

YEAR BOK2015-16



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Azad Foundation YEAR BOOK 2015-16

INTRODUCTION

Azad Foundation's Year Book is both a record and an exploration of the journey of trainees with the Women on Wheels (WoW) Programme.

WoW is the flagship programme of Azad where women from resource poor backgrounds (economically and socially deprived) are trained to become professional chauffeurs through a 6-8 month long training.

Azad's focus is to create livelihoods with dignity for women who have been living on the margins of society. This requires not only access to skills and know how (of driving) but also the confidence to claim the public space, the ability to negotiate a 'masculine' domain of work and surmount the challenges this throws up. Women from across class, caste and community also experience tremendous reproductive responsibilities at home limiting their time and ability for paid work. Violence, discrimination and sexual harassment are also rampant at home, on roads and at the workplace. A training programme geared to create sustainable livelihoods in the nontraditional sector (which has traditionally been men's domain) for women has to create capabilities of negotiating or redistributing unpaid reproductive responsibilities as well as resisting violence and harassment. It is with this in mind that Azad's training curriculum spans three kinds of modules: technical skill based modules leading to acquisition of Permanent License and clearance of the Sakha test after which the trainee is declared employable; self development modules such as Communications, English Speaking, Work Readiness and First Aid aimed at developing women's identity as confident professionals; and empowerment modules such as Self-Defense, Gender Rights, Legal Rights, Sexuality and Health which are aimed at enabling the trainee to understand her social location and the structure of patriarchy leading to the building of courage and strategies to counter and resist multiple oppressions.

The Year Book documents stories of trainees who have acquired the Permanent License, across Delhi (South, East and North), Jaipur and Kolkata centres of Azad, in the period April 2015-March 2016. Given the socio economic background of trainees and the multiple ways in which they engage with the curriculum, the Year Book cannot be a compilation of dates and achievements. Each trainee comes in with her unique story, unique experience and unique struggle. For Azad-a trainee is not a number. She is a precious individual who makes Azad an opportunity to assume control over her life and livelihood. The Yearbook offers a glimpse into each of these women's story of struggle and change.



EAST DELHI



Current Status

INDU 24/1/1993 12TH PASS VISHWAS NAGAR UNMARRIED 0 2/4/2015 7/9/2015

Indu has had to face a lot of struggle in life. Her father, an alcoholic, frequently resorted to violence against her and her mother. When she was studying in class 12, she found out about Azad and decided to join. She had both moral and financial support from her mother and brother, through which she was able to sustain in Azad's training programme. She proved to be a fast learner and completed her training on time. She now works for the Women's Helpline (supported by Delhi Commission for Women) in Delhi and is very happy in her job. She is also able to provide financial support to her family.

IN JOB



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

SEEMA
4/8/1990
12TH PASS
MANDAVALI
UNMARRIED
0
2/4/2015
7/9/2015
WALK OUT

At the time of joining Azad, Seema was studying. She was excited about the idea of learning to drive and joined training with the support of her parents. She hoped that her father would give her a car soon, which she could drive around. She continued in training till she got her permanent license. However despite her best intentions, she experienced a fear of driving alone that persisted in spite of regular practice. Finally, unable to overcome her fear, she walked out of the training programme.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

JYOTI 6/3/1992 5TH PASS SEELAM PUR UNMARRIED 0 5/12/2014 18/12/2015 WAITING FOR JOB

Before joining Azad, Jyoti worked as a trainee at a ladies salon. When she expressed interest to join Azad, her parents were reluctant to let her join as they thought she did not have enough education. She managed to fill the form and take admission. She faces her parents' resistance everyday but has been able to convince them to let her take the training. Despite persistent family resistance, she is determined to complete training. She says, "I feel empowered through Azad Foundation and am thankful to the team or this. I request all women to step out of your problems like I did and start believing in yourselves."



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

YASMEEN 1/3/1988 8TH PASS SEELAM PUR UNMARRIED 0 10/4/2015

23/9/2015

IN JOB

Yasmeen started working as a child labourer at the age of 15. Her family was very poor and needed to use every earning hand they had. She comes from a big family where the women are primary breadwinners. However when she found out about Azad Foundation, she felt she could get out of the factory job and earn a livelihood with dignity. Despite economic problems, her mother supported her in her decision and enabled her to join training. Her training was going well till her mother accidentally burnt herself. Yasmeen was the only care giver for her mother and this misfortune left her with no option but to walk out of the training. Later she joined back, completed her training

and is currently working as a professional chauffeur.



PUSHPA 10/2/1994 12TH PASS HASANPUR UNMARRIED 0 29/4/2015 6/10/2015 WAITING FOR JOB

Pushpa realized that women could do something new, something different, when she heard about Azad's training programme. She discussed it with her family who responded saying, "Driving is a career meant only for boys, what will you do after learning?" She decided to come and see for herself. Meeting the various women who were taking training in Azad encouraged her and her doubts about training were cleared. During her training, she learnt self-defense and about women's health. Now she wants to continue studying along with her training.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

RAMESHWARI
19/9/1986
12TH PASS
TRILOKPURI
UNMARRIED
0
30/7/2015
9/12/2015
WAITING FOR JOB

Rameshwari was previously working with an insurance company, but she had to leave her job because she had to tend to her mother who had had a bad accident. She wanted to work again, but the options were limited. She then heard of Azad through a neighbour. She found it interesting that apart from driving training, Azad also trains women in gender issues. Her family was initially apprehensive about the training as they thought driving in Delhi is a risky affair. But, soon their fears were put to rest. Not only did Rameshwari find something financially viable, she also learnt how to raise her voice.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

ZEENAT 4/7/1996 B.A. HASANPUR UNMARRIED 0 24/4/2015 6/11/2015 WAITING FOR IOB

Zeenat was working hard to become a teacher. But, it became difficult for her to keep up with college due to her mother's illness. Despite all odds, she managed to continue her education, though she felt her chances narrowing as conflicts at home regarding money and marriage, started arising. One day, her uncle showed her an Azad flyer. It looked interesting, so she looked it up. After following up on this opportunity, she felt certain she wanted to try this. Zeenat has since learnt a lot about both the domestic space and the outside world. She now negotiates the two terrains with confidence. She wants to work as a driver, buy a house and stand by her brother the same way as he had stood by her.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

10TH PASS TRILOKPURI UNMARRIED 0 29/7/2015 29/12/2015 WAITING FOR JOB

SHEETAL

9/6/1992

Sheetal has been associated with Azad since the last 10 months. She had always wanted to do something different in life, but was limited by her lack of education. She got to know about Azad through the mobilization team. She saw an opportunity in it and her family also supported her in her decision. Now, driving is something she enjoys doing. She also found the gender –training, self-defense classes and the English classes very useful. Her training is almost complete and she wants to become a successful driver.



GEETA 8/7/1979 8TH PASS TRILOKPURI MARRIED 4 5/8/2015 18/12/2015

UNDER TRAINING

Geeta had previous work experience but the opportunity Azad offered was totally different from anything she had done before. She heard about Azad through a survey going on in her locality. She met the mobilization team in their office and joined the training. The training experience was extremely good but one of her most memorable occasions was when she participated in the One Billion Rising (OBR) programme. She was part of the group dance, an experience she enjoyed immensely. Her motto is to change the perception in society that girls are suited only for the domestic space. She wants more girls to join Azad so that they can be financially independent and aware of their rights.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

RAKHI 17/8/1975 10TH PASS TRILOKPURI MARRIED 2 24/8/2015 15/1/2016 IN JOB

Rakhi wanted to work, but owing to her lack of higher education, her opportunities were limited. A neighbour told her about Azad one day, but she had her doubts about learning driving. She felt it would be very difficult for a woman to go out of the house and work as a driver. She visited the east Delhi office to clear her doubts. Once she saw the large number of trainees in the office, she was convinced and decided to enroll. In order to sustain the family during the training, she even took up a part time job. The entire training process has been very empowering and she feels richly rewarded for her commitment and conviction. She is currently working as a professional chauffeur.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

NEELAM
23/2/1993
8TH PASS
JHILMIL
MARRIED
1
20/6/2015
29/12/2015
WALK OUT

Neelam lived in Jhilmil with her husband, mother-in-law and children. She had taken up stitching along with her studies so that she could acquire a financially viable skill. Hearing about the opportunity at Azad, she joined the course. However owing to caregiving responsibilities for her ill mother in law, she was unable to attend classes regularly. The problem got aggravated when her family shifted to Rithala. This meant longer travel time and higher conveyance charges. Finally distance issues and financial constraints forced her to walk out of the training programme.



Name Date of Birth Education Locality Marital Status Number of Children Date of Joining Date of Permanent License

Current Status

RANJEETA
20/10/1982
8TH PASS
KHICHDIPUR
MARRIED
2
21/8/2015
16/1/2016
WAITING FOR JOB

Before joining Azad, Ranjeeta was a paid domestic worker. . She got to know of Azad through the mobilization team and saw this as an opportunity to earn a dignified livelihood. Her husband and her family supported her for the training. Now she has completed her self-defense, Red Cross and gender training, obtained her permanent license and successfully cleared the Sakha test (employability test). Her major inspiration was her father who had a dream that his daughter would become a driver like him. Now Ranjeeta says with pride that she will be able to fulfill her father's dream.



AARTI 16/1/1996 10TH PASS TRILOKPURI UNMARRIED 0 2/9/2015

2/9/2015 6/1/2016 WAITING FOR JOB

After getting to know about Azad from its mobilization team, Aarti applied for the training programme. Her family was against it and it took her great effort to convince them. After joining training, she found out that she was not alone in this ordeal and many trainees were facing similar resistance from their families. This gave her strength to go on and develop a sense of solidarity with the other trainees. She made a lot of friends here and became a successful driver. The stiffest opposition to her driving training had come from her uncle who had maintained that women could not and should not drive. Today she has been able to prove him wrong.

Batch Number: 8



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

NISHA
26/1/1994
12TH PASS
KHICHDIPUR
UNMARRIED
0
14/9/2015
28/1/2016
UNDER TRAINING

Nisha had taken up some work after her mother fell ill. With not many options at hand, she had settled into that life. One day her family told her about Azad and asked her to join, but she declined initially. However, after giving another thought to it, she visited Azad's East Delhi office. The environment inspired her and she felt there could be something for her here. On hearing of her decision to join, a cousin brother of hers commented, "Are you mad! You are hardly educated for this kind of her job." Her mother defended her decision saying, "Not just driving, she will learn English, self-defense, communication skills and successfully do this job." Nisha feels proud of her parents for supporting her. Now, she wants to become a successful driver and prove her brother wrong.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

AARTI
1/4/1992
7TH PASS
KHICHDIPUR
MARRIED
0
14/9/2015
29/3/2016
UNDER TRAINING

Aarti was taking care of household duties before joining Azad. She heard about the programme through a survey in her area and was very excited about it. She convinced her father-in-law saying there was another girl going for training from her neighbourhood. Apart from the technical training, she really enjoyed the self-defense class. Azad has given her confidence. Her parents are also very happy that she is driving and wants her to make this her profession.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

MANISHA 15/5/1997 B.A. UTTAM NAGAR UNMARRIED 0 18/9/2015 29/1/2016 WAITING FOR JOB

Manisha is doing her bachelors through a distance learning programme. Azad's training programme seemed an interesting opportunity to learn and grow so she decided to join it and it became much more than a good way to use her free time. She started enjoying and learning several things and also participated in the OBR programme. At the programme, she and other trainees were moving in communities distributing leaflets and informing people about Azad's training. Some people started objecting to them by saying that what Azad does is not part of their 'culture'. Manisha and the others seized the moment to talk not only about the usefulness of the programme but the change in society it would bring about. This experience has enhanced her level of motivation. Now Manisha considers the programme as an empowering experience. She would like to drive as well as study and help her parents financially.





Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

MEENAKSHI 10/10/1983 12TH PASS GHAZIPUR MARRIED 0 26/10/2015

4/3/2016

WALK OUT

Meenakshi was an Anganwadi worker who was planning to leave her job due to low and irregular pay. At this time she found out about Azad and decided to join, as she found hope of a more permanent and secure job. Her family did not support her in this decision but she carried on and worked hard to convince them. Before training, she was a shy girl who did not talk to many people, but now she is not afraid to voice her opinion. She says that she used her knowledge acquired in the first-aid training to help an injured person on the road. She felt very proud as all the people who were gathered at the spot, thanked her for help. However despite her motivation and empowering experience, she was forced to withdraw from training due to some family issues. This walk out, she hopes is temporary.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

30/12/1981 10TH PASS TRILOKPURI MARRIED 4 17/11/2015 25/02/2016

UNDER TRAINING

SHEELA

Sheela lives with her husband and children. Before joining Azad, she worked for some NGOs and found out about Azad through surveys that the mobilization team conducted in her area. Her husband did not support her in her decision to join because he felt driving was not suitable for women. She found out more about the programme and got her husband to visit the office and see for himself. This helped convince him. She is now training to become a driver and also learning about her rights. This has motivated her to actively help other women. She wants to work as a full time driver and financially support her family.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

POOJA 8/10/1988 12TH PASS TRILOKPURI UNMARRIED 0 23/11/2015 23/2/2016 WALK OUT

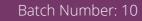
Pooja had the desire to do something unique and learn new skills. When she got to know about Azad Foundation, she immediately decided to join. She feels the training has boosted her confidence and motivated her to move forward in life. She had always thought that she will not be able to get out of home to do something, but the scenario has now changed and she is capable of travelling alone. She participated in the OBR programme where she learnt and performed dance. This was very empowering for her and she feels the training has given her dignity. However, due to difficult financial circumstances, Pooja has had to discontinue her training.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

PRIYA DEY
18/2/1975
12TH PASS
KHICHDIPUR
MARRIED
1
9/11/2015
19/2/2016
UNDER TRAINING

Priya is an outgoing individual and worked with a well-known cosmetic brand before joining Azad. The environment in her previous company was not women-friendly. She found out about Azad but initially, driving a cab did not sound very exciting to her. She visited the office and found out about the other trainings. This interested her and she decided to join. She wants to be a role model and help change the perceptions regarding women in society. She is glad that she joined Azad and got to learn so much.





Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License

Current Status

POONAM 5/3/1982 8TH PASS KALYANPURI MARRIED 3

20/11/2015 23/2/2016 WALK OUT

Poonam lives with her children and husband. She saw a street play in her community where she found out about Azad. She somehow convinced her family to let her join training. Owing to financial constraints, she had to take up a night job at a hospital so that her family does not suffer during her training period. Thus she struggled a lot during training, taking training in the morning and working at night. Her zeal, will power and dream for a better life helped her continue the training, despite tremendous odds. Unfortunately however, her son fell ill and she had to take him for treatment to Rajasthan. It is due to this that she has taken temporary leave from the programme. She is keen to join once she is back in Delhi.

Batch Number:10



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

SANTOSH 24/11/1977 10TH PASS TRILOKPURI SEPARATED 1 7/12/2015 10/3/2016 UNDER TRAINING

Santosh lives with her mother and son. She used to take care of the household and was looking for options to support her family financially when she came across Azad. During training she felt her personality change and began feeling empowered and confident. In order to support her training, she does stitching on the side.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

13/7/1990 8TH PASS VINOD NAGAR MARRIED 2 11/12/2015 10/3/2016

UNDER TRAINING

RAJ RANI

Raj Rani was supported by her husband to join Azad's training programme. There was a visible change in her personality while she underwent training. From a reserved and shy person, she turned into someone confident and articulate. She has acquired her permanent license and is preparing to become a professional driver. The legal and gender rights training has been one of her key learnings and with this new knowledge, she has been supporting women facing injustice. She is now a strong defender of women's rights as well as a professional driver in making.

Batch Number:11



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

JANKI CHAUDHARY 4/9/1987 7TH PASS KHICHDIPUR MARRIED 2 2/1/2016 29/3/2016 UNDER TRAINING

Janki lives with her parents, husband and children. She wanted to become a police officer but that dream was lost somewhere in taking care of household chores. When she found out about Azad, initially it was just the driving which attracted her. She soon realized that other trainings like English and Gender were also exciting parts of the programme. She is managing her housework and training simultaneously. She has made a lot of friends in Azad and this helps her cope with the stress of daily life. She wants to buy a car for the family and be able to drive it.



SAVITA 7/4/1995 **VISHWAS NAGAR** UNMARRIED 29/4/2015 6/11/2015

WAITING FOR JOB

After passing out of school, Savita was all prepared for pursuing her higher studies; a bachelor's programme in one of the Delhi colleges. But, her family, on knowing of her relationship with a boy, did not let her take admission and grounded her within the four walls of the house. Defeated and depressed, Savita even contemplated suicide during that time.

She struggled to make them understand her situation, but to no avail. They insisted that she stay at home and told the boy's family and soon the entire neighbourhood made her feel like an outcast. She was not allowed to leave her house and this made her very depressed. In this tough time, her friend did not leave her side. In order to make things right, Savita decided to obey her parents and did whatever they told her to do. She says, "I waited for a long time to see some light in the darkness and that is when I found out about Azad through the mobilization and outreach team that visited my community."

She asked her parents if she could join the programme, but they refused to let her go. She tried very hard and somehow convinced her brother. When she joined Azad, she learnt various things. She says, "As I went through training, I realized that it is very important for a woman to have her own identity and know

how to claim her rights." She is confident that one day she will be able to explain this to her parents. She has learnt to fight for what she believes in and feels capable enough to go ahead and do something even when the odds are not in her favour.

She wants to prove to her parents that she can do something and make a life for herself. She wants to earn their respect by working as a professional and standing on her own feet. She feels that a job may be the best way to turn things around. She constantly tries to reason with her parents so that she can come for training. When her parents saw another woman going for training, things became better for Savita. They insisted that she travel to and from the training with her friend, instead of going alone. She thought that if this were what it would take for them to let her continue, she would do it.

She feels more confident now and is able to voice her opinion at home. She says, "Since I have started speaking up for my rights, my parents have lessened the restrictions on me, but a lot remains to be changed still." She wants to become something in life and is therefore determined to continue her training.







Name Date of Birth Education Locality Marital Status Number of Children Date of Joining Date of Permanent License Current Status

PALLAVI 1/3/1990 **8TH PASS GAUTAMPURI MARRIED** 15/12/2014 11/6/2015

IN JOB

Pallavi is 26-years-old and lives in Gautam Puri. With her education ending at 8th grade and having the responsibility of household chores, Pallavi did not have many opportunities to pursue her dream of driving. But in December 2014, she joined the Women On Wheels programme with the support of her husband after meeting the Azad mobilization team in her area. Although she was progressing on the professional front, in her domestic life she still faced a lot of violence. As Pallavi trained through all the modules, she became more confident and self-assured. Moreover, her perception of the world began to change, she became more aware of women's rights and that she deserved a fulfilling life. After 7 months, Pallavi received her permanent licence and she is currently employed in the Women's Helpline. She fearlessly speaks out against violence at home and has managed to stop it to some extent. Pallavi believes her training has helped her build a healthier relationship with her in-laws and to accomplish her dreams. Her job has made others proud of her.



Name Date of Birth Education Locality Marital Status Number of Children Date of Joining Date of Permanent License

Current Status

SHEELA BHARTI 15/8/1984 10TH PASS MADANPUR KHADAR MARRIED 15/12/2014

22/6/2015 WAITING FOR JOB

Sheela Bharti was married off very young by her step-mother. Her husband was violent and abusive. Due to her personal issues, she was not able to train regularly with Azad. But, the sessions on gender rights and legal rights at Azad fueled her confidence and determination to fight the pressures she faced. She was successful in completing her training and obtaining her permanent licence. Her awareness on rights and laws enabled her to take legal action against her husband when he attempted to muder her and her daughter. Currently, She has passed the Sakha test and is eager to start working.



Name Date of Birth Education Locality Marital Status Number of Children Date of Joining Date of Permanent License Current Status

SONIA 25/12/1996 12TH PASS **OKHLA PHASE II UNMARRIED** 19/8/2014 22/6/2015 **WALK OUT**

Sonia joined the Women on Wheels to support her parents. Her father is a chick maker. Her mother manages a tea shop and she was the one who supported her during training. Sonia did not attend training regularly and later walked out of training after obtaining her permanent licence.

PARVATI

15/7/1994

10TH PASS

UNMARRIED

30/12/2014

3/7/2015

IN JOB

0

MADANPUR KHADAR



Name Date of Birth Education Locality Marital Status Number of Children

Date of Joining Date of Permanent License **Current Status**

Parvathi was convinced by her friend, who is employed by Sakha, to join Azad's training and leave her job as a beautician. Her family did not believe that girls should leave their homes. Her brother and his wife were so ashamed of Parvathi's decision that they started living separately. Her father is apathetic and bears no responsibility towards the family. Only her mother was supportive. The training has helped her make friends and made her realize that she can pursue her dreams outside her home and despite resistance at her home. Parvathi passed the Sakha test and is employed. Her mother is very proud. She now recommends her friends to join Azad.





Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

BHARTI 1/7/1995 B.A. ESHWAR NAGAR UNMARRIED 0 20/1/2015

1/7/2015

WALK OUT

Bharti and her friend joined training after hearing about it from the mobilization team in her area. She obtained her permanent licence and completed her training. But, as her family's financial condition worsened, Bharti was forced to work at a petrol pump to help her father. This has temporarily forced her to put aside her desire of working with Women on Wheels. She is currently a Walk Out.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

POOJA KUMARI 15/10/1994 10TH PASS OKHLA TANK SEPARATED 1 30/12/2014 3/7/2015

IN JOB

Pooja Kumari is separated from her husband and used to work in a Madrasa before joining Azad. She joined Azad despite opposition from her family. Initially, during training Pooja was frustrated due to her family's opposition and financial problems but soon the training made her confident and resourceful. Her achievements include not only a permanent license but successful legal action against her husband when he kidnapped their daughter. Pooja herself accompanied the police to Benares and brought her daughter back. Pooja has passed the Sakha test and now works as a Cab driver.

Batch Number:40



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

AARTI
9/10/1984
5TH PASS
MADANPUR KHADAR
MARRIED
3
5/2/2015
1/8/2015
WAITING FOR JOB

Aarti was not able to find a permanent job because of her lack of education. She heard about Azad from the mobilization team in her area and joined with the aim to improve her family's financial condition. Owing to a volent and abusive relationship and the demands of care work, Aarti was was not able to attend training regularly. However her determination and support from Azad saw her through and she was able to secure her permanent license. She is currently working along with her training as she has to support her family economically.

Batch Number:42



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

LAXMI
20/6/1986
8TH PASS
JJ CAMP TIGDI
MARRIED
1
1/4/2015
4/8/2015
IN IOB

Laxmi, an orphan, was raised by her paternal aunt in Badarpur. Her aunt was abusive and forced her into work at the age of 15. Her husband is also abusive and does not support her financially. Her mother-in-law insisted that she join Azad in the hope of financially stability. She completed training, passed her Sakha test and found a job. But she is still struggling with retaining control over her income.





Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License

JAYANTI 10/6/1987 5TH PASS MADANPUR KHADAR MARRIED 2 28/4/2015

Date of Joining 28/4/2015 manent License 19/11/2015 IN JOB

Jayanti was working as a paid domestic worker. Her husband is abusive and does not contribute to the household, so her parents had to support her. Her friend in Sakha told her about Azad. She joined because she wanted a permanent and dignified job. Moreover, driving had been her dream and she had even obtained a learning licence by taking private driving lessons. After obtaining a permanent licence and passing the Sakha test, she is currently working with Chetnalya NGO through Sakha. She is saving her salary to buy a new house for her children.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
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Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

29/5/1969 8TH PASS CHATTARPUR MARRIED 2 15/7/2015 9/10/2015 UNDER TRAINING

SUMAN

Suman used to help provide basic loans to women in rural areas and enable them to earn a livelihood. She also used to teach illiterate women. A lady from that group told her about Azad. Her family was very supportive, but her brother had doubts whether at the age of 46, his sister would be able to learn driving. After training she is more confident and is able to raise her voice against injustice. She is teaching her daughter about women empowerment.



Name
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Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License

Current Status

PREMLATA 6/7/1984 8TH PASS BADARPUR WIDOW 2 5/4/2015 29/9/2015 IN JOB

Premlata, a housewife, learned about Azad through a friend. She was hesitant at first to make a big decision as her husband had passed away only 2 months ago. But considering the financial instability, Premlata decided to join and her in-laws supported her. Premlata struggled during training, but Azad helped her throughout including helping her to set up a security deposit and suggested her to start earning as a vegetable vendor. With a lot of persistence and dedication, she completed her training and is now successfully working as a Sakha chauffeur with the helpline. She feels that she has strength now to continue on in her journey to becoming independent.

Batch Number:43

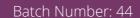


Name
Date of Birth
Education
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Date of Permanent License

Current Status

RINKY SINGH 2/9/1996 12TH PASS BADARPUR UNMARRIED 0 8/7/2015 29/9/2015 IN JOB

Rinky was oppressed by her family, especially her violent father. She came to Azad through the NGO, Abhas. She used to travel to the Azad office from Tuglakabad by foot. Despite the challenges, Rinky's determination to be a driver and to earn money helped her complete her training. The training has made her feel more empowered. She is not afraid of her father anymore and wants her mother to walk out of her marriage. She is now working as a Sakha chauffeur in the Women's helpline programme. She has bought herself a new bicycle from her salary.





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Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

ANJALI 30/7/1995 12TH PASS RAKSHIPURI UNMARRIED 0

21/5/2015 9/10/2015 IN JOB

Anjali came to Azad through the mobilization team. Her family is supportive and has given her the liberty to work in any job. Her mother is working to support the family and Anjali's training. Anjali is a quick-learner. She got her permanent licence in 5 months, passed the Sakha test and is working with the Women's helpline programme. The training has also given her the confidence to stand up to anyone. Now she wants to study along with her job.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License

Date of Joining 24/8/2015
manent License 18/12/2015
Current Status WAITING FOR JOB

ANJU 16/6/1993 8TH PASS MADANPUR KHADAR UNMARRIED 0 24/8/2015

Anju used to work in a mobile charger manufacturing company. She came to know of Azad from her cousin. She joined the programme because driving had been her dream and she was able to convince her family to support her. Anju found the module about health very interesting and it made her take care of herself better. She has completed training and passed the Sakha test. Currently she is waiting to start working for Sakha.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

SATYAVATI 5/1/1997 10TH PASS MADANPUR KHADAR UNMARRIED 0 29/4/2015 26/10/2015

Satyavati joined Azad in the hopes of financially supporting her family. Her mother started working since her father was injured in an accident. After completing training and Sakha test, there was a short period of struggle when she had to wait for a job and even her mother stopped supporting her. Now, with her job as a chauffeur with the Women's helpline, Satyavati is leading life with confidence.

IN JOB



Name
Date of Birth
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Current Status

work as a driver.

