

G I S T

GIRLS IDENTITIES SUPERIOR IN TECHNOLOGY

December 2010 • Special Issue

Girls'Net Newsletter



Citizen Journalism: Media produced by us - the people

By Nosimphiwe Mbaswana and
Jabulile Molane

Citizen journalism can be easily defined as media for the people by the people. Content for citizen journalism produces to be distributed mainly on the internet. Citizen journalism gives every individual who knows how to use the internet an opportunity to talk about issues that the media like your news papers or television news does not consider important.

There are different tools that can be used for citizen journalism e.g. blogging, video and pictures. Because they are published



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online, the whole world can see and read about them. We have even used digital stories as a tool for citizen journalism.

The good thing about citizen journalism is that it is not really formal as the other media but you still have to do it right. Although you don't really have to go to school to be a citizen journalist; there are a lot of things that must be done correctly when reporting. Just as with mainstream media, it is also important to get people's

consent when writing about them make sure you get a good photograph and must not report lies.

We have learned so much during this project that we have decided to become journalists ourselves in the future. We definitely make good journalist because we will have the knowledge of citizen journalism and we will combine it with that of the university journalism that we are going to study. 

About Girls'Net

Girls'Net is a South African programme that gets girls actively involved with technology for their development. Our aim is to use information and communication technologies (ICTs) to help girls realise their full potential. The Girls'Net website creates a space for and by girls where they can get information on relevant topics, air their views on social issues, interact with other girls and express themselves creatively. It is a place where they can exchange thoughts and ideas on just about anything! Content on this site is written, edited and/or sourced by Girls'Net club members, with the occasional assistance from club mentors and the Project Manager.

However, Girls'Net is much more than the website. Our activities also include:

- Girls Training camps
- Provincial Girls'Net tech-clubs
- Girls'Net newsletter-Gist
- Audio/radio programme

GN approach:

- Building girls' awareness around gender issues
- Developing their technical skills, specifically their ability to use ICTs
- Increasing their media literacy
- Building a culture of social activism and community participation

Our primary aim is to promote girls' access to information and resources that can improve their lives using ICTs.

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Girls'Net is a project of Women'sNet.

Editorial

Eva Ramokobala
(Girls'Net Project Manager)

This year fourteen girls from Orange Farm had an opportunity to experience the world of journalism, citizen journalism. A kind of journalism that allows everyone an opportunity to report about any event that seems news worthy to them.

They also explored the different tools that can be used for citizen journalism such as the internet, blogging, using pictures to report

During the course of the project, the girls wrote and reported about many issues of concern in the Orange Farm community ranging from slow infrastructure, lack of proper schools etc.

The following were produced by the girls during the programme: blogs, photo essays, interview stories and even digital stories.

The programme has seen at least eight of the fourteen girls wanting to pursue journalism as a career and have asked Girls'Net for guidance.

We would love to thank the following girls for participating in the programme:

Dikeledi Taunyane Lerato Masuku

Karabo Tsotetsi Nthabiseng Nakedi

Nosiphiwe Mbaswana

Jabulile Molane

Kefiloe Madubedube

Malehlohonolo Phefile

Mohau Methe

Kekeliso Kunyane

Magrett Ndlovu

KEITUMETSE MASUKU

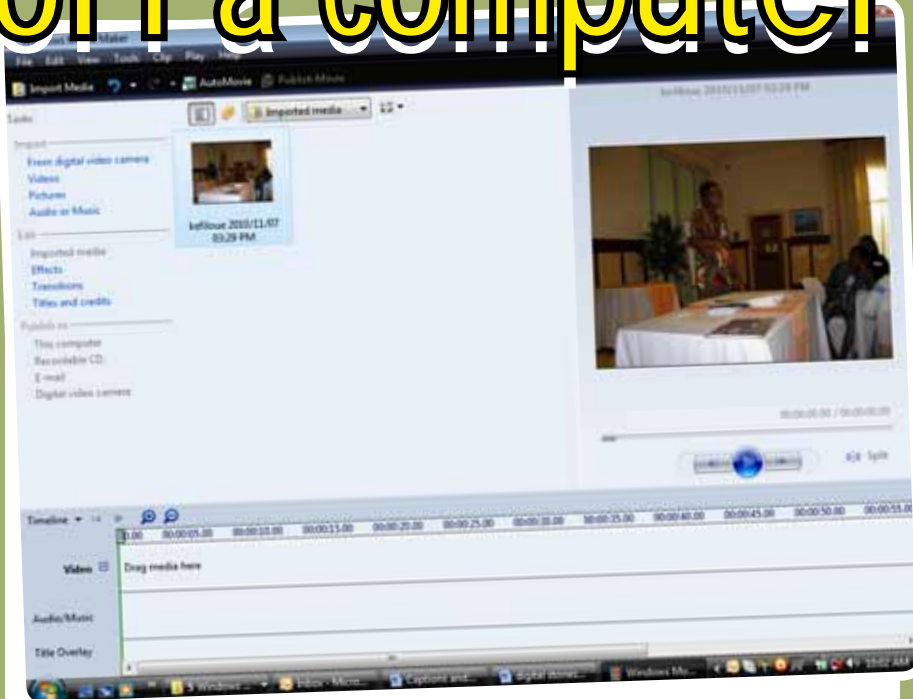
Pretty Ndlovu Lebohang Ngubeni

<http://www.womensnet.org.za/girlsnet>

Thank you very much girls you are all stars, shining bright. ☺

Making movies on a computer

By Kefiloue Madubedube



A digital story is a type of movie that we made. It is a five minute movie normally used by activists to tell a story. It is a form of mini documentary that is used to put across a message of awareness that is both informative and educational.


