

Digital

Entrepreneurs

of BridgellT

EMPOWERING
**RURAL
WOMEN**

12 Stories From Jharkhand

INTRODUCTION

India has one of the largest youth population in the world. To harness the untapped power of youth digital technology can play a key role. There exists a digital gap between those who have the ability to access and use the internet services and those without it. The recent National Sample Survey Report 2021-2022 indicates that the digital divide is substantial because of the rural-urban gap. There is a need for bridging this gap and including the disadvantaged groups in utilising the full potential of the digital economy.

In two remote tribal districts of Jharkhand, India, 32 young women embarked on a journey of digital empowerment and transformation through the BridgelT programme initiated by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS). These women, belonging to affirmative action communities and hailing from underprivileged backgrounds, were selected for digital technology based entrepreneurship development programme as part of this social initiative.

Recognising the potential of empowered women to change the fortunes of their families and communities, the project prioritised women as its target beneficiaries. Creating economic opportunities for rural women not only alleviates poverty but also elevates their existing power as women leaders and decision-makers in their communities. This has a ripple effect throughout the community as women reinvest their learnings and earnings in their families and communities. Promoting computer based functional literacy for women can be a catalyst for breaking new ground and bridging the gap of digital access between urban and rural areas and gender inequality.

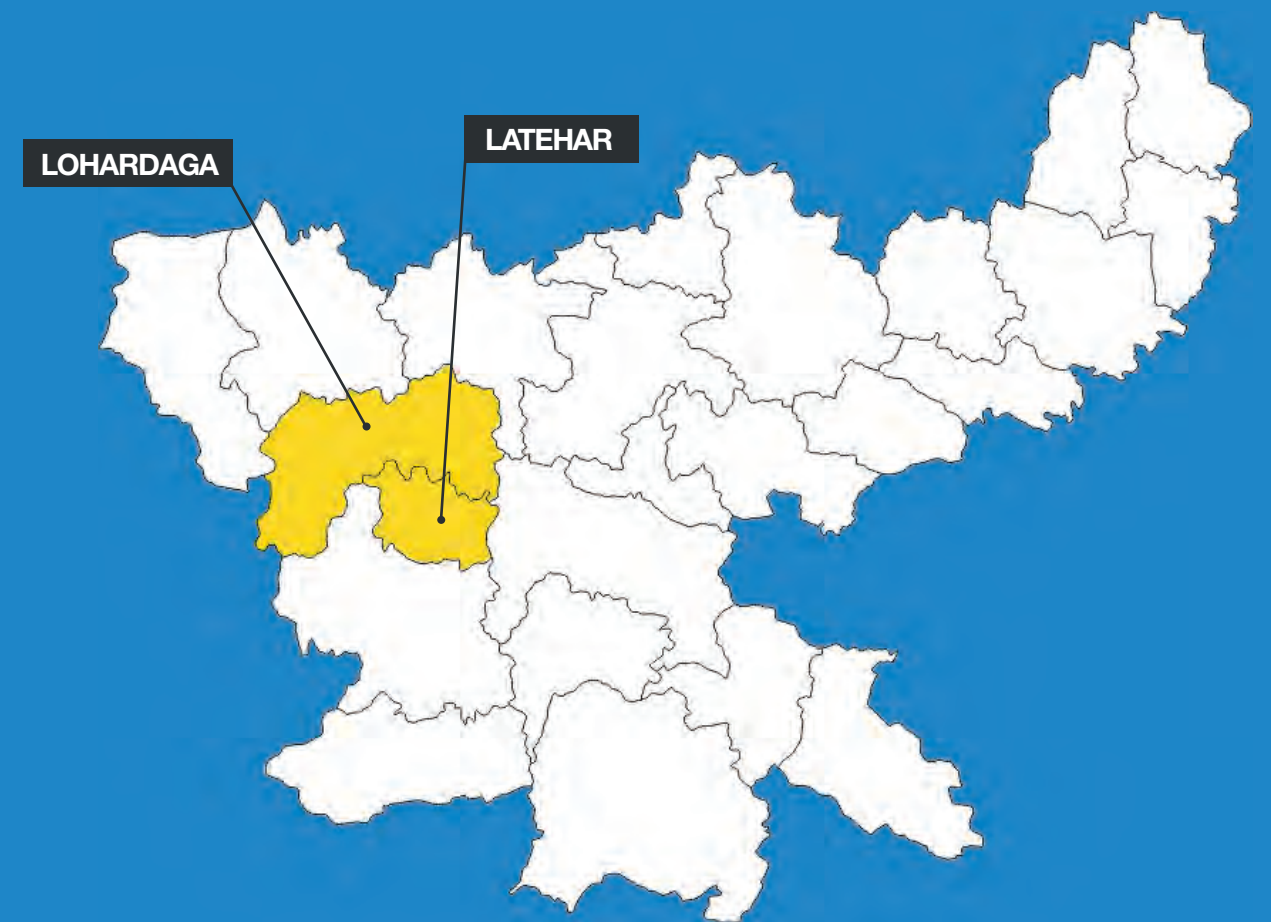
The business women went through rigorous training and mentoring support, given a monthly stipend for helping them grow their businesses, and were provided with laptops and relevant IT accessories to set up their own Common Service Centres (CSCs) in their villages. Post skills and capacity-building training, these women quickly established their businesses and became lifelines for their communities. The CSCs offers a wide range of services, including government applications, banking and insurance services, educational content, telemedicine, e-commerce and digital payment services.

