

# Designing Development in India

“User experience” has its roots in technology design and HCI, but designers are now being called to bring methods such as usability, contextual inquiry, and personas to bear on problems such as safe water access, poverty, and even sanitation. Through detailed ethnography, this project asks, broadly, what are the cultural impacts and values of HCI. By examining a range of design practices in the Indian context - including rural and low-income participatory design, DIY and maker spaces to support creative practice, and contextual inquiry for development design problems - this project examines the cultural and epistemological commitments of design culture and methods. By studying design practice in India, we cast cast the competing meanings and values of user-centered design everywhere into sharp relief.



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