



Inching Towards GOAL

As Going Online As Leaders (GOAL) programme is implemented across five states—Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal—read the updates from the ground

Mentorship programme Going Online As Leaders' (GOAL) first convening was organised in Mumbai on July 10, followed by second event at Madhya Pradesh's Bhopal on August 8. The urban women leaders or the mentors interacted for the first time with their mentees in person and shared that similar workshops would break the barrier and help build a stronger bond between them. A joint initiative by Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) and Facebook, GOAL aims at inspiring, guiding and encouraging young girls from rural and tribal communities through digital mentoring.

In Mumbai, participants—five mentors and 20 mentees—shared their experiences from the calls and discussed the challenges faced by them. Whereas, the Bhopal session witnessed an

overwhelming participation by 19 mentees, many of them first time public speakers, who took turns to speak up at a public platform. "This is the first time when I am on this side of the table and have sat on such chair," said mentee Savitri Salam from Rampur village at Bhopal convening. Confident and enthusiastic mentees freely shared experiences and their expectations from the programme.

Further, to strengthen the implementation, a brainstorming session was organised to prepare roadmap for upcoming calls and add value to the mentoring process. As we conducted workshops in all five states, a dedicated state-wise WhatsApp group has been formed with Mentors, DEF and Facebook representatives in order to help the implementation team in gathering feedback from all the stakeholders.

FIGHTING ALL ODDS TO CHASE HER DREAMS

Reshma, a 24-year-old mentee from Madhya Pradesh and mother of three, had no hopes with her life. She had lost confidence and thought that rest of her life will only be about raising the children. The society, villagers and her family did little to support her endeavours. But with motivation from her mentor, she is now looking forward to learn computers. "I have now decided to chase my dream of setting up some kind of venture for the village's betterment," she says with gleaming eyes.



STORIES FROM THE GROUND

Mentoring session in Madhya Pradesh



Snighda Gorana who is mentoring girls from Madhya Pradesh's Hoshangabad, has so far completed five mentee calls. She has assigned small tasks to them where the mentees are to interact with an unknown person in the village and write down their daily routine to understand how they spend their day.

Engaging girls in learning computers

Sharda Sud's mentoring of girls from Ranchi, Jharkhand has helped them gain more confidence. The mentees shared that they now feel free in talking about their life experiences. "In the coming weeks, I will do a SWOT analysis and engage the girls in some computer learnings," she said.



Inspiring girls to chase their dreams



Neha Agarwal, who is mentoring girls from Jharkhand's Burmu, is inspiring girls to chase their dreams. So far, she has completed three calls and has build a rapport with the mentees. "I am trying to tap their aspirations and have assigned tasks accordingly," she said. "One of my mentees wants to become an athlete," she adds, "I asked her to start with a small run."

Mentoring session from Odisha

Shivangi Bajpai is mentoring girls from Bargarh, Odisha. She also tried some recreational activity during the call which the mentees had enjoyed. They sing an Odiya song and she asked them to prepare an English poem which they find difficult. One mentee also showed her skills by stitching the pillow cover.



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My parents want me to get married this year but I want to challenge their decision now. I want to be a nurse

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Rinki, Mentee, Madhya Pradesh

Inculcating reading habits in mentees



Diksha Lal is working towards inculcating reading habit amongst girls from Bargarh, Odisha. She has been asking her mentees to start with reading newspapers during the call. "I explain tough words to them and the sentence structure," she says.

Moving towards leadership skills

Ankita Roy, who is mentoring girls from Madhya Pradesh's Betul district, made sure that the mentees take their assignment seriously. "Complete your tasks before the next call," she conveyed to all the girls. All her mentees are now prompt with assignments.



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Talking to Mentees just a day before my birthday was the best celebration I have ever had.

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Swastika Jajoo, Maharashtra

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