BridgellT Project Coverage

Being from the same community, these women gained the trust of people in their villages and this has resulted in a growing customer base for all entrepreneurs who have not only been providing digital services but also raising awareness on government schemes, financial services, social security and have also saved their customers from the chances of financial misappropriation which was significantly higher earlier. They went above and beyond to inform in their village communities about new schemes and worked tirelessly to help their people, even while working at odd hours. This service-at-your-doorstep model had an exceptionally high integrity quotient.

The journey of these women as digital entrepreneurs is not just about providing services, but also about them expressing their agency and occupying space. Their independence challenges the traditional gender roles and stereotypes. As successful business owners they are role models for other women and girls in their communities.

Their stories are a testament to the power of digital technology in bringing about a revolutionary change in a short time. Through the BridgellT programme, these women have not only become entrepreneurs but also agents of change, driving inclusive and equitable growth in their communities. Their journeys showcase the enabling role of women and the transformative impact of digital literacy, creating a brighter future for themselves and their families.



JHARKHAND

BridgIT at a Glance

A Transformative Initiative

BridgIT is a unique intervention by the Tata Consultancy Services (TCS). It aims to bridge the digital divide between urban and rural India. In 2020 TCS partnered with Humana People to People India (HPPI) to take this initiative to the aspirational districts of Jharkhand.

Latehar and Lohardaga districts of the Jharkhand were zeroed in for the implementation of this programme by TCS and HPPI. Within this geography 32 villages were further chosen and scouted for women between 18 to 32 years of age who had completed grade-XII school and had functional knowledge of computers.

32 women were selected and provided with seven days of intensive training in operating computers as well as entrepreneurship. Equipped with these skills they were also given two laptops each, with a mouse and relevant software. The new entrepreneurs were given a mandate to go and start their own business while HPPI and TCS have been supporting them in terms of skilling, constant advice and a stipend for 36 months.

All the 32 women went back and took up the challenge of starting a new chapter of their life on their own. It was a rough ride for all of them. Fighting social pressures, individual doubts and apprehensions and financial woes they scripted a collective story as inspiring as anyone has ever heard.

In the last 30 months these 32 digital entrepreneurs have imparted Computer Based Functional Literacy to 5,400 women and have provided more than 25 digital services including many government schemes. The number of satisfied customers has swelled to more than 100,000 during the last two and a half years.

However, numbers just tell a small part of the story. The societal change in the attitude towards women is nothing less than revolutionary.

02 —
Districts

32 —
Women
Entrepreneurs

300 —
Villages

5,400 —
Neo-Literate
Women

100,000+ —
Satisfied
Customers

Digital Mukhiya

Shashi Kujur, a determined and resilient woman, has become a beacon of empowerment in her village of Kura. Married at a young age to a person who worked in the private sector and often had to travel, Shashi and her husband made a bold decision to delay having children until they achieved something significant. In 2020, her husband shared exciting news about TCS's BridgeIT programme which aimed to empower educated women in their early 20s to start their own businesses.

Despite initial apprehensions, Shashi enrolled in the programme and received training along with a laptop and a mouse. She faced challenges in finding a suitable place to set up her business, but her determination prevailed.

She converted a small room in her home into her office. She gradually expanded her services from offering a few to 24, including making PAN cards, assisting with kisan samman nidhi paperwork, MGNREGS enrollment, and conducting financial transactions for her customers.

