

YEAR BOOK 2021

Head Office, South Delhi

R-10, Flat Number 7
Second Floor, Nehru Enclave, Kalkaji
New Delhi 110019
Ph: 011 49053796

North Delhi

B 5/2, Model Town-1
Near Model Town Metro Station
New Delhi 110009
Ph: 011 45566088

East Delhi

A-6, Lane Number 1
Near Jagatpuri Main Red Light
New Delhi 110051
Ph: 9910213628

Jaipur

4 Mohan Nagar
Near Riddhi Siddhi Chauraha
Jaipur 302019
Ph: 0141 2704475/ +91 9413341845

North Kolkata

P 282/A, CIT Road,
Scheme-IV, Phoolbagan,
Kolkata 700054
Ph: 9073692060

South Kolkata

11 A/3, North Road, Jadavpur
Kolkata 700032
Ph: 033 2414 8498

Azād Foundation
year book
2020 - 2021

Introduction

Azad Foundation is a professional Feminist organization working with urban resource-poor women across social and religious divides. Azad believes that when women are socially and economically empowered, they become the catalyst of change – not just in their own lives, but also in their families and communities. The purpose is to create a platform for disadvantaged women by providing them non-traditional livelihoods options that enhance their economic status, dignity, and decision-making within their families. The objective of the organization is to establish a cadre of empowered professional chauffeurs who can take charge of their own lives as well as create safe transport solutions for other women. Azad's goal is to enable underprivileged women to empower themselves as professionals, to earn "livelihoods with dignity" in a non-traditional sector like transport and creation of a gender-just ecosystem within communities, gender-sensitive markets and supportive infrastructure, which help women negotiate, enter and sustain their workforce participation.

There is a great need to provide women with adequate skills and equip them with the means to, make informed choices and negotiate financial decisions thus making them independent and overall equal contributors. Azad Foundation challenges the long-standing gender norms that limit women's economic

choices through its idea of non-traditional remunerative livelihoods. Azad's flagship programme WWW trains and prepares women who are from low economic and social capital to become professional and commercial drivers, while enhancing their awareness of rights, and providing them with opportunities for self-development and self-empowerment; thus challenging the notion that professional driving is considered a man's domain, as a means of livelihood for resource-poor women.

Azad Foundation currently operates through its offices in Delhi, Jaipur, and Kolkata and through like-minded partners in Indore, Ahmedabad, Bhubaneshwar and Lucknow. In 2020-21, Azad Foundation also expanded its Women with Wheels programme to the city of Chennai. In order to celebrate the hard work of our teams and the never-ending dedication of our trainees, every year we record the inspiring stories of our trainees who were able to acquire their permanent license (PL) in the current year. This Year Book records the stories of Azad trainees who have successfully attained their permanent driving license (PL) through the Women with Wheels programme. The stories attempt to provide an insight into each of these trainees' lives which is a blend of struggles and achievements. In the year 2020-21, a total of 91 Women with Wheels trainees across Azad's six training centres (East Delhi, North Delhi, South Delhi, Jaipur, and North Kolkata & South

Kolkata) successfully obtained their permanent license (PL) for both 4 wheeler & 2 wheeler.

This yearbook consists of the success stories of our trainees who have achieved a Permanent driving license (PL) in the year 2020-21, both for 2 wheeler and 4 wheeler. Out of 91 trainees who achieved the PL, 19 achieved it for 2 wheeler and 72 for 4 wheeler across the centres. 91 women attained Permanent License (3 trainees in south Kolkata having attained both 2 wheeler and four wheeler license). We took consent of all the trainees mentioned in the yearbook for sharing their stories, photographs and names, some of the photographs are missing because either the trainees did not give consent for sharing their photograph or the team was not able to reach out to some trainees due to onset of Covid and lockdown. This yearbook is an endeavour to document and provide an insight into each of these trainees' lives and struggles. Azad hopes that each of these outstanding women will in the future become an inspiration for their communities and other women, urging them to

take control of their lives, and thereby building an ecosystem of change.

Although 2020-21 was a very tough year for everyone because of the onset of the Covid 19 pandemic, yet at Azad foundation, we had enough reasons to celebrate, one of those are these 92 PL stories, which talks not only about the experiences of our trainees in the process of getting there PL but also their success in these challenging times. Since the very beginning of 2020-21, we saw a lot of challenges in terms of the implementation of our programs. Due to lockdown, we had to shift the whole training program to a virtual & digital platform which required a lot of efforts and resources. We took these challenges as an opportunity and looked at the positive side of them. We started to train our trainees on Zoom, through which they also became technologically equipped. We started to innovate and strategies in terms of our program and began to train women for 2 wheeler driving to enable them to enter the rapidly expanding e-commerce sector.



East Delhi



VARSHA

Varsha is 33 years old, and a resident of East Delhi. After becoming aware of Azad Foundation during one mobilization activity, Varsha decided to join the organization to financially support herself and her family. During her training, Varsha learned a lot about herself, and other women as well. Her favourite class was Reproductive Sexual Health; she showed a particular inclination towards this topic and was fascinated with learning so much about women and their bodies. Unfortunately, Varsha's training was

Date of Birth: **01/10/1987**
Education: **10th Pass**
Marital Status: **Unmarried**
Locality: **Trilokpuri**
Enrolment Number: **DL/ED/2019-20/87**
Date of Joining: **12/04/2020**
Date of PL: **15/12/2020**
Current Status: **Under Training**

interrupted due to lockdown and its completion was stalled. However, Varsha was relentless in pursuing her driving lessons and she ultimately completed her training. She successfully cleared her Driving Exam on her very first attempt and got her Permanent License. Varsha now aspires to start working as a driver and support her family in the best way possible.

Anchal, 20, lives with a family of six in the Khirchripur area. Her parents did not want her to attend college, so they stalled her studies after the 12th standard. Anchal got to know about Azad Foundation from her relatives. Initially, her family supported her endeavours, but this enthusiasm waned and gradually they started creating barriers for her. Anchal wished to get out of the house and do something for herself. She likes Azad's environment and especially likes driving. Currently, she is on-road practice. Nervousness and anxiety would creep up on her in certain moments, but now she shares that she cherishes those moments, and how they steered her to navigate the car in tough and tricky situations. Her dream is to drive a car and become independent. She is looking forward to repaying the loans that her parents have taken as soon as she becomes financially independent.



ANCHAL

Date of Birth: **10/02/2000**
Education: **12th Pass**
Marital Status: **Unmarried**
Locality: **Khichripur**
Enrolment Number: **DL/ED/2019-20/53**
Date of Joining: **30/09/2019**
Date of PL: **21/10/2020**
Current Status: **Under Training**

**REKHA**

Rekha is a 22-year-old woman who lives in Trilokpuri with her family which consists of 4 members. Rekha's father is an auto-rickshaw driver and the sole breadwinner in the house. Rekha was smart from a very young age and always wanted to go out and live her life the way she wanted. Rekha's family was very supportive of her and the idea of joining the Azad Foundation. After getting to know more about the work of the Azad Foundation, Rekha decided to enrol on the training class and start living her dream. In Azad, her favourite training was First aid which taught her about the science behind breathing and body functioning, which was all very intriguing for her. The pandemic created a lot of problems during her training as everything was closed; Rekha was very unhappy but she continued taking the online classes on Zoom, and in June she once again started taking her driving lessons with precautions. Rekha was able to secure her Permanent license in two attempts. She aims to save money in the bank account so that she can buy a car for herself one day.

Date of Birth: **30/10/1998**
 Education: **10th pass**
 Marital Status: **Unmarried**
 Locality: **Trilokpuri**
 Enrolment Number: **DL/ED/2019-20/64**
 Date of Joining: **31/12/2019**
 Date of PL: **17/10/2020**
 Current Status: **Under Training**

**NUTAN**

Date of Birth: **15/10/1993**
 Education: **9th Pass**
 Marital Status: **Unmarried**
 Locality: **Trilokpuri**
 Enrolment Number: **DL/ED/2019-20/65**
 Date of Joining: **31/12/2019**
 Date of PL: **25/11/2020**
 Current Status: **Under Training**

Nutan is a 27-year-old girl who lives in Trilokpuri in a joint family. Her extended family members do not contribute anything to the house and because of this Nutan's family suffers from constant financial pressure. Nutan's mother used to get her pension, and this is the only source of income. Nutan knew that she had to start working and support her family in the best way possible. She got to know about the Azad Foundation. She met the mobilisation team and they informed her about the "Women with Wheels" program. Nutan enrolled with the foundation at that very moment. Her training began immediately and she learnt a lot about driving mainly from the non-technical modules. She found First Aid and self-defence training very interesting and important because it " Helps us to be safe while driving on road". Through gender and legal rights training she became aware of all her rights. Nutan managed to get her Permanent License in two attempts and is currently completing her road practice. She is very keen to start working as a driver and start supporting their family financially.

**DEEPALI**

Date of Birth: **2/8/1995**
 Education: **10th Pass**
 Marital Status: **Separated**
 Number of Children: **1**
 Locality: **East Delhi**
 Enrolment Number: **DL/ED/2018-19/108**
 Date of Joining: **30/03/2019**
 Date of PL: **01/09/2020**
 Current Status: **Awaiting employment through Sakha**

Deepali began her journey with the Azad foundation in 2019. She had been facing a lot of problems after her separation from her husband and had since been living with her parents. After getting to know about Azad Foundation and their work with women through a friend, Varsha found a ray of hope for her daughter and herself. Both the technical and non-technical training helped her in gaining the necessary knowledge such as driving a four-wheeler which was a dream come true for her, and the knowledge she gained through non-technical modules was such a life-changing experience. She learnt English communication that boosted her confidence and the training of self-defence made her more confident about her safety. Azad foundation's work enabled Deepali to stand on her own feet and fight for her and her daughter's rights. They have provided the right opportunity and guidance to Deepali for achieving her dreams. Showing her talent and tenacity, Deepali aced her Permanent License test and Internal Sakha exam. She has always had big dreams, and she knows that with the right support one can achieve anything.



SHASHI

Date of Birth: **05/05/1995**
 Education: **Graduate**
 Marital Status: **Unmarried**
 Locality: **Sangam Vihar**
 Enrolment Number: **DL/ED/2019-20/44**
 Date of Joining: **13/09/2019**
 Date of PL: **25/11/2020**
 Current Status: **Under Training**

Shashi lives with her family of 4 at Sangam Vihar. She joined Azad by seeing her maternal aunt "Masi" (Omkari), who is the first female Driving trainer at the East Delhi training centre. Her family is very supportive. Shashi likes Azad's environment. She enjoys the atmosphere of the centre. Shashi shows a special appreciation towards First Aid training. According to her, the accidents depicted in television shows are not the same as real-life accidents. She learned the right techniques and gained a lot of knowledge from the First Aid practical classes. Her father is an auto driver and the only earning member of the family. Her dream is to drive, and eventually open her very car garage and driving training institute for women. Shashi is currently on-road practice, and aims to clear her Sakha driving test soon to be eligible for livelihood opportunities.

Anjali lives in Trilokpuri with her family which consists of 5 people. She wanted to learn something new in her life and aspired to start working as soon as possible to support her family financially. After getting to know about Azad foundation through one of the Mobilization teams, she decided to join the training to start learning. In the non-technical training, Anjali found the subject of the internal reproductive system of women very interesting. She was very happy that she was able to learn in such a positive environment. Anjali was doing well in her training; unfortunately, due to the lockdown in March, her training got disrupted. Despite lot of challenges, Anjali managed to get

her Permanent license on the automated driving track in her second attempt. Currently, Anjali is practising on-road for 4 wheeler training and 2 wheeler training, after passing the sakha test, she will be ready to work as a professional driver. Anjali has big dreams in her eyes, she wants to purchase a house for her family. She says " I am waiting for employment in e-commerce soon."

.....

“ I found the subject of the female reproductive system to be very interesting, and I am happy to be learning in a positive environment.



