



Girl Stars, who they are, what they do

Girl Stars books are 15 extraordinary tales of ordinary girls who have changed their lives by going to school. Girl Stars primary audience is girls. Girls age 10 to 16 years, both in and out of school. To find out more about Girl Stars read the books. To order a set of 15 books @ RS 750/-, write to lisa@goingtoschool.com.

Anita Kumari, Beekeeper



Anita Kumari is a beekeeper in Bochaha village, Muzzafarpur district, Bihar.

When Anita was young her parents did not want her to go to school, but she convinced her parents to let her go. She soon began teaching other children what she knew and earned enough money to pay for her school books and fees. Anita was the first young woman in her area to give try bee keeping – she saved enough money from teaching other children to buy two queen bees and begin her bee-keeping business. Today, she has over 100 boxes of bees; she makes her own honey, goes to college on her bicycle and is still only 18 years old.

GIRL STARS

Kiran Devi, Junkyard Dealer



'Kiran Devi is a junkyard dealer and serial entrepreneur. She lives in Patna. Kiran took a small loan to open her junkyard. Kiran thought she could run a junkyard because of the location where she lived and she wanted to do something to make the future better for her children. With a loan from Nidaan, a micro credit organization, she bought a fleet of rickshaws and hired nine men to work for her. She also sells saris and cow-dung cakes as cooking fuel. Kiran's children go to school, and they are healthy, her husband supports what she does, but Kiran, and her partner in business, her mother-in-law support the entire family. She is 25 years old.

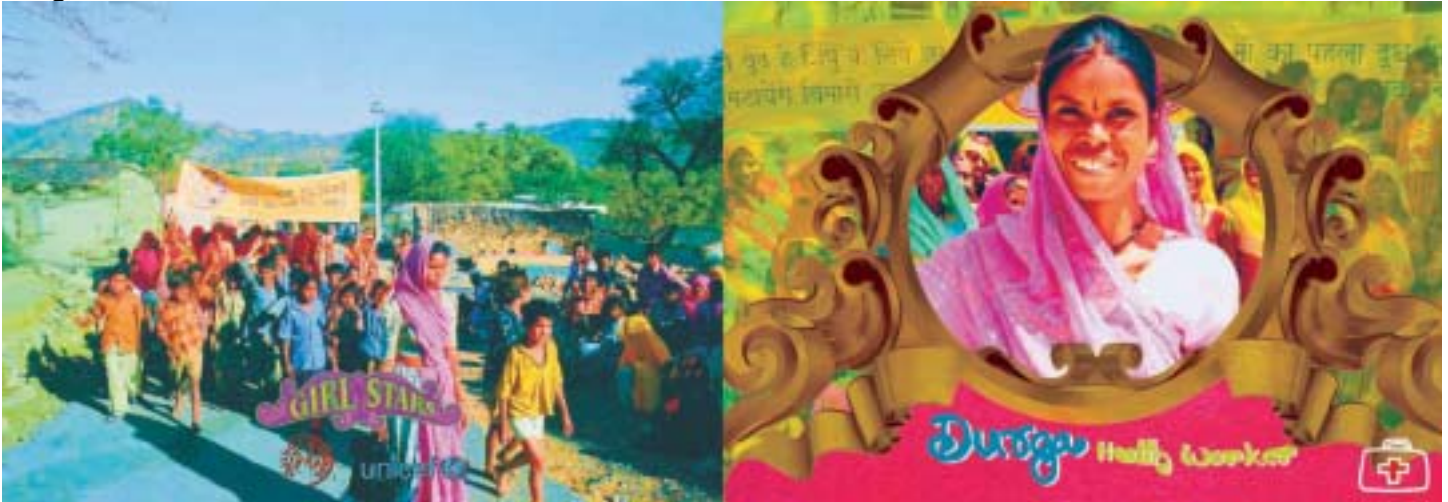
Tehseen Bano, Girls' Hostel Warden



'Tehseen works as a girls' hostel warden in Kasturba Gandhi Girls School (Balika Vidyalaya) in Guruwa, Gaya district, Bihar. Where she looks after 70 girls. Parents leave their daughters in Tehseen's care, knowing that they will be safe, healthy and learn as much as they can. Her father died when she was just seven months old and her mother worked in other people's houses unable to make ends meet. Tehseen taught other children to pay for her own education through school and college. But this was not enough, Tehseen knew she wanted other girls to go to school and so she approached Mahila Samakya for the position of a hostel warden, where she is today. She is 25 years old.

