



CELEBRATING

THE NEW NATION BUILDERS

15 outstanding finalists of CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Program, 2018



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A photograph of a classroom. A teacher, a woman with glasses wearing a grey hoodie, stands on the right side of the frame, facing a group of students. The students, mostly girls, are seated at wooden desks. Some are wearing red school uniforms, while others are in casual wear like a blue hoodie. In the background, there is a large window with multiple panes and a colorful bulletin board decorated with paper raindrops. A blue vertical banner with white text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Nation Builders- Education Sector



Munni Begam

LOCATION: JAUNPUR, UTTAR PRADESH

PROPOSING ORGANIZATION: TARUN CHETNA

EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH EDUCATION

From being a tailor to becoming a sewing tutor, educator, and Zilla Panchayat member; Munni's story is truly an inspiration. Born into a family of farm laborers, married at the age of 12, home-schooled herself by writing with coal on waste papers, Munni's journey is a tale replete with challenges at every step. Despite all odds, today, Munni is a leading advocate for women's functional literacy, campaigner for women's education and advisor to the Gram Panchayat. This 'Malala of Eastern UP' has transformed the lives of 5,770 illiterate rural women through functional literacy classes and advocacy for access to government schemes and entitlements in Jaunpur and Pratapgarh districts.

Munni aims to consolidate her work with women Beedi workers.

5,770 people directly impacted

5,000 women organized in collectives

1,000+ cases of domestic violence addressed

650 women provided literacy

120 women trained in tailoring



Nita Dhar

LOCATION: ALIPURDUAR, WEST BENGAL

PROPOSING ORGANIZATION: PRISM

A MOVEMENT OF GREEN WARRIORS

Thrust into poverty and thrown out of her home after her father's demise, Nita found purpose in building a grassroots volunteer movement in the forested tribal belts of North Bengal.

She has launched 4500 youth and women change agents who have set up 61 self-sustaining volunteer groups in villages around remote and impoverished tea plantations. The change agents design and run several action projects to address access to education, health, sanitation, trafficking, rights abuse, and environmental resilience. Under Nita's leadership, these young community leaders are designing and implementing bottom-up solutions to their everyday experiences of marginalization.

Strengthening her catalytic model of change, Nita aims to launch an incubator for young entrepreneurs with social business ideas.

4,500 community women and youth change makers launched

- **2,900** women change agents
- **1,600** youth change makers

8,500 people benefited through government scheme linkages, prevention of child marriage and trafficking, creation of kitchen gardens, access to clean energy and other volunteer activities.



Arshi Fatma

LOCATION: GHAZIPUR, UTTAR PRADESH

PROPOSING ORGANIZATION: GRAMEEN VIKAS SANSTHAN

STANDING UP FOR GIRLS

A survivor of domestic violence and financial crisis, Arshi Fatma has launched a movement against early marriage and trafficking in deep, interior pockets of Eastern Uttar Pradesh.

Arshi is providing a wide spectrum of education support to girls and women of her area – from functional literacy, life skills and vocational education to leadership training and political education.

Working with 5000 adolescent girls, Arshi is curbing child marriage and trafficking among them through life-skills and vocational training. In remote villages with no access to roads, Arshi has engaged with women across 40 Gram Panchayats through the Nari Sangh collectives that are managed by her. The role of these collectives is to push for higher women representation in local governance and to center-stage the issues of girls and women.

Arshi's future plans include setting up a vocational training center in her area with non-gender-stereotypical vocations. She is also focusing on building her skills as a trainer.

18,250 people directly impacted

Engaged with **13,000** women collectives members

Currently working with **5,000** adolescents across 50 blocks in Mau

250 first generation women leaders trained



Moni Kannaujia

LOCATION: LUCKNOW, UTTAR PRADESH

PROPOSING ORGANIZATION: STUDY HALL

TAKING CHARGE OF TECHNOLOGY

Daughter of a Dhobi, Moni Kannaujia funded her education by working as a domestic help. She has channeled her passion for the camera to lead a first-of-its-kind technology-and-media education initiative. Moni grew up understanding that education gives girls textbook knowledge but does not teach them that they are equal. She realized that girls do not drop out of schools; they are pushed out of schools by classroom violence and the absence of meaningful learning. Moni and her team at Digital Study Hall (DSH) have produced more than 2,000 videos of classroom sessions conducted by model teachers on joyful learning and gender empowerment. Moni's work responds to both these structural and behavioral challenges, her films take both gender empowerment education and joyful learning. Moni has created video-based learning content for teachers and government schools across Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. She is now creating the same for the UP state government and the MHRD.