ANJALI

Date of Birth: **29/06/1996**
 Education: **12th Pass**
 Marital Status: **Unmarried**
 Locality: **Trilokpuri**
 Enrolment Number: **DL/ED/2019-20/61**
 Date of Joining: **02/12/2019**
 Date of PL: **05/09/2020**
 Current Status: **Under Training**

to complete her training. Shahin was able to get her PL in one just one successful attempt. Currently, Shahin is on the road completing her practice and she is driving well. Her dream is to start working as a driver as soon as possible. She wishes to be a chauffeur with the Sakha and wants to drive on the routes of the airport.

.....

“ Shahin wishes to be a chauffeur with Sakha and wants to drive at the airport.



SHAHIN

Date of Birth: **12/06/1995**
 Education: **Pursuing Graduation**
 Marital Status: **Unmarried**
 Locality: **Kalyanpuri**
 Enrolment Number: **DL/ED/2019-20/52**
 Date of Joining: **30/09/2019**
 Date of PL: **25/11/2020**
 Current Status: **Under Training**

Shahin is a young girl 25 years of age, living in East Delhi in a joint family which consists of 16 members. All the men in her family are earning, while the women are confined within homes, engaged in household and care work. She was very unhappy about this state of affairs and wanted to earn. One day, there was a meeting in her Basti and after attending it, she became aware of the WWW Program through one of the mobilizers. The program fascinated her, and she wanted to join the program as soon as possible. She liked each aspect of training, both technical and non-technical parts. Her favourite was the First Aid training. She liked learning about medical skills which she regarded as very important. After the hard times of the lockdown, Shahin managed

ANJALI

Photo consent not given

Date of Birth: 26/02/1997

Education: 10th Pass

Marital Status: Unmarried

Locality: Dharampura, Gandhi Nagar

Enrolment Number: DL/ED/2018-19/96

Date of Joining: 27/02/2019

Date of PL: 06/01/2021

Current Status: Employable

Anjali lives with her mother and siblings in their own house. She came to know about Azad through one of her friends who also learnt driving at Azad. She shared that her friend motivated her to join the program to become independent. After getting to know about the training, she was keen to enrol herself. She shared that she joined because she wanted to become self-reliant. Anjali enjoys being at Azad and does not like to go back home from the training centre. She made new friends here as well. Out of all the modules of non-technical training she attended, she likes communication and gender classes

“ I liked communication and gender classes the most because both the modules have helped me in my personal life. I dream of taking up a job as a driver and later I want to be a driving trainer. I want to become independent and build my own house one day.

.....

the most because both the modules have helped her in her personal life as well. She further says that she was very shy before, but now she has control over her feelings and she is very confident which her family also appreciates. Most importantly, Anjali got to know about her legal rights as a woman. She liked the self-defence class as it taught her to defend herself in any situation, especially in public transport. She dreams of taking up a job as a driver and later wants to be a driving trainer herself. She wants to become independent and build her own house one day.

North Delhi



SHABANA

Shabana lives with her mother, niece and nephew in her own house. Both the children live with her because her elder sister passed away 17 years ago. Her father died four years ago, due to kidney failure. Her mother recently suffered a heart attack and is under medication. So, Shabana does any work that she gets to make her ends meet, such as working in a shop or cyber café, cooking etc. She got to know about Azad through a mobilization drive and joined immediately while continuing her work part-time.

Date of Birth: **04/04/1992**
Education: **8th pass**
Marital Status: **Unmarried**
Locality: **Indra Vikas Colony**
Enrolment Number: **DL/ND/2019-20/49**
Date of Joining: **16/09/2019**
Date of PL: **25/02/2021**
Current Status: **Under Training**

Shabana likes gender & legal rights classes the most because she gains knowledge about her rights which make her feel empowered. During technical training, she was very attentive and kept on trying hard, although she could not get her permanent licence in the first attempt her motivation and dedication kept her moving and she got it done on the 2nd attempt. She wants to complete training and start earning soon so that she can become financially stable.



KAVITA

Kavita lives with her parents and siblings in her own house. Her father used to work as a mason at construction sites. However, due to his habitual alcoholism, he lost his job and is dependent on the family. Her mother put up a small stall near a government school along with her younger brother who also works as a daily labourer. This is their only source of income. Kavita came to know about Azad through a mobilization activity in her area. She cleared her permanent licence on the 3rd attempt and has also passed her Sakha test. The best part of the training according to her was gender & legal rights classes where she learnt that she also has equal right to pursue her dreams. She has completed her Sakha test and is waiting for a job. She wants to secure a suitable job soon and become financially independent so that she can support her family.

Date of Birth: **01/04/1996**
Education: **12th Pass**
Marital Status: **Unmarried**
Locality: **Bhalswa**
Enrolment Number: **DL/ND/2019-20/69**
Date of Joining: **13/11/2019**
Date of PL: **24/09/2020**
Current Status: **Waiting for employment through Sakha**

**NISHA**

Date of Birth: **28/07/1989**
 Education: **5th Pass**
 Marital Status: **Married**
 Number of Children: **2**
 Locality: **Rana Pratap Bagh**
 Enrolment Number: **DL/ND/2019-20/56**
 Date of Joining: **26/09/2019**
 Date of PL: **29/12/2020**
 Current Status: **Waiting for employment through Sakha**

Nisha lives with her husband and two children at her in-law's house, where they have to pay rent. Her husband works as a Disco Jockey but due to the pandemic, he had lost his job last year. Her children are studying in a government school. She had come to know about Azad from her sister who was also undergoing training. She liked all her classes and the environment at Azad. She enjoyed coming to Azad as she felt welcomed and learnt important skills such as fighting for her rights and how to communicate professionally. With the help of her mother and aid from the Azad Foundation, she also managed to get ration support during the lockdown. Now she is facing financial difficulties and needs a job urgently. She has also completed her training and got her PL done on 3rd attempt and is waiting for a job. She wants to become a professional driver and enrol her children in a private school.

**ARADHNA**

Date of Birth: **10/09/1999**
 Education: **10th Pass**
 Marital Status: **Unmarried**
 Locality: **Azadpur**
 Enrolment Number: **DL/ND/2019-20/68**
 Date of Joining: **13/11/2019**
 Date of PL: **05/12/2020**
 Current Status: **Waiting for employment through Sakha**

“

My favourite classes were on communication and work readiness, I learnt about how to present myself professionally. I want to become a professional driver soon to help my family financially and set an example for my daughters.

Aradhna lives with her parents and brothers in her own house. Her brother is a teacher and currently the sole earner for the family. Her father used to work as a welder before the pandemic, but he has lost his job during the lockdown. Her mother got a paralysis attack and is undergoing treatment. It is very difficult for the family to manage the expenditure on such a low budget. Aradhna always wanted to help her family financially. She came to know about Azad through a mobilization activity. Aradhna enjoys driving a lot and she keeps on trying to learn, she cleared her PL on 3rd attempt but never gave up, she has also passed her Sakha is now waiting to get a job. Out of all the non-technical modules, She loves the sexual and reproductive health class as it helped her learn about herself and her own body. She aims to become a professional driver and contribute financially to the family soon.

BABLI

Photo consent not given

Date of Birth: **03/05/1984**
 Education: **8th Pass**
 Marital Status: **Married**
 Number of Children: **5**
 Locality: **Bhalswa**
 Enrolment Number: **DL/ND/2019-20/36**
 Date of Joining: **26/07/2019**
 Date of PL: **28/08/2020**
 Current Status: **Waiting for employment through Sakha**

Babli lives with her husband, four daughters and a son in her own house. Her husband works as a helper at a gym. All her children are studying and her husband is the family's sole earner. Her husband supported and encouraged her in getting enrolled for Azad's training. Initially, when she came to know about Azad through a mobilization campaign, she worked with another NGO which didn't allow her to leave the job. She had always wanted to join Azad and learn driving; so when she had to leave her job, she immediately joined Azad. Babli always had a passion to drive cars and this is the reason why she cleared her PL on the first attempt. During her training, she particularly enjoyed attending the non-technical modules, especially communication. From her classes on communication and work readiness, she learnt about how to present herself professionally. Babli wants to become a professional driver soon to help her family financially and set an example for her daughters.

**KOMAL**

Date of Birth: **15/12/1995**
 Education: **12th Pass**
 Marital Status: **Unmarried**
 Locality: **Indira Vikas Colony**
 Enrolment Number: **DL/ND/2019-20/75**
 Date of Joining: **25/11/2019**
 Date of PL: **12/03/2021**
 Current Status: **Under Training**

Komal lives in a family of 11 members which consists of her parents and siblings. She lives in her own house. Her father works in the Municipal Corporation Delhi as a gardener and is the sole earner of the family, his salary is not enough for a family with 11 members and so many responsibilities. Komal is pursuing her graduation from Delhi University through the School of Open Learning. She has also learnt mixed martial arts and she has a black belt. She came to know about Azad through a mobilization activity in her area. She likes the guidance and opportunity given by the team at Azad. She is flawless at driving and hence was able to clear her permanent licence in 1st attempt. talking of non-technical modules, She particularly likes the English classes because she gains the confidence to speak in this language which she loves and clear her doubts about how to speak correctly. Komal wants to complete the training and become financially independent soon.

Vandana lives with her mother and siblings in her own house. Her father passed away five years ago due to illness. Both her brothers work in the sales department and their earning is the main source of income for the family, while her mother looks after a small grocery store which is a small, but supplementary income source. Vandana came to know about Azad through her friend who was also under training at the NGO. She discussed with her mother and enrolled herself. Her mother is her strength and always supports her. Vandana says, " I love driving and enjoy it

a lot, but I was not able to clear my PL on the first attempt". She got her permanent licence is the second attempt and she aims to clear her Sakha soon to get a job. She said she likes sexual, reproductive & gender modules the most as from these classes she gains knowledge about her own body. Gender modules also informed her about patriarchal norms in society and how they impact her rights. She wants to complete her training and become a professional driver so that she becomes self-dependent.

**VANDANA**

Date of Birth: **09/03/1996**
 Education: **12th pass**
 Marital Status: **Unmarried**
 Locality: **Sonia Vihar**
 Enrolment Number: **DL/ND/2019-20/83**
 Date of Joining: **13/12/2019**
 Date of PL: **12/03/2021**
 Current Status: **Under Training**

attempt and is working hard to get her Sakha test done so that she is able to secure a job with a decent salary for herself. In future, she wants to be financially independent and help her parents.

“ I have gained the confidence to face any situation and became self-reliant. I want to be financially independent and help my parents.

**SANDHYA**

Date of Birth: **17/10/1998**
 Education: **12th Pass**
 Marital Status: **Unmarried**
 Locality: **Swaroop Nagar**
 Enrolment Number: **DL/ND/2019-20/70**
 Date of Joining: **13/11/2019**
 Date of PL: **06/03/2021**
 Current Status: **Under Training**

Sandhya lives with her parents and siblings in her own house. Her father works as a mechanic and is the sole breadwinner of the family. Her sister is studying and her brother is undergoing treatment as he is unwell. She came to know about Azad Foundation through a mobilization activity. Initially, she took admission to Azad without informing her parents as she thought they wouldn't allow her to drive. Now they are aware of her training and don't object so she is happy. She learnt from Azad that women can make their own decisions. She also gained the confidence to face any situation and became self-reliant. Sandhya wants to complete her training and become a professional driver. She cleared her permanent licence on 3rd

**NISHA**

Date of Birth: **25/05/2000**
 Education: **Graduate**
 Marital Status: **Unmarried**
 Locality: **Bhalswa**
 Enrolment Number: **DL/ND/2020-21/9**
 Date of Joining: **10/09/2020**
 Date of PL: **31/03/2021**
 Current Status: **Under Training**

Nisha lives with her parents, siblings, grandmother and aunt in her own house. Her father works as a driver and is the sole earner of the family. She came to know about Azad through a mobilization activity. After inquiring about the program and the training involved, she decided to join. At Azad, she made new friends and loved the opportunities provided to her. She liked the first aid module the most as she learned how to assist in emergencies as she always wanted to help people during any emergency. She managed to clear her permanent licence on the second attempt and now, she wants to complete the course by passing the Sakha test and learn to drive properly, she works hard and practice a lot so that she can start working as a professional driver soon.

“

I liked the First Aid module the most as I learned how to assist in emergencies as I always wanted to help people during any emergency. I made new friends and loved the opportunities provided for me at Azad.