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Durga Bai, Health Worker



Durga Bai is a health worker with Aarth in the tribal belt of Udaipur District. Durga travels to 22 villages every month and talks to 2,000 women about how to improve their health and the health of their children. Durga explains health concepts in local dialects, ensuring that as many children as she meets are vaccinated, they visit medical centers and go to school. Durga was married at the age of 13 and is upset that she did not finish her education but she makes sure that her daughter and son go to school everyday. She is 28 years old.

Anuradha Rathore, Medical Student



Anuradha Rathore is studying medicine in Jodhpur Medical College. When Anu was young she contracted Polio – and although it affected the way she walks it has not slowed Anu down in any other way. Anu has studied very hard and won a place at medical college under a reservation for students with physical difficulties. Anu finds college challenging, but she wants to be doctor so she can prevent other children from contracting Polio. She wants to open a medical center in her village where the medical treatment is free of cost, and everyone has to wait in line, where no one, unless it is an emergency, can jump the queue. She is 20 years old.



Bhanwari Malavat, Police Constable



Bhanwari Malavat is a police constable in Bikaner District, Rajasthan. Bhanwari was married when she was a child, but still went to school. Bhanwari's father was a teacher and he wanted to make sure that Bhanwari completed her education. Bhanwari belongs to the Saansi community and she felt they were always treated differently because of their caste: Bhanwari grew up having to collect water from a separate well. Although Bhanwari failed one year of school, and repeated her school year, she persisted and one day at school she heard about the famous policewoman called Kiran Bedi. Bhanwari thought she would like to be a police officer too – she thought in this way, she could begin to change the world. Bhura Ram, Bhanwari's husband, dropped out of school when he was young, and unable to find work, he stays at home to look after their daughter. Bhanwari is 25 years old.

