

## **Capacity Building Workshop Report**

### **Cyber Security Capacity Building Workshop for MSMEs in India**

**April 22, 2025 | Berhampore, Murshidabad, West Bengal**

As part of the APAC Cybersecurity Fund, CUTS International conducted the Cybersecurity Building Workshop for MSMEs Berhampore, Murshidabad, West Bengal on April 22, 2025. The workshop was organised with support from The Asia Foundation and Google.org.

The workshop brought together entrepreneurs and workers from different place of the Murshidabad district representing diverse industries such as garments, food processing, tailoring, jewellery and others. The workshop attracted 92 participants including 20 women entrepreneurs.



Shri Pratyush Banerjee, Programme Associate, CUTS International began the session by welcoming the distinguished guests and participants. This was followed by brief remarks by Shri Chirantan Pramanik, Addl. District Magistrate (ADM) (Development), Murshidabad, West Bengal, Shri Raspreet Singh, IPS, Addl. SP (Lalbagh), Jb. A Talib, General Manager, District Industries Centre (DIC), Murshidabad. The workshop was attended by few other guests, namely Shri Pradeep

Das Gupta, Handloom Dev. Officer, Shri Swapan Bhattacharjee, Secretery District Chamber of Commerce, Shri Sukhdeb Mukherjee, Manager, DIC, Shri Swapan Mukherjee, Manager, DIC, Shri Debapriyo Gope, Secretary, Fly Ash Bricks Association, Shri Surajit Siana, Prop. Sinha Bricks, Shri Suman Babu, WBKVIB and Mohirban Molla, Secretary, Nursing Home Association.

Shri Chirantan Pramanik, ADM shared his insights on the growing threats of cyberattacks. He illustrated his points with relevant case studies and real-life examples. This was followed by an address by Shri Raspreet Singh, IPS, Additional Superintendent of Police (Lalbagh), who

discussed notable cyberattack incidents from his district. He also elaborated on the necessary response protocols during such incidents and the role of the police in managing and mitigating cyber threats.

The workshop had 92 participants, out of which 59 were MSMEs and the rest were from non-government organisations, business associations, and related groups. Most participants belonged to the age group of 35-42 years and had completed secondary or high school education. Many of them expressed a lack of adequate knowledge of cybersecurity issues, and 13 participants said they had faced cyberattacks. Despite the shortcomings, there was a strong interest in adopting cybersecurity practices in their businesses.

The workshop focused on creating awareness among MSME owners, employees and business associates about cyber security threats - both obvious and overlooked. Key points discussed included fundamentals of cyber security, the importance of strong passwords, the necessity of keeping regular data backup, timely software updates, effective inventory tracking, etc. After each session, a quiz was held, in which participants earned prizes for their correct answers.

Analysis of participants' feedback after the workshop illustrated that 70 of them (92 percent) found the session highly relevant and praised the quality of the content, particularly the usefulness of the case studies shared. 76 attendees (82 percent) termed their experience as positive and showed strong interest in participating in future cybersecurity workshops.

Ms. Shabori Bhowmick, a participant in the cyber awareness program, fell victim to a phishing scam in March 2025 when she received a fraudulent email that appeared to be from her bank, requesting account verification due to alleged suspicious activity. Trusting its authenticity, she clicked on the link and entered her internet banking credentials on a fake website, leading to unauthorized transactions totaling approximately INR 85,000. The incident was promptly reported to both the cybercrime cell and her bank, allowing authorities to initiate an investigation and prevent further misuse of her data. This case highlights the importance of verifying communication sources, avoiding untrusted links, enabling two-factor authentication, and reporting cyber incidents without delay.

## Workshop Glimpses of the training sessions and Group Photo



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