**KRISHNA**

Identifies as a Transman but has documents in his older identity as Pooja

Date of Birth: **10/06/2001**
 Education: **12th pass**
 Marital Status: **Unmarried**
 Locality: **Mundka**
 Enrolment Number: **DL/ND/2020-21/20**
 Date of Joining: **10/09/2020**
 Date of PL: **12/02/2021**
 Current Status: **Employed**

Krishna lives with his family. It consists of his parents, brother, sister-in-law and they live in a rented house. His father works as a school bus driver, while his brother works in consumer court on a contract basis. Krishna identifies himself as a trans-man but all his documents are in his older gender identity Pooja/Female. He wants to undergo sex-change surgery but due to financial constraints, he is waiting for the right time. Krishna has always been active in sports since his childhood. He came to know about Azad from his friend. His family supported him in his decision to take driving training. He enrolled himself in the training along with his friend and started his journey. He likes gender and legal rights classes the most, as from these he got more clarity on gender-related issues in society. He also enjoys Sexual and Reproductive Health sessions through which he learnt about his own body. He has completed his course and cleared his Sakha test and is now employed as a Driver in Delhi Women's Helpline (181). Krishna aims to help his parents financially and start saving for his surgery. He feels that he is now slowly reaching his dreams.

**AMREEN AKHTAR**

.....

Date of Birth: **17/04/1992**
 Education: **Graduate**
 Marital Status: **Unmarried**
 Locality: **Adrash Nagar**
 Enrolment Number: **DL/ND/2019-20/95**
 Date of Joining: **17/02/2020**
 Date of PL: **15/12/2020**
 Current Status: **Under Training**

Amreen lives with her parents and two younger sisters in a rented house. Her father sells fruits in Azadpur Mandi and is the sole earner in the family. She came to know about Azad through a friend who happened to know the organization through their mobilization activities. After discussing with her parents she enrolled in the training program. She liked the environment at Azad and gained the confidence to face any kind of situation. She feels motivated whenever she comes to training, she enjoys her training and that is the reason why she was able to acquire her Permanent Licence on the very first attempt. She aspires to complete her training soon and become a professional driver. She also wants to buy and drive her own car one day.

**MEENA**Date of Birth: **01/03/2000**Education: **9th Pass**Marital Status: **Unmarried**Locality: **Jahangirpuri**Enrolment Number: **DL/ND/2020-21/3**Date of Joining: **10/09/2020**Date of PL: **30/12/2020**Current Status: **Waiting for employment through Sakha**

Meena lives with her parents and siblings in their own house. Her brother works in a factory and is the only earning member in the family of 7. They constantly face financial problems. During the lockdown, they faced a financial crisis, yet with little help from here and there, they could manage. Now her mother has also started working in a factory. She came to know about Azad through a mobilization activity. She liked all the training given at Azad, enjoyed the driving training and managed to get her Permanent Licence done on the 2nd attempt, She also passed her Sakha test on the 1st attempt and now is waiting to get a suitable opportunity. She said that after coming to Azad she got adequate support and help to become independent and make her own decisions. Meena aspires to become financially independent and work as a professional driver soon.

Jainab lives with her parents and sister in her own house. Her father is a daily labourer and the sole earner of the family. Jainab has completed 12th std. and is now in her second year of pursuing bachelors from the School of open learning, Delhi University. She came to know about Azad from her friend who is also undergoing training here. At first, her mother was not ready to permit her, but she was fully supported by her father. She likes the environment and support provided in Azad and enjoys the equal treatment given to them. Jainab enjoyed the sexual and reproductive health

classes the most because she learnt about her own body. Jainab cleared her PL in 2nd attempt and soon wants to complete her training and become a professional driver. She always wanted to become a Police officer but due to her height, she did not get the opportunity. But now she has a hope that she can become a Driver in Delhi Police.

“ Jainab enjoyed the Sexual and Reproductive Health classes the most because she learnt about her own body.”

**JAINAB KHATOON**Date of Birth: **30/03/2000**Education: **12th pass**Marital Status: **Unmarried**Locality: **Bhalswa**Enrolment Number: **DL/ND/2020-21/12**Date of Joining: **10/09/2020**Date of PL: **31/03/2021**Current Status: **Under training**

Police Station and approached the Mahila Panchayat to report the violence. She struggled for four months and her husband is now supportive and even supports Raju in front of his relatives. Today, she has learned to live for herself, fight for her rights and run her house without anyone's support. After joining Azad she shared that, "Meri poori zindagi badal gayi", (my life changed). She wants to complete her training and become a professional driver to fully support her children.

**RAJU SAXENA**Date of Birth: **10/09/1988**Education: **8th Pass**Marital Status: **Married**Number of Children: **3**Locality: **Mukundpur**Enrolment Number: **DL/ND/2020-21/2**Date of Joining: **10/09/2020**Date of PL: **01/03/2021**Current Status: **Under Training**

Raju lives with her husband and children in a rented house. Her husband works as a driver and is the sole earner of the family. She studied till 8th std. and left her education because there was no one to support her. She came to know about Azad from a driver who had trained there. Before enrolling, she discussed with her husband but he did not give her permission, because he believed that a woman should stay at home. However, she fought for herself and with support from Azad, ultimately got enrolled. However, her husband fought with her and asked her to leave the house. With the support of Azad's team, she registered a case in the local

**VIBHA**

Date of Birth: **10/03/1996**
 Education: **Graduate**
 Marital Status: **Married**
 Locality: **Sultanpuri**
 Enrolment Number: **DL/ND/2020-21/25**
 Date of Joining: **01/10/2020**
 Date of PL: **17/02/2021**
 Current Status: **Waiting for Employment through Sakha**

Vibha lives with her partner and her partner's family in his house. Her partner works as a driver with Uber and her mother-in-law works as a guard in a hospital. She came to know about Azad from her partner who also learnt driving from Azad. Her partner's family is very supportive and has given her all the freedom to learn new skills. Vibha likes the environment in Azad and the safe space given to all the women. After joining Azad, and taking gender and legal rights classes, she now can confidently express herself. She wants to become a professional driver and join Delhi Police as a woman driver. She has cleared her Permanent Licence in the 2nd attempt and passed her Sakha in the 1st attempt and is now waiting to get a suitable job opportunity.

“ I want to become a professional driver and join Delhi Police as a woman driver.

RITU SINGHAL

Photo consent not given

Date of Birth: **24/03/1996**
 Education: **Graduate**
 Marital Status: **Unmarried**
 Locality: **Adrash Nagar**
 Enrolment Number: **DL/ND/2019-20/93**
 Date of Joining: **12/02/2020**
 Date of PL: **11/12/2020**
 Current Status: **Employable**

“ I likes coming to Azad as it keeps my mind calm and helps me gain confidence. I want to complete my training and become financially independent.

Ritu lives with her parents and siblings in her own house. They have a grocery shop which is their only source of income. She came to know about Azad from her friend and came to the office to enquire about it. She liked all the classes in Azad and learned new things especially English. She also gained the confidence to introduce herself in English. Although she cleared her permanent licence in the first attempt and wanted to complete the training, however, due to an eye problem, she couldn't complete the entire training and had to leave after achieving her permanent license. She wanted to come back but her family had fixed her marriage recently and she could not rejoin training.

RENU

Photo consent not given

Date of Birth: **27/01/1987**
 Education: **Graduate**
 Marital Status: **Separated**
 Number of Children: **1**
 Locality: **Burari**
 Enrolment Number: **DL/ND/2020-21/4**
 Date of Joining: **10/09/2020**
 Date of PL: **23/02/2021**
 Current Status: **Under training**

Renu lives with her mother and her son. Her father passed away when she was only 8 years old. She has three sisters and a brother. Her mother started working in a factory and her salary was the only source of income. Eventually, Renu started working in a cashew factory. During that time her relatives arranged her marriage and she had to get married. But after marriage, she got to know about her father-in-law's behaviour which kept deteriorating over time. When her husband took action on the behaviour of his father, he started ill-treating her and using abusive language. It was difficult for her to stay there as she was getting depressed day by day. She decided to stay with her mother and get treatment for her depression. Today, after joining Azad, She has acquired her permanent license and feels good to be in Azad. Renu is now practising driving on road. She also shared that she likes coming to Azad as it keeps her mind calm and helps her gain confidence. She wants to complete her training and become financially independent.

South Delhi



Date of Birth: **15/08/1991**
Education: **8th Pass**
Marital Status: **Unmarried**
Locality: **Madanpur Khadar**
Enrolment Number: **DL/SD/2019-20/36**
Date of Joining: **26/08/2019**
Date of PL: **20/10/2020**
Current Status: **Waiting for employment through Sakha**

Lalitha stays alone in Madanpur Khadar as both her parents have passed away. She has an older sister who is married and stays in Okhla. Lalitha came to know about Azad through another trainee in Khadar and became interested in joining the training. She says, "I did not want to do the work of a domestic help like my sister does and got inspired because I felt I would learn something new and different." An earnest learner, Lalitha took several attempts to pass the permanent licence test. She finally cleared it in her 5th attempt, but her perseverance helped her achieve

her goal. Despite her challenges at home and managing everything on her own, she did not give up training. Talking about the empowerment modules she remarks, "I enjoyed my Gender class and English class the most. Through the Gender class, I learnt a lot about social patriarchy and through my English class, I learnt new words and am trying to use them in my daily life." "I dream of having my own house, my own car and earning enough so that I am able to support my sister." She wants to take her sister for a long drive in her own car.



Arti lives in her own house in Madanpur Khadar with her husband, father-in-law and brother-in-law and a daughter who is 5 years of age. Her mother-in-law and two sisters-in-law live separately in the village in Uttar Pradesh. Arti got married at the age of 19 years. Her journey at Azad started in the year 2019, She came to know about the Azad WWW training from another trainee, and after inquiring about the specifics she decided to join the training. The training also helped Arti learn new things such as self-defence, communicative English etc. She has also learnt about herself and society, apart from driving. In many ways, she feels that it was transformative. She remarks "My life has taken many turns since I joined Azad and I am ready to become financially independent now."



Date of Birth: **01/07/1997**
Education: **Graduate**
Marital Status: **Married**
Number of Children: **1**
Locality: **Madanpur Khadar**
Enrolment Number: **DL/SD/2019-20/42**
Date of Joining: **18/09/2019**
Date of PL: **22/10/2020**
Current Status: **Waiting for employment through Sakha**


MAMTA RANI

Mamta Rani stays with her husband and two children in their own house in Garhi. She got to know about Azad through her friend's sister and decided to join the training. She shares, "I was always fond of driving, so when I heard that this training would allow me to learn that skill I decided to join." Mamta shares, "Initially I took quite some time to learn the basics and failed the 1st Permanent License test. However, second time I took the test with confidence and passed the test." About her classes, she remarks, "I enjoyed the Self Defence class the most as I learned how to defend myself. I also liked the First Aid class as I learned a lot of things related to my body". After coming to Azad, she feels that she can achieve her dreams. She says, "Before I hardly used to step out of the house, I used to be very under-confident and now I have my permanent licence and can drive a car". Her dream is to begin earning and build a good life for her children. Her husband also supports her dreams now.

“Before I hardly used to step out of the house, I used to be very under confident and now I have my permanent licence and can drive a car.

Date of Birth: **06/06/1976**
 Education: **9th Pass**
 Marital Status: **Married**
 Number of Children: **2**
 Locality: **Garhi, Amar Colony**
 Enrolment Number: **DL/SD/2019-20/43**
 Date of Joining: **18/09/2019**
 Date of PL: **10/12/2020**
 Current Status: **Under Training**


MAYA

Date of Birth: **18/04/2000**
 Education: **Pursuing Graduation**
 Marital Status: **Unmarried**
 Locality: **Khadar**
 Enrolment Number: **DL/SD/2019-20/45**
 Date of Joining: **27/09/2019**
 Date of PL: **31/12/2020**
 Current Status: **Under Training**

“Azad has given me a lot of self-confidence. I was very depressed because of the trouble in my marriage but meeting people here and interacting with them has helped me get out of my low life condition.