MAMTA 1/1/1984 5TH PASS MADANPUR KHADAR MARRIED 3 16/8/2015 2/2/2016

WAITING FOR JOB

Mamta was working as a paid domestic worker when her father asked her to join Azad. However, her mother was against it because she was afraid of road accidents. Mamta filled in the form for Azad, but could only join the South office after a year-long gap because of financial constraints. However the abusive conditions of her domestic worker job made her determined and she joined the Azad training while simultaneously supporting her family through that job. Her determination to become a professional driver was strengthened by the belief that it will give her a livelihood with dignity and security. Initially her husband did not support her but her strong determination convinced him. Mamta found self-defence training exciting because it made her more confident. She is training hard and wants to soon





Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

SUNITA 21/8/1991 10TH PASS MADANPUR KHADAR UNMARRIED 0

10/8/2015 29/12/2015 UNDER TRAINING

Sunita comes from an extremely poor family. The only earning member in her family is her sister who works in Sakha. Her training in Azad was fraught with tensions over money as a result of which she did stitching in her spare time. This caused her to be irrgular in training. However, she is making all the effort to complete her training and work as a chauffeur.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
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Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

VIMLESH 10/4/1978 8TH PASS SARITA VIHAR MARRIED 3 12/8/2015 10/12/2015 UNDER TRAINING

Vimlesh comes from a family where women were not allowed to go outside the house. The fear of sexual harassment was pervasive and led to severe controls over women's mobility. One day, her neighbour, who works in Sakha, told her about Azad. Vimlesh had dreamt about driving ever since she saw her father driving a car. Initially her husband did not support her, especially because of the mobility issue and fear of sexual harassment, but she managed to convince him. The training enabled Vimlesh to combat the fear of harassment and also protest against the restrictions on mobility imposed by her family. Now Vimlesh is confident to travel alone and drive to any place. The training has also helped her improve her English. She thinks Azad's initiative is facilitating the building of a respectful environment for women to pursue a dignified livelihood.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

MANJU
15/8/1996
B.A.
MADANPUR KHADAR
UNMARRIED
0
9/9/2015
10/12/2015
WAITING FOR JOB

Manju was studying in 12th grade when she found out about Azad through the mobilization team. Driving became Manju's dream when she saw other girls driving cars and her family was supportive of her pursuing this dream. Initially, she had a fear of driving but with practice Manju overcame her fears. Moreover, since her life was constrained between home and school, she was shy and afraid of going out but training has made her a confident person. Her mother has delayed her marriage to help her accomplish her dreams and Manju is not afraid of defying what society expects of women. She has the freedom to do what she wants and is now waiting to get a job.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

DRISHTI SINGH 10/3/1997 10TH PASS AMBEDKAR NAGAR UNMARRIED 0 8/9/2015 7/1/2016 WALK OUT

Drishti is an only child. Her father is an alcoholic and her mother is a paid domestic worker. Her mother wanted her to get a dignified job. After obtaining a permanent licence, she encountered a number of misfortunes in her family. Her mother fell ill and her father became abusive. This resulted in a discontinuation of her training. The team waits for her to walk back in after dealing with her problems.





Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

DOLLY RAJORIYA 29/10/1984 8TH PASS GAUTAMPURI UNMARRIED 0

7/09/2015 22/2/2016 UNDER TRAINING

Dolly used to work in the 'Archies Gallery' (birthday cards and gifts store) as a sales girl. She found out about Azad when she saw a girl drive in her area. She visited the Azad office and got all the details about training. When she discussed with her family, they refused outright and her brother said to her "if the car gets punctured on you way, how will you handle it, driving is not easy for girls". She replied," I will also learn about road map, car details, self-defence, English, gender and much more". Dolly took her mother to the office and made her understand the type of training she will receive, after which her mother was convinced. After some months of training, her brother was convinced too. Azad helped her make her own identity. She used to be afraid of what people will say, but now she is confident and is able to travel alone. She has experienced a big change in her personality and is very happy about it.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
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Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

AASHIYA 2/10/1988 10TH PASS TIGRI CAMP MARRIED 2 11/9/2015 7/1/2016 UNDER TRAINING

Aashiya's husband is a driver but does not have a permanent job. Aashiya wanted to contribute to her family's economic stability and thus joined Azad. Despite the many health issues she faced, her zeal towards training never deteriorated. With the support of her family she is able to attend training regularly and has obtained a permanent licence.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License

Date of Joining
manent License
Current Status

REKHA
30/1/1994
8TH PASS
MADANPUR KHADAR
UNMARRIED
0
10/10/2015
10/12/2015
IN JOB

Rekha's father is a labourer and the economic condition of their family is very weak. Her friend from Sakha suggested her to join Azad. After finding out more information she decided to join Azad. Rekha was a shy person and her life was confined mostly to her house. However she was a quick learner and responded very well to the training process. She passed the Sakha test and is now working as a cab driver. She is also pursuing her studies further.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children

Date of Joining Date of Permanent License Current Status POONAM 11/9/1991 B.A. MADANPUR KHADAR UNMARRIED 0

3/11/2015 15/1/2016 WAITING FOR JOB

Poonam was studying and helping with household chores when she came across Azad. Azad has helped her become more confident and get her over her fear of driving. Now she feels proud of herself when driving a car. She has passed the Sakha test and is waiting for a job. She is also a student pursuing her M.A. through a distance learning programme. She wants to be a self-dependent and well educated driver. She has recommended Azad to many people and helped them pursue their dreams.



MAMTA KUMARI 1/8/1991 6TH PASS SARITA VIHAR MARRIED 2 10/8/2015 14/3/2016

UNDER TRAINING

Mamta found out about Azad and came to the office for more details about the training. She became interested after finding out about the non-technical modules and the job opportunities after training. Her training experience is very good and she has obtained her permanent license. Mamta wants every woman to join Azad for a bright future. She wants to do something for her children and also buy her own house.

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Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

SIMRAN KAUR
18/01/97
12TH
MADANGIR
UNMARRIED
0
5/11/2015
2/3/2016
UNDER TRAINING

Simran used to teach when she got to know about Azad. She saw this training as an opportunity for a brighter future. Further, driving had been her dream ever since she saw her father driving. During training, Simran felt happy and she was able to share her thoughts on social issues in discussions with her friends. She is also pleased that Azad engages with her family as well. Simran has obtained her permanent licence and is doing well in her training.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

0 1/12/2015 23/02/16 UNDER TRAINING

ROOPA

3/7/1992

JAITPUR

12TH PASS

UNMARRIED

Roopa found out about Azad through another NGO, Jagori. Before she joined training, she was afraid of going out of her house and talking to different people. Her family encouraged her to come out and take training with Azad, which they thought would also help her overcome her fears. She joined as she also felt that the training was different and she could learn something new. She says, "I have spoken to many women about Azad and some of them are ready to join training. I feel free here as Azad has helped me make my own identity. People who earlier knew me as someone's daughter and someone's sister, now call me 'driver sahib'. It gives me the strength to be successful."



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

KIRAN
31/10/94
12TH
DAKSHINPURI
UNMARRIED
0
1/12/2015
2/3/2016
UNDER TRAINING

Kiran joined Azad with her sister. They got to know about Azad through mobilization activities. When she joined Azad, she was a shy and introvert person. However, later she became confident and outspoken. She has also made a lot of friends in Azad. She is undergoing training and hopes to get a job soon.



ANJU 18/12/80 8TH PASS DAKSHINPURI SEPARATED 2 1/12/2015

1/12/2015 14/03/2016 UNDER TRAINING

Anju worked in a factory where she had to deal with an abusive environment. She found out about Azad and realized that she had a chance to get a dignified livelihood. She had left her husband and was living with her parents who supported her in her decision to join. While in training, she was particularly fond of the self-defense and gender modules. She wants to work as a respectable driver and secure money for her child's future.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License

Current Status

15/08/77 10TH PASS SANGAM VIHAR MARRIED 2 1/12/2015 30/3/2016

UNDER TRAINING

SUDHA KANTI YADAV

Sudha had seen her father drive and this filled her with the desire to learn. That dream got pushed to the back when she got married. Her husband heard of driving training at Azad, and being the only earning member not able to fulfil the needs of the household, he urged Sudha to join. Her dream surfaced again along with the desire to support her family. She wants to work and support her children's education. She wants to get a stable job, which will fulfil these needs. She says, "Azad training is giving me driving skills and confidence. In future I want to buy my own car and drive. Learning now will help me earn money and support my family."



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

SONU
17/01/97
10TH
MADANPUR KHADAR
UNMARRIED
0
1/12/2015
2/3/2016
UNDER TRAINING

Driving a car had been a childhood dream for Sonu. She found this dream coming close to reality when she met the Azad mobilization team in her area. She decided to join, as she wanted to be independent. She also wanted to break the stereotype that, "women cannot be drivers; only men are meant to do this job". She has got her permanent license and is working hard to complete her training.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

ANJU KUMARI 6/12/1997 10TH SANGAM VIHAR UNMARRIED 0 1/12/2015 14/3/2016 UNDER TRAINING

Anju joined Azad soon after completing her 10th standard education. She learned of Azad through its camp in her community. She registered herself with the support of her parents and started classes. She felt confident and got her permanent license. She wants to fulfill her ambition to become someone different and dignified and support her family. She is ready to go on self drive and will soon be ready for a job.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

VINITA 19/06/96 10TH PASS JAITPUR UNMARRIED 0 31/12/15

26/03/2016 UNDER TRAINING

Vinita wanted to do something, which would enable her to get out of her house. She heard about Azad and decided to join with the support of her mother. Her brother was against this decision and created problems, but she came for training nonetheless. She was initially very shy and found it difficult to talk to people. Azad helped her learn and be open. She now feels confident and is able to share her thoughts without any hesitation. She wants to complete her training and get a job so that she can support her family financially.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

MEENU 10/7/1994 12TH PASS GAUTAMPURI SEPARATED 1 31/12/15 26/03/16

UNDER TRAINING

Meenu separated from her husband and was staying in her village when her sister called her to Delhi. She was looking for a way to earn when she heard about Azad. She had seen women drive previously and wanted to drive like them. In training, she particularly enjoyed the English class and self- defense. Azad gave her the chance to change her identity from a homemaker to a driver. She is keen to finish her training and get a job soon.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children

Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

NEERU
1/1/1983
8TH
GAUTAMPURI
MARRIED
0
31/12/15
22/03/16
UNDER TRAINING

Neeru worked at a beauty parlour before joining Azad. She says that earlier she was very naive and would do whatever people asked her to. But since she has started training, she has learnt the difference between good and bad. She has found the learning pedagogy very useful and is able to understand quickly. She says, "Azad has taught me that we should not be afraid of people and carve out our own unique identity". She is moving ahead with the support of her family and wants to earn a livelihood by working as a professional chauffeur.



Name Date of Birth Education Locality Marital Status Number of Children

Date of Joining Date of Permanent License Current Status RINKU 10/8/1987 12TH PASS MADANPUR KHADAR MARRIED 1

31/12/2015 12/10/2012 (JOINED WITH PL) UNDER TRAINING

Rinku worked in a company before joining Azad. She saw a Sakha driver near her place of work and was very impressed. She found out about Azad, decided to leave her job and join training. She had to face resistance from her family when she made this decision, but still managed to convince them. With her determination and zeal to drive, she got her permanent license. She has almost completed her training and feels that now she can raise her voice against crime and injustice. She feels motivated to help other women as well. She wants to drive soon and be able to earn a dignified livelihood for herself.





Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

JYOTI RANA 31/07/85 12TH SAGARPUR UNMARRIED 0 31/12/15

31/12/15 4/5/2012 WALK OUT

Jyoti's father is an irresponsible man who does not take care of his family. As a result Jyoti and her other siblings had to work to support the family. She went through a few job experiences, but finally decided to join Azad. She already had a permanent license but wanted to avail of Azad's unique training programme. Unfortunately within two months of her training, her family started pressuring her for marriage, due to which she could not complete her training.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

KAVITA
24/01/94
12TH
MANDANPUR KHADAR
UNMARRIED
0
29/01/16
29/03/16
UNDER TRAINING

Kavita wants to do something different in life and make a name for herself. She used to see a lot of girls in her area going for driving training and decided to join Azad. She found the training interesting as it not only taught her driving, but also trained her in various other things. Initially she was afraid, but her patience and enthusiasm have helped her learn with confidence. She wants to start working soon and earn her livelihood.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

SONIA CHAUHAN
21/01/94
12TH PASS
VASANT KUNJ
UNMARRIED
0
29/01/16
29/08/12 (JOINED WITH PL)
WALK OUT

Sonia's father works with the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and her mother takes care of the household. She wanted to learn driving and was doing well in her training. She was also working along with training in order to support herself. Soon after receiving her permanent license, she started having pain in her knees. The doctor told her to stop driving and take rest in order to get better, due to which she had to discontinue.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

REKHA
1/3/1991
12TH PASS
MANDANPUR KHADAR
UNMARRIED
0
29/01/16
21/04/16
UNDER TRAINING

Rekha tried working in various places, but none of these worked out to her satisfaction. She went into depression because she felt she was not being able to achieve anything or support her family. Her cousin, one of the cab drivers with Sakha, asked her to join Azad. The thought of earning a livelihood made her join. She made lots of friends at Azad and they gave her the strength to continue her training. She also joined in the campaign for One Billion Rising and participated in dance. She had never done this before and this gave her a new sense of happiness and courage. She wants to make her own identity, stand on her own feet and become a commercial driver one day.





Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

VARSHA
04/07/1985
7TH
SRINIVASPURI
MARRIED
3
31/12/2015
29/03/2016
UNDER TRAINING

Varsha stays with her husband and three children. Before joining Azad, she was working in a petrol pump. She worked here for 10 years, and knew about Azad since a lot of women in training would go to the petrol pump where she worked to fill fuel. Seeing women drive at par with men, made her feel confident and enthused to do this as well.

Varsha says, "When I came for the first time, I really liked it. But when I had to operate the computer to learn for the learner's license, I was scared as I had not done it before. But as I practiced and learnt, my confidence and belief in myself grew. She liked all of the training, especially communication and English. She says, "This training gave me the perspective that how important it is to be in-charge of what I say and do not get intimidated by others." Varsha is now learning parking in various situations and will be starting the self-drive module in 15 days. She will be ready to go for a job in about two months.

Batch Number:50



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License

Current Status

SEETA DEVI 20/03/84 8TH TAIMOOR NAGAR MARRIED 3 29/01/16 27/04/13 (JOINED WITH PL) UNDER TRAINING

When Seeta expressed the desire to join Azad, her family refused outright. They did not want her to go out of the house, but she persevered and joined. She has a young child who she had to take care of and due to family issues, was not regular in training initially. She managed to get her permanent license, but due to her child's ill health, she had to leave the training. She rejoined after her child's health improved and is currently undergoing training at Azad.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

SARLA PANT
18/12/71
12TH PASS
SANGAM VIHAR
MARRIED
3
31/12/15
1/9/2015
WAITING FOR JOB

Sarla was taking care of her household before she joined Azad. She heard about Azad through a friend who was already working as a driver with Sakha. Sarla had her permanent license and wanted to drive. She decided to join Azad to refine her driving skills and take the various trainings like self- defense, gender and first-aid. Azad helped her learn about women's rights and she started raising her voice against injustice and violence. She also improved her English and communication skills. She passed her Sakha test and is ready for a job.