Shashi Kujur

Village: Kura

District: Latehar

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I started with apprehensions, but with determination, I became the 'Digital Mukhiya' of my village. Proud to empower women, bring change, and make an impact through entrepreneurship.

Shashi's hard work and dedication earned her a reputation in her village. She became known for her digital services, which saved her fellow villagers the hassle of travelling to the city for simple tasks. Her shop became a hub of convenience and accessibility in the village, and she received blessings and appreciation from those she helped.

Her journey as a digital entrepreneur empowered her and gave her the agency to make a meaningful impact in her community.

Buoyed by her success, Shashi decided to run for the position of the village head, or mukhiya, in Jharkhand. Despite facing tough competition from seasoned local politicians, her good work as a digital service provider and her personal integrity won her the election. Today, she proudly bears the title of "Digital Mukhiya," bestowed upon her by her villagers, as she continues to empower women, bring positive change, and inspire others with her entrepreneurial spirit and determination. Shashi's narrative exemplifies the enabling and transformational potential of women's agency and business in creating change in their communities.

From Seeker To Provider

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I am proud of my journey and the positive impact I am making in my community. I am a successful and empowered entrepreneur.



Priyanka Kumari embarked on a transformative journey when she learned about BridgeIT. Despite initial reluctance due to lack of exposure, Priyanka decided to give it a go with the unwavering support of her husband.

“I was initially unsure, but my husband believed in me and encouraged me to take the leap,” Priyanka shared.

After completing the course, Priyanka received laptops, software, and training to become an entrepreneur. She faced initial challenges as people were unaware of her services and she had limited offerings. However, she approached her business with determination and resilience.

“I knew I had to make a difference. I started by imparting basic computer literacy to local village women and then informed them about my services. It was important for me to connect with them and understand their needs,” Priyanka said.

She tirelessly upskilled herself, learning how to perform money transactions, enroll people for Aadhaar Cards, and perform updates. She obtained certifications for these services and saved money to invest in necessary equipment. With her hard work and dedication, Priyanka's business started to flourish. She also saved enough money to buy lamination, Iris, and a fingerprint machine, along with a CCTV camera.

She then opened another shop in the Panchayat Bhawan. The work now extended beyond the capacity of one person.

She expanded her services, offering around 25 different options, and hired two employees to support the increasing demand. Her husband continued to be a pillar of support, proud of her achievements.

“This journey has been challenging, but also incredibly empowering. I am grateful for the opportunity to make a difference in my community,” Priyanka shared.

Her success as a digital entrepreneur brought financial independence and fewer household chores, allowing her to provide a better education for her children. Priyanka's unwavering determination, has made her a role model in her community.

“I am proud of my journey and the positive impact I am making in my community. I am a successful and empowered entrepreneur,” Priyanka said with a sense of accomplishment. Her story serves as an inspiration to other women, showcasing the power of determination, resilience, and support in achieving success.

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Priyanka Kumari

Village: Dihi

District: Latehar

Now My Father Consults Me In His Business

Priti's journey began when she learned about an opportunity for young women entrepreneurs to be trained in computer operations, ledger maintenance, and business skills through a programme supported by HPPI and TCS, with a monthly stipend of ₹3,000 for three years.

Despite initial doubts and lack of experience, Priti gathered her courage and appeared for the interview, and to her delight, she was selected. Little did she know that this would mark the beginning of a remarkable transformation in her life.

Undeterred by the initial challenge of looking for a space Priti found a location near the Panchayat Bhawan and set up her shop.

She quickly learned new skills and expanded her services, offering 12 to 14 services in a short period of time.

Despite personal challenges, including pressure from her family to get married, Priti remained determined to pursue her dreams and continue her business.

Today, Priti's hard work and determination has paid off. She is earning a substantial income and regularly contributes to her family's well-being, including supporting the education of her younger brothers. She has also enrolled in a Master's programme in Hindi literature, and her confidence in holding conversations and expressing her opinions has grown tremendously.

Priti is highly respected in her village community for bringing government services to their doorstep and challenging traditional perceptions of women's capabilities in running a digital business.

Reflecting on her journey, Priti proudly states, "I have found my identity and voice through my business. I am empowered and confident in making decisions that impact my life. Today, I am breaking stereotypes and changing perceptions about women as digital entrepreneurs." Priti's story is a shining example of a woman's agency, resilience, and determination to pursue her dreams and overcome challenges. Her success has not only transformed her own life but has also inspired and empowered other women in her community to pursue their aspirations.