Moni's future plans are to go beyond virtual platforms to strengthen live community-based critical dialogues, an initiative that was first started by her as a member of the 'Viraangana' network and strengthen innovative media and technology businesses, such as the SMS Photography business, to raise resources for the DSH team.

100,000 students and teachers across **800** schools (KGBVs) directly impacted through DSH videos

17,252 subscribers on YouTube channel with over two million views



Nasreen Meetai

LOCATION: HOSPET, KARNATAKA

PROPOSING ORGANIZATION: SAKHI TRUST

CHAMPIONING INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Daughter of a sugarcane vendor, Nasreen Meetai has ignited a movement for education and empowerment among girls of the poorest Muslim, Dalit, Devdasi, and Maadiga communities of North Karnataka.

After the demise of her father, Nasreen and all three of her siblings had to work in her father's juice stall in order to support her family. Despite all odds, Nasreen not only completed her graduation but also worked towards ensuring education for many others like her. Through the approach of building collectives and creating local education centers (Kindergartens and drop in centers) at Sakhi, Nasreen provided young girls with opportunities to continue their education. She has organized 854 children and young women in civic action and advocacy groups, where they experience self-transformation and access scholarships, tuition, and counselling supports to pursue higher education. These groups have built their agency and voice to play a key advocacy role against Triple Talaq and other discriminatory religious practices.

Nasreen plans to mentor 40-50 girls in every district who can create the ripple effect by mentoring more girls. She seeks to expand income generation, continued sponsorships for higher education and fellowships to young girls from minority communities .

854 women and children impacted

- **485** impacted through Sakhi youth groups
- **369** impacted through Cehar and Udaan groups

6,000 signatures garnered against Triple Talaq

49 women members completed post-graduate studies

NATION BUILDERS- HEALTH SECTOR



Category Partner:





Srijia Chakraborty

LOCATION: KOLKATA, WEST BENGAL

PROPOSING ORGANIZATION: ANJALI

PUTTING MENTAL HEALTH FIRST

Living with poverty, having chronic mental illness and dealing with the exclusion and stigma of being a lesbian, led Srijia to find her life's mission. Starting as a volunteer in a LBT (Lesbian Bisexual Transgender) group, Srijia went on to start and scale Janamanas - a nationally recognized community mental health program in deprived municipal wards and Panchayats of West Bengal.

To create safe and empowered healing spaces for persons living with mental illnesses, Srijia and her small team train 'barefoot' women mental health care givers and counsellors in under-served communities of West Bengal. In partnership with local government bodies, she sets up mental health centers or kiosks in spaces provided by the government.

Srijia aims to integrate the Janamanas program into the government system, decentralizing the delivery of mental health services to open up weekly clinics.

300,000 individuals reached through dialogues for breaking the stigma around mental health

4000 individuals received mental health counseling

200 community change agents, counselor, and care givers directly trained

60 grassroots mental health counselor mentored.

80 recovered patients of government mental hospitals reintegrated with their families.



Asha

LOCATION: AJMER, RAJASTHAN

PROPOSING ORGANIZATION: POSITIVE WOMEN'S NETWORK

LEADING A COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV

Married at the age of 9, a daily wage laborer at the age of 11, and widowed, diagnosed as HIV positive at the age of 15, and lost her new born child by the age of 16; Asha is survivor and campaigner for the rights of the people living with and affected by HIV. An epitome of courage and will power, Asha founded Saksham, the Ajmer chapter of the Positive Women's Network.