Maya stays with her mother and three brothers in their own house in Khadar. Her father passed away a few years back due to a heart attack. The family earning comes from one brother, who works at a shop in Nehru Place. The second brother is pursuing B.Ed while the third brother is in school. Maya came to know about Azad Foundation through a camp in her area, which was set up by the Azad Mobilization team. Talking about her experience at Azad, she says, "After coming to Azad I have become more confident in travelling alone. I have also told my family that I shall perhaps never marry because I want to look after my mother. She continues about her modules "Out of the various classes that I attended, I enjoyed my gender class the most because I learned a lot about my rights and responsibilities." Maya is continuing her training rigorously. She says, "My desire is to earn well and look after my mother."

SABINA

Photo consent not given

Date of Birth: **01/01/1989**
 Education: **12th Pass**
 Marital Status: **Separated**
 Number of Children: **1**
 Locality: **Sangam Vihar**
 Enrolment Number: **DL/SD/2019-20/32**
 Date of Joining: **26/07/2019**
 Date of PL: **17/10/2020**
 Current Status: **Under Training**

Sabina stays with her parents, siblings and son in their own house in Sangam Vihar. She came to know about Azad from a community leader. Sabina is currently separated from her husband. She says, "Azad has given me a lot of self-confidence. I was very depressed because of the trouble in my marriage but meeting people here and interacting with them has helped me get out of my low life condition." Although it took her 3 attempts to pass her permanent licence test, yet she was very confident that she would become a responsible and good driver. She says "I enjoyed my self-defence and Gender class a lot because both classes taught me about my rights and I am much more confident now doing my own things independently." She sums up by saying "My dream is to rebuild my life and raise my son well by giving him a proper education."

NISHA

Photo consent not given

Date of Birth: 22/07/1999

Education: Pursuing Graduation

Marital Status: Unmarried

Locality: Madanpur Khadar

Enrolment Number: DL/SD/2019-20/48

Date of Joining: 15/10/2019

Date of PL: 18/12/2020

Current Status: Under Training

Nisha stays with her parents and siblings in their own house. She got to know about Azad through a survey and canopy activity in her area. After getting to know about the training program, she decided to enrol herself. Her experience at Azad has allowed her to learn not only driving but other important skills as well. Talking about her training at Azad she says "I have learnt a lot here, and I feel more confident now. I have enjoyed all my classes." Nisha is currently continuing her training and hopes to finish it soon so that she is able to realize her dream. Talking about her plans for the future, she states, "My aspiration is to stand on my own feet and become completely independent."

.....

“ I have learnt a lot here, and I feel more confident now. I have enjoyed all my classes. My aspiration is to stand on my own feet and become completely independent.

GEETA

Photo consent not given

Date of Birth: 03/10/1985

Education: 5th Pass

Marital Status: Married

Number of Children: 3

Locality: Badarpur

Enrolment Number: DL/SD/2019-20/50

Date of Joining: 16/10/2019

Date of PL: 7/12/2020

Current Status: Employable

“ Geeta has a unique story, she already knew how to drive an auto beforehand but nevertheless decided to join the Azad WWWW training to acquire a new skill and expand her horizons.

.....

Geeta lives with her husband, three children, one son and two daughters. Her eldest daughter is 17 years old. She came to know about Azad Foundation's work from a trainee. What makes Geeta unique is that she already knew how to

drive an auto beforehand. Nevertheless, she decided to join the Azad WWWW training to acquire a new skill and expand her horizons. Regarding her learning experience at Azad, Geeta remarks that she enjoyed the Self Defence class the most because she learned how to protect herself in a difficult situation. Talking about changes in herself, Geeta says, "After joining Azad, my communication skills have improved quite considerably." She says that her dream is to make a good life for herself, earn well and build a better future for her children. Unfortunately, Due to her bad health, she had to leave the program after achieving her permanent license.



SEEMA

Date of Birth: 14/02/1988

Education: 10th Pass

Marital Status: Married

Number of Children: 1

Locality: Sangam Vihar

Enrolment Number: DL/SD/2019-20/68

Date of Joining: 25/09/2018

Date of PL: 02/02/2021

Current Status: Under Training

Seema stays with her husband and 3-year-old daughter in Sangam Vihar, along with her mother in law, brother in law and sister in law. Her husband works as an electrician. Seema got married at the age of 28. She could study only till class 10th because her father was not keen to support her education. In the recent past, Seema stayed separately from her husband due to marital conflict, which got reconciled after which she came back to stay with him. She says, "When I was staying with my parents due to discord with my husband, Azad Foundation had set up a camp in my area and I came to know about the training and decided to join it." She continues, "I was

thrilled when I passed my permanent licence test as it required skill, but I overcame my fears and finally acquired my PL." About her journey in Azad, Seema shares, "I have learnt a lot from my interactions at Azad; the classes on Communication and Legal Rights were very informative and I learnt a lot of new things and became aware of my rights. My only dream now is to earn well, be independent and look after my family."

.....

“ I was thrilled when I passed my permanent licence test as it requires skill, but I overcame my fears and finally acquired my permanent licence.



Date of Birth: **03/04/1998**
Education: **12th Pass**
Marital Status: **Unmarried**
Locality: **Noida**
Enrolment Number: **DL/SD/2019-20/68**
Date of Joining: **19/12/2019**
Date of PL: **22/12/2020**
Current Status: **Employable**

Zeenat lives with her father, mother and three siblings in Noida. Her father has his own shop that sells grocery items, which is their main source of income. Zeenat came to know about Azad after being informed by Efraha, which is a non-profit organization working on education. Regarding her experience at Azad, Zeenat says, "Though I enjoy my driving classes a lot, I have also learnt a lot from my non-technical classes like Gender. Through this class, I learnt a lot of new concepts and also became aware of our legal rights. My confidence and mobility have improved a great deal ever since I joined Azad." About her plans for the future, she remarks, "My dream is to work as soon as I can and earn good money for my family." She left the program after achieving her permanent license because she wanted to establish her own business with her father.

ARTI

Photo consent not given

.....

Date of Birth: **10/10/1993**
Education: **Graduate**
Marital Status: **Unmarried**
Locality: **Khadar**
Enrolment Number: **DL/SD/2019-20/60**
Date of Joining: **13/11/2019**
Date of PL: **15/10/2020**
Current Status: **Employable**

Arti stays with her parents and siblings in her own house at Khadar. She came to know about Azad through a street play in her area. Interested, she inquired about the program and the training process and decided to join it. After joining, Arti found the environment at Azad to be a fresh change for her. She says, "I enjoy being in Azad as I meet a lot of people here and learn many new things from them and their lives." While she likes all her modules, her favourite is English. She remarks, "I enjoyed my English classes the most, as I learned new vocabulary." She successfully passed her driving test and obtained her Permanent License, but she left the program thereafter because she wanted to learn computers and pursue higher education.

Jaipur



POONAM NAYAK

Poonam comes from an economically weaker background and she had to learn and practice driving on her own. She used to often assist her mother who works at a local convenience store, but she was not fond of that work. Unfortunately, Poonam had to drop out of school in 5th standard due to the financial crisis after her father's demise. However, her sister completed her school education. Since she wanted to pursue a job different from her mother's, Poonam joined the training

Date of Birth: **01/01/1997**
Education: **5th Pass**
Marital Status: **Unmarried**
Locality: **Aamagadh Kacchi Basti**
Enrolment Number: **RJ/JJP/2019-20/46**
Date of Joining: **21/10/2019**
Date of PL: **13/06/2020**
Current Status: **Under Training**

programme in Azad. A reason for this was also the inspiration that she got from observing other trainees living in her locality. During her training, she learned about equality and became aware of women's rights. This training also made her feel independent and self-confident. She said, "We women can also make our own decisions and we are free to do whatever work we desire." Her dream is to become a very good driver and support her family.



SONA DEVI

Sona, a mother of two and a wife of an auto-rickshaw driver, belongs to a financially unstable family. Sona always wanted to be a working woman, so when she came to know about Azad from a survey done by the mobilization team, she was very much interested in the training. With the support from her husband along with overcoming initial difficulties, after 15-20 days she began coming alone to Azad. She gained the confidence to voice her opinion and to communicate her thoughts with others. She also got the experience of a government institution in the process of collecting her licence. She is trained in both 4 wheeler and 2 wheeler and is waiting for a job opportunity in e-commerce. Her dream is to become a successful driver and improve the economic condition of her family.

Date of Birth: **01/08/1986**
Education: **5th pass**
Marital Status: **Married**
Number of Children: **2**
Locality: **Jhalana Dugri**
Enrolment Number: **RJ/JJP/2019-20/65**
Date of Joining: **05/02/2020**
Date of PL: **09/11/2020**
Current Status: **Waiting for employment through Sakha**



DIMPLE SHARMA

Date of Birth: **25/03/1998**
 Education: **Graduation**
 Marital Status: **Unmarried**
 Locality: **Malviya Nagar**
 Enrolment Number: **RJ/JP/2020-21/03**
 Date of Joining: **09/10/2020**
 Date of PL: **04/03/2021**
 Current Status: **Under Training**

Dimple lives with four family members where her father works as a sweet maker. He is the sole earner of the family. She always wanted to work, so when she found out about Azad from a meeting in her locality, she came to the office and registered herself. She got her permanent licence and she is now practising on the road. Currently, she aims to complete her training very soon. She said, "When I sat in the driver's seat for the first time, I felt very happy. I had never thought the steering wheel would be in my hands." Because of her training, she got used to going out on her own and has become accustomed to the roads of Jaipur. Coming to Azad gives her a sense of freedom and the ability to take her own life decisions. She shared that her dream now is to do something in life and support her family.



RENU BAIRWA

Date of Birth: **12/02/1994**
 Education: **Graduate**
 Marital Status: **Married**
 Number of Children: **1**
 Locality: **Jagatpura**
 Enrolment Number: **RJ/JP/2019-20/51**
 Date of Joining: **27/11/2019**
 Date of PL: **25/05/2020**
 Current Status: **Employable**

Pushpa, belonging to a family of three, convinced her husband, who works as an auto-rickshaw driver, to allow her to begin her training with Azad. Apart from driving, she learned about violence against women. She also gained confidence after self-defence training. When she was called back for her training after the lockdown, her husband refused to let her continue. But after convincing him about Covid safety measures, she joined the training and she will be done with it very soon. Currently, Pushpa is learning how to drive alone. She said, "For a few days my instructor used to sit behind me but now I have been told to drive by myself." She

wants to continue driving after the training is over. She and her husband have planned to sell the auto and buy a car to connect with Uber. She will drive during the day and her husband will drive during the night time.

“She and her husband have planned to sell the auto and buy a car to connect with Uber. She will drive during the day and her husband will drive during the night time.”



PUSHPA DEVI

Date of Birth: **23/05/1983**
 Education: **5th Pass**
 Marital Status: **Married**
 Number of Children: **1**
 Locality: **Jhalana Dugri**
 Enrolment Number: **RJ/JP/2019-20/58**
 Date of Joining: **02/01/2020**
 Date of PL: **05/06/2020**
 Current Status: **Under Training**

Renu, lives with a family of three. She aimed to contribute to the financial requirements of the family as her husband's work as a manager was of low income. Gaining awareness about functioning of Azad from one of the mobilizers who visited her locality, she enrolled in the training process and completed it before the nationwide lockdown. Before that, she had training in various non-technical modules such as gender sensitivity, legal awareness and self-defence. These training enhanced her knowledge about the functioning of society, along with boosting her confidence and mobility. During the lockdown, she connected with Azad, and was able to help needy women in her locality. She said, "I started to be recognised by people as I

started the work of delivering ration in my area." After getting her Permanent License on the first attempt she could not continue her training because she became pregnant. However, after some time, she is keen to start her training again and become a professional driver.

“This training enhanced my knowledge about the functioning of society, along with boosting my self esteem, confidence and mobility.”