Batch Number:51



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

MADHU
28/04/74
12TH
SANGAM VIHAR
MARRIED
3
15/03/16
15/09/15 (JOINED WITH PL)
UNDER TRAINING

Madhu had to face a lot of difficulty due to a violent and abusive husband who had been out of a job for 3 years. She decided to join Azad with the help of its mobilization team. She was good in her training and received her permanent license. She is hopeful that she will complete training and start earning for herself and her children.



RUKHSAR 3/7/1976 10TH TUGHLAKABAD MARRIED 3 31/12/15 22/03/16 UNDER TRAINING

Rukhsaar has two daughters and one son. Her in-laws do not approve of the girls' education, but Rukhsaar has stood firm on the ground that they will study further. Her in laws want her daughter to get married but she does not give in.

It is with such determination that Rukhsar came into Azad to do her training to become a professional chauffeur. She says, "I know about the incidents which happen in cabs, with women and children, so I think if there is a lady driver, the women and children will be able to travel safely." She heard about Azad through a partner organization, Jagori. It was a year before she actually joined that she had called Azad to inquire. Her in-laws did not approve of this and she lost a year fighting with them. Finally she said, "I have to do this, whether you like it or not." It is then that she came to join Azad.

She initially had problems in admission, as she had had an inter-caste marriage and her name on the marriage certificate had been changed. So she had to go through the entire process of getting her new name in the papers and finally getting the verification done. After this she took training and applied for her learner's license.

She comes to training regularly and has to earn her own conveyance money as the husband does not have enough to give her. It is for this that she does stitching at night so that she can earn and come to Azad.

She says, "When I came, I felt different because I had not been associated with any organization which taught anything similar. We were treated well and given a lot of information. When we went for our learner's license, we knew everything and were confident. Our trainers are also very supportive. They teach us

with a lot of patience. When I used to sit in the car earlier, I would feel like closing my eyes if a truck came by, so they had to work extra hard with me."

"All our other trainings are also very good and I feel they are not done just with the intention of finishing them, but take into account how we learn and feel about it." She recently had a case in her house for which they had to go to the police to file an FIR. No one would go and they also told Rukhsaar not to. But she had knowledge about women's rights and the laws relating to counseling and reporting, as she had taken the gender and legal rights class. So, she went herself and as a result, the police had to file an FIR. She is now following up the case and everyone in her house is listening to her, though they do not approve of it.

She has had to face various types of rebukes in her house to come this far. She was also told that since her age is above 35, it is not the age to move forward, but the age to take 2 steps back and think about your children. She says, "Age is not a barrier for me. I want to be a driver and I know it is not late for me to do so. If I get the opportunity, I can really go forward and do something."

She says that earlier she used to get out of the house, but it was limited. She did not know any routes and would wonder how to get anywhere in the city. Her lack of knowledge of places also brought about mistrust in her of people on the road. Now she says that she has no inhibitions, she knows the routes and knows where to get her work done. She goes to different places for her training and has even started using the metro after much struggle. She will start her self-drive module in about 15 day and will be ready to go for her job in two months.

She says, "I want to reach to a certain place in driving, where I can change people's perceptions about the profession and women's place in it. From now on, I just want to fly!"



NORTH DELHI



Name
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Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

ANU SHARMA 6/6/1996 8TH PASS BURARI DIVORCED 0 5/12/2014 23/6/2015 IN JOB

Anu Sharma had already faced quite a few challenges when her friend suggested that she join Azad. She divorced her first husband as her family was not able to give her dowry. Her second husband gradually became abusive and left her after a year of marriage. Soon after, she ended up working in a factory, staying alone and supported by her friend. The non-technical training by Azad helped Anu feel more empowered and gave her the confidence to successfully complete training and pass the Sakha test. Now she is working with the women's helpline. Her husband now wants to get back with her because she is famous in her area as a woman driver. Anu feels proud of herself.

Batch Number: 20



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

KIRTI KUMARI 26/2/1994 12TH BURARI UNMARRIED 0 30/12/2014 29/6/2015 WAITING FOR JOB

Kirti was studying when her friend recommended Azad. She joined the programme because she wanted to support her family as they are financially weak and her father is the sole breadwinner. A confident girl, Kirti was able to continue her studies along with her training and clear the driving test in her first attempt. She has also passed the Sakha test and ready to start her job.





Name Date of Birth Education Locality Marital Status Number of Children Date of Joining Date of Permanent License Current Status

ANISHA 13/08/1991 12TH PASS **BURARI** UNMARRIED 0 4/3/2015 2/6/2015

WALK OUT

Anisha joined Azad when she was still studying, after recommendations from her friend. She had rarely stepped outside her home but Anisha came regularly for training and successfully obtained her permanent licence. She did not tell her brother about her enrolment because she and her sister were afraid of their aggressive and violent brother. But her brother found out and locked her in the house. Soon after, her father ,the only earner at that time passed away and the family sunk into financial problems. Anisha



Name Date of Birth **Education** Locality Marital Status Number of Children Date of Joining Date of Permanent License Current Status

RAKHI KUMARI 7/8/1993 12TH PASS **BURARI UNMARRIED** 15/1/2015 8/6/2015

WALK OUT

Rakhi joined Azad with her a lot of excitement, when she was still studying. Her family, despite their economic problems, supported her. Her training was running smoothly and she obtained her permanent licence. Unfortunately, she fell sick and could not maintain regular attendance. Soon, she lost interest and courage to continue training and decided to walk out. She may re-join once she has recovered.

Batch Number: 20



Name Date of Birth **Education** Locality Marital Status Number of Children Date of Joining Date of Permanent License Current Status

eventually got married and left training.

USHA 10/1/1978 10TH **BURARI SEPARATED** 27/01/2015 20/06/2015 **WALK OUT**

Usha is a single mother of 4 children. She lives with her mother. She was a journalist with the local newspaper but she was not regular and decided to leave. She was looking for a job when she enrolled through the mobilization team. Although she struggled to balance her parttime job and training to support her family, she was able to obtain a permanent licence. But when she was on the self-drive module she left the programme and joined a full-time job to support her family and her children's education.



Name Date of Birth **Education** Number of Children Date of Joining Date of Permanent License Current Status

NEETU PATEL 14/8/1994 **12TH** Locality **AZADPUR** Marital Status **MARRIED** 4 15/1/2015 20/8/2015 **WALK OUT**

When Neetu was young, she wanted to be a police officer, but her mother fll ill and she was forced to marry. She had to soon leave her husband's family because her family could not give them dowry. When she was at her parent's home, she was recommended to join Azad by her friend in Sakha. She joined because she wanted to earn and stand on her own feet so her husband's family will take her back. She also wanted to learn something unique. Azad has given her the opportunity to learn something new and become financially independent. But now her in-laws, who are forcing her to stop training, do not support her.

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Name
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Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License

Current Status

SHALU KUMARI 10/12/1996 10TH PASS BURARI MARRIED 2 19/2/2015 22/5/2015

WALK OUT

Shalu was taking care of household chores when she heard about Azad's training. Her paternal uncle supported her to join. She was very confident about driving and found the gender class interesting; she learnt about women rights and to raise her voice for justice. She has passed the Sakha test but currently is on leave as she is pregnant.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
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Current Status

18/6/1996 12TH PASS JAHANGIRPURI UNMARRIED 0 25/6/2015 21/10/2015 IN IOB

SONIA

Sonia was studying when she heard about Azad through the mobilization team. Her family did not support her since they wanted her to look after the family shop. Due to resistance in the house, she was irregular in training and whenever she came, she would leave immediately after to go work in her family shop. During training, she learnt about legal rights, gender and first-aid, which helped her gain confidence. Sonia was able to obtain her permanent licence on her first attempt, finish her training and pass the Sakha test. She even got a job with the women's helpline and is trying to manage her work while still facing pressure to work in the family shop.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
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Date of Permanent License
Current Status

NEETU GIRI 25/7/1979 11TH SHASTRI PARK MARRIED 4 18/3/2015 1/9/2015 WALK OUT

Neetu was staying with her husband, when she heard about Azad from her friend. She decided to join without her husband's consent because he is abusive and would not let her join. He has attempted to kill Neetu and her 3 daughters (from her previous marriage). She was regular in her training and received her permanent licence. Her husband continued to trouble her and Azad helped her out in that situation. But soon, she was forced to stop training because she was not able to separate from her husband who tried to kill her daughters. She had to stay with them full time to ensure their safety.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

REKHAVATI 15/7/1978 10TH BHAGAT SINGH PARK MARRIED 2 20/4/2015 9/11/2015 WALK OUT

Rekhavati was working in a hospital when her friend working for the women's helpline suggested her to join Azad. Her family supported her to join. She has always wanted to learn driving and wanted it as a permanent job. She has successfully obtained a permanent licence but could not continue her training as she is the primary breadwinner of the family now while her divorce case is on.

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Name
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Date of Joining
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Current Status

BHARTI 29/1/1990 9TH BHALASWA MARRIED 2 29/4/2015 10/11/2015

WALK OUT

Bharti wanted to learn driving even before her marriage but did not find the opportunity. When she decided to join Azad, her mother-in-law was supportive but her dominating husband did not want her to step outside the house. She used to be shy and afraid because of her husband but the training in Azad has made her confident enough to speak to people and she is aware of the social issues surrounding her. Despite her progress, she is unable to come to training due to the resistance at home.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
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Current Status

SUNITA 16/3/1996 12TH JAHANGIRPURI UNMARRIED 0 18/6/2015 27/7/2016 IN IOB

Sunita was helping out with household chores when she heard about Azad from the mobilization team who were conducting surveys. Her mother encouraged her to join the programme. But her neighbor was mocking her, to which she retorted "show me your driving skills first, I will show you that girls can drive better than boys". She proved him wrong when she obtained her permanent licence, passed the Sakha test and got a job with the helpline. She also learnt about first aid which she applies in daily life and she has become more confident and feels empowered. Her family is very happy that their daughter is able to stand on her own feet. Sunita wants every girl to venture out of her house and become financially independent.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
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Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

POONAM 15/12/1983 8TH PASS MOTI BAGH MARRIED 2 20/6/2015 9/6/2015 (JOINED WITH PL) WALK OUT

Poona, a housewife, constantly has to fight her abusive husband. When she joined Azad she already had a permanent license. She was regular in her training and passed the Sakha test. She waited to get a job but her family's financial condition was very weak and therefore had to take up another job right after training.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
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Number of Children
Date of Joining
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Current Status

NOORJAHAN 24/6/1997 12TH PASS JAHANGIRPURI UNMARRIED 0 1/7/2015 4/11/2015 WAITING FOR JOB

Noorjahan was studying in grade 12 when she decided to join Azad. She started getting really interested in driving during her MDS training and decided to make driving her profession. She learnt self-defense, first aid and various other things from her training and she was also able to improve her English. She has completed training and passed the Sakha test, and is now ready for a job.





Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
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Current Status

RAKHI
12/4/1993
10TH
JAHANGIRPURI
UNMARRIED
0
26/6/2015
7/1/2016
WAITING FOR JOB

Rakhi has taken training as a beautician and also done a computer course, but she decided to join Azad. Her family was initially not happy with her decision but soon she gained their support. The training by Azad has made her aware of the outside world, the different perceptions that have helped shape her moral stance of what is good and bad. She has also been able to use her self-defense skills to protect herself from a man. Now, she is helping other women and encouraging them to join Azad. Her dream is to stand on her own feet.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
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Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

AKANSHA
5/5/1995
12TH PASS
KAILASH COLONY
UNMARRIED
0
24/6/2015
20/10/2015
IN IOB

Akansha was studying in her second year of B.Com when she heard about Azad through a street play. She has wanted to learn driving and Azad has given her the opportunity to do so. She was regular in her training and was able to get a job within 6 months. Akansha liked self-defence the most because it helped her feel secure. She is also capable of fighting for her rights now. The training has made her more active and confident which has helped her perform in her work with the helpline. She is famous within her society and her family is very proud that she can financially support them.



Name
Date of Birth
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Current Status

SUNITA
28/8/1995
10TH PASS
JAHANGIRPURI
UNMARRIED
0
18/6/2015
21/1/2016
WAITING FOR JOB

Sunita was learning stitching when she heard about Azad from the mobilization team. She joined Azad because she wanted to make her own unique identity and her family was supportive in this. Sunita enjoyed the self-defence class the most because it taught her to protect herself. She used to be afraid of people, but is now capable of going outside alone at night. She has successfully received her permanent licence and she aspires to be a commercial driver.



Name
Date of Birth
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Current Status

ROSHANI 31/8/1996 9TH PASS AZADPUR UNMARRIED 0 4/8/2015 5/1/2016

WALK OUT

Roshani was not able to continue her study due to her family's financial crisis. Her brother and father are both auto drivers. Her mother's and brother's illness caused a lot of financial stress in the family due to the medical treatments. She decided to work and came across Azad. Her mother was supportive and accompanied Roshani to training because she was afraid to travel alone. She obtained a permanent licence and was doing well in her training but suddenly decided to take a break before starting her job. She may resume her training in the future.





Name
Date of Birth
Education
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Current Status

INDU 15/12/1979 10TH PASS JAHANGIRPURI MARRIED 2 3/8/2015

3/8/2015 26/2/2016 UNDER TRAINING

Indu, a housewife, heard about Azad through the mobilization team. Her sister supported her first and soon enough her husband was supportive also. But her husband was not able to financially stabilize his family so Indu had to work as a housemaid to help out. She had dreamt of being a driver since her childhood when she used to wait for her bus. She has successfully received her permanent licence and is currently on the self-drive module. Indu is very confident about driving and hopes to provide the best education for her children.