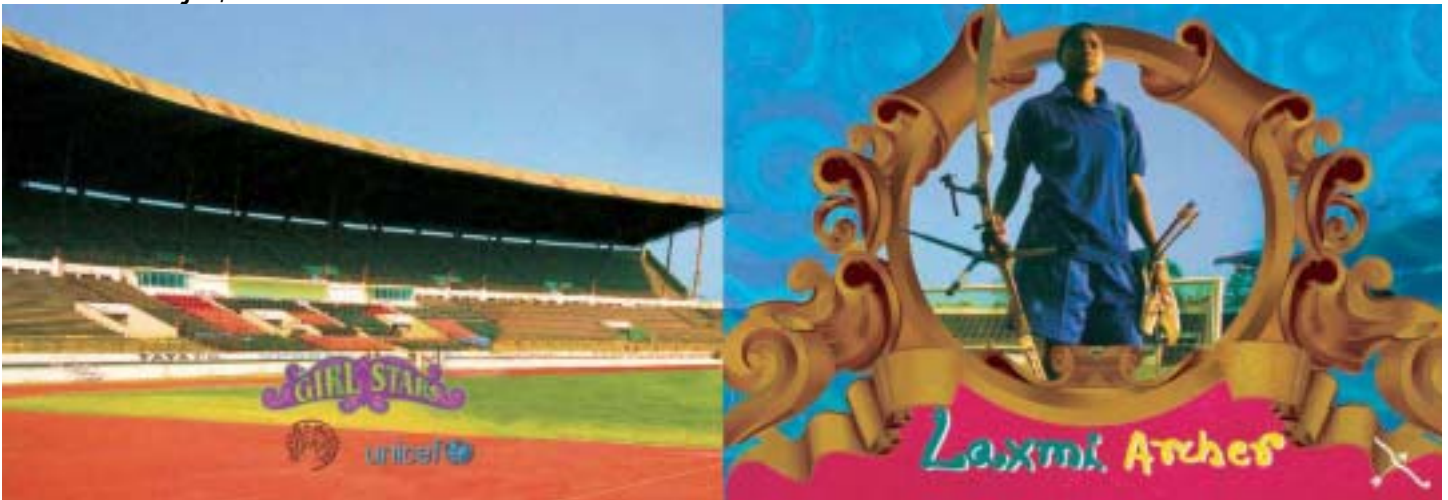
GIRL STARS

Suryamani Bhagat, Forest Activist



Suryamani Bhagat is an activist with 'Save the forests of Jharkhand movement'; she is the founder of 'Torang' a tribal rights and cultural center in Kotari Village, Ranchi district in Jharkhand. Suryamani works to save the forest where she lives and preserve her tribal culture with her community. When Suryamani was young, her father lost his job and Suryamani had to drop out of school, but with determination, she was back in school. This is when she realized that she loved to learn about forests. Suryamani has a BA in Sanskrit – she is 27 years old.

Laxmirani Majhi, Archer



Laxmirani Majhi is an archer who competes in international level competitions for India. When Laxmi was young, her family knew the most important thing was for Laxmi to go to school; many girls in Laxmi's village did not go to school. Now, while completing her education, Laxmi has won so many archery competitions and has been awarded the position of a cadet by the Tata Sports Academy, in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand. Laxmi's first chance to become an archer was offered to her when the selectors for the archery academy visited her Government School. Laxmi is from the Santhal tribe; she grew up in Bagula village, Ghatshila district in Jharkhand and she is 18 years old.

GIRL STARS

Jyoti Rose Tirkey, Newsreader, Radio presenter & Folk-singer



Jyoti Rose Tirkey is a newsreader with Doordarshan. Jyoti is also a radio presenter with All India Radio, she has her own radio show and she also sings folk music with an orchestra. Jyoti grew up in a very poor family; her parents did not believe that singing could be a profession and urged her instead to try for a Government job. But Jyoti loved to sing, and believed in her talent, Jyoti also believed education would give her the confidence to win a job where she could use her skills. She was right. Today Jyoti is known across Jharkhand for her singing voice and her radio show. She is 31 years old.

Premlata Verma, Accountant



Premlata is an accountant in the office of the Superintendent of Police in Jhabua (MP). Premlata is the supervisor of her section and oversees the work of four people – though she is the youngest employee in her section. Premlata's grandmother raised her and her sister when they were young and was adamant that her granddaughters would go to school because she knew how hard it was to go through life without an education. When Premlata was young, she carried water for her neighbors to earn extra money to pay for her school supplies. Today, she has running water in her home, a Government job and a Bachelors of Commerce degree. Premlata lives in Jhabua – she is 29 years old.

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Roopali Jain 'Ruby', Beauty Parlour Owner



Roopali Jain 'Ruby' owns a beauty parlour in Guna, (MP). Ruby was able to open her own beauty parlour in her grandmother's house because she took a loan from a bank – the bank gave Ruby a loan because she had completed her education to grade 12. Ruby decided to open her own parlour when her father died, because there was no one else who could look after her family. Ruby, who had always been artistic, decided to study in a parlour to become a beautician and at the same time she studied late into the night to complete grade 12 and then her college degree by correspondence. Today, Ruby has her own beauty parlour and people come from far away to visit Ruby's parlour because they say, 'she has magic in her hands'. She is 27 years old.



Krishna Bagel, Government Primary School Teacher



Krishna Bagel is a primary school teacher in a Government School in Tikaria Village (MP). Krishna was the only girl in her village to complete her grade 12 education. Krishna volunteered as night school teacher in a Government program to educate adults. She did this job so well, that when the position for the teacher in her local village became available, Krishna, the only one to have completed her grade 12 education, was offered the job. She is 26 years old.