BEENA DEVI

Date of Birth: **10/01/1990**
 Education: **7th Pass**
 Marital Status: **Married**
 Number of Children: **3**
 Locality: **Gopalpura**
 Enrolment Number: **RJ/JP/2019-20/62**
 Date of Joining: **05/02/2020**
 Date of PL: **11/11/2020**
 Current Status: **Under Training**

Beena lives with her husband in a rented apartment. They are the residents of Tonk and since her main documents were not from Jaipur, she had to go to Tonk I.T.O to obtain her permanent license. After a lot of effort, she got her licence on the first try. According to her, the experience she gained from Azad gave her sense of confidence. During the lockdown, her husband lost his job and her training also stopped but she was regularly in contact with Azad's team. She started doing a mobile based need assesment survey (Mform Survey) in her society during lockdown on her phone. As there was no work, her family shifted back to Tonk. When the situation became better she came back to Jaipur, where her husband started working

and she joined the training again. She said, "During my training, I learned how to get my work done at government offices, how to operate the Zoom app and so much more." Now, her aim is to complete the training soon and her dream is to be a very good driver and start working.

“ During my training, I learned how to get my work done at government offices, how to operate the Zoom app and so much more.


MAYA VERMA

Date of Birth: **19/01/2000**
 Education: **B.A. Second Year**
 Marital Status: **Unmarried**
 Locality: **Jhalana Malviya Nagar**
 Enrolment Number: **RJ/JP/2020-21/10**
 Date of Joining: **04/01/2021**
 Date of PL: **23/03/2021**
 Current Status: **Under Training**


CHANDRA NAYAK

Date of Birth: **13/10/1999**
 Education: **12th Pass**
 Marital Status: **Unmarried**
 Locality: **Jawahar Nagar**
 Enrolment Number: **RJ/JP/2019-20/63**
 Date of Joining: **05/02/2020**
 Date of PL: **19/10/2020**
 Current Status: **Waiting for employment through Sakha**

Maya belongs to a family of four, Her father works as an auto-rickshaw driver while her mother and brother work in construction. She is currently practising on the road and is getting familiar with all the areas in the city. She has been with Azad for four months. She enjoyed self-defence training; learned about government schemes; and gain the confidence to deal with government employees including ration and police officers while voicing her concerns and exercising her democratic rights. For this, she is grateful to the legal team of Azad She said, "Now, I have the number of Nirbhaya Squad too, and whenever a woman in the locality faces problems I call them up." She wishes the pandemic to end soon so that she can start working as a driver. At Azad, she is trained to drive both scooter and car, so that she can get opportunities in both domains.

“ Listening to the struggles of other trainees inspired me during those tough times. Around this time, certain families in the locality were struggling with food, and I worked with Azad by conducting Mform* surveys to help them. This gave me strength and pride.

Chandra, along with her family, lives in her own house. Her father who is a daily wage labourer is the sole earner in the family. During lockdown it was difficult for him to find job and hence the family had to face a lot of challenges. With gaining knowledge about Azad from one of the mobilizers, she joined and got her Learning Licence done, and began her driving training. She is trained for both 4 wheeler and 2 wheeler and is now waiting for a suitable job. Unfortunately the training was halted due to Covid lockdown, but she remained connected to Azad and attended all the trainings virtually. She said, "Listening to the struggles of other trainees inspired me during those tough times. During Lockdown, certain families in her locality were struggling for food, and she worked with Azad and conducted a mobile based need assesment survey (Mform Survey) to help them. This gave her strength and pride. The training program enhanced her level of confidence and independence along with her awareness of social issues and sexual violence. Her dream is to become a driver and fight violence against women and give strength and support to other women as well.

*Mform- These were mobile based community need assesment surveys conducted by Azad team with technical assistance from Dhvani Rural Information Systems



JYOTI CHANDEL

Date of Birth: **11/07/1988**
 Education: **10th Pass**
 Marital Status: **Married**
 Number of Children: **3**
 Locality: **Jhalana Dugri Kacchi Basti**
 Enrolment Number: **RJ/JP/2019-20/69**
 Date of Joining: **17/02/2020**
 Date of PL: **10/11/2020**
 Current Status: **Employed**

Jyoti, inspired by other trainees of Azad, decided to join Azad. After coming to Azad and attending all the modules, she gained the courage, and the confidence to face problems. She was also able to handle her family during the pandemic. After the lockdown was implemented, the difficulties arising from her unstable financial status restricted her ability to spend on travel. Hence, Azad arranged for pick and drop, so that there was no economic burden on her family and she could join again and resume her training. Now, she is working and she is very happy that she could finish her training. She was able to fulfil her dream of becoming a professional driver.

Manju started to live at her natal house with her parents and daughter after a brutal experience of domestic violence from her husband. When she joined Azad, the same situation continued and hence she couldn't devote proper time to her training. Despite all of this she managed to get her Permanent Licence done on the first attempt. Soon after she got her Permanent Licence the lockdown happened and during the lockdown, the violence on her increased and she again came to her parents home to live with them. During this situation, Azad was stood by her and helped her family by giving ration and helped her with legal

advice through a lawyer. By the help of the lawyer, she was able to file a case in the women's police station against her husband. After one hearing her husband agreed to take her back but she did not want to go back. The resumption of training after the lockdown was like a dream come true for her. After joining the training, she gained the courage to oppose the violence and raise a voice against it. She is now aware of her gender and legal rights. She said, "Had I not joined, I would have suffered the violence my whole life, and never would have thought of leaving." Now, her dream is to start working as a driver; keep all three of her kids with her and enrol them into a good school.



MANJU MEENA

Date of Birth: **15/08/1992**
 Education: **8th Pass**
 Marital Status: **Married**
 Number of Children: **3**
 Locality: **Hasanpura A**
 Enrolment Number: **RJ/JP/2019-20/52 WI**
 Date of Joining: **16/12/2019**
 Date of PL: **16/06/2020**
 Current Status: **Under Training**

she got an opportunity to know many roads of Jaipur through the map reading module. She said, "I have learned how to move on my own and have gained the confidence to do everything alone without any help." Now she has completed her training and she is waiting for a suitable opportunity.



BABITA DEVI

Date of Birth: **02/03/1987**
 Education: **5th Pass**
 Marital Status: **Widowed**
 Number of Children: **3**
 Locality: **Jhalana Dugri**
 Enrolment Number: **RJ/JP/2019-20/68**
 Date of Joining: **10/02/2020**
 Date of PL: **13/01/2021**
 Current Status: **Waiting for employment through Sakha**

Babita lives in a joint family. After her husband's demise, her father-in-law handles the household expenses and provides constant support for her involvement at Azad and her training as a driver. Since no woman in the family prior to her worked, she was criticised by her family members due to her decision to work. Her resilience allowed her to join Azad. Babita got to know about Azad from a meeting in her locality. Azad provided her counselling sessions along with training in self-defence; violence against women; and legal rights of women. After getting her permanent licence for 4 wheeler she also showed interest in learning 2 wheeler. During the process of completing both the trainings,

“ I have learned how to move on my own and have gained the confidence to do everything alone without any help.


RENU K MAURYA

Date of Birth: **01/01/1986**
 Education: **5th pass**
 Marital Status: **Married**
 Number of Children: **2**
 Locality: **Jhalana Dugri**
 Enrolment Number: **RJ/JP/2019-20/73**
 Date of Joining: **05/03/2020**
 Date of PL: **28/01/2021**
 Current Status: **Waiting for Employment through Sakha**

Renu belongs to a family of four. Her husband works as a mason and they have two children. They found it difficult to sustain themselves during the pandemic due to the non-availability of work. She came to know about Azad from her friends. Now, after getting her permanent licence done, she has also passed Sakha and is waiting to get a job. She said, "I'm happy that my PL is the first identification document of mine that I've achieved myself." She did not have enough money to pay for the conveyance to come to training during the pandemic and could only attend training because Azad arranged for the pick and drop system. Her training at Azad has allowed her to introspect; gain respect and independence.

“I'm happy that my Permanent Licence is the first identification document of mine that I've achieved myself.”


KIRAN BAIRWA

Date of Birth: **06/03/2000**
 Education: **Bachelor of Arts - First year**
 Marital Status: **Unmarried**
 Locality: **Jadadpura**
 Enrolment Number: **RJ/JP/2019-20/75**
 Date of Joining: **05/03/2020**
 Date of PL: **01/02/2021**
 Current Status: **Under Training**

Kiran, belonging to a 5 member family, assists her father who works as a construction worker. She got to know about Azad through a survey conducted by the mobilization team and joined Azad post inquiry. During her training, she got an opportunity to familiarise herself with the city and gained confidence in travelling alone. Lockdown affected both employment of her father and her own training. But she did not lose hope and remained in contact with Azad. She also helped to conduct a mobile based need assesment surveys (Mform survey) of the needy families and helped them by giving ration support. This gave her recognition in her locality. She can now take part in family decisions, and her opinion is accepted too. Her dream is to become independent and for that, she wants to quickly start working as a driver after completing her training.


MONA RAIGAR

“My dream is to make my own decisions and become independent.”

Date of Birth: **10/10/1998**
 Education: **Bachelor of Arts**
 Marital Status: **Unmarried**
 Locality: **Jagadpura**
 Enrolment Number: **RJ/JP/2019/74**
 Date of Joining: **05/03/2020**
 Date of PL: **01/02/2021**
 Current Status: **Waiting for employment through Sakha**

Mona, belonging to a 7 member family where both her mother and brother work as masons, found it difficult to sustain themselves during the pandemic with the gradual decline in the availability of work and low wages. She came to know about Azad through one of the mobilization activities. After joining the training, she learned all the non-technical modules and gained the confidence to travel alone in the city. During the lockdown, she remained in touch with Azad, attended her training through Zoom calls and helped the needy families by doing mobile based need assesment survey (Mform Survey). After the training resumed she passed her Sakha test and is now waiting for a suitable opportunity. Her dream is to make her own decisions and become independent.



KAVITA SAHU

Date of Birth: **01/05/2001**
 Education: **12th pass**
 Marital Status: **Unmarried**
 Locality: **Govardhanpuri**
 Enrolment Number: **RJ/JP/2020-21/07**
 Date of Joining: **04/01/2021**
 Date of PL: **24/03/2021**
 Current Status: **Under Training**

Currently learning how to drive on the road, Kavita enrolled in Azad to financially support her father who works as a mason. But, due to the pandemic, coming for training became difficult. In this atmosphere of fear, family members were hesitant to send her out but the Azad team talked to them regularly and ensured her safety. She used her brother's phone to attend training since her phone doesn't have internet facilities, this was for the first time she learned how to use a digital platform to attend meetings, which her father found fascinating. This training has made her better informed, trained her in self-defence and developed self-confidence, which makes her father feel proud. She is hopeful that this pandemic will end soon and she will complete her training and start driving to support her family.

Currently learning the technicalities of driving during her training period, Deepesh wants to become a professional driver very soon. She belongs to a family of four where both her brother and father work as masons. She wanted to work and thus enrolled herself with Azad. She heard about the organisation from a meeting conducted in her locality. After getting her Permanent Licence done in the first attempt she attended training regularly until the pandemic forced her family to go back to their village. She had to face challenges because when her uncles

got to know about her training, they immediately prohibited her from attending it or even returning to the city. Because of this for 15 days she could not attend the training, but her parents convinced them and she was able to join training through Zoom. Training at Azad helped her learn about government rules and programs, first aid, and how to oppose violence against women. She said, "After coming to Azad, I consider myself an informed and educated person!". She wants to become a driver and drive a car.



DEEPESH KANWAR

Date of Birth: **25/03/2001**
 Education: **Graduation**
 Marital Status: **Unmarried**
 Locality: **Kacchi Basti**
 Enrolment Number: **RJ/JP/2020-21/09**
 Date of Joining: **04/01/2021**
 Date of PL: **24/03/2021**
 Current Status: **Under Training**



POOJA GUJRATI

Date of Birth: **01/07/1999**
 Education: **12th Pass**
 Marital Status: **Unmarried**
 Locality: **Bai Ji ki Kothi**
 Enrolment Number: **RJ/JP/2020-21/02**
 Date of Joining: **09/10/2020**
 Date of PL: **15/03/2021**
 Current Status: **Under Training**

Pooja, currently completing her training, lives with her aunt who is open-minded and does not restrict her action. When she came to know about Azad's training from a meeting that was being held in her locality, she decided to join and was supported by her aunt for the same. Covid made it difficult to interact with other trainees, and it was during this period that she learned how to operate Zoom for the first time. After connecting with Azad her awareness as a citizen expanded as she came to know about her rights; about the government's welfare schemes; and connected with other families from her locality. The pandemic has affected her training, and her family members too lost

their jobs. But being connected with Azad and talking to everyone gives her a sense of belonging. She wants to become a driver and do her work soon.