The tools used for a digital story are script, audio and pictures. When we were taught how to make a digital story, we were told to imagine building a cake and the scripts, audio and pictures are all ingredients that go into the oven.

The software that we used to create a digital story is called Movie Maker and is available on Microsoft computers. It is quite simple to use because it basically tells you what to do.

I was very happy when I first learned about digital stories but I discovered that I could also make a movie or documentary that can be published and shown all over the world. My

theme for my digital story this year was housing in Orange Farm. I am quite concerned that the government is talking long to give us proper houses or toilets and therefore made a story about it (with a hope that maybe it will reach the government one day).

Once finished with a story, you can put it on a disc for distribution but a quicker way is to publish it on the internet.

Overall I was very happy to be part of this project and learn more about how technology can be used to carry our voices. 

MOVIE

Messages through photographs




By Lerato Masuku

We visited the market Photo Workshop to learn more about using pictures or photographs to convey messages.

Before the visit, I had no idea how powerful a photograph can be. I had no idea that it was more than just holding the camera in your hand and taking a photograph. There are a lot of factors to consider such as lighting.

At the Market Photo Workshop I learned about digital photography and analogue photography. It is amazing to see how advanced digital photography is compared to analogue. However, it is quite interesting to learn the analogue pictures are more beautiful than the digital ones.

I was also not aware that one could take photography as a profession and even get a qualification for it. I had really taken this for granted and never in a million years thought that one would need education for such. 

the strike continues

By Dikeledi Taunyane

This year teaches in South Africa went on strike for almost two months. They were on strike because they wanted government to increase their salaries. Because of the soccer world cup, holidays were longer than usual but the strike took place just a few months after the world cup. For this reason learners lost out more on school work.

Strike interview 10 September 2010

Person interviewed: Ms Madondo (teacher)

Interviewer: Dikeledi Taunyane

Do you think it's fair that you have to take to the streets to demand more money?

Not at all! We are educators of the nation and we should be well appreciated.

When did it occur to you that the money you are getting is actually little?

The money has always been little and it's unfair considering the amount of work we do. I am passionate about teaching but at the same time I have a family to support. It is unfortunate that I have even discouraged my children from becoming teachers because of the wages.

What do you think about the government offer so far?


It is not enough because it cannot cover my debts

Is it true that you are going back to the streets after 21 days if the

government does not accept what you put on the plate?

Yes it true. We want the government to know that we are serious about the full 8.6% The same salaries that politicians are having can be for teachers. We work hard.

Will you be giving extra classes to the learners after the strike?

Yes. It is just unfortunate that the learners had to suffer because of the strike. 

Thanking the funder – People Project Foundation (PPF)

We would like to thank PPF for granting us an opportunity to learn about technology and to discover our potential as girls from Orange Farm. We had a fun time this year and again, the programme kept us off the streets on weekends. We all looked forward to the weekends at Girls'Net and our parents were all happy that we are part of the programme.

It was really a blessing to be part of the programme. Having free transport to come into town and to also have delicious food was just fabulous.

What's important is that we all learned a lot and we will carry what we have learned for the rest of our lives.

From all the girls at Girls'Net, Thank you
People Project Foundation – You rock! 

Learning at Girls'Net


By Keitumetse Masuku

I am one of the new members to join Girls'Net this year and I must say it is the best thing I could have done. Because I did not know the computer like the old members, I was given special attention and by the end of the first month I was already a "pro" on how to use the internet.

Now, I am happy because I know how to "google" and to also go on social networking websites like You Tube to watch videos.

I was quite nervous on my first day but at the same time I was happy to see new faces. All the girls on the programme were all friendly, there was also no fights or gossip amongst them.

I love the trips we made to Museum Africa and also the Market Photo Workshop to learn about photography. I also remember on this day, I took a photo with a monument of Brenda Fassie who was a musician here in South Africa.


I would like to say thank you to Sista Eva and Ausi Precious for taking care of us and for teaching us so much. 

My first day at Girls'Net

Malehlohonolo Methé

Hello guys, my first day at Girls'Net was fantastic. I was a bit nervous but everybody made feel at home and told me that we are all sisters.