Priti Kumari

Village: Rampur

District: Lohardaga

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I have found my identity and voice through my business. Today, I am breaking stereotypes and changing perceptions about women as digital entrepreneurs.



From Fields To Fortune

Tabassum Khatun, a young woman married into a farmer's family was working in the fields. One day, while she was at her parent's house, she received an unexpected phone call from a friend who told her about a new scheme aimed at empowering educated women in the village and helping them become entrepreneurs.

Intrigued by the idea of starting her own business and escaping the rigors of farming, Tabassum eagerly returned to her husband's home. The next day, she appeared for a test and interview, where her education proved to be an asset, and she passed with flying colours.

Tabassum received entrepreneurship training and was provided with two laptops and other accessories to kickstart her entrepreneurial journey.

Despite facing challenges along the way, such as finding a suitable location for her shop and dealing with electricity supply issues, Tabassum's determination and agency as a woman shone through. She used YouTube to upgrade her skills and invested in an inverter to increase productivity.



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I took a risk, and today I stand proud as a successful rural businesswoman, proving that women can conquer any obstacle and thrive.

As Tabassum's business grew steadily, she became a well-known figure in the area, with her shop becoming the go-to place for all digital services.

Her breakthrough moment came when the state government announced a scheme for drought relief, requiring online KYC and form filling. Tabassum worked tirelessly, with unflinching support from her husband and father-in-law, to complete the task and transform her business.

Reflecting on her journey, Tabassum says, “Becoming a digital entrepreneur has been a life-changing experience for me. It has empowered me as a woman and given me the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to my community. The support from the programme has helped me overcome challenges.”

Tabassum's inspiring journey reflects the benefits of women occupying spaces as digital entrepreneurs, breaking free from traditional roles and making a mark in their communities. Her story serves as an example of how initiatives aimed at empowering women in rural areas can create transformative change and open doors to new opportunities.

— Tabassum Khatun

Village: Hethpochra
District: Latehar

A Journey of Self Realisation

Jaywanti, a determined and ambitious woman, was a homemaker and a loving mother to her two children. Although she was educated, she lacked confidence and relied on her husband for financial support and assistance with household chores. One day, a social worker told her about a programme supported by TCS and HPPI, that could change her life.

Jaywanti enrolled in a business skills and computer training programme. Despite her initial doubts about her capabilities, she persevered and successfully completed the training, receiving two laptops and other accessories. However, the real challenge had just begun.

Setting up her business was not easy. Jaywanti had to overcome her own shortcomings and fears, as she had limited exposure to the outside world. Interacting with people and handling transactions at the bank was initially intimidating for her. Nevertheless, she found the courage to open her shop in one of the rooms in her house, close to her family.



Starting with basic services like photocopying and printing, Jaywanti gradually upgraded her skills with the help of YouTube and the ongoing support from HPPI. Today, she offers 23 services and has seen her income grow from a trickle to a healthy cash flow. Her confidence has skyrocketed, and she can now confidently communicate with anyone and hold her own in any situation.

For Jaywanti, earning money and running her own business has been truly transformative. She no longer depends on anyone, especially her husband, for financial support. She believes that every woman should have the ability to earn and make independent decisions about her own needs. Her self-belief has soared, and she has become a role model for other village women who admire her courage and initiative.

Jaywanti's increased income has also benefited her family. Her children now have access to better health, education, and food. Her thought process has changed, and she feels in control of her life as a woman and a digital entrepreneur.

She attributes her success to the support of TCS and HPPI, which has helped her realise her potential and achieve her dreams.

With her unwavering determination and entrepreneurial spirit, Jaywanti has been an inspiration to others. Her journey showcases the transformative power of digital entrepreneurship and the positive impact it can have on individuals and their communities.

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I never imagined that I could become a successful entrepreneur and be in charge of my own destiny.