“ Covid made it difficult to interact with other trainees, and it was during this period that I learned how to operate Zoom for the first time. After connecting with Azad my awareness as a citizen expanded.

North Kolkata



DEBJANI SEN

Debjani lives with her parents and her son. She came to know about Azad from a mobilization activity. After getting to know what the training involved, she decided to join. After joining Azad she gained self-confidence and trust in herself. With her training, she started to believe that women can also take up driving as a profession and push their boundaries. Other than the technical training she also loved the English

Date of Birth: **07/04/1985**
Education: **10th Pass**
Marital Status: **Separated**
Number of Children: **1**
Locality: **Dumdum**
Enrolment Number: **WB/NK/2019-20/15**
Date of Joining: **26/07/2019**
Date of PL: **24/12/2020**
Current Status: **Under training**

classes, in which she learned how to speak and understand the language. She enjoys gender studies and SRH classes too, because it gives her a clear understanding of the issues faced by women and how to cope, also gender studies allowed her to know more about herself and her body. Now, she wants to finish her course quickly and become a professional driver and start her studies again.



LAXMI DAS

Laxmi lives with her parents, husband and children. She came to know about Azad from a roadside campaign in front of a school. Coming to Azad was a brave yet rewarding decision for her. She loves to come to Azad because here, women can learn how to stand on their own feet, and how to drive. Her modules and experience have taught her how to live her life on her own terms. She learned how to make her own space in the family and in society. Currently, she is in the midst of her training. In the future, she wants to be a professional driver and help her family.

Date of Birth: **01/01/1982**
Education: **8th Pass**
Marital Status: **Married**
Number of Children: **2**
Locality: **Bagmari**
Enrolment Number: **WB/NK/2019-20/27**
Date of Joining: **27/12/2019**
Date of PL: **26/11/2020**
Current Status: **Under Training**



RAMA PAL

Date of Birth: **08/12/1998**
 Education: **High School**
 Marital Status: **Unmarried**
 Locality: **Manicktala**
 Enrolment Number: **WB/NK/2019-20/30**
 Date of Joining: **28/01/2020**
 Date of PL: **26/11/2020**
 Current Status: **Under Training**

Rama lives with her parents and elder brother. She came to know about Azad from an FLP member. Rama was hesitant at first but ultimately decided to join the program. She does not regret her decision. Her modules on Gender and Sexual Reproductive health helped her become aware and informed, while her Self Defense classes have improved her self confidence and increased her trust in herself. Now, Rama aspires to be self-dependent and lead a proud life. She is currently undergoing her training and wants to finish it quickly so that she can start working as a professional driver.

Tumpa lives with her husband and two children. She came to know about Azad from a friend who is also a trainee in Azad. After listening to her friend's experience and finding it interesting, she decided to enrol in the program. The training at Azad has been highly fruitful for Tumpa, and this life-changing experience has allowed her to learn many new things which we help her not only professionally but also personally. She feels that she gained self-confidence, fearlessness and courage from other women when she came to Azad. More importantly, she learned how to stop violence in her daily life. She loved

gender and self-defence classes, because of the valuable knowledge and life skills she gained. Tumpa is currently undergoing training and she aspires to complete it soon and become a professional driver.

.....

“ I feel that I have gained self confidence, fearlessness and courage from other women at Azad.

MUSKAN KHATUN

Photo consent not given.

Date of Birth: **05/02/2001**
 Education: **10th Pass**
 Marital Status: **Unmarried**
 Locality: **Tangra**
 Enrolment Number: **WB/NK/2019-20/14/WI**
 Date of Joining: **26/07/2019**
 Date of PL: **26/11/2020**
 Current Status: **Under Training**

Muskaan lives with her mother, elder brother and sister in her own house. She came to know about Azad from a friend, who is a member of the foundation. Azad turned out to be a transformative force for Muskaan. Their work helped her believe that women can also do everything that a man can do. She had seen women handle housework her entire life; for the first time at Azad, she saw women taking up occupations and in the transport sector. Her training exposed her to an atmosphere of independent women and helped her plan for her future as well. She enjoyed her non-technical training sessions as well, in which she likes the gender & legal

.....

“ Her training exposed her to an atmosphere of independent women and helped her plan for her future as well.

Rama lives with her parents and elder brother. She came to know about Azad from an FLP member. Rama was hesitant at first but ultimately decided to join the program. She does not regret her decision. Her modules on Gender and Sexual Reproductive health helped her become aware and informed, while her Self Defense classes have improved her self confidence and increased her trust in herself. Now, Rama aspires to be self-dependent and lead a proud life. She is currently undergoing her training and wants to finish it quickly so that she can start working as a professional driver.

right session the most because she gets to know about women's right and well being through this session. Right now, Muskaan is diligently continuing her training for a four-wheeler. She aspires to become a professional driver.



TUMPA S DAS

Date of Birth: **04/01/1982**
 Education: **8th Pass**
 Marital Status: **Married**
 Number of Children: **2**
 Locality: **Kaikhali**
 Enrolment Number: **WB/NK/2019-20/28**
 Date of Joining: **20/01/2020**
 Date of PL: **26/11/2020**
 Current Status: **Under Training**

right session the most because she gets to know about women's right and well being through this session. Right now, Muskaan is diligently continuing her training for a four-wheeler. She aspires to become a professional driver.



PUJA SHEE

Date of Birth: **02/01/1994**
 Education: **8th Pass**
 Marital Status: **Married**
 Number of Children: **1**
 Locality: **Tapuriaghata**
 Enrolment Number: **WB/NK/2019-20/35**
 Date of Joining: **17/03/2020**
 Date of PL: **30/03/2021**
 Current Status: **Under Training**

Puja came to know about Azad from one of our FLP leaders. She lives with her husband and her son. Having joined Azad she has been able to speak her mind which she was never able to. Now she feels confident and feels that she can achieve anything. She liked the English and legal class the most apart from driving. The legal class has made her learn many things about women rights and now she can take any basic legal step like filing a divorce all by herself. She never thought that women can do anything besides household chores but now here she is where she is driving and hoping to earn a respectable livelihood. She dreams about giving the best education to her son.

“ Having joined Azad I have been able to speak my mind out which I was never able to. Now I feel confident and feel that I can achieve anything.



SARMISTHA MONDAL

Date of Birth: **13/09/2000**
 Education: **High School**
 Marital Status: **Married**
 Locality: **Tapuriaghata**
 Enrolment Number: **WB/NK/2019-20/32**
 Date of Joining: **11/02/2020**
 Date of PL: **26/11/2020**
 Current Status: **Waiting for employment through Sakha**



NAZIA KHAN

Date of Birth: **01/01/1987**
 Education: **8th Pass**
 Marital Status: **Married**
 Number of Children: **2**
 Locality: **Narkeldanga**
 Enrolment Number: **WB/NK/2019-20/26**
 Date of Joining: **27/12/2019**
 Date of PL: **26/11/2020**
 Current Status: **Under Training**

Nazia lives with her husband and in-laws and has 2 children. She came to know about Azad from a roadside campaign. She had always wanted to drive a car, and Azad's work gave wings to her dreams and finally it was being fulfilled. Apart from her driving training, the two key modules she liked the most are English and gender classes, as they helped her widen her horizons and made her better informed. Her dream for the future is to earn a respectable livelihood and help her husband financially so that she can also raise her children properly and give them the best education and the best in life.

Sarmistha lives with her husband and mother. She came to know about Azad from her sister-in-law. Her training imparted her with skills she had never thought of acquiring before. The two key modules she liked the most are map reading and sessions about gender. Map reading was both fascinating and informative, while the gender classes helped her become more educated regarding issues that concern her and other women. She is appreciative of her experience at Azad because she was able to know that women can do anything if they let go of the social taboos. Her dream for the future is to drive a car and earn a respectable livelihood for herself and for her family.

“ Map reading was both fascinating and informative, while the gender classes helped me become more educated regarding issues that concern her and other women.



SIMA MANNA

Date of Birth: **31/01/1985**
 Education: **10th Pass**
 Marital Status: **Married**
 Number of Children: **1**
 Locality: **Rajarhat**
 Enrolment Number: **WB/NK/2017-18/2/WI**
 Date of Joining: **20/02/2018**
 Date of PL: **08/02/2021**
 Current Status: **Waiting for employment through Sakha**

Sima, 36-year-old lives with her daughter, husband and in laws. She came to know about Azad from Archana Munda who is a Sakha Chauffeur who told her about her experience by which she got very impressed and without wasting any time she decided to join. Out of all not technical sessions she liked self-defence and communication classes the most because of which she feels confident. She shared that earlier she used to get very confused before taking any decision, but now, she is capable of taking any decision all by herself. She wants to start earning soon to support her mother, herself and her daughter. She wants to raise her daughter with no restrictions and good education.

Sandhya lives with her family and in-laws. Her husband is a Golgappa seller with a very meagre earning. This has put their family through many hardships. She came to know about Azad from one of our mobilizers. Having joined Azad, she feels confident and independent. Out of all the modules, the ones she liked the most are Gender and SRH. These classes allowed her to understand more about the problems all women face in society, and how to combat them in her daily life. She sees herself breaking all taboos regarding

patriarchy in society, and wants to see herself in an 'unconventional' role as a driver. She aims to finish her training soon and start driving as a profession.

“ I see myself breaking all taboos regarding patriarchy in society, and want to see myself in an unconventional role as a driver.



SANDHYA CHANDRA

Date of Birth: **08/06/1979**
 Education: **9th Pass**
 Marital Status: **Married**
 Number of Children: **1**
 Locality: **Sri Krishna Daw Lane**
 Enrolment Number: **WB/NK/2019-20/38**
 Date of Joining: **19/03/2020**
 Date of PL: **13/02/2021**
 Current Status: **Under Training**

as well and found the experience exhilarating. Her idea about the future is very focused, and a bit unique compared to others: she wants to do a delivery job in e-commerce.

“ I love coming to Azad because I experience a supportive and conducive environment where I feel a sense of belonging.

MAMPI DAS

Photo consent not given

Date of Birth: **26/15/1994**
 Education: **8th Pass**
 Marital Status: **Married**
 Number of Children: **2**
 Locality: **Manicktala**
 Enrolment Number: **WB/NK/2019-20/29**
 Date of Joining: **20/01/2020**
 Date of PL: **26/11/2020**
 Current Status: **Under Training**

Mampi lives with her mother, husband and children. She became aware of Azad after she saw an auto campaign done by the foundation. After enrolling herself in the training, she had a healthy experience. She loves coming to Azad because she experiences a supportive and conducive environment where she feels a sense of belonging, which has helped her come out of her shell. She likes to attend her non-technical classes, she loves the gender classes the most because of how informative and interesting they are. She learned two-wheeler driving



JYOSNA ROY

Date of Birth: 27/05/1992
 Education: 8th Pass
 Marital Status: **Widow**
 Number of Children: 1
 Locality: **Chingrighata**
 Enrolment Number: **WB/NK/2019-20/24**
 Date of Joining: 25/10/2019
 Date of PL: 25/01/2021
 Current Status: **Waiting for employment through Sakha**

Jyosna, 28, is a widow. She lives with her son. She came to know about Azad through the mobilization team. She was impressed by the modules and decided to join Azad. She has always been passionate about driving and was very enthusiastic when she got an opportunity to learn driving a 2 wheeler and a 4 wheeler. She wants to start earning soon as she has debts to pay off. She liked the Self Defense classes where she learnt all the tricks to defend herself when in trouble. Now, when she is trained in driving 4 wheeler and 2 wheeler both she is very confident to move anywhere in the city without any guidance. Secondly, she also liked the gender class in which she came to know about her rights. Her dream is to give her son a happy life.

“ Now that I am trained to drive the 4 wheeler and the two wheeler, I am very confident to move anywhere in the city without guidance. I really liked the Self Defense classes where I learnt all the tricks to defend myself when in trouble.



