

JANASTU !

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Janastu takes ICT solutions and services to organisations involved in the social development sector

The mission of **Janastu** is to e-enable the social development sector to actively manage their community-based knowledge.

Janastu, since 2002, has been providing free and open source (FOSS) solutions and support to small not-for-profit and non-governmental organizations (NPOs/NGOs). This includes one-on-one consulting regarding the information management needs of the NPOs/NGOs, building their online and offline knowledge bases, providing support to their projects, designing web-sites, configuring news-filters, helping them migrate to open source solutions, localization and Indian language support issues, geographic information collection, and comprehensive or modular software development.

Janastu has also created and helped to maintain a number of online communities, including the tsunami reconstruction knowledge center, and e-governance, organic farming, craft network, village tourism or IT-and-Society portals. Sharing the team at **Servelots**, we have been able to customize the ***Pantoto Communities*** software for their needs. Pantoto communities facilitates online community spaces, where people and organizations can network, communicate, gather and disseminate information related to particular social development issues.

The core activities of **Janastu** are:

- Enable people and organizations to access ICT towards improved and sustainable socio-economic status.
- Network and support NGOs in using ICT to build and strengthen linkages between grassroots and other stakeholder institutions.
- Support governance with need-based data/information required to enhance service levels to communities.
- To create a participatory platform for governance or NGO's, which will bring forth transparency and accountability.

Process/Methodology:

- Dialogue with NGOs/CBOs and communities on bridging gaps between communities and ICT
- Community based need analysis for usage of ICT

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- Dialogue with the government for improved community involvement in governance
- Will collaborate with institutions interacting with communities for knowledge, research, documentation and dissemination
- Create a network/study-circle of stakeholders
- Pilot projects using PANTOTO and other FOSS applications to the optimum benefit of the community

NGOs very often play a critical role in connecting the diverse group of parties interested in any given issue. Janastu intends to support NGOs to:

- Build stronger linkages amongst interested parties and increasing their direct interaction with the use of ICT tools
- Transfer its skills and information to interested parties with ICT tools we provide
- Improve their access and use of the Internet to increase their reach and gather information.

More details and links to Servalots, Pantoto Communities, associates and activities can be found at <http://janastu.org>

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