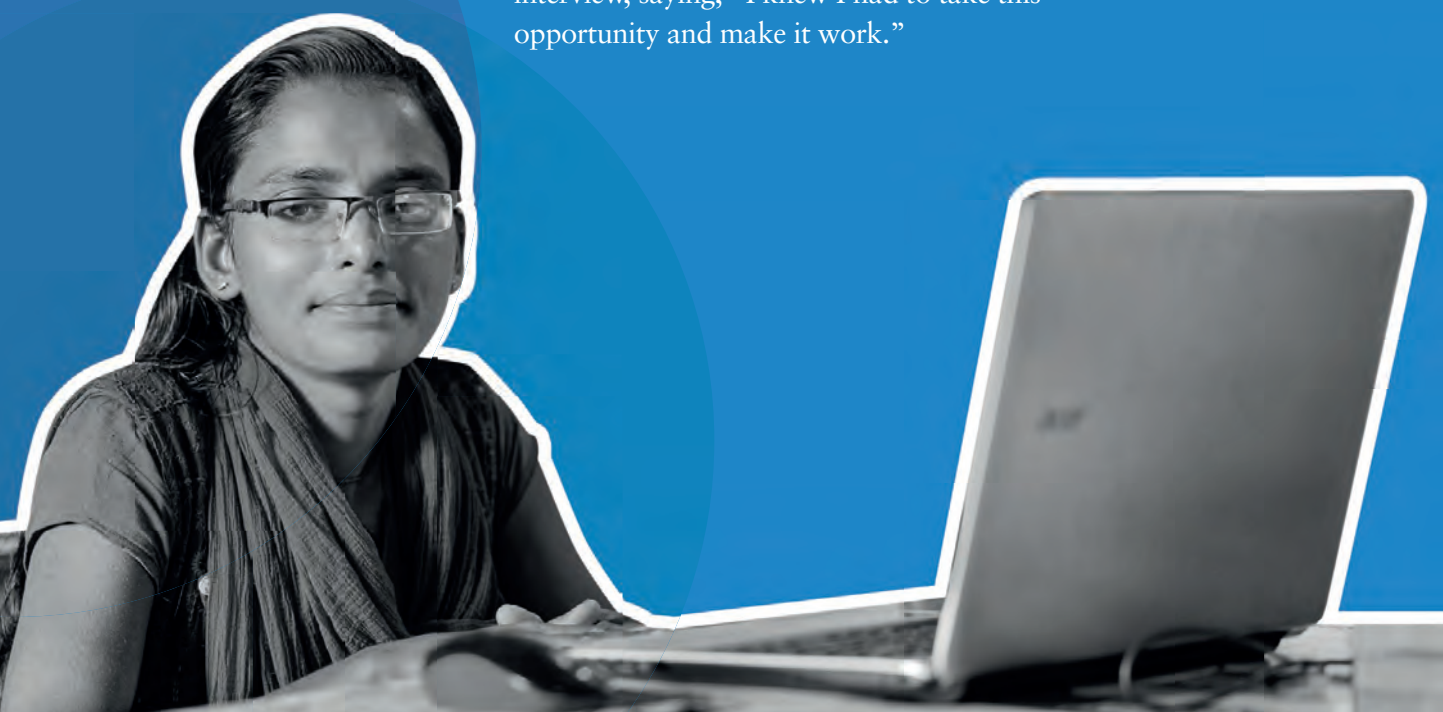
—
Jaywanti

**Village: Dhankara
District: Latehar**

Business Is Better Than Doing A Job

“Nobody thought I could do it, but I proved them wrong. I am incharge of my destiny now,” said Khushboo, a determined woman who refused to be held back by her circumstances.

As a school student, Khushboo helped her mother with household chores while dreaming of a brighter future. When she learnt about the BridgeIT programme, she saw it as a chance to earn money and fund her studies. Despite initial doubts and financial strain in her family, Khushboo took charge of her destiny and went for the interview, saying, “I knew I had to take this opportunity and make it work.”



— Khushboo Kumari

Village: Nindhir

District: Latehar

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Nobody thought I could do it, but I proved them wrong.

With the support of her sisters and brothers-in-law, Khushboo set up her own business, starting with a photocopy machine. She faced challenges and made mistakes, but she was determined to learn and grow. “I knew I had to upgrade my skills, and I was willing to put in the effort,” Khushboo recalled.

Through the support of programmes like BridgeIT, Khushboo learned from YouTube tutorials and the guidance of the staff. She embraced the learning process, saying, “I had to constantly learn while earning, and it was challenging, but it made me stronger.”

Now, two and a half years later, Khushboo's business has become a success story. “I have the hunger to earn more and expand my business further.” Khushboo proudly proclaimed.

She has become an earning member of her family, contributing to their financial well-being and inspiring others with her entrepreneurial spirit.