KIRAN SINGH

Date of Birth: 11/07/1986
 Education: 8th Pass
 Marital Status: **Married**
 Number of Children: 1
 Locality: **Hatibagan**
 Enrolment Number: **WB/NK/2018-19/13**
 Date of Joining: 28/09/2018
 Date of PL: 25/01/2021
 Current Status: **Under Training**

Kiran, 35-year-old lives with her son and her husband. She came to know about Azad from the mobilization activity. She always wanted to learn how to drive, one because it was her dream and second she wanted to become independent and come out of an abusive married life. After joining Azad, she regained her strength to speak up against violence and stand for her rights. She liked the gender and legal rights session and her English communication classes because they taught her about her rights and gave her confidence to fight. She says that Azad has provided her with a safe space to share or her problems. She wants to be free from the shackles of violence and wants to raise her child by providing him with all that he deserves.

“ Azad has provided me a safe space to share my problems. I want to be free from the shackles of violence and want to raise my child by providing him with all that he deserves.



ANTORA DAS

Date of Birth: 24/03/1985
 Education: 10th Pass
 Marital Status: **Married**
 Number of Children: 2
 Locality: **Kakurgachi**
 Enrolment Number: **WB/NK/2019-20/36**
 Date of Joining: 19/03/2020
 Date of PL: 21/01/2021
 Current Status: **Under Training**

Antora came to know about Azad from one of Azad's trainees. She lives with her husband, in-laws and children. Antora's experience at Azad helped her pick up many new skills, for which she is thankful. Apart from driving lessons, the classes she liked the most are gender classes, as she gained confidence and now knows how to react when any comment is passed. She also enjoyed the SRH class, and now she is aware that we are all the same regardless of any gender difference. Her training has allowed her to plan her life ahead. She dreams to become rich and earn enough money to help her son pursue his dream of studying Aeronautical engineering.



RIMI KUNDU

Date of Birth: **04/09/1997**

Education: **8th Pass**

Marital Status: **Unmarried**

Locality: **Padmapukur**

Enrolment Number: **WB/NK/2019-20/25**

Date of Joining: **27/11/2019**

Date of PL: **08/03/2021**

Current Status: **Waiting for employment through Sakha**

Rimi Kundu, 23 is a young and enthusiastic girl. She came to know about Azad through the mobilization activities. Initially, she got trained in driving a 4 wheeler. Later, she also showed her interest to learn a 2 wheeler because riding a bike was always her dream. She shared that previously she used to do whatever job she could get to sustain but now she feels that she has landed

“ The learnings at Azad, will not only help me professionally but also personally. I enjoyed the session on self Defense and the Map Reading module. I want to start studying again and fulfil all my dreams and earn a decent salary.

.....

in the right profession which also serves her passion. The learnings at Azad, will not only help her professionally but also personally. She enjoyed the session on self Defense and the Map Reading module. She feels confident and not afraid of going out on the roads. She aspires to help her family, start studying again and fulfil all her dreams and earn a decent salary.

South Kolkata



PUJA MONDAL

26-year-old Puja lives in her parents' house. She came to know about Azad from her elder sister who is also a trainee in Azad. After joining Azad she came to know many new things and have gained knowledge in such as map reading through which she learnt all the routes of her city, self-defence through which she is confident

Date of Birth: **18/08/1995**
Education: **8th Pass**
Marital Status: **Married**
Locality: **Purba Jadavpur**
Enrolment Number: **WB/KOL/2018-19/67**
Date of Joining: **28/1/2018**
Date of PL: **18/02/2021**
Current Status: **Employed**

to move anywhere alone as she can protect herself and English classes that helped her to improve her communication skills. She is trained in both 2 wheeler & 4 wheeler and now She is working in Flipkart as a delivery executive. Her dream is to be financially independent and buy her own car.



BABY NAAZ

Baby lives with her husband and two children and they are a small happy family. She came to know about Azad from one of her relatives who work at the Thought Shop Foundation. She learnt many languages in Azad and she enjoys all the non technical and technical training. She shared that before she was fearful and doubtful about driving but now she is confident. She learnt both 4 wheeler and 2 wheeler, passed all the tests and now is working at Bigbasket as a delivery executive is financially independent. Her dream is to make her family proud and to give a bright future to her children.

Date of Birth: **15/06/1986**
Education: **12th Pass**
Marital Status: **Married**
Number of Children: **2**
Locality: **Park circus**
Enrolment Number: **WB/KOL/2018-19/58**
Date of Joining: **12/12/2018**
Date of PL: **15/03/2021**
Current Status: **Employed**



PUJA CHAKRABORTY

Date of Birth: **11/07/1992**

Education: **8th Pass**

Marital Status: **Unmarried**

Locality: **Tangra**

Enrolment Number: **WB/KOL/2019-20/72**

Date of Joining: **28/01/2020**

Date of PL: **10/10/2020**

Current Status: **Employed**

Puja lives with her family. Her father works at a factory, and his earning was the only source of income for their family. She came to know about Azad from DAS (an organisation) and later joined the training. Having joined Azad, Puja was exposed to a lot of new experiences such as driving a car, learning new things such as gender and sexuality, self-defence etc. She came to know many things about gender stereotypes and differences. She liked classes on English and Gender the most which clarified many of her doubts. The English classes have given her newfound confidence in communicating her thoughts. Currently, Puja has passed the Sakha test for 4 wheeler and 2 wheeler and is working with Big Basket. Her dream for the future is to build her own house and improve her standard of living.

Jharna is a widow and lives with her three children and mother. She came to know about Azad from another trainee at Azad. After joining Azad she has become confident. Moreover, she has started making her own decisions without thinking about whether or not other people will judge. The two key things Jharna learned are English and self-defence from her modules, which she thinks is very helpful in her personal life as well. English classes helped her a lot in improving her communication

“ English classes helped me a lot in improving my communication skills, while self defence classes made me confident.

.....

skills, while self-defence classes made her confident when she is on the road alone. Her dream is to learn to drive, earn a respectable livelihood and eventually buy her own car.



JHARNA MONDAL

Date of Birth: **01/01/1983**

Education: **8th Pass**

Marital Status: **Widowed**

Number of Children: **3**

Locality: **Rajdanga**

Enrolment Number: **WB/KOL/2019-20/65**

Date of Joining: **27/12/2019**

Date of PL: **16/07/2020**

Current Status: **Under Training**

the two things which stand out for her are personality development and knowing the important contact numbers that can help in different situations. She wants to work till the time she is physically fit and wants to give her son a better education. In addition to that, she wants to save money for the future too.

“ From this training, I am feeling better and have achieved something in life.

NAMITA BANIK

Photo consent not given

Date of Birth: **01/01/1979**

Education: **12th Pass**

Marital Status: **Married**

Number of Children: **1**

Locality: **Johura Bazar Lane,**

Enrolment Number: **WB/KOL/2019-20/78**

Date of Joining: **29.02.2020**

Date of PL: **22/01/2021**

Current Status: **Under Training**

Namita's family consists of three members- Namita, her husband, and her son. At present, her husband does not work anywhere on a regular basis, and her son is studying in a private school in class 10. She is the main earning member in the family and works in Urban Company as a beautician. She is taking this training as there is no job security in her present job. She got the leaflet from Sai Samity in Bara Bagan and then she interacted with one of the employee of another NGO. She helped her to contact Azad Foundation and reach the Jadavpur office. From this training, she is feeling better as she has achieved something in life. Out of everything,



PRIYANKA GHOSH

Date of Birth: 22/01/1998
 Education: 8th Pass
 Marital Status: Married
 Number of Children: 1
 Locality: Ananda Pally, Regent Park
 Enrolment Number: WB/KOL/2019-20/68
 Date of Joining: 27/12/2019
 Date of PL: 25/01/2021
 Current Status: Waiting for employment through Sakha

Priyanka is a 23 old, lives in her own family with her child. She came to know about Azad through an auto campaign held by Talash. She gained confidence after joining the 4 wheeler training and started to believe that women also can opt for driving as a profession. She regularly attended all her non-technical classes in which is enjoyed the gender and sexuality classes the most because she says through these classes she was able to learn about her own body and how to take care of it. She knew how to drive a two-wheeler before joining Azad, but she could not able to get her license done because of the monetary problem. After coming to Azad she got an opportunity. She wants to start working as a delivery executive very soon. Her aspirations are to become a well trained professional driver, support her mother and give the best education to her child.



KOYEL CHAKRABORTY

Date of Birth: 22/04/1992
 Education: 9th Pass
 Marital Status: Married
 Locality: Nandi Mistri Lane, Chetla
 Enrolment Number: WB/KOL/2019-20/73
 Date of Joining: 28/01/2020
 Date of PL: 22/03/2021
 Current Status: Waiting for employment through Sakha

“

Only after I did the SRH classes, I realized that I had many misconceptions about sexuality. My dream is that when I starts earning, I want to help other women claim their identity and earn a respectable livelihood by bringing them to Azad,

Koyel, a married 28-year-old woman stays with her in-laws in a joint family. A trainee from Azad came to work at her husband's office and that is how they came to know about Azad. Besides, she also followed Azad on YouTube and got motivated. Firstly, she completed her 4 wheeler training and then joined 2 wheeler training looking at the job opportunity. After joining Azad, her general communication improved to a great extent, before that she even hesitated to talk to any stranger. The most important thing that she learnt at Azad is Self-Defense and driving which will help her in her personal life as well. Now she aspires to get a very good job in the transport industry and start her professional life.



SWARNALI SAHA

Date of Birth: 20/06/1999
 Education: 10th Pass
 Marital Status: Unmarried
 Locality: Mistri Para, Agrani Club
 Enrolment Number: WB/KOL/2019-20/77
 Date of Joining: 29/02/2020
 Date of PL: 29/09/2020
 Current Status: Waiting for employment through Sakha

Swarnali's father works as a bus driver in WBSTC, and his job is not yet permanent. Her family consists of 4 members, out of which her father is the only one earning. She came to know about Azad from one of her friends and was highly motivated to join. Earlier, people never used to give her importance but now the same people are giving her consideration and respect. The two key things she liked the most are the Sexual & Reproductive Health (SRH) and self-defence classes. Only after doing the SRH classes, she realized that she had many misconceptions about sexuality. Also, after doing self-defence classes she feels extremely confident that she is aware of the ways of saving herself. Swarnali's dream is that when she starts earning, she wants to help other women claim their identity and earn a respectable livelihood by bringing them to Azad, paying their registration fees and showing them a new way of life.



RUPA NASKAR

Date of Birth: **08/03/1985**

Education: **8th Pass**

Marital Status: **Married**

Number of Children: **1**

Locality: **Middle Road, Survey Park**

Enrolment Number: **WB/KOL/2019-20/81**

Date of Joining: **29/02/2020**

Date of PL: **22/01/2021**

Current Status: **Under Training**

Rupa's family consists of three members- Rupa, her husband, and her 11-year-old daughter. She is from Jadavpur and her husband has a catering and four-wheeler business. She got to know about Azad Foundation from one of the trainees of the organization in 2019. She feels very happy at present by learning many important things from her training, such as how to fight for getting her rights in society as a woman. She said that she knew that one should protest against wrong things, but she learnt some ways of actually protesting from the training which she was not aware of. The second thing is that learning to drive a four-wheeler is a big achievement for her; she feels glad about that as she can do something in the future with this skill. Rupa's dream is to pursue driving as a profession and become completely independent.

Archana lives with her parents and sons, and she came to know about Azad through Talash. After getting to know about the training, she decided to enrol herself. She feels that her training have helped her become more independent. She says, "I love to come to Azad because I gained self-confidence techniques for self-protection". She also suggested joining Azad with her friends and neighbours. Talking about her classes, she liked two classes the most in particular. She said "I liked Gender and Self-defense classes the most." These have helped her gain a better understanding of

society and the issues faced by women. Currently, she is continuing her training. Her dream as she says "Now I want to be a professional driver."

“ I liked Gender and Self defense classes the most, they have helped me gain a better understanding of society and the issues faced by women.