Name
Date of Birth
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Date of Permanent License
Current Status

12/3/1987 9TH PASS JAHANGIRPURI UNMARRIED 0 24/8/2015 26/2/2016

UNDER TRAINING

MADHU

Madhu could not complete her studies because of her family's financial problems. Her sister is the sole breadwinner of the family. Madhu used to work in a factory without her family's knowledge because they did not allow her to work in low profile jobs. Her father heard about Azad and asked her to join. Madhu says "If I would not have come to Azad, I would have lost so much learning opportunities that Azad has given me". Azad has given her a way to carve her own identity as a woman driver. She wants to be a professional driver and support her family.

Batch Number: 26



Name
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Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

LAXMI
7/4/1997
12TH PASS
JAHANGIRPURI
UNMARRIED
0
14/8/2015
1/2/2016
UNDER TRAINING

Laxmi used to study and take care of household chores. She heard about Azad through the mobilization team's survey. Her family was supportive except her brother. Her neighbours also provoked her parents to not send her outside of their house. But her parents trusted her and Azad. She liked the Red Cross training because she wanted to become a doctor but could not continue her study. She tries to help people through her first aid knowledge. She has obtained her permanent licence and she wants to work as a driver to save money to study and pursue her dream of becoming a doctor.



Name
Date of Birth
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Current Status

NEHA 2/12/1994 12TH PASS JAHANGIRPURI UNMARRIED 0 14/8/2015 21/1/2016 WAITING FOR JOB

Neha completed her 12th grade and joined Azad. Her family was supportive but her father had his doubts "she has never come out of home and does not even know the routes, how will she be able to drive". The training has made Neha confident and she is now able to travel alone and her father's doubts have been cleared. She is no longer shy to speak to people and even took part in a dance programme for the One Billon Rising campaign. She wants to work and stand on her own feet.





Name
Date of Birth
Education
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Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

REKHA 10/3/1985 8TH PASS JAHANGIRPURI MARRIED 0 30/7/2015 18/2/2016

UNDER TRAINING

Rekha was working in a factory when she heard about Azad. Her husband was not initially supportive, but after Rekha explained the training available additionally to driving, he got convinced. Her sister was very happy about her decision. Rekha took some time to receive her learning licence, after which she obtained her permanent licence. She made a lot of friends during training.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
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Current Status

KAJOL 3/8/1995 12TH PASS SANTNAGAR, BURARI UNMARRIED 0 20/9/2015 2/12/2015 UNDER TRAINING

Kajol was studying in the 11th grade when her aunt was working for Sakha. After completing 12th grade, she informed her parents about her decision to join Azad. Her family was angry with her decision so she enrolled without her parents' consent. But after she showed them her permanent licence, her parents were convinced and happy. They even told her to continue her training. She wants to support her family financially.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
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Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

MUSARAT BANO 28/9/1979 10TH PASS HAULAMBI KALAN MARRIED 0 31/8/2015 24/2/2016 UNDER TRAINING

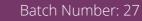
Musarat was looking for a job when she heard about Azad from the mobilization team. Her brother supported her to join the programme. Musarat had a learners licence before joining Azad and was able to obtain a permanent one. She was regular in training and very confident about driving. Her family is financially weak and she would like to support her family by being a driver.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
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Current Status

BHAWNA 5/1/1992 3RD YEAR JAHANGIRPURI MARRIED 0 28/9/2015 28/1/2016 UNDER TRAINING

Bhawna was informed of Azad by her maternal aunt. She was excited about the 14 trainings and wanted to learn. She was initially shy and did not move out of the house often. Training has made her aware of women's rights. She had a fear of driving, but is getting more confident after training. Her father has also helped her out, as he is a driver. She has practiced with dedication to improve her driving and is ready to pass the Sakha test.

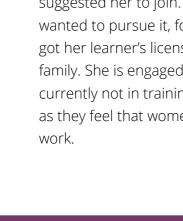




Name Date of Birth Education Locality Marital Status Number of Children Date of Joining Date of Permanent License Current Status

VANDANA 3/2/1993 12TH PASS **JAHANGIRPURI** UNMARRIED 28/9/2015 29/3/2016 **WALK OUT**

Vandana completed her schooling and was helping her mother with household chores. Her friend who is also enrolled with Azad suggested her to join. She says that driving was her dream and she wanted to pursue it, for which her family was very supportive. She got her learner's license and then took leave for a month to help her family. She is engaged currently and will get married soon. She is currently not in training as she claims that her in laws will not allow it as they feel that women should not venture outside the house for any





Name Date of Birth Education Locality Marital Status Number of Children Date of Joining Date of Permanent License Current Status

NAMITA 10/3/1992 **3RD YEAR JAHANGIRPURI** UNMARRIED 28/9/2015 29/3/2016 **UNDER TRAINING**

Namita was studying in her 2nd year of B.A when her friend, who works for Sakha, recommended that she join Azad. She is continuing her graduation while training, which is causing her to be irregular. Due to this, she is progressing slowly through her modules. She used to be timid, but training has made her confident and she is able to raise her voice against injustice and gender discrimination. She is currently on leave for her graduation exam and will resume her training after her exams get over.



Name Date of Birth **Education** Locality Marital Status Number of Children Date of Joining Date of Permanent License **Current Status**

15/8/1996 12TH PASS HAULAMBI KALAN **UNMARRIED** 0 1/10/2015 13/1/2016 **UNDER TRAINING**

KAVITA

Kavita wanted to continue her education after 12th grade but her family's financial condition did not permit it. She heard about the Women On Wheels programme from the mobilization team. She enjoyed English, Gender and driving classes the most. Initially her family was supportive but due to societal pressure, they were doubting the type of job she would be doing and the work hours she would have. Fortunately, with the help of the mobilization team, she was able to convince her parents again. The training has transformed Kavita from a shy individual into a confident and courageous person. She is currently ready to take the Sakha test.

Batch Number: 28



Name Date of Birth Education Locality Marital Status Number of Children Date of Joining Date of Permanent License **Current Status**

KAVITA 11/1/1995 10TH PASS **JAHANGIRPURI MARRIED** 27/7/2015 19/3/2016 **WALK OUT**

Kavita, a housewife, joined Azad through the mobilization team. Initially, her family was supportive but gradually they stopped supporting because they wanted her to take care of her child. During her training she learnt many things and successfully obtained her permanent licence. She is currently on leave due to her child's illness and will resume her training once her child is fine.

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Name
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Current Status

JYOTI 1/4/1996 12TH PASS MUKUNDPUR SEPARATED 0 12/10/2015 13/1/2016

UNDER TRAINING

Jyoti's life has seen many ups and downs. Her in-laws were abusive towards her and even tried to burn her when her parents were unable to give dowry. This caused her health to deteriorate and she was in a critical condition. Her parents helped her get healthy again after much treatment. They were very supportive of her and wanted her to learn about her rights and fight for them. Her father wanted her to be independent and asked her to join Azad's training programme. Jyoti has successfully obtained her permanent licence and is on the self-drive module.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

18/11/1994 12TH PASS JAHANGIRPURI UNMARRIED 0 18/11/2015 28/1/2016

WAITING FOR JOB

YOGITA

Yogita could not continue her education after 12th grade due to family economic problems. After her father's death, their financial condition worsened. She was staying at home when she heard about Azad. She never really liked the driving profession but to support her family financially, she had no other option. But after joining, she started enjoying training. And when she saw other women of her age driving cars, she was motivated to choose driving as a profession. She liked the classes about gender as it taught her about women's rights. Yogita has obtained her permanent licence and successfully passed the Sakha test. She is very happy as "the day is very near when she will be able to support her family".

Batch Number: 29



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

3/3/1981 GRADUATE NEHRU VIHAR UNMARRIED 0 4/12/2015 30/11/2004 (JOINED WITH PL) WALK OUT

KAVITA ANAND

Kavita joined Azad at a friend's suggestion. Her family supported her decision. She already had her permanent license before joining and would come for training on her bike. She excelled in her training and after passing Sakha test, has also got her commercial license. She is currently not working with Sakha, but works outside as a driver.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

ROOPA 9/1/1982 12TH PASS AZADPUR MARRIED 3 23/11/2014 18/2/2016 UNDER TRAINING

Roopa joined Azad because she wanted to do something unique and earn some money from a secure job. Although she has many skills such as embroidery, stitching ..etc, she was constrained within her home doing daily chores. She enrolled without her husband's consent because her husband thinks that "women who go out of home become characterless". When he found out about her enrolment he physically assaulted her. But she never lost her confidence and her strong zeal made her continue her training. She wants to be a successful driver.





Name
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Current Status

SUMAN 10/4/1984 8TH PASS AZADPUR MARRIED 0 23/11/2015

19/3/2016 UNDER TRAINING

Suman wanted to be a doctor but could not continue her study due to her family's financial problem. She got married at a young age and her in-laws tortured her for dowry. However, when Suman found out about Azad through the mobilization team, her husband was supportive of her enrolment. Suman says that the training hastaught her to fight for her rights. She is currently on the self-drive module and she is very confident about the Sakha test. Her association with Azad makes her happy.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
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Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

KOMAL 10/7/1993 9TH PASS WAZIRPUR UNMARRIED 0 16/12/2015 29/3/2016 WAITING FOR JOB

Komal studied until 10th grade but could not continue her education due to her health. She started helping her mother in household chores and teaching small kids but she was never allowed to leave her home. At 17, her parents were forcing her to get married, but she resisted because she wanted to be financially independent. The mobilization team in her area convinced her family to let her join Azad. Training has made her more confident, empowered and aware of women's rights. She passed the Sakha test and is ready to start working.

Batch Number: 30



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

ANJALI DEVI
1/1/1989
10TH PASS
BHALASWA
MARRIED
1
18/12/2015
28/3/2016
UNDER TRAINING

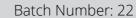
Anjali, a housewife, joined Azad after being motivated by a street play. From the play she learnt that "women are not weak and are not meant for household chores only. They should not be constrained within four walls of the house. Why are we still following that stereotype"? Although she was able to convince her husband about her enrollment, the opinion of the society still bothered him. From training she has learnt to raise her voice against injustice and help other women. She has successfully obtained her permanent licence. Her strong determination towards training has made her parents proud and they have realized that their daughter is very happy now. Anjali wants to stand on her own feet and be a successful driver.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
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Current Status

SUSHILA 5/6/1990 12TH PASS AZAMGARH SEPARATED 2 29/12/2015 31/3/2016 UNDER TRAINING

Sushila's father had left her family so her mother worked in a company to take care of her daughters. Sushila's husband also left her because both their children were physically challenged. She started working multiple jobs including being a housemaid, working in a company and at the gas filling station. She joined Azad after her mother and the Azad mobilization team motivated her. Sushila was very happy when she drove a car for the first time in training. She wants a permanent job so she will be able to support her family.





Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
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Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

ANJALI 2/11/1996 BCA JAHANGIRPURI UNMARRIED 0 21/12/2015 3/3/2016

UNDER TRAINING

Anjali was studying when she heard about Azad from the mobilization team. Her family was supportive of her decision and she joined training. She has obtained a permanent license, but due to some medical issues, Anjali had to undergo surgery. After her recovery, she resumed her training with Azad.

Batch Number: 31



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

TAMANNA
6/3/1979
10TH PASS
PITAMPURA
SEPARATED
2
1/2/2016
4/9/2015 (JOINED WITH PL)
UNDER TRAINING

Tamanna lives with her two sons. Physically assaulted by her in-laws for not being able to get a car in dowry, she left their house. She read about Azad in the newspaper and joined through the mobilization team. She wanted to keep herself occupied so that she could get over her violent past. Tamanna has always wanted to try something new but she has had to face a lot of resistance from her family and society. Azad has given her the opportunity to have freedom and become independent. She fully trusts Azad to make her a professional chauffeur and is continuing her training enthusiastically.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
Locality
Marital Status
Number of Children
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SEEMA GUPTA 15/2/1991 1ST YEAR AZADPUR SEPARATED 1 3/2/2015 10/7/2015 IN JOB

Seema, age 25 years, joined the Azad Foundation training in February, 2015 and completed training in October 2015. She has passed 12th standard in school. She worked for a brief while as placement driver through Sakha and will be joining as a driver in the DCW initiative. Seema came to Azad Foundation first with the idea of doing some odd jobs at the office. There, the staff and other trainees inspired her to join the training and become a driver. Seema realized that this could be her path to a better life, an independent life. Her parents did not like the idea of her becoming a driver, but she was determined. Her training course included driving training and several modules on self- defense, first aid, gender and legal rights, sexual and reproductive health and communications.

Seema is now well on the path to realizing her dreams. Being a survivor of violence and a single mother of a child of 4 years, challenges abound. It is not like she does not feel scared at moments to rebel but she has seen now that that if she does, misbehaviour does stop. She realizes now that if she does not think of herself as weak, she can lead a better life. She dreams of giving a life different from her own to her child. She wants her child to grow up with confidence and Azadi! She also wants to show the world that it is possible to live a life of dignity and happiness despite being a single mother. Even while driving on the road, there are challenges such as people staring at her just because she is a woman driver. But this does not discourage her. Rather, this strengthens her determination and she encourages others to join driving. Only when there are many drivers on the road, can there be a change of attitude.

Brief Background of Seema

Seema is a survivor of violence. She faced repeated sexual abuse from the age of 8 years. She was also subjected to a brutal rape at

the age of 14 and had to be hospitalized for some time. Although she wanted to study further, her family was not supportive and forced her into marriage with a drug addict, apprehensive that no one else would want to marry a raped girl. Seema faced continuous domestic violence at her in law's place to the point of being nearly murdered. Her parental family did not support her or want to take her in. In the face of life threat and having the responsibility of a small child, Seema took some very courageous steps:

She left her in law's place and stayed with her 9 month old child in the Mahila Dakshita Samiti for 3-4 months.

When her mother fell ill, she shifted to her parent's house and supported her mother and child by teaching in a private school and by stitching for a living.

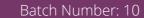
She lodged a case of domestic violence at the court and in 2014, the court gave her permission to stay in her in-laws' house and also ordered her husband to pay her Rs. 3500 per month. When she returned, her husband again tried to kill her. She had already anticipated that such an event might happen and had alerted the police. During the violence, she was able to contact the police and with their help lodged a complaint and had her husband jailed for 10 days.

Despite the fact that she had no knowledge of legal systems, she visits the court regularly and has become confident to fight the case for justice and for the future security of her child.