The story of Khushboo demonstrates her agency as a woman in the field of digital enterprise. “I have found a new identity and a sense of pride in what I do,” Khushboo shared. She believes that being a business owner offers her the freedom to work on her own terms, and she is determined to continue her entrepreneurial journey while pursuing further studies, saying, “I am incharge of my destiny, and I will never give up on my dreams.”

Khushboo's story exemplifies the power of agency and empowerment in overcoming challenges and achieving success in the world of entrepreneurship.

Seeds Of Success



Shobha, a determined and resourceful woman, was balancing her family responsibilities while working on farmland in her spare time. However, her eagerness to learn and improve her skills led her to seize an opportunity that would change her life forever. With the support of her husband, Shobha enrolled in a training programme offered by TCS and HPPI, where she had the chance to learn about computers and other skills to become a businesswoman.

Despite being apprehensive and having never seen a computer before, Shobha cleared the exams and worked diligently to learn the ropes, with her husband standing by her side through the entire process.

Shobha knew that the real challenge lay in starting her own business after completing the training. Coming from a family dependent on farming, she faced the additional challenge of having no prior business experience. She then rented a shop on the village road that attracted customers.

Initially, she struggled to attract customers and earned only ₹300 in the first month from photocopies and printouts. But Shobha was determined to succeed. She realised that she needed to upskill herself to offer more services and expand her business.

In just a few months, she learned how to provide government schemes and money transactions, and her customer base started to grow exponentially. Her monthly earnings increased to ₹15,000, a remarkable turnaround.

Her success was so impressive that her brother-in-law asked her to vacate the shop so he could start his business from the same location. Undeterred, Shobha used her earnings to build her own brand-new shop adjacent to her brother-in-law's. She takes pride in her achievements, and her improved cash flow has resulted in a better lifestyle for her family.

Shobha's success as a digital entrepreneur has not only strengthened her as a woman but has also brought positive changes to her family. Her children are now studying in a good private school in the nearby town, Latehar. Shobha eagerly awaits the day when her entire family can transition from farming to working in her successful business. In Shobha's own words, "I am proud of what I have achieved. The training provided me with the skills and confidence to start my own business. I am determined to continue growing my business and making a positive impact in my community."

Shobha Devi

Village: Tarwadih

District: Latehar

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I transformed my life from traditional roles to a digital entrepreneur, breaking barriers and realising my true potential.

Teaching Women Is Fulfilling

Ajanti set out on a journey of entrepreneurship-based transformation. She learned the basics of computers with the help of her husband and appeared for an interview under a government scheme. As she recalls, “I had no prior knowledge of computers, but I was determined to learn and succeed.”

Her initial struggle was challenging, but she persisted with unwavering determination. She faced a setback when she had to return the printer she had borrowed from her husband's friend. However, her brother's support came as a lifeline, and she exclaimed, “I am grateful for my brother's belief in me, and it gave me a new lease on my entrepreneurial journey.”

With her shop in a prime location, her success brought recognition, but it also came with its own share of hurdles. When the shop's owner demanded its return, she turned to her network of well-wishers for assistance, including HPPI coordinators. They persuaded the owner to wait for a few days while they looked for a new location. She recalled, “Their intervention and negotiation skills were invaluable, and I am grateful for their support.”



Ajanti Kumari

Village: Irgaon
District: Lohardaga

Her entrepreneurial success remoulded her into a financially independent woman, and she became a major contributor to her family's finances. She paid off all her loans and prioritised repaying the shop's loan. She also implemented an elaborate savings scheme, managing her finances with great care. As she put it, “Handling money with confidence has been empowering, and I am proud of my financial independence.”

But her journey wasn't just about her own success. She found deep fulfillment in teaching computers to women in her area. She passionately said, “Teaching fellow women gives meaning to my life, and I am proud to empower them with digital skills.”

Her story shows the power of education. It has sparked an entrepreneurial spirit in her which is inspirational to others in the village. Furthermore, Ajanti's passing on the computer based digital literacy to other women has the potential for a bigger change in her village. As she looks towards the future with hope and confidence, she continues to inspire others with her remarkable journey.

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Handling money with confidence has been empowering, and I am proud of my financial independence.

I Will Support Every Dream Of My Daughter

Archana Kumari, a young woman from the village of Parhi, had always dreamed of achieving financial independence and making a mark in the world. She had a passion for science and was pursuing her B.Sc. degree when she heard about an opportunity to start an online business through BridgeIT. Despite having no experience with computers, Archana decided to take the plunge and applied for the programme.