ARCHANA SARDAR

Date of Birth: **16/05/1994**

Education: **10th Pass**

Marital Status: **Married**

Number of Children: **2**

Locality: **Swehnlane**

Enrolment Number: **WB/KOL/2019-20/82**

Date of Joining: **22/02/2020**

Date of PL: **21/08/2021**

Current Status: **Under Training**

Jhuma lives with her family where her father is the only earning member. She came to know about Azad from the thought shop foundation. She is separated from her husband and has the responsibilities of two children. She faced a very hard time managing everything alone, as she had no source of earning and was completely dependent on her father. Having joined Azad and getting the training, she learnt many things but the most important according to her is that she learnt how to analyze herself and rectify all necessary changes and this happened mostly due to the non-technical sessions she attended at Azad. She has become confident and bold. She has experienced all positive changes. She liked the sessions on Sexuality and Gender in which she learnt many things about

sexual stereotypes and also cleared many misconceptions about Gender. After completing the training she joined Bigbasket as a delivery executive. She dreams to earn a respectable livelihood and take care of her 2 children.

“ I liked the sessions on Sexuality and Gender in which I learnt many things about sexual stereotypes and also cleared many misconceptions about Gender. I have become confident and bold and have joined Bigbasket as a delivery executive.



JHUMA ACHARJYA

Date of Birth: **03/08/1987**

Education: **9th Pass**

Marital Status: **Separated**

Number of Children: **2**

Locality: **Narayanpur**

Enrolment Number: **WB/KOL/2018-2019/24 WI**

Date of Joining: **22/05/2018**

Date of PL: **23/04/2021**

Current Status: **Employed**

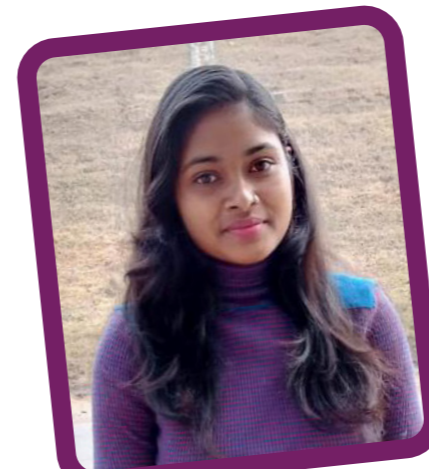


RITA BAG

Date of Birth: **17/06/1992**
 Education: **8th Pass**
 Marital Status: **Married**
 Number of Children: **2**
 Locality: **Durgapur, Pragati Maidan**
 Enrolment Number: **WB/KOL/2019-20/45**
 Date of Joining: **19/09/2019**
 Date of PL: **25/01/2021**
 Current Status: **Employed**

Rita, 28 years lives with her husband and two children. She came to know about Azad from a member of DAS; a partner organisation. She came to Azad office enquiring about the training and got inspired to join. She shared, for her Azad is a platform where every woman gets the courage to be independent which is generally discouraged by society. She says through the gender and legal rights classes. She learned how to protest any wrong happening with women, in communication classes she learned how to behave and talk with others socially. Her dream is to establish her own identity and put her children in a good school.

“ For me Azad is a platform where every woman gets the courage to be independent which is generally discouraged by society. My dream is to establish my own identity and put my children in a good school.



SANDHYA NASKAR

Date of Birth: **30/08/1999**
 Education: **12th Pass**
 Marital Status: **Married**
 Locality: **Bainchatala**
 Enrolment Number: **WB/KOL/2019-20/33**
 Date of Joining: **24/07/2019**
 Date of PL: **25/01/2021**
 Current Status: **Employed**

Sandhya is 22 years old and she lives with her husband. She came to know about Azad from a member of DAS, partner organisations, who is her husband's friend. She loves coming to Azad because here she learns to dream of free life and got many friends who are her supporter. Although she is very attentive during her non-technical training classes, she never wants to miss self-defence classes because she enjoys them the most. She says, Self defence classes teach her self protection and build confidence. After getting her licence and passing all the tests of 2 wheeler training, she joined Flipkart as a delivery executive. She enjoys her first job in Flipkart a lot because firstly she got it during Lockdown and also because she always wanted to start working and earning for extending support to her husband. She aspires to continue this job and save money to buy her car.

“ I am enjoying my first job in Flipkart a lot because I got it during Lockdown and also because I always wanted to start working and earning for extending support to my husband. My aspiration is to continue this job and save money to buy a car.



SANCHITA MITRA

Date of Birth: **03/03/1984**
 Education: **8th Pass**
 Marital Status: **Married**
 Number of Children: **2**
 Locality: **Sodepur, Tollygunge**
 Enrolment Number: **WB/KOL/2015-16/43**
 Date of Joining: **16/03/2016**
 Date of PL: **04/01/2021**
 Current Status: **Waiting for employment through Sakha**

Sanchita, 37 years old came to know about Azad from one of the Azad faculty's friend. Having joined Azad she became confident and aware that women are capable of doing everything. Earlier she was afraid of crossing the road and even talking in public spaces. She says that after coming to Azad she has improved her communication skills. Among all the non-technical classes she enjoyed and learnt a lot from Self defence and English class. She is trained in both 2 and 4 wheeler and aspires to become a professional driver. She wants to earn well to be financially independent in life and to give a bright future to her children.



LIPIKA MONDAL

Date of Birth: **02/02/1996**

Education: **8th Pass**

Marital Status: **Unmarried**

Locality: **Tollygunge**

Enrolment Number: **WB/KOL/2019-20/58**

Date of Joining: **26/11/2019**

Date of PL: **14/01/2021**

Current Status: **Waiting for employment through Sakha**

Lipika is 25 years old, she lives with her aunt in her house. She came to know about Azad by an auto campaign organized by Thoughtshop Foundation. She always aspired to learn driving and at Azad, she was getting this opportunity, thus she decided to join immediately. She loves coming to Azad because she got many good friends here, with whom she can share everything. After getting technical training, completing all the non technical modules and regular practice her confidence is increased and she drives better than before. She aspires to start earning soon and become self-dependent. Also, she wants to build her own house and live with her friends.

Saiqa lives with her father, mother, sisters and younger brother. Her father is a farmer while her mother is a homemaker. Her brother is a student – going to appear for a secondary exam. Saiqa came to know about Azad from one of her relatives who work at the Thought Shop Foundation. She feels confident as her negotiating capacity has increased through all the training received at Azad. “My mobility and knowledge have increased and those are my key learnings in Azad” she narrated. She is trained in both 2 wheeler & 4 wheeler and now she is working with

Flipkart as a delivery executive, she said, the scooter which she drives now is given by Flipkart for her job but very soon she wants to take her own scooty.

“ My mobility and knowledge have increased and those are my key learnings in Azad.



SAIQA AFRIN

Date of Birth: **01/01/1995**

Education: **12th Pass**

Marital Status: **Unmarried**

Locality: **Vil Malancha, PS Bhangor**

Enrolment Number: **WB/KOL/2018-19/57**

Date of Joining: **12/12/2018**

Date of PL: **04/01/2021**

Current Status: **Employed**

to learn 2 wheeler because it has more job opportunity, now she is working in Flipkart as a delivery executive, she is now moving towards fulfilling her dreams.

“ The non technical training that has taught me to become more confident has also improved my communication skills.



FIRDAUS FATMA

Date of Birth: **24/08/1996**

Education: **12th Pass**

Marital Status: **Unmarried**

Locality: **Vil Malancha, PS Bhangor**

Enrolment Number: **WB/KOL/2018-19/59**

Date of Joining: **12/12/2018**

Date of PL: **08/03/2021**

Current Status: **Employed**

Firdous a 25-year-old girl lives with her father, mother, sisters and younger brother. Her father is a farmer while her mother is a homemaker. Her brother is a student – going to appear for a secondary exam. She came to know about Azad from one of her relatives who works at the ThoughtShop Foundation. Firdous has emerged much more courageous than before after joining Azad. The non technical training that has taught her to become more confident has also improved her communication skills. After getting trained in 4 wheeler, she also wanted



MOUSUMI GHUGHU

Date of Birth: 28/03/2000

Education: 12th Pass

Marital Status: Unmarried

Locality: Dhapa

Enrolment Number: WB/KOL/2019-20/56

Date of Joining: 28/11/2019

Date of PL: 25/01/2021

Current Status: Waiting for employment through Sakha

Mousumi, 21 lives with her parents and siblings. She came to know about Azad from a trainee at Azad, after that, she contacted a member of DAS organisation and joined Azad without any delay. She joined for learning 4 wheeler and after completing the training she decided to join 2 wheeler training as well. She loves to come to Azad because she always aspired to work in a non-traditional profession and here she got a platform to fulfil her dream. She says, "I know 4 and 2 wheeler driving which has increased my confidence and the opportunity of work has also increased for me." She is currently waiting for a suitable job, which she will get very soon.

“ I love to come to Azad because I always wanted to work in a non traditional profession and here I got a platform to fulfil my dream. I now know how to drive a 4 and 2 wheeler, which has increased my confidence and the opportunity of work has also increased for me.



DEBOLINA BANIK

Date of Birth: 30/05/1981

Education: 10th Pass

Marital Status: Married

Locality: Jahura Bazar Lane

Enrolment Number: WB/KOL/2018-19/75

Date of Joining: 06/06/2019

Date of PL: 25/01/2021

Current Status: Waiting for employment through Sakha

Debolina lives with her husband, she came to know about Azad from an employee at Das organisation. She loves to come to Azad because she gets to learn many new things, especially she learnt Self Defense and First Aid from here which she enjoyed a lot because both the training have trained her to save a life. She is trained both in 2 and 4 wheeler driving. Currently, she is waiting for a suitable job opportunity as a professional delivery executive. She is confident enough that she can survive and continue her work in any situation or any place. She wants to start working soon and help her husband in family expenses.

“ I love to come to Azad because I get to learn many new things, especially when I learnt Self Defense and First Aid, which I enjoyed a lot because both these trainings have trained me to save a life. I am confident, enough that I can survive and continue my work in any situation or any place.

LILA KHAN

Photo consent not given.

Date of Birth: 28/03/2000

Education: 10th Pass

Marital Status: Separated

Number of Children: 1

Locality: Dhapa

Enrolment Number: WB/KOL/2018-19/52

Date of Joining: 20/09/2018

Date of PL: 22/03/2021

Current Status: Waiting for employment through Sakha

She lives with her mother and daughter in a rented house in Garia. She saw another driver who was trained at Azad and came to know about Azad. She joined in 4 wheeler training course and after passing Sakha test for that she showed her interest in learning 2 wheeler as well. The non technical training that she received during her course gave her a lot of knowledge, confidence and communication skills. During the lockdown, while taking sessions on Zoom, she became more confident in using the technology, She is much aware of digital applications now. She aspires to become a professional driver now who will drive both 2 wheeler and 4 wheeler.



TANUSREE MONDAL

Date of Birth: 03/01/1989

Education: 8th Pass

Marital Status: Separated

Number of Children: 1

Locality: Garfa Main Road

Enrolment Number: WB/KOL/2019-20/57

Date of Joining: 04/11/2019

Date of PL: 22/03/2021

Current Status: Waiting for employment through Sakha

“ I had no friends before joining Azad but here I have made many good friends with whom I can share everything, Azad has become my safe space and support system.

.....

Tanusree 31-year-old lives with her parents, she has one daughter. She came to know about Azad from a trainee. She is a separated woman who takes care of her daughter alone. She says, “ I had no friends before joining Azad but here I have made many good friends with whom I can share everything, Azad has become my safe space and support system.”. She loves the way faculties in

Azad teach her driving. She said everybody here respects each other. She joined 2 wheeler training after completing 4 wheeler because she wanted to spend more time in Azad. She enjoys self-defence and driving training the most because she finds it very interesting. Now she aspires to become a professional driver and give her daughter a bright future.

PRODUCTION

Research Advocacy and Communication Team, Azad Foundation

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dolon Sen

Bidya Soubam

Padma Pandey

Badri Narayan Sharma

Mousumi Sarkar

Subhasmita Bagchi

Daksh Yadav & Camellia Reja - Special thanks to you for the support extended during your internship at Azad

DESIGN

The Other Design Studio

Copyright 2021 Azad Foundation

Azad Foundation

www.azadfoundation.com