She is a single mother now, working towards giving her child a new future. Although her husband, begs her to return, she knows this is only to avoid police and court cases, and has decided to live alone and bring up her child on her own.

She joined Azad Foundation and is now part of a non-traditional livelihood. When people pass comments about lady drivers, her determination only grows stronger. *She wants to encourage more women to join driving, protest against violence and lead a life of dignity.*







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SEEMA BALI 4/7/1996 10TH PASS JHALANA UNMARRIED 0 8/10/2014 9/4/2015 IN JOB

Seema's father is a labourer and mother a homemaker. She has completed her education up till class 12 and wanted to now help her family financially. She got to know about Azad and her interest in driving led her to take training here. She wants to become a driver and her family is supporting her with her decision. Apart from driving, she likes gender and communication modules the most. The training has helped her boost her confidence and now she is not afraid to go out on her own anymore. She is currently working as a chauffeur with Sakha.



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POONAM JAGA 11/6/1991 10TH PASS JAWAHAR NAGAR UNMARRIED 0 4/2/2015 4/6/2015

UNDER TRAINING

Poonam heard about Azad through the Anganwadi team in her area. When she expressed her desire to join, only her mother supported her. Her brother and father are both truck drivers and they were against her becoming a driver because they believed it was not a respectable job for women and no one would marry Poonam if she chose this. However, with her mother's support she is being able to continue her training.

Batch Number: 10



Name
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Date of Permanent License
Current Status

BEENA VARMA 27/9/1981 8TH PASS VIDHADHAR NAGAR SEPERATED 0 7/11/2014 14/5/2015 IN JOB

Beena had an unhappy married life due to her abusive husband. When it got too much for her, she left him and started working on her own. She worked as a sales girl for some time, but soon left the job as the timings did not suit her. She heard about Azad and visited the office with her father, who was initially very resistant to her joining. She somehow convinced him. While training, her first hurdle was to clear the learner's license test, but she was unable to do so. This made her very upset, but she got by with the support of the Azad team. When she was finally able to clear the test, she did not look back. The zeal and confidence to finish her training also got her through her permanent license. Today her father is very proud of what she is doing.



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The MLATA VARMA
6/12/1993
8TH PASS
VIDHADHAR NAGAR
SEPARATED
0
7/11/2014
14/5/2015
WALK OUT

Hemlata's father works in Kuwait and comes back only every 5 years while her mother takes care of the household. She wanted to join Azad as she had seen women wearing a green uniform and going for work. Her mother initially resisted but after much convincing, let her join training. Once she joined, the idea of completing training and getting a job gave her strength and confidence. Initially she would come with her friend for training as she had assured her mother of her company, but later with the support of the Azad training and mobilization team, she was able to convince her mother and come to the centre on her own. She was doing very well but due to some family circumstances discontinued her training temporarily.

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Batch Number: 12 Batch Number: 13



Name Date of Birth Education Locality Marital Status Number of Children Date of Joining Date of Permanent License Current Status

KAMALA DEVI 20/6/1984 10TH PASS **JHALANA MARRIED** 4/2/2015 8/7/2015

ON EXTENDED LEAVE

Kamala joined Azad with a lot of excitement. She felt a little hesitant when she found that a lot of women in the training centre were much younger than her. Her age and education became points of doubt for her, but the Azad team assured her that she could do it. While undergoing training for learner's license, she realized that the road has its own language. She learnt the signage and tried to read them everywhere on the road. She realized that there are no limits to learning. This gave her confidence. She has competed her training but has taken an extended leave due to family issues. She will be coming back to join in a job with Sakha.



Name Date of Birth Education Locality Marital Status Number of Children Date of Joining Date of Permanent License **Current Status**

SURPA 14/12/88 12TH **VIDHADHAR NAGAR MARRIED** 3 27/2/2015 17/6/2015 WAITING FOR JOB

Surpa worked as a sales girl prior to joining Azad. Surpa's mother in law urged her to join Azad for training. She even accompanied her to office to get her admission done. In the beginning of her training, her mother in law took care of the children and she was able to continue her training smoothly. As time went by, the mother in law withdrew her support and Surpa's husband also stopped supporting her. Slowly her entire family stopped any conversation with her. But her will power was strong and she continued her training despite all odds. She also took care of her children. Her strength to face her family has increased and she wants to work as a driver. She hopes that once she starts earning, the family situation will improve but even if this is not the case, she is determined to continue in her profession.

Batch Number: 12



Name Date of Birth Education Locality Marital Status Number of Children Date of Joining Date of Permanent License Current Status **RUBI SEKH** 17/2/194 **8TH PASS** VIDHADHAR NAGAR UNMARRIED 27/2/2015 8/6/2015 WAITING FOR JOB

Rubi stays in a government home for people with leprosy. Her father drives a rented auto and her family is financially very unstable. She decided to join Azad in order to help her family financially and eventually help her father buy his own auto. Her brother refused to let her take training as he felt that the 'road is not safe for girls' and no one would marry her if they knew she was a driver. Her mother was the only one who supported her. She has completed her training and is waiting to get employed.



Name Date of Birth **Education** Locality Marital Status Number of Children Date of Joining Date of Permanent License Current Status

DEVI 4/5/1994 10TH PASS VIDHADHAR NAGAR **UNMARRIED** 0 27/2/2015 6/7/2015 IN JOB

Devi is an avid learner and always interested in knowing new things. She says that before joining the training programme at Azad, she was afraid to go out or help anyone on the street, but now this is not so. The knowledge of map reading which she has gained from the programme has helped her memorize lanes and routes. She is now driving on those very streets she was afraid to walk on earlier and this gives her immense happiness.

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NISHA 5/7/1994 B.A. 2ND YEAR JHALANA DUNGRI UNMARRIED 0 29/5/2015 10/8/2015

UNDER TRAINING

Nisha came to know about Azad through the mobilization team which was conducting a survey in her area. She joined and gradually started feeling a change in herself and her self-confidence increased. She says that the self-defense training has enabled her to go out alone without being afraid. She had to postpone her training for a while due to personal reasons, but has now rejoined with a renewed zest to work hard and complete the programme. She has also convinced other women to join Azad and learn to stand on their own feet.



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DEVAKI VARMA 18/1/1991 10TH PASS JAGATPURA MARRIED 2 29/5/2015 10/8/2015 WALK OUT

Devaki was working as a labourer to support her family. Her husband, a labourer himself, fell ill often and it was difficult for Devaki to manage her paid work together with household work. She was in search of another job when her husband told her about Azad. She decided to join as she could see a better future and the possibility of learning new skills. Initially she was afraid to drive, but when she took the steering wheel in her hand for the first time, she felt very happy and motivated. Her children could not believe it the first time they heard that their mother could drive! Recently, nearly at the time of completion of the course, her son fell ill and she had to take a break to take care of him. She will rejoin when her child recovers.



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ANJALI BARESA 9/8/1996 10TH PASS JHALANA DOONGRI UNMARRIED 0 29/5/2015 10/8/2015 WALK OUT

Anjali was encouraged by her family to pursue training at Azad. One of the reasons for her to join the programme was that she wanted to financially support her family. The other reason was that she wanted to pursue something unique and carve out her own identity. She says she enjoyed all the driving modules, first-aid and English the most. Unfortunately due to some personal issues, Anjali has walked out with a promise to come back as soon as possible.



Name
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me REKHA PAREEK
irth 15/7/1994
ion 12TH PASS
dity SANGANER BAZAR
tus UNMARRIED
o
ing 24/6/2015
nse 3/9/2015
tus WALK OUT

Before joining Azad, Rekha was a folk dancer and would earn intermittently through it. She came to Azad with the dream of learning to drive. While in training, she continued working as a dancer to make ends meet. After getting her permanent license, she was taking training but was being unable to give it much time. She started focussing more on her career as a dancer and was also performing more regularly, which led to this being her major source of income. She left her training in the middle to pursue her career in dance.

Batch Number: 16



Name
Date of Birth
Education
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Date of Joining
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SUGNA KHATEEK 11/9/1996 7TH PASS JHALANA DUNGRI SEPARATED 0 24/6/2015 21/9/2015 IN JOB

Sugna was just a child when her father passed away and her mother assumed responsibility of the house. She was married at the age of 16, forcing her to leave her education. Her marriage was an unhappy one where she was abused by the in-laws and she returned home in 15 days. Family and societal pressure forced her to return to her in-laws', but nothing changed. She finally left and started working in an export company. There she heard about Azad from some friends and decided to join. Her hard work and determination has stood her well and now she is a successful driver.



Name
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Current Status

ANOKHI SOYAL 10/5/1988 B.A. 1ST YEAR KATHPUTLI NAGAR UNMARRIED 0 24/6/2015

24/6/2015 3/9/2015 WALK OUT

Anokhi was in the middle of her graduation and looking for a job when she came across Azad. She liked the programme as it offered her a dignified livelihood which would get her respect and remuneration. She was excited with the prospect of driving a car on the roads she walked and this motivated her to do her training. She says that the day she got her permanent license was more precious to her than any school result till date. Prior to learning driving, she seldom went out to see Jaipur, but after joining Azad she was able to see many new places. Due to some difficult circumstances at home, Anokhi has walked out. However, she cherishes a dream of coming back, becoming a driver, and taking her mother out in the car.

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Name
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SUMAN KUMARI 1/7/1989 8TH PASS GAUTAM NAGAR UNMARRIED 0 24/6/2015 3/9/2015

WALK OUT

Suman was not allowed to study after class 8 and there were restrictions on her movements. She started learning dance and went for some occassinal stage shows without telling her family. She heard about Azad from the Anganwadi team in her area.. She was inspired and joined the programme along with her friend. The various trainings gave her confidence to move forward though she missed some of the classes because of her dance shows. The dance shows gave her the money that was necessary for her survival because she had minimum support from her family. Unfortunately, despite her enthusiasm, Suman was forced to walk out in the middle of her training because she was not being able to make ends meet.



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SHILPA
13/9/1984
8TH PASS
MANSAROVAR, SANGANER
SEPARATED
1
24/6/2015
3/9/2015
UNDER TRAINING

Shilpa was brought up by her mother as her father passed away soon after she was born. Her mother decided to work and be independent which enabled Shilpa to learn a lot from her. But owing to the huge societal pressure faced by her mother, Shilpa was married off at the age of 16. Her in-laws were abusive and she had to face violence. Her husband left her and she returned to her mother's house with a four month old child. She soon started work in a company where she learned about Azad and the Women on Wheels programme. She thought of joining as it would give her a respectable job and financial strength. Training was not easy for her as she had to arrange for her travel expenses which also led to some irregularity in attendance. However, her persistence and dedication has kept her in training.





Name
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ANITA KUNWER 21/5/1982 7TH PASS ADARSH NAGAR MARRIED 1

24/6/2015 25/8/2015 UNDER TRAINING

Anita's father is an alcoholic and mother is the primary breadwinner of the family. Due to financial constraints, she had to quit her education after class 8th and start working along with her other siblings. At the age of 22 she got married and quit her job. She heard about Azad through a friend and decided to join. Her husband is also a driver, but it was her mother who supported her the most. She wanted to be self-sufficient and independent. She wants to complete training and soon work as a professional chauffeur.



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NAGMA PARVEEN 4/8/1997 10TH PASS JHALANA DUNGRI UNMARRIED 0 14/7/2015

14/7/2015 9/10/2015 UNDER TRAINING

Nagma is the only one in her family who has passed her 10th class exams and she is proud of her accomplishment. She aspired to be a professional dancer, but the untimely death of her father and the following financial problems forced her to give up on her dream. Her friend suggested that she join Azad and she found another avenue that interested her. The training has strengthened her confidence and she says that if a girl can take care of her whole family, she can also drive a car. Given a chance, women will prove they can do anything. Nagma wants to earn and support her mother.

Batch Number: 17



Name
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Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

MINAKSHI PAREVA 11/5/1995 10TH PASS JHALANA DUNGRI MARRIED 0 24/6/2015 3/9/2015 ON JOB

Minakshi got married at the age of 16, but her parents did not send her to her in laws' house as they wanted her to stand on her feet and become financially independent. Despite the fact that her parents were ill and her brother was the sole earning member, she received education upto a certain point. Later the financial pressure became too much and she quit It was at this time that she heard about Azad Foundation. She had always wanted to do something unique and Azad offered her the exact opportunity. Her mother supported her decision to join. She wants to show people that women are as capable as men and can work just like they can. Her dreams have come true and she has now become a professional chauffeur.



Name
Date of Birth
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NEETU KUMARI 25/10/1995 8TH PASS JHALANA DUNGRI UNMARRIED 0 14/7/2015 9/10/2015 UNDER TRAINING

Neetu's brother works as a labourer and father is a fruit vendor. While she was pursuing her class 10th, she found out about Azad through her friend. She thought it will be good for her to learn the skill and also continue studying on the side. Her father also wanted her to continue her education and she did. After joining the training, she could feel certain changes in herself and it helped her overcome her fear of going out and meeting different people. She is continuing in training and enjoying it thoroughly.



Name
Date of Birth
Education
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Date of Joining
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SUNITA MAHAVER 10/4/1996 10TH PASS JHALANA DUNGRI UNMARRIED 0

14/7/2015 9/10/2015 WALK OUT

Sunita had to take on the responsibility of looking after her brother after her mother passed away. She was only 12 years of age then. She wanted to study, but could not do so after a certain point due to economic constraints. She found out about Azad through the Anganwadi and decided to join. Her father did not support her as he felt that driving is not meant for women. She somehow convinced him to let her join. While training with Azad, she made a lot of good friends. She recalls that while she was going for her learner's license test, she was very afraid and thought she would fail. When she cleared it, she felt like she had achieved something important. She is much more confident now and various trainings have given her the confidence to travel alone and even get her work done from various government offices. Unfortunately, despite good progress, Sunita has been forced to walk out due to some urgent family circumstance.