After successfully completing the training, Archana faced many challenges in setting up her business. The biggest hurdle was finding a suitable location, as no one in her village was willing to rent out a space. Undeterred, Archana searched tirelessly until she found a location that was far from her home, but perfect for her needs.



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Women need to study and work as it makes their voice heard in the family. The biggest security against oppression and restriction by others is education and a vocation.

Daily commuting to the shop was difficult, but Archana was determined to make her business a success. She poured all her energy into it, even when she became pregnant. However, as her due date approached, Archana had to take a break from her business to focus on the arrival of her newborn.

After two months, Archana returned to her business with renewed vigour. Her hard work and determination paid off as her online business began to thrive. She found joy in being able to provide for her family and offer gifts to her visitors, something that was not possible for other women in her family.

Archana's journey was not easy, but she knew the value of education and hard work in empowering women. She said, “Women need to study and work to make their voice heard in the family. Education and a vocation are the biggest security against oppression and restriction by others.”

Today, Archana's business continues to grow, and she is determined to support every dream of her two-year-old daughter. She hopes to inspire other women in her village to pursue their dreams and become digital entrepreneurs like her.

Throughout her journey, Archana proved to be an empowering woman, who faced every challenge with agency and determination. Her story shows the power of education and hard work in empowering women to achieve their dreams.

— Archana Kumari

Village: Parhi

District: Lohardaga

I Want Everyone In My Family To Do Business

Rizwana's journey is an account of self-determination, perseverance and hard work. She had just completed her higher secondary education when she got the opportunity to become a digital entrepreneur. Her journey began when a team of experts from HPPI and TCS came to her village in Lohardaga district, Jharkhand, looking for talented women with some form of education.

Rizwana's mother-in-law raised her hand, indicating that Rizwana was a 12th pass, and this marked the beginning of her journey towards financial independence and dignity.

Initially, she faced challenges from within her family, particularly her father-in-law, who was not ready for her to work. However, her husband intervened and convinced her father-in-law that he would support her in her work. The biggest challenges were dealing with strangers, mastering technology and people-to-people communication, but she persisted.



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I deserve the same rights and opportunities as anyone else.

She immersed herself in her customers' world and took note of their likes and demands. Based on their feedback, she started building her business from scratch. Today, Rizwana caters to a large section of customers from around ten to twelve villages in the vicinity.

Their financial situation changed, which has profoundly altered both her approach and the family members' attitudes. She insists that when women earn, the house starts to progress. What really makes her happy is the changed attitude of the menfolk in her family.

Now, her father-in-law insists on her going to the shop every day, and her younger brothers-in-law come to her shop and call up people to say, “I am at my bhabhi's shop please come and meet me here.”

Rizwana says, “Earlier, I was nobody. No one knew me, but today, most of them know me or about my work.” She wants every person in her family to do business as this is the surest way to financial independence and dignity.

—
Rizwana Parveen
Village: Bhadgaon
District: Lohardaga

I Don't Want To Work Under Anyone

—
Pramila Kumari
Village: Bhujaniya
District: Lohardaga



Pramila lived with her family while pursuing her studies and helping her mother with household chores. But she yearned for more, and when she learned about the BridgeIT initiative, she jumped at the opportunity to become a digital entrepreneur.

However, her journey was not without challenges. When she completed her training, she struggled to find a space for her shop. Despite consulting and negotiating with various people, she was unable to secure a location. Just when she thought she had hit a dead-end, a kind stranger offered her a space outside his shop counter. He said she could set up her laptops and printer on a table outside and work from this location until she finds a better one.

While she was dealing with early obstacles, she was approached about getting married. She informed her prospective husband that she would marry on one condition that she would continue with her business. He agreed, but soon after their marriage, she had to move to a new village, leaving behind her established business.

Undeterred, she rebuilt her business from scratch, but soon fell ill and had to rely on her husband to manage the operations. Even after she became pregnant, the couple managed their time effectively to turn her challenges into triumphs with Pramila's unwavering determination and tireless efforts. Today, she runs a thriving digital services business and owns a prized possession — a scooter. She says, “Business offers me dignity, pride, and financial independence, and I value all three more than anything else.”

Her story reflects the power of resilience and the unwavering pursuit of one's dreams. Despite facing numerous challenges, Pramila never gave up and emerged stronger than ever. Her journey as a digital entrepreneur is an inspiration to all women who aspire to break through societal barriers and achieve their goals.