Saksham opens up access to government health services and welfare schemes for people living with HIV. Working in Nasirabad, Rajasthan's most high-prevalence HIV belt, Saksham has ensured de-stigmatized counseling, free treatment, and nutritional supplements to 6,011 women, children and men living with HIV. She has also opened up livelihood opportunities for 50 women survivors of HIV.

Asha aims to ensure steady growth and fundraising for Saksham and consolidation and training of her team.

6,011 women, men, and children directly connected to government ART centers.

50 women provided with livelihood opportunities.

85 women provided nutritional supplements directly from Saksham



Gowamma

LOCATION: BENGALURU, KARNATAKA

PROPOSING ORGANIZATION: GOING TO SCHOOL

PROMOTING HEALTH THROUGH NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENTS

Gowamma's world crashed with the news that her husband was HIV positive. But she pivoted quickly to convert this adversity into an opportunity for entrepreneurship. Unable to afford the nutritional supplements that her husband required, Gowamma developed and produced an affordable alternative- Samruddhi, a FSSAI certified supplement. Samruddhi is a health mixture and can be used by children above six years of age and adults. The supplement has 21 hand-picked ingredients and can also be used by those who are pregnant, lactating, the elderly and people with prolonged illness.

Gowamma distributed Samruddhi through NGOs, hospitals and clinics; which has revived 5,500 individuals back to health. The product has earned a cumulative seven-year turnover of Rs. 25,60,800.

Gowamma aims to introduce improved packaging- transitioning from packets to bottles and also to add flavor variants of samruddhi, to help children to consume with ease.

5,500 people with TB, HIV and chronic illnesses plus lactating and pregnant women impacted

Credible hospital distribution networks set up with St John's, KNP+, KIMS Hospital, Indira Gandhi Children's Hospital, Milana and Arunodaya

Annual turnover of **Rs. 25,60,800**



Deepa Pawar

LOCATION: MUMBAI, MAHARASTRA

PROPOSING ORGANIZATION: ANUBHUTI CHARITABLE TRUST

TRANSFORMING YOUTH INTO LEADERS

Born into a family of iron smiths, Deepa won over poverty, abuse, early marriage, domestic violence, and work place discrimination to emerge as a young change agent.

Her organization, Anubhuti Trust is building transformative youth leaders, youth organizations, and youth networks that are led by Dalit, Adivasi, and Muslim men and women. They are mentored to galvanize local governments and communities on issues of sexual health, gender, rights, mental health, wellness and rights-based approaches – to launch first generation changemakers from excluded groups

Deepa's work has directly impacted 15,800 youth leaders and their communities. More than four youth groups nurtured by her have evolved into formal organizations, in turn impacting 15,000 women and children.

Deepa aspire the establishment of five successful community youth groups in Mumbai and Thane Districts to impact 25,000 people.

30,800 adolescent girls, women, and men impacted

- **12,800** individuals impacted by Deepa prior to starting Anubhuti
- **3,000** individuals impacted by Deepa at Anubhuti
- **15,000** individuals impacted through youth organizations created by Deepa



Hajera Unnisa

LOCATION: HYDERABAD, TELANGANA

PROPOSING ORGANIZATION: MY CHOICES FOUNDATION

PUTTING AN END TO ABUSE

Growing up with abuse, violence and poverty, Hajera Unnisa is working to end domestic violence and child sex abuse in the poorest pockets of Hyderabad, dominated by religious conservatism.

Hajera and her team of 'peacemakers' are opening up safe spaces in bastis for women and children to access psychological and legal relief. She and her team have been conducting intimate basti meetings with women to engage in discussions on domestic violence; organizing sessions on child sex abuse in government and private schools; managing a counselling center to resolve individual cases; providing home-based counselling; and a managing a local helpline. Awareness sessions, counseling and legal redressal have given courage to 1,382 women and 4,593 children to break their silence around abuse and take urgent action. She ensures private, home-based counseling.

Hajera aims to train herself as a counsellor and expand the breadth and depth of her work at My Choices Foundation.