Name
Date of Birth
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SHAMA PARVEEN 1/2/1987 9TH PASS JHALANA DUNGRI SEPARATED 0 14/7/2015 9/10/2015 WALK OUT

Shama looks up to her mother as her inspiration. According to her, her mother is a wise woman who does not get confused by societal opinions and trusts her children. In her own married life, Shama has had to struggle a lot to keep her in-laws happy. She took care of all the household chores and also managed to do paid work. Despite all of this, her husband left her and she came back to live with her mother. When her friend suggested she should join Azad, her mother supported her in the decision. She was practising well but had to discontinue her training.



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Name
Date of Birth
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Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

PINKI VARMA 10/7/1993 11TH PASS LOVEKHUSH NAGAR UNMARRIED 0 23/9/2015 28/1/2016

UNDER TRAINING

Pinki and her family have had to face a lot of discrimination especially on the basis of caste. This has been one of the causes why they could never by a house of their own and had to always live in rented apartments. Neighbours belonging to upper castes also create obstacles in terms of her mobility and against driving training. But her family supported her decision despite all odds and this is why she was able to come for the training programme. She tries to apply what she learns in the training programme and change the attitudes of her upper caste neighbours. After becoming a driver she wants to support her family financially and hopes that one day, she would be able to build a house of their own.



Name
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Current Status

7/9/1996 7TH PASS JHALANA DUNGRI UNMARRIED 0 23/9/2015 7/1/2016

UNDER TRAINING

BABITA NENIWAL

Babita's father is an alcoholic and also abusive. Due to financial difficulty, she was forced to leave school after class 7. Her mother works in a vegetable market and her income helps them get by. Her father did not let her go out of the house, but with her mother's support she learnt stitching and did a beautician course. When she learnt about Azad, her mother encouraged her to join and they slowly convinced her father as well. She has learnt about various things including gender, English, first-aid, which has helped her understand what goes on around her. These modules gave her knowledge, strength and confidence which have also led her to encourage other women to join the training programme. She wants to financially support her family and be a professional chauffeur.





Name
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POONAM MAHAWAR 31/07/1996 10TH PASS JAWAHAR NAGAR UNMARRIED 0 23/9/2015 7/1/2016 UNDER TRAINING

Poonam is a very smart and intelligent woman who has been part of various sports and other competitions. She was keen on pursuing higher studies, but her family's financial condition forced her to leave her dream unfulfilled. She found out about Azad Foundation through a friend and decided to join. She realized that it would give her a dignified job as a driver. She was supported by her family in her decision. She has received her permanent license and is in the process of completing her training.



Name
Date of Birth
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POOJA NENIWAL 12/9/1997 8TH PASS JHALANA DUNGRI UNMARRIED 0 23/9/2015 8/1/2016 UNDER TRAINING

Pooja has been looking after the household ever since she was 5 years old as her mother had to go out to work and earn. Her siblings were very young and because she had to take care of them as well, she could not be regular with her studies.. After many years, her brother joined work to help her mother with the finances. When Pooja got to know about Azad, she saw a way out of this cycle of poverty and domesticity and decided to join the programme. She has received her permanent license and wants to complete training and start work in order to support her family.



Name
Date of Birth
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MEENA SHAWARIYA 5/9/1987 7TH PASS JHALANA DUNGRI MARRIED 0 23/9/2015 18/1/2016 WALK OUT

Meena was married at the age of 17, but stayed back with her parents to learn housework before joining her husband at her in laws' place. Unfortunately, during this time her mother got injured in an accident, compelling Meena to take the full responsibility of carework and domestic work. After her mother's recovery, her 15 year old brother started supporting the family by working as a labourer. The economic condition of her family is very weak and when she heard about the Azad programe, Meena saw a ray of hope. Meena joined the training and was doing well. However, certain family circumstances forced her to walk out and discontinue her training.



Name
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Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

POOJA BADGURGAR
1/2/1995
12TH PASS
JAWAHAR NAGAR
UNMARRIED
0
23/9/2015
8/1/2016
WALK OUT

Pooja was just 3 years old when she met with an accident. Her medical expenses were huge and led to a huge financial problem in her family. All her family members had to work in order to stabilize the condition. Her mother was particularly supportive towards her and worked hard not only to meet her medical expenses but to give her a decent education. After passing her 12th, Pooja decided that she needs to do something to support her family and Azad gave her that opportunity. Pooja managed her education and household chores along with Azad's training. However, Pooja has discontinued her training temporarily due to family circumstances.

Batch Number: 18 Batch Number: 19



Name
Date of Birth
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Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

LALITA KHOLIYA 20/8/1997 9TH PASS AMBEDKAR NAGAR UNMARRIED 0 23/9/2015 19/1/2016 UNDER TRAINING

Lalita was excited to hear about the Women on Wheels programme of Azad and wanted to join training. She was supported by everyone in her family except her elder brother who did not let her go out of the house. She decided that she would learn and surprise him after she became a driver. She also visited the homes of other trainees who she met during her office visit to find out more about the programme. She is now in training and close to her dream of becoming a driver. Her family still does not believe that she can drive a car. She wants her mother to sit with her while she drives so she can show her that she can do it and also hopes this will encourage her to not discriminate between her and her brother.

Batch Number: 19



Name
Date of Birth
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Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

ASHA KHAN 15/4/1997 8TH PASS MALVIYA NAGAR UNMARRIED 0 28/9/2015 18/1/2016 UNDER TRAINING

Asha's father is a labourer and mother, a home maker. She had to withdraw from school due to her family's weak economic condition. Her parents and relatives urged her to get married, but she refused as she wanted to do something with her life and not toil away at her in-laws' house like she had seen other women do. She saw Azad as an opportunity to do something different and joined. She wants to break the stereotypes around women and prove to people that women are also capable of running a household. Through this training, she wants to prove that there is no job a woman cannot do, She believes that she can drive too and more efficiently than a man.



Name
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4/9/1995 12TH PASS MALVIYA NAGAR MARRIED 0 28/9/2015 18/1/2016 WALK OUT

SARITA BAIRWA

Sarita's father passed away when she was 14 years old and the news of his death caused her mother to pass away too. Now the responsibilities of home and family rested on her shoulders. She wanted to become a fashion designer but had to let go of her dreams due to poor economic condition. She wanted to join Azad, but the process took her almost a year as her in-laws did not agree to this. She left her in-laws' house in order to pursue her training. She says, "I know my father would have been proud seeing me earning and supporting the family." Hoever, despite her best efforts, she was forced to discontinue her training.



Name
Date of Birth
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Marital Status
Number of Children
Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

GUDDIA BANO
17/8/1992
10TH PASS
BHAWANI SINGH ROAD
UNMARRIED
0
28/9/2015
4/2/2016
UNDER TRAINING

Prior to starting her journey with Azad, Guddia did various things at different points in time. She taught children at home, worked as a cook to prepare food for hostel students and also as a regular domestic worker in people's homes. But none of these jobs paid her enough. She also did a computer course in the hope of finding better work, but societal pressures compelled her to withdraw from the course. She found out about Azad and decided to join the training as she could see better prospects in it. The presence of Azad in the community helped her deal with social pressure. Her enthusiasm to learn new skills has helped her do her training regularly. She wants to be a driver soon and support her family.





Name
Date of Birth
Education
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Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License
Current Status

PRATIKSHA PALIWAL 14/7/1994 12TH PASS SITARAM NAGAR UNMARRIED 0 28/9/2015 29/1/2016

UNDER TRAINING

Pratiksha has a supportive family that wanted her to study and stand on her own feet. After completing class 12, she wanted to pursue fashion designing and took admission in college. But this experience was not what she had hoped for and she had to suffer a lot due to the rampant caste discrimination. It was for the first time that she realized the kind of discrimination that lower castes had to face. As a result, she dropped out of college. She also went into depression at this time. When she and her family found out about Azad, they visited the office and met the staff and other trainees. She decided to join as she found the atmosphere lively and comfortable, where she could learn driving with other trainees without facing discrimination. She sees Azad as a stepping stone to get her close to her dream.



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Date of Permanent License
Current Status

KAVITA BAIRWA
4/6/1996
10TH PASS
SITARAM NAGAR
UNMARRIED
0
28/9/2015
4/2/2016
UNDER TRAINING

Difficult family conditions forced Kavita to leave her education and help out with the daily chores of the household. Her brother's untimely death left a deep impression on her mother who fell ill subsequently. Due to this, they could not pay back their debt and had a lot of financial instability. Meals were difficult to come by and she longed for a way out of this trap. She heard about Azad and wanted to join as she could see the opportunity to earn and get out of this situation to support her family financially. She is trying hard to be a driver and also encourages other women to come out of their homes and stand on their own feet.





Name
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Current Status

MAMTA VERMA
10/12/1995
9TH PASS
SITARAM NAGAR
UNMARRIED
0
28/9/2015
29/1/2016
UNDER TRAINING

Mamta was supported by her family to do what she desired. But the financial condition of the family was weak and this forced her to quit her studies and start working. Thereafter, her mother's sudden illness caused her to leave work to take care of the household but her father's salary was not enough survive. This led to a lot of frustration in her father and he became very aggressive. He forced her to follow what he said and did not let her go out of the house or choose the clothes she wore. Despite all this, Mamta came to Azad and joined the training course. She is struggling to continue her training, but she wants to become a driver and earn money as soon as possible. She knows that today's struggle will help her build a better tomorrow.. She also wants to prove to the society that "woman can do a job better than men."

Batch Number: 20



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Date of Joining
Date of Permanent License

Current Status

ROSHANI BAIRWA 15/1/1992 10TH PASS NATRAJ COLONY UNMARRIED 0 12/2/2015 15/2/2016

15/2/2016 UNDER TRAINING

Roshani has completed her graduation and is pursuing post-graduation through a distance education programme. Her father is a peon and provides for the family. She learnt yoga and tried to become a yoga trainer but somehow that project wasnot successful. Her dream to become a fashion designer also did not take off due to lack of necessary documents. She found out about Azad through a friend and decided to join. She likes the idea of being a professional cab driver. She is learning well and will complete her training soon. She wants to work, be independent and be able to contribute financially to the family.





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PRASANNA BANWARI 15/12/1991 B.A. PASS JAYOTI NAGAR MARRIED 0 12/2/2015 15/2/2016 UNDER TRAINING

Prasanna has faced many ups and downs in her life. Her father's illness caused a break in her education though she rejoined later to complete her graduation. However financial problems prevented her from enrolling for an MBA course. She found work with a company but could not continue for long. She heard about Azad's training programme and decided to join. She wants to be a professional driver and be able to support her family. She also wants to start studying (through distance education) with the money she will earn.



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SONA KHATEEK 16/9/1990 B.A. PASS JHALANA DUNGRI UNMARRIED 0 12/4/2015 15/2/2016

UNDER TRAINING

Sona's mother works in the vegetable market and her father is a labourer. They work very hard but are still stretched to make ends meet. Sona has always wanted to be independent and support her family financially. She has learnt kindness and generosity from her mother and her father has also never discriminated between her and her brothers. She has learnt that everyone has equal rights and should do whatever they wish. This has helped her inculcate a positive attitude towards training and work. She is happy to be in Azad as it is her way of getting a dignified livelihood.



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MAMTA DEVI 1/1/1981 5TH PASS JAYOTI NAGAR MARRIED 4 12/4/2015 15/2/2016 UNDER TRAINING

Mamta started working as a paid domestic worker after her husband suffered a paralytic attack. He was a driver and earned sufficiently, but now that situation had changed. She realized that the job as a domestic worker was not getting her enough money to take care of the house, children and medical expenses. She therefore opened a small tea shop to supplement the income. Her husband recovered and started working again and the situation eased to a certain extent. She was made aware of Azad through the mobilization team and decided to join and learn driving. She wants to be a successful driver and someday join her husband in his work.



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SEEMA BHEEL 10/12/1995 B.A. PASS JAYOTI NAGAR UNMARRIED 0 12/4/2015 26/2/2016 UNDER TRAINING

Seema wanted to join the army. Her parents, both labourers, did not agree with her choice and told her to become a teacher instead. Their financial condition being weak, they had to struggle a lot to put together resources for her education. Seema took care of the household along with her studies. She heard about the Azad training programme and saw it as a good opportunity. She joined training with the full support of her family and is doing well in training. She is to be married in a few months time and is also being supported by her future in-laws to continue training.





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HEMLATA VERMA 27/8/1996 8TH PASS JAYOTI NAGAR UNMARRIED 0 12/4/2015 2/3/2016 UNDER TRAINING

Hemlata wanted to study but her economic condition did not allow her to to move beyond class 8th. Her father fell sick and her brothers took up work to support the household. She too could have supported the family economically, but they did not let her go out and pushed her into doing housework. Her mother worked as a labourer, so Hemlata had to take care of the household work. When she met the mobilization team of Azad, they helped her to negotiate with her family, get out of the house and join training. She joined and is training to become a professional chauffeur.



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Current Status

UGANTI DEVI 8/7/1987 10TH PASS JHALANA DUNGRI MARRIED 2 21/12/2015 27/2/2016

UNDER TRAINING

Uganti was just 15 years old when she got married. Her husband, a labourer, was the sole breadwinner of the house. She took care of the housework and rarely stepped out. A neighbour suggested that she join Azad and her husband also gave her encouragement. Uganti joined the Azad programme and is gradually learning to overcome her shyness and fear. She is very excited also about her English class which is part of her training and hopes one day to be able to talk to everyone in English. Her driving training too is going on well. Shewants to become a successful driver and contribute to the family income.



Name
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SHARDA DEVI 1/7/1974 B.A. FINAL YEAR JHALANA DUNGRI WIDOW 2 21/12/2015 1/3/2016 UNDER TRAINING

Sharda was married at an early age, but her husband urged her to continue studying and she was able to complete class 12. He fell ill when their children were young and passed away, after which Sharda had to provide for the family. She did not work at that time and had no particular skill, so she opened a small general store. After some time, she heard about Azad and decided to join. Azad helped her overcome her stress and fear and she is now able to come out of her house to take training. She is learning to drive and the happiness this has given her has brought new hope in her life so much so that she has started studying again. She is pursuing her BA final year along with the training and looks forward to taking up a job as a driver.



