



Woman Exemplar Program

**EMPOWERING INDIA'S RISING WOMEN
SOCIAL TRANSFORMERS AT GRASSROOTS**



CHANGE MAKERS



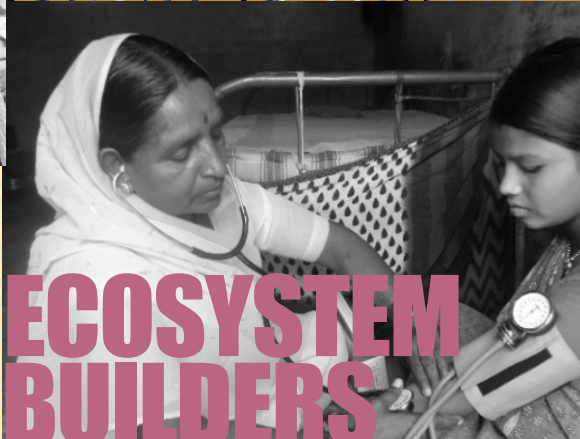
**RISING
AGAINST
ODDS**



**SOCIAL
TRANSFORMERS**



**COMMUNITY
CATALYSTS**



**ECOSYSTEM
BUILDERS**



**GROUND-UP
CHAMPIONS**

CII Foundation (CIIF) Woman Exemplar Program celebrates the indefatigable spirit of women leaders at the grassroots. The program is intended for last-mile grassroots level under-privileged women, from either rural or urban resource-poor areas, who have excelled as social change leaders in specific chosen fields. Since its inception in 2005, the program recognizes and felicitates the courage, conviction and compassion of exemplary women change makers who have overcome grave personal challenges to create transformative work impacting communities and

providing new paradigms for social development. These extraordinary women are 'nation-builders' in every way, driving progress and change in the fields of education, health and livelihoods.

Each year, 3 social transformers join the league of CII Foundation Women Exemplars who have transcended innumerable challenges and become true exemplars. Selected by an eminent panel from Industry and social sector, the awardees are shortlisted by an external due-diligence partner, from hundreds of nominations received from various NGOs across the country.

The program further empowers the exemplars through capacity building and mentoring to help them scale their initiatives. The Foundation is creating a network of grassroots women change makers, who are harbingers of positive change of their communities.

The CIIF Woman Exemplar Program has brought unsung heroes in the limelight, who are being celebrated by institutions of high repute including the NITI Aayog, which has been recognizing some of the exemplars through its Women Transforming India Award.



Once anonymous

Spoke out loud

Once Measured Weak

Fought out hard

Made broken look beautiful

Strong look invincible

Uplifting the community

Walked with dignity

*Eradicating the virus in
the social psyche*

Convincingly carved a niche

As a True Exemplar



From being forced into prostitution by her husband to providing education, life skills and child protection to more than 3500 children of sex workers in Telangana

Jayamma Bandari, Woman Exemplar 2017 in Education Category

From being an HIV survivor to raising financial support to provide medication, counseling and nutritional support to 1500 individuals like her in Karnataka

KM Bhagyamma, Woman Exemplar 2011 in Health Category



From being an orphan, living with physical disability from a backward tribe to training women on reproductive and sexual health in 17 villages of Jharkhand

Pano Hembram, Woman Exemplar 2010 in Health Category

From penury to setting up tailoring and embroidery training school for better livelihood opportunities and financial security for over 800 marginalized women in Assam

Dalimi Rabha, Woman Exemplar 2016 in Micro-enterprise Category



From being a marginal farmer to providing training to farmers on sustainable livelihood through agriculture and animal husbandry in Uttar Pradesh

Ramrati Devi, Woman Exemplar 2011 in Micro-enterprise category



"My fight is not to get superior or equal position in society, but to get dignity in life, freedom from abuse, sexual exploitation, freedom of speech and decision making for all women. We all need to come together and make it a reality."

Kalpna Mistry from Maharashtra, Woman Exemplar 2016 in Education category on the International Women's Day 2017. She was felicitated for her outstanding work for children and women by Badlapur Municipal Council, Mumbai.



"For us social development is not just CSR, but a passion which I have also inherited. To me, women empowerment is not a choice but an imperative. CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Program is one such initiative which recognizes grassroots women leaders and supports them to scale up their initiatives. The exemplars have been a great inspiration to us and many others."

Meher Pudumjee, Chairperson, Thermax Ltd.



"These social entrepreneurs are so intensely preoccupied with their daily work and challenges, that they hardly get to step back and look ahead. It's the immediate rather than the important that gets their attention. CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Program handholds them to upscale their initiatives and reach out to more number of people"

Abeer Chakravarty, mentor of Dipali Pramanik from West Bengal, Woman Exemplar 2010 in Micro-enterprise category



"I have found new friends through this capacity building workshop and also learnt how everyone has overcome inordinate hardships to reach their current position. Their stories have motivated me to scale greater heights in future."

P Thayammal from Tamil Nadu, Woman Exemplar 2015 in Education Category



"I have been fighting against the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS. The journey has not been easy. After receiving the award, many people in the community accepted and recognized my work and offered their help and support. This has encouraged me to set up an NGO.

Mithu Jana from West Bengal, Woman Exemplar 2013 in Health Category.



"It has been my pleasure to be involved and see progress of the Woman Exemplar Program since the last 13 years. I am happy to learn that capacity building exercises are being done and mentors are provided to the winners and the shortlisted ladies of the Woman Exemplar Program. I am impressed with the work done by the exemplars, and am providing financial support to one of them to strengthen her initiative. I do hope that other industry members come forward and similarly support these exemplars so that they could serve the community in a bigger way"

Madhur Bajaj, Vice Chairman, Bajaj Auto Ltd.



"The institution of the CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Award in 2005, is a welcome initiative to promote women's empowerment at the community level by discovering and recognizing those who have, against all odds, excelled and contributed significantly to the development process in India. I am sure that this will be a great encouragement for the countless number of women who are contributing in different ways to strengthening our nation and its economy."

Shri Pranab Mukherjee,
President of India

"CII congratulates all the Exemplars. These are the real-life heroes who have battled challenges and contributed in making the world a better place. CII stays committed to support and strengthen these extraordinary women leaders."

Naushad Forbes,
Immediate Past President, CII
(then President, CII)



"We take pride in driving the Woman Exemplar Program that has created a network of such women change makers who are torchbearers of hope not just for themselves but for many others who are leading transformation. These Exemplars have displayed strength, grit and determination in overcoming social challenges and emerge as true winners."

Chandrajit Banerjee,
Director General, CII



"The Woman Exemplar Program, now in its 13th year, is a very special initiative that celebrates women leaders who have shown extraordinary courage in rising above challenges and transforming their own lives and that of others. The Program not just felicitates, but empowers them to help them scale their work and enhance outreach".

Rumjhum Chatterjee,
Chair, Selection Committee,
Woman Exemplar
Program 2017



"The stories the Women Exemplars carry are truly inspiring. The corporate sector needs to emulate the passion of these real life heroes who have striven to create a positive impact."

Mukund Rajan,
Co-Chair,
Selection Committee,
Woman Exemplar
Program 2017





CII FOUNDATION

249-F, Sector 18, Udyog Vihar Phase IV, Gurgaon-122015, Haryana

T: +91- 124-4309448, F: +91-124-4014080, E: ceo-ciifoundation@cii.in, W: www.ciifoundation.in