

## **ICSSR Sponsored Research Project Completion Note**

This is to place on record that the research project titled “**Making Rural Women Digitally Capable: Examining NGOs' Role in Enhancing Rural Women’s Digital Equity in Selected Region of Uttar Pradesh**”, funded by the **Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)** under the **Special Call for Vision Viksit Bharat@2047 (VVB@2047)**, has been successfully completed by the project team at **Birla Institute of Management Technology (BIMTECH), Greater Noida**.

The project was undertaken with the objective of examining the role and effectiveness of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in addressing the gender digital divide and enhancing digital equity among rural women in Uttar Pradesh. The study aimed to explore the socio-cultural, infrastructural, emotional, and institutional barriers that restrict rural women’s access to digital tools and services, and to evaluate the impact of NGO-led digital interventions in promoting digital empowerment.

The research adopted a **mixed-method research design**, integrating both qualitative and quantitative approaches. The qualitative component involved **Focused Group Discussions (FGDs)** with NGO leaders and experts, along with in-depth interviews of NGO intermediaries and field coordinators. The quantitative component included a structured survey conducted across selected districts of Uttar Pradesh. A total of **955 rural women respondents** were surveyed, including both NGO-associated and non-associated groups. The study used robust statistical techniques such as **Independent Sample t-tests** and **Propensity Score Matching (PSM)** to estimate the causal impact of NGO association on digital empowerment outcomes.

The findings indicate that NGO-led interventions have a significant and positive impact on rural women’s digital literacy, digital confidence, and usage of e-services. The study highlights that while digital access is essential, long-term empowerment requires capability-building, sustained handholding, and gender-sensitive training models. The research also identifies persistent challenges such as patriarchal restrictions, infrastructural gaps, and emotional labour burdens that continue to limit women’s meaningful digital inclusion.

The final project report has been prepared as per ICSSR guidelines and comprises approximately **225 pages**, including detailed methodology, findings, statistical analysis, policy recommendations, and appendices. The report has undergone final professional editing to ensure quality, clarity, and compliance with submission requirements.

The successful completion of this ICSSR-funded project reflects BIMTECH’s commitment to impactful research aligned with national development priorities, women empowerment goals, and the Vision Viksit Bharat@2047 agenda. The project outcomes contribute significantly to academic literature and provide policy-relevant insights for strengthening NGO-government collaboration for digital inclusion in rural India.

**Submitted for University records and documentation purposes.**

Signature of Project Director:  
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