1,382 women and adolescent girls impacted

4,593 children impacted



NATION BUILDERS- MICRO- ENTERPRISE

Category Partner:





Eliza Boro

LOCATION: SONITPUR, ASSAM

PROPOSING ORGANIZATION: MAHILA SHAKTI KENDRA

PIONEERING ASSAM'S SHG MOVEMENT

Financial independence from a micro enterprise enabled Eliza Boro to overcome domestic violence. With this conviction, she rose from being a self-help group (SHG) member to leading an organization that pioneered the SHG movement in Assam.

Her organization, Mahila Shakti Kendra (MASK), believes that sustainable local livelihoods are the key to prosperity and unification of the communities in the area. MASK has impacted 2,550 women and their families through SHGs, micro entrepreneurship, animal husbandry and other allied activities, ending indebtedness and stemming forced migration. By engaging women from all ethnic and linguistic groups in livelihood generation, MASK has broken the isolation and strengthened the unity between diverse tribes.

Eliza is focused on her plan to expand her micro enterprise ventures and strengthen the convergence for rural communities with government schemes.

2,550 people directly impacted

- **1,500** women in SHGs
- **1,050** women enrolled in night school and Adult Literacy Program

800 families report increased family incomes of **Rs. 20,000** annually

Raised **Rs. 94,30,000** in loans for women



Vechulou Kanuo

LOCATION: PHEK, NAGALAND

PROPOSING ORGANIZATION: ENTREPRENEURS ASSOCIATES

CREATING LIVELIHOODS

Vechulou Kanuo grew up in an isolated village on the Indo-Burmese border, managing farm work and domestic chores. Her capacity for back-breaking work enabled her to transform a bankrupt organization to one of the most successful livelihoods ventures in the state.

With no orientation, training or understanding of the NGO sector, Vechulou succeeded in forging strategic partnerships with various organizations to promote community livelihoods, tribal development and financial linkages. She has introduced modern agriculture and animal husbandry to 10,586 women, farmers & youth, seeding thousands of small entrepreneurs in the deep rural interiors of Nagaland. Vechulou has also trained drop outs and educated unemployed youth in weaving and tailoring, putting them on the path of self-employment.

The only woman to be invited to traditional Naga tribal council meetings, Vechulou represents the voice of Naga women in the state.

Vechulou aims to take forward the eco-system building work for entrepreneurship in Nagaland, through more advocacy and government and business partnerships.

10,586 people directly impacted

- **3,965** women impacted in 305 SHGs
- **4,395** agriculture and piggy farmers impacted
- **1,500** youth provided employment
- **726** women linked to night classes



Nancy Pushpam

LOCATION: TIRUNELVELI, TAMIL NADU

PROPOSING ORGANIZATION: VIZHUTHUKAL TRUST

ROAD TO FREEDOM

Daughter of a Dalit school headmaster and one of the eight siblings, Nancy embraced education as her road to freedom. She has since locked horns with caste and gender-based violence and countered severe backlash and threats.

Nancy runs Vizhuthukal Trust (VT) - a non-profit that has organized 11,980 ultra-poor dalit women and children into SHGs, domestic workers unions and children's collectives. More than 4500 Dalit women entrepreneurs have been incubated and micro-credit linkages of up to 3 crores unlocked for them. Powered by an all-dalit women Board, Nancy and her team are providing survival support to elderly dalit house-helpers who are abandoned and too emaciated to fend for themselves.

In addition to strengthening her current work, Nancy aims to begin work with the transgender community and increase the pool of accessible and available loans for Dalit women entrepreneurs.

11,980 domestic workers and their children collectivized to form SHGs

- **450** women have launched micro enterprises

Provided **Rs. 3 crores** in micro credit linkages



Sumitra Shiral

LOCATION: OSMANABAD, MAHARASHTRA

PROPOSING ORGANIZATION: SWAYAM SHIKSHAN PRAYOG

BAREFOOT BUSINESS COACH

At 15, Sumitra Shiral was abandoned and left penniless by her husband. Today, Sumitra, popularly known as 'Rani Tai', is a master at seeding and strengthening grassroots business ventures.