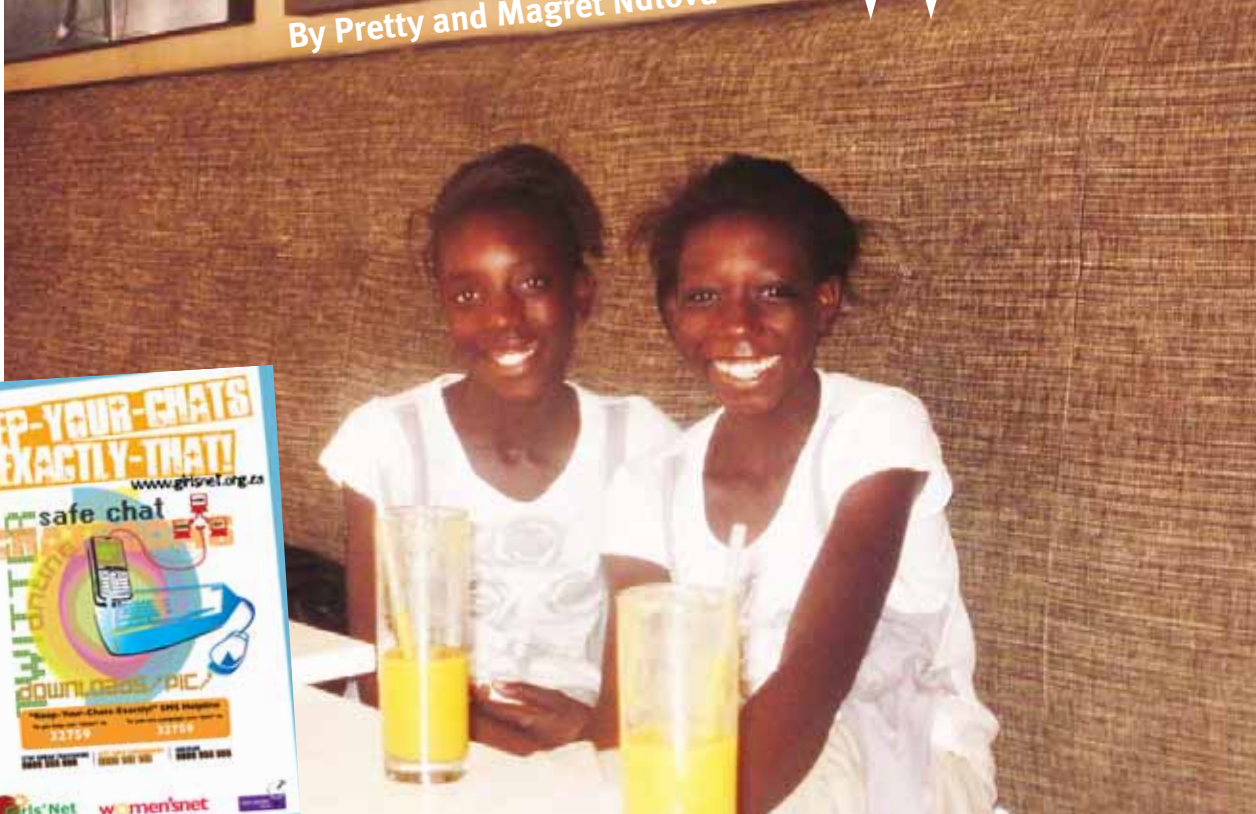
Using the computer for the first time was the best part! I did think that I would be able to use one so quickly in my life. I was also amazed at the different things the computer could be used for e.g. the internet. I also enjoyed the talks about how girls are just as important as boys. It was really encouraging.

I would also like to say thank you to our two teachers Eva and Precious. 



Keeping it safe on the social networks

By Pretty and Magret Ndlovu



Social networks have become an important part of young people's lives. They can easily access them over the phone and it cheap to do so. The most popular social network in South Africa is Mxit and since its introduction, there have been a lot of cases of girls going missing because they went and met their online friends without adults' permission.

Girls'Net has an online safety campaign called Keep-Your-Chats-Exactly-That! and through it, we learned different ways in which we can protect ourselves when chatting online.

Here are some of the online safety rules that we learned:

- ▶ Do not give out your personal details to strangers, you will never know how they are going to use them
- ▶ Never give out photos of yourself to strangers
- ▶ Never agree to meet anyone you met online without letting your parents or adults know
- ▶ Block or delete numbers of anyone harassing you online.

Social networking is a really cool source of entertainment bt always have a set of rules to follow so that you can be safe.

Keep your Chats-Exactly-That!

By Nthabiseng Nakedi

Thetha fm is Orange Farm's community radio station. It was given a broadcasting license in September 2003 and it has been providing news that is relevant to the community of Orange Farm.

The station is very important and helpful in the community because it helps when children are missing, you have an important announcement to make about

an event in the community or you can simply go there to get information on any kind of help.

This year we visited Thetha fm during a kiddies and youth show on a Saturday morning. The reason for the visit was for us to learn about what it takes to be a radio presenter and to also let community of Orange Farm know about our citizen journalism project at Girls'Net.

I was very fortunate to be one of the girls interviewed live

on radio. I was nervous but it was really fun. We also spoke about online safety and advised boys and girls on how to be safe when using Mxit.

It was also inspiring to see a 9 year old read a news bulletin. I know I will be doing that in the future.

Thetha fm radio station – You rock!

Broadcasting for the community

