

Personal Profile – Rakesh Dubbudu

Rakesh Dubbudu is the founder of '[FACTLY](#)', a well-known public information initiative. Among other things, Factly works with Public Information/data, Fact-Checking & policy explainers. The work is primarily centred around the intersection of information consumption & technology. Factly is regarded one of the well-known in this space.

Under Rakesh's leadership, Factly won numerous awards. Factly is one of the 87 global recipients of the YouTube Google News Initiative Innovation funding in 2018. Factly is also one of the 3rd party fact checking partners of Facebook in India and works with most of the technology companies on the issue of misinformation. Factly also won the first ever **Innovation for Good** award in 2015 instituted by Centre for Work, Technology and Social Change in collaboration with SASNET at Lund University, one of Europe's oldest Universities and also the Social Media for Empowerment (SM4E) award in Communications & advocacy category. Factly is also featured as a use case in the **Open Data Impact Map** of the World Bank Group.

Rakesh Dubbudu is also a well-known transparency campaigner in India and has been working on Right to Information (RTI) related issues for the last 14 years. He is currently one of the co-convenors of the National Campaign for People's Right to Information (NCPRI). He played an instrumental role in some of the well-known research studies on RTI. He also has experience in leading various research & impact studies on the RTI law in India and has been a Right to Information Fellow of the Government of India in 2014. Rakesh brings lot of experience in working Government Data. He has led many a research studies in the area of transparency, skill development et al.

Rakesh played a significant role in the launch of the 'Open Data Policy' by the Government of Telangana, the newest state in India and has been helping the Government of Telangana with opening up data and with other e-governance/good governance initiatives. He is also a visiting faculty at various administrative training institutes of the state & central governments.

He is a regular columnist in the leading Telugu and English dailies on issues related to transparency, accountability & data based decision making in governance.

Awards & Achievements

- Received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from NIT Warangal, his alma mater, the youngest person to win such an award.
- Selected for the South & Central Asia Region Legislative Fellows Program (an exchange program for Young leaders from 5 South & Central Asian countries sponsored by the U.S. Department of State). He is one of the five selected from India in 2014.
- Was one of the few speakers from India at the 'International Open Data Conference 2016 (IODC 2016)' in Spain on 'From supply based to demand based strategies in Open Data'
- Selected as a 'RTI Fellow' for the year 2014 by Government of India.
- Speaker at various events like TEDx GITAM University, TEDx Alexander Road, Ignite and Pecha Kucha Nights Hyderabad etc.
- Received many other awards for his work on RTI