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I prefer business to a job. It offers me dignity, pride and financial independence, and I value all three more than anything else.

My Business Has Given Me Respect

Pragya's journey to entrepreneurship was nothing short of a roller coaster ride. With the odds stacked against her, she was determined to succeed and create a life for herself that she could be proud of. Growing up in a small village in rural India, Pragya's options were limited. Education was scarce, and job opportunities were practically non-existent. But even as a young girl, Pragya knew that she wanted more from life.

So when she heard about the BridgeIT programme, Pragya saw it as an opportunity to take her first step towards her dream of having her own business. Despite having no prior experience with computers, she applied and was selected for the training.

“I was not familiar with computers, but when I heard about the BridgeIT programme, I wanted to do the course. I passed the test and was selected for the 7-day training.” The journey wasn't easy. Pragya faced challenges at every turn. But she refused to give up.



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Pragya Kumari
Village: Irgaon
District: Lohardaga

She printed pamphlets and posters and distributed them to women's self-help groups' offices, talked to women who came to her mother for sewing work and placed a laptop beside her mother's sewing machine to attract more clients.

And slowly but surely, Pragya's business started to grow. She invested countless hours learning new skills through YouTube and expanded her service portfolio to offer 24 different services. Her hard work and dedication paid off, and soon she had established herself as a reliable and trustworthy entrepreneur.

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I faced many challenges on this journey, but giving up was never an option.

But it wasn't just about the business. It was also about creating a better life for herself and her family.

When she was assisting her mother in sewing work only the local women knew her but now people from many villages in the vicinity know her by her name. “Today even the elders fold their hands and say namaste to me. I find it odd but from within I feel very happy.” Success in business has boosted her confidence and today she can talk to anyone and get her work done.

“I have trained my two sisters, so now if I have to go somewhere, I can easily take an off, but the work will not be hampered. You don't get this facility in a job.” Reflecting on her journey, Pragya realised that she wouldn't have it any other way. The freedom and flexibility of entrepreneurship were priceless, and she knew that she had made the right choice.

Pragya's story highlights the power of determination and the importance of access to resources and opportunities. Despite the challenges she faced, she refused to give up on her dreams and created a life for herself that she can be proud of.

Monora

Village: Parhi

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The shop provides many services and a space for learning computers. Archana, the owner, teaches us computer skills and internet surfing, boosting our confidence. The thought of it closing brings dread as it has made our lives easier.



Popen Tirky

Village: Parhi

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My children are able to secure all the digital support in the village.



Mohammed Shahabuddin Ansari

Village: Dihi

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The village head praises Priyanka's online business for saving time and money by eliminating the need to travel to the city. He believes that educating women is essential for the prosperity of the family.



Akthar Ansari

Village: Dihi

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For us, things have gotten more convenient. We don't have to go to the chowk, which saves us time and money. We should encourage more women to work in business and pursue their education.



About TCS Empowers

We are building greater futures by connecting people to opportunities in the digital economy. Through innovation and collective knowledge, we will create equitable, inclusive pathways for all, especially women, youth and marginalized groups.

Visit www.tcs.com/csr and follow #TCSEmpowers across social media.



Humana People to People India is a registered development organisation that operates as a non-profit company under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 since May 21st, 1998. As a non-political and non-religious organisation, HPPI is dedicated to promoting the overall well-being and upliftment of underprivileged and marginalised individuals in rural and urban India. HPPI achieves this goal through coordinated and targeted interventions in critical areas such as education, life skills, women's empowerment, health, sanitation, and environmental sustainability.

About Tata Consultancy Services Ltd (TCS)

Tata Consultancy Services is a purpose-led transformation partner to many of the world's largest businesses. For more than 50 years, it has been collaborating with clients and communities to build a greater future through innovation and collective knowledge. TCS offers an integrated portfolio of cognitive powered business, technology, and engineering services and solutions. The company's 610,000+ consultants across 50 countries help empower individuals, enterprises, and societies to build on belief.





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Over the years, HPPI has collaborated with various national and international private and public partners to implement more than 160 projects across the country. These initiatives have brought about significant positive changes in the lives of many individuals and communities, contributing to a more equitable and sustainable society. HPPI remains committed to its mission of supporting and empowering the most vulnerable members of society, and continues to work towards the realization of a brighter and more prosperous India for all.



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