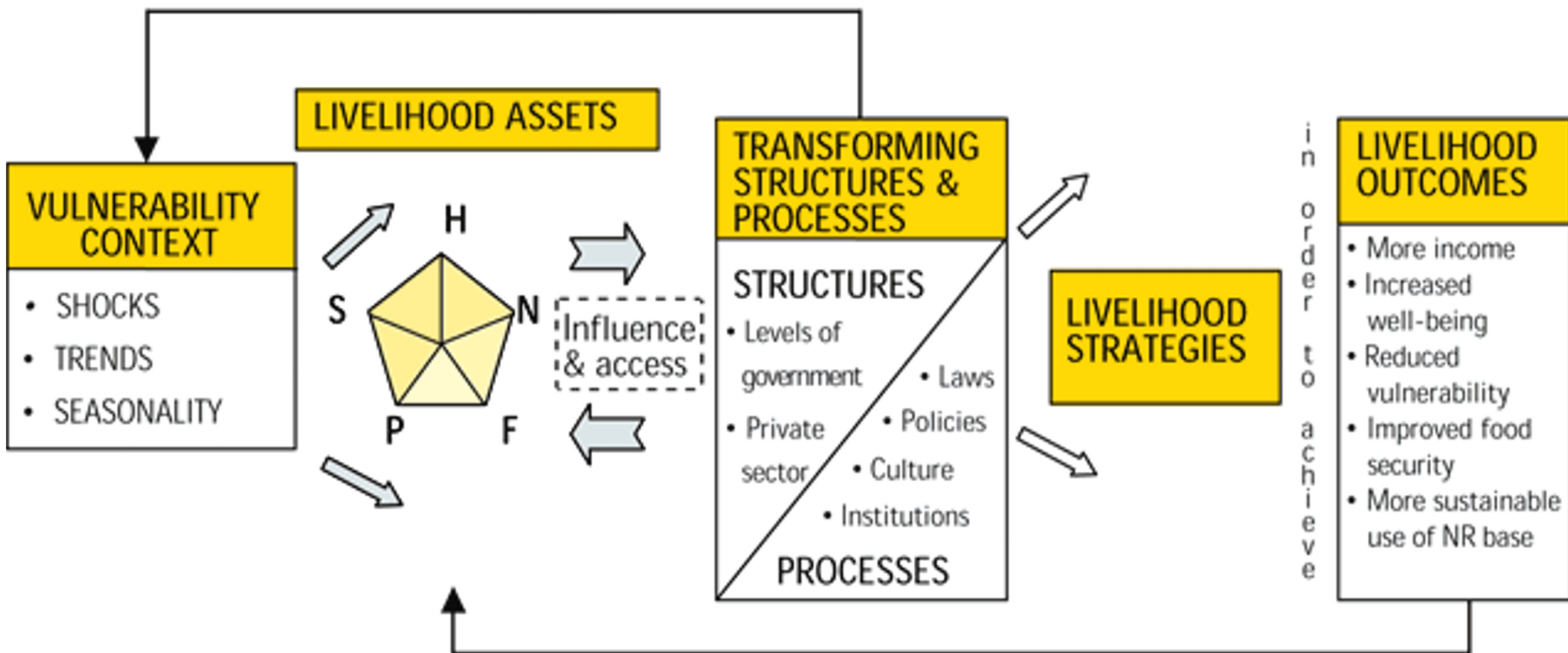
H = Human Capital

S = Social Capital

N = Natural Capital

P = Physical Capital

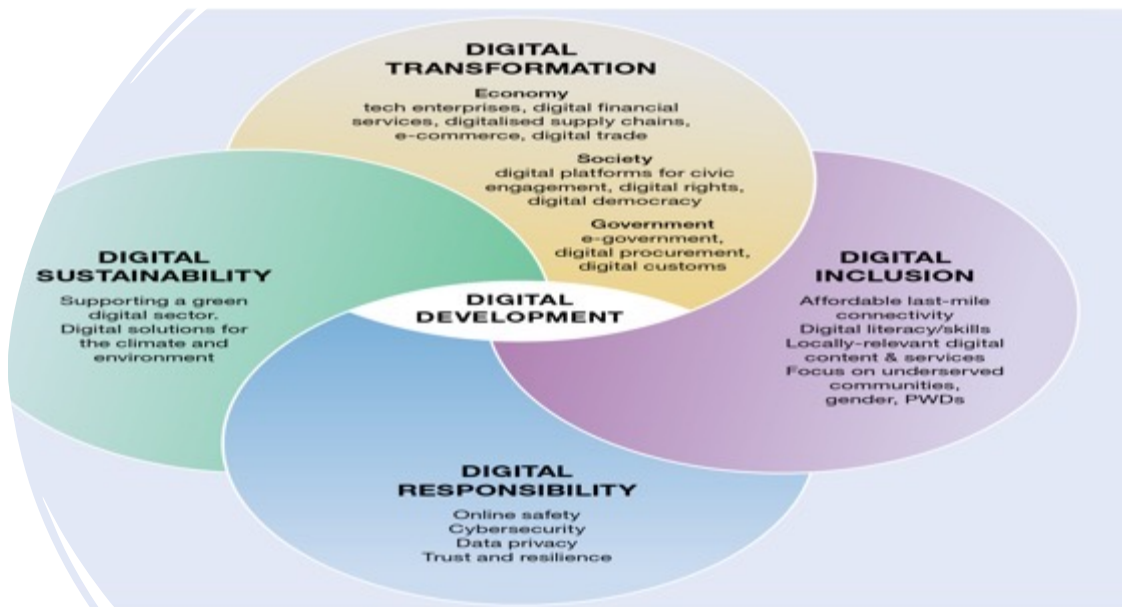
F = Financial Capital





Challenges and Emerging Trends Beyond 2025

- Community Radio's traditional business model is at a breaking point.
- Growing numbers of community media outlets have been forced to cut down on staff, resulting in revenue losses to digital giants.
- Audio content vs Visual Content
- Policymakers Attention
- Radio Set vs Mobile Phone Set
- Harmonize with the Digital Transformation process for digital community media





Lessons learnt



Dr. R Sreedher (Tele Learning and Community Radio Practitioner)
(Video)

(Moderator: Paul Spiesberger)





https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eyVmJf_unZ0

<https://ict4d.org.uk>

Visions for the future: the prospects and how we get there



Philomena Gnanapragasam (CEO Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development)



(Moderator: Paul Spiesberger)



Resolving the challenges of digital transition



- (1) Opportunity for audience to raise issues and panel to respond
- (2) Ways forward for digital community media - Key action points to take to WSIS concluding session

(Moderator: Tim Unwin)



Thank you all



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Questions and comments

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