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MAMTA DHANKA 15/2/1997 10TH PASS SHRIJI NAGAR, DURGAPURA UNMARRIED 0 21/12/2015 1/3/2016

UNDER TRAINING

Mamta's father works in the Municipal Corporation and her mother takes care of the household work. She had to quit her education after 10th class as her father was very abusive and did not let her go out of the house. She heard about the training in Azad and decided to join. She faced resistance at home but was able to stick to her decision despite all the problems. She really enjoys driving and the various trainings that she is receiving as part of the programme. Her family wants her to get married soon, but she has made it clear to them that she will work as a cab driver even after her marriage and will marry only on condition that her husband supports her in this decision.



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NEETU 8/5/1989 9TH PASS KISHAN COLONY SEPARATED 0 21/12/2015 11/3/2016

UNDER TRAINING

Neetu was forced into getting married at the age of 12. After 10 months of marriage, her husband passed away and she came back home. At this time, she started studying again, but in 2 years, she was forced to get married to her brother in law. She gave birth to 3 children but all of them were girls. As a result of son preference, her in-laws threw her out of the house with all her children. Neetu's parents were too old to work and support her and so, she started working as a paid domestic worker. She heard about Azad through the Anganwadi and decided to join. Before this, her life was confined to her own house or the house of her employer and she was afraid to travel far to come for training. After joining the programme, she gradually gained confidence. She now feels happy that she can confidently drive on the crowded streets and find her way around.



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PINKY JAISWAL 1/5/1995 8TH PASS JHALANA DUNGRI SEPARATED 0 28/9/2015 29/1/2016

UNDER TRAINING

Pinky was in an abusive marriage with an alcoholic husband who never took care of the family and squandered all that he earned on gambling and alcohol. Pinky recalls that even during her childbirth she received neither monetary nor emotional support from her husband. Exasperated with the domestic violence and lack of support, Pinky separated from her husband. Unfortunately she was unable to bring her son with her and this is a constant source of worry for her. She has tried to get her son back multiple times but to no avail. Her parents too did not support her decision thereby rendering her completely vulnerable, economically and socially.

It is at this time that Pinky found out about Azad Foundation through a friend whose sister works as a chauffeur.

Desperate for a strategy for survival, Pinky joined Azad Foundation. After joining she realized that Azad gives and promises much more than survival. Pinky says that even in these desperate times, Azad has given her hope and confidence. Pinky says, "I have lost my fear of talking to people. I can talk in front of anyone now and I am not afraid to speak my mind".

Pinky loves driving and is amazed at her own ability. "After sitting behind the steering wheel I feel I can do something

and take control", Pinky observes. She has also learnt how to drive the motorcycle. Pinky enjoyed the self defense and the First Aid modules. While the former gave her confidence to protect herself in tough situations, the latter enabled her to help some people who got physically hurt or ill.

The most important change she feels is in her attitude. Earlier she was like any other woman, wearing saree and bangles, fearful of what others might say and striving to keep up to the image of a 'proper' (read good) woman. She asserts: "Now I don't do anything like that. Many people comment on this change in me and my attire, but it does not worry me at all. It's my personal choice!" Her mother and sister have started talking to her now after a long time, despite the fact that her father has forbidden them to maintain any relation with her. Pinky says that the difference in her situation from the past to the present is that she feels much more confident that she will be able to stand up on her own, whether or not she gets any support. She wants a divorce from her husband and gain custody of her son. Her optimism touches hearts when she says, "My life is much larger, this problem, this pain is a very small part of it."





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NAVANITA PAUL 25/10/1996 10TH PASS LAKE GARDENS UNMARRIED 0 22/7/2015 17/11/2015 WAITING FOR JOB

Navanita is a simple girl who was more interested in dance and drawing rather than going to school. But she had a dream to do something different. When she got the opportunity to take driving training through the mobilization of Thoughtshop Foundation, she joined in the 1st batch of Azad Foundation. Initially she felt scared and under confident to go out alone around Kolkata as she did not know the roads. After joining Azad, she gradually developed her confidence and is waiting eagerly to get a job.



Name Date of Birth Education Locality Marital Status Number of Children Date of Joining

Date of Joining Date of Permanent License Current Status JYOTSNA SARDAR 3/4/1989 8TH PASS DUM DUM UNMARRIED 0 22/7/2015

22/7/2015 23/11/2015 WAITING FOR JOB

Jyotsna comes from a family of very limited means. Her father died many years ago, and her sister is married, so Jyotsna lives with her mother. Her mother works as an 'Aaya'. Her family's financial conditions prevented her from studying. Household work took up most of Jyotsna's time before she came to Azad. Her income was dependent on factory work that she would do every now and then. She joined Azad after learning about the programme from her sister. She is now able to venture outside her house confidently. She has learned about roads and directions, and is able to socialize with many different people. She tries to support her friends in the same way they do, in times of both joy and depression. Her dream is to earn after becoming a driver, so that her mother does not have to work. She also wants to buy her own land to build her own house. She will be employed soon.





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SUNITA MUNDA 10/10/1993 5TH PASS DUM DUM UNMARRIED 0

22/7/2015 23/11/2015 UNDER TRAINING

Sunita grew up in a financially strained family which could not provide her with good education. She had to start earning by working as a domestic help, from a very young age. However, she would not get paid half of the time. She dreamt of having a job which gave her dignity. Two women from the Thoughtshop Foundation's Youth Resource Center introduced Sunita to Azad. But, her parents did not agree with the idea. It was their opinion that driving is a man's job, not a woman's. But Sunita did not let these obstacles deter her. She has attended the training regularly. Even though she was not very educated, she was able to listen and adapt. She was enthusiastic about learning, so Azad helped her by providing her with a tutor to teach her the basics of Bengali. Through this education, she became very confident. Earlier, she was very timid and fearful of her surroundings. But now she is not scared of anyone. She can travel in buses and trains alone, and voice her opinions confidently.



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SUNITA MUNDA 25/06/1995 5TH PASS DUM DUM UNMARRIED 0 22/07/2015 23/11/2015 WAITING FOR JOB

Sunita comes from a large family. Her father drives a cart and her mother works as a domestic help. This is not enough to maintain the family. She believes that women are capable of doing everything that a man can do. She had promised herself that she would be self-sufficient and support her family. But she feared that since she was not that educated, and the responsibility of looking after the household rested on her shoulders and that she would not be able to complete training. But now, after completing the training, Sunita is waiting to get a job.



Name
Date of Birth
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28/1/1988 8TH PASS BATA, BAUDGE BAUDGE DIVORCEE 1 24/12/2014 (AT DELHI AZAD) 3/7/2015 WAITING FOR JOB

SRITEE SINGH

Sritee was working in Delhi as a salesgirl before coming to Azad. However, her life was very difficult. Her husband was very abusive, and this had had a grave impact on her. It left her in a state of total confusion. She says that she did not know what to do, where to go, or what to say. But when she came to Azad, she found a new life. She did not even tell her parents of her decision to join Azad, because she did not think that they would support her. She kept her life at Azad a complete secret. The abuse eventually worsened to such an extent that Sritee divorced her husband, left Delhi, and came to Kolkata to live with her parents. In Kolkata, Sritee joined Azad's Kolkata branch and completed her training. Now, she is waiting for her job.



Name
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SONIYA DAS 29/11/1991 10TH AIRPORT DUM DUM UNMARRIED 0

-

WAITING FOR JOB

Soniya lives with her mother, elder sister and nephew. Their household runs on the small amount that they receive as her father's pension. Soniya bears the responsibility of looking after the household and the finances. The burden of looking after her elder sister and nephew also rests on Soniya's shoulders. Therefore, she knew it was important for her to have a job- a job that is stable and will allow her to lead a dignified life. Soniya learned about Azad through Thoughtshop. Though she was financially and physically weak, Soniya mustered the mental strength to complete the training. It is her firm belief that she will be able to provide a better life for her family. Now, after passing Sakha Test she is waiting for her job.

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PARVEEN BEGUM 10/03/1979 8TH PASS RAJABAZAR MARRIED 2 22/7/2015 16/11/2015

UNDER TRAINING

A housewife from the slums of Rajabazar, Parveen came to Azad through the Roshni Group monitored by Thoughtshop Foundation. Before she came to Azad, Parveen was housebound. She did not know any roads, and did not travel at all. But she had the dream of standing on her own feet. Recognizing the potential for earning through driving, her husband, mother in law and children supported Parveen's decision. After coming to Azad, she has learned a lot about Kolkata's roads. Today she is confident that she will be able to drive a car in the same way as a man. She wants to earn and make a better life for her family, educate her children well, and build her own house. She will be employed soon.



Name
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MOUSHUMI MARIK 9/8/1985 8TH PASS LAKE GARDENS SEPARATED 1 6/10/2015 9/02/2016 UNDER TRAINING

Ever since her separation, Moushumi is living alone with her daughter and mother. To sustain the household, she has worked both as a domestic help and also in catering. But, without a stable income, it was very difficult for her to support her child. She has always dreamt of learning how to drive. So, when she found the opportunity to learn, and to earn a stable income, she knew that she could not let it go and hence came to Azad. Now, her goal is to learn how to drive and earn as soon as possible, so that she can provide a secure future for her daughter. She is under training right now.

Batch Number: 2



Name
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MALATI DAS
20/11/1981
8TH PASS
NARENDRAPUR
UNMARRIED
0
22/7/2015
9/2/2016
UNDER TRAINING

Malati has only studied up to class 9, but her love for reading has persisted. In Narendrapur, she was involved in many of CFAR's activities, and that is how she learned about the Azad Driving Training Programme. She has undertaken many kinds of trainings through the modules provided by Azad. She learnt about women's rights and first aid and she shares her new found knowledge with all the women who are a part of her life. Today, she is much more ambitious and hopeful about life. Presently she is under on-road practice.



Name
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MAMATA MANDAL 1/1/1982 5TH PASS MANIKTALA SEPARATED 2 6/10/2015 9/02/2016 UNDER TRAINING

After facing a lot of abuse at the hands of her husband and in laws, Mamata now lives with her brother and mother. She has two childrena son and a daughter. Her husband has never provided any financial help for his children and Mamata had to earn money by working as an 'aaya' (health assistant) and as a domestic help. She knew that to provide her children with a good education, she would need a source of income that was both stable and dignified. Through her mother, Mamata found out about the Thoughtshop Foundation, which introduced her to Azad. Her dream is to drive and earn in order to deal with her family's poverty.

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RITA SARDAR 5/4/1989 10TH PASS RAJPUR- SONARPUR WIDOW 1

6/10/2015 9/2/2016 UNDER TRAINING

Rita's husband passed away in 2015, when her son was just 3 years old. Her husband's death marked the beginning of a long period of physical and mental torture by her in-laws. The situation got progressively worse, and came to the point where Rita had to flee for her life. She left her in-laws' house and went to live with her parents. Rita's fight for a new life began, which was strengthened by her decision to join Azad. Through Azad, Rita came in touch with Jeevika Development Society. With Jeevika's help, she was able to retake ownership of all the property that she left at her in-laws' home. At Azad, Rita has learned how to love life, dream, and live with joy. She can now fight her own fight with fearlessness. She is under training right now.



Name
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ARCHANA MUNDA 2/2/79 8TH PASS NARENDRAPUR MARRIED 2 22/7/2015 23/11/2015

WAITING FOR JOB

"It feels like that we are flying high with our wings wide open"
Archana Munda, the mother of two, decided to come and join Azad
Foundation with the dream of living a life with dignity and self respect.
Archana remembers her childhood with pain; she used to attend the
local primary school, but due to abject poverty she had to help her
mother in agricultural work and so she was irregular in school. The
arrangement was that she would go to school for one month, and the
next month she would assist her mother in the field. Archana also
started working as a domestic worker for supporting the family, and
was forced to drop out of school. Archana said, "I got readmission
in class five, with my own savings, but could not continue, as I was
married off."

Life after marriage has been quite a challenge for Archana. Her husband is a habitual drinker, and abuses her under the influence of alcohol. Owing to the fact that her husband hardly contributes anything for the family, Archana started working as a construction worker. Archana said that unlike most men who only work outside and do not take care of the household and the children, the woman has to be a multi-tasker capable of running the house as well as work outside. Previously Archana's mother-in-law did not cooperate with her, but her honest effort at keeping the household running has finally won her mother-in-law's support and trust.

After joining Azad foundation, Archana feels confident and emancipated. This is like a dream come true for her. She has always been inspired watching women driving cars. She remembered when she was a young girl, she saw an interview of a woman driver on TV, and from then on she had wanted to drive. Thoughtshop Foundation, introduced her to Azad foundation and from then on Archana never looked back.

Her husband had discouraged her by saying that it is a man's work, and a strenuous job. "I carry cement bags in construction sites up two or three storeys and so I am well aware of what a strenuous

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job entails", was Archana's response. Archana says, "Women can do everything. Men, in order to hide their inability and inefficiency try to control women and force them to remain in the private sphere, saying that they are no good in the public arena". Archana wants to prove that women are efficient both inside the household and outside it. For her, learning to drive and becoming a driver is like reclaiming her space as half of the universe. Archana describes an incident where she was driving carefully as an elderly couple was crossing the road in front of her. An auto was continuously honking behind her and finally the arrogant auto driver overtook her from the left (the wrong side) and remarked "Go, cook at home." Archana says, "I wanted to answer back, I have already done that and have come to work. Can you do the same?"

Archana shared that she has introduced her mother-in-law with all the staff members of Azad Foundation. Her mother-in-law feels proud to see her daughter-in-law's photograph and interview in the newspapers. Previously her mother-in-law used to burden her with all the household responsibilities, but now after knowing about her training and work, she has started helping her in household chores. She has even started serving food for her before she leaves for office. Archana feels amazed by this change. Her husband still tries to abuse her. Incidents of abuse and scuffle persist, but her conviction and confidence has given her a new lease of life, a life progressing from strength to strength, a life dreaming of a better tomorrow. Archana is presently working as a Valet at Medica Superspecialty Hospital, Kolkata.





For more details on Azad Foundation and its work, please refer to

www.azadfoundation.com



For more information about Sakha please visit

www.sakhaconsultingwings.com