Sumitra views entrepreneurship as the only route for creating wealth and value available to rural women in the drought-affected area. Working in drought affected Osmanabad, Sumitra has organized 3,000 women into SHGs with an asset pool of Rs. 5.3 crores. Owner of two businesses and a producer company, this barefoot business coach has also mentored 2,000 women entrepreneurs, of which 700 are running successful businesses with annual income increases of more than 40 percent.

Sumitra plans to become an established wholesaler and expand her business to other areas of Maharashtra. She also wants to help an additional 1,000 women farmers develop and implement organic farming business plans.

5,000 women impacted

- **3,000** women in SHGs
- **2,000** women trained in entrepreneurship of which **700** have launched an enterprise

Total asset pool created by the SHGs is **Rs. 5.3 crores**

After entrepreneurship training, women earn between **Rs. 5,000-10,000** per month



Sangita Tumade

LOCATION: GADCHIROLI, MAHARASHTRA

PROPOSING ORGANIZATION: AMHI AMCHYA AROGYASAATHI

CHANGING THE LIVES OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Sangita's home Gadchiroli is one of the most backward districts in Maharashtra with approximately 45 percent of all households falling below the poverty line. Sangita Tumade fought against the stigma of Leukoderma by setting up a livelihoods ecosystem for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

Working in 132 villages, she has organized 954 PwDs in Peer Support Groups and Self Help Groups and encouraged savings, access to social security, and small business ownership among them. Through entrepreneurship trainings and market linkages, 50 PwDs have launched their own ventures. By bringing home annual incomes of Rs. 60,000, they have upended the conventional understanding of 'ability' in this backward region.

Sangita plans to expand her work to six additional districts of Gadchiroli, and form a co-operative society in which 150 PwDs play an active role in goods production and business management.

954 PwDs organized in Peer Support Groups

- **175** PwDs provided vocational and entrepreneurship trainings.
- **50** PwDs own small businesses, earning up to **Rs. 5,000**
- **132** Sarpanchs sensitized about PWDs



JCB entered India in 1979 and introduced the iconic Backhoe Loader which has contributed to building India's infrastructure ever since. A fully owned subsidiary of J C Bamford Excavators, UK, it has five World Class factories at Delhi-NCR, Jaipur and Pune and manufactures over 50 products in eight categories. While the Delhi-NCR factory is the world's largest factory for Backhoe Loaders, the Pune facility also has a state-of-the-art Design Centre. JCB India has exported to over 90 countries today. Committed to CSR through the Lady Bamford Charitable Trust, it focuses on communities around its factories and works with Government schools and Vocational Centres, reaching out over 12,500 students on Skills.



JK Tyre & Industries Ltd., is part of J.K. ORGANISATION, one of the well established business houses, with over 125 years heritage, having multi-business, multi-product and multi-location operations in India and in various countries across the globe. JK Tyre, Pioneers of Radial technology and a leading tyre manufacturer of India, has a global presence with Twelve tyre plants – 9 in India and 3 in Mexico, which manufactures the well known "JK Tyre", "Vikrant" and "Tornel" brand of Tyres. With a turnover of over \$1.3 billion, and presence in over 115 countries across Six Continents, JK Tyre ranks among top 25 Tyre companies in the world. JK Tyre is the market leader in Truck/Bus Radial segment. With over three decades of technological leadership, JK Tyre offers tyres for entire range of passenger and commercial vehicles, starting from a 3 kg two-wheeler tyre to a 3.5 ton OTR tyre. JK Tyre is the only tyre "Superbrand" - sixth time this honour has been conferred upon the company.





CII Foundation (CIIF) was set up by CII in 2011 to undertake a wide range of developmental and charitable activities pan India by enabling industry for infusing inclusive development.

CIIF works towards inclusive development by providing a meaningful bridge between marginalized communities and donors, especially corporates by providing strategic guidance on CSR and developing and managing high impact programmes.

The thematic areas of CIIF include: Education; Public Health and Sanitation; Skilling, Employment and Livelihoods; Gender Equality, Women Empowerment and Safety; Environmental Sustainability, including water; Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation.

In this effort, the Foundation works together with corporates, governments, communities, and civil society institutions to channelize their collective resources towards social and community development.

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