Shabnam Aara, Small Loans Manager

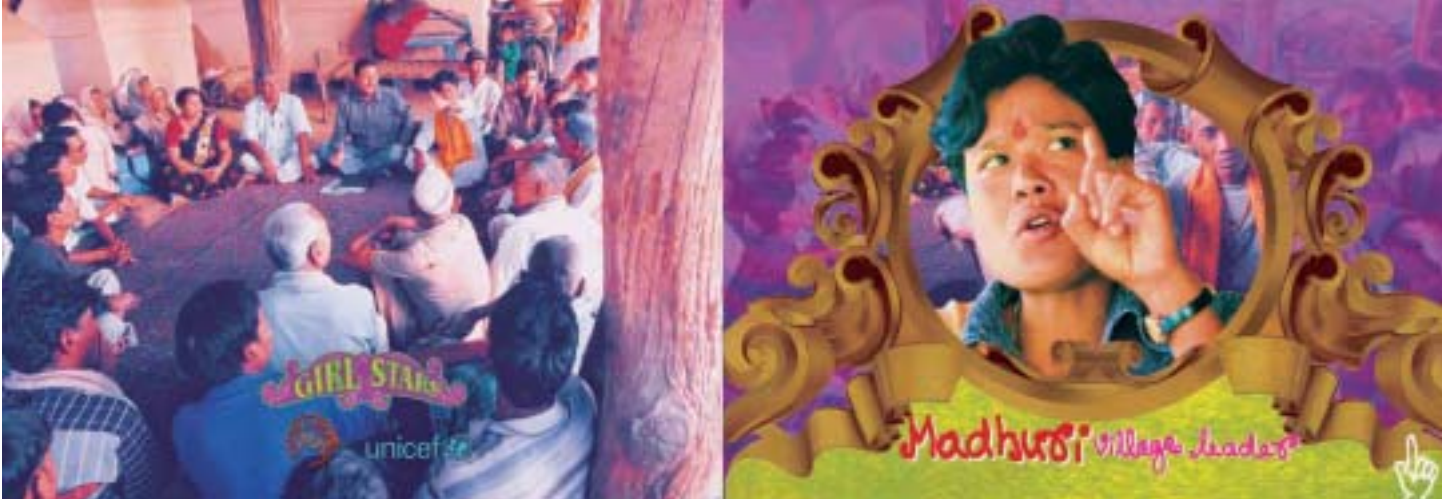


Shabnam Aara is a small loans manager in Cashpor a micro-finance organization in Benaras. When Shabnam was young, she dropped out of school when her father lost his job, but she managed to go back to school and complete her education by working part-time. Shabnam learned how to make carpets at home, and managed to enroll herself back in school. Shabnam then heard about the position as a field worker with Cashpor, the organization was looking for women fieldworkers as their clients are also women. Shabnam was able to convince many women to take loans and change their lives. During this time, Shabnam was promoted three times – and each time Shabnam wanted more, so she studied at night for her B.A. by correspondence – and today, Shabnam has been promoted to be the branch manager of Cashpor, where she oversees an office of seven men. She is 27 years old.



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Madhuri Kumari, Village Leader



'Madhuri is a village 'Pradhan', in Fakirpuri village, Bahraich District, Uttar Pradesh. Madhuri struggled to go to school and was the only girl in a class of 26 boys. She walked six kilometers to school. Her father constantly opposed her going to school but she did odd jobs for her neighbours to pay for her schooling. Soon, with the money she saved, she opened a small grocery shop. Everyone in the village knew who Madhuri was, they knew she had struggled to go to school, that with a small shop she had managed to save enough money to build her own house. When Madhuri stood for elections at the age of 21, she won. For the past six years, Madhuri has been busy building roads, installing a drainage system in the village, adding new classrooms to the Government School and encouraging children to go to school in her village. If families cannot afford to send their children to school, then Madhuri quietly pays for their supplies. Madhuri is well respected in her village, today. She is 28 years old.

Sandhya Sherring, Computer Trainer



Sandhya Sherring is a computer trainer and she owns her own computer institute . Sandhya dropped out of school when her father lost his job. He opened a small framing shop using her mother's sari as a make-shift roof. When Sandhya started looking for a job, everywhere she went she was asked if she had computer skills. Sandhya enrolled in a computer institute, and she learned so fast that soon she began to teach other young people about computers. Her success gave her an idea – she took a loan and open her own institute. She is 24 years old.