

The Influencer bulletin

VOL II | ISSUE 7 | October 2019



Your support to the Influencers journey is ensuring women and girls freedom from violence and discrimination, access to legal justice, grassroots leadership, rights and entitlements and freedom from economic dependence. In this issue, we bring you updates from our grassroots coalition partners Breakthrough India, Nishtha, Mann Deshi Foundation and Shaheen Women Resource and Welfare Association. Join us in celebrating their work and journey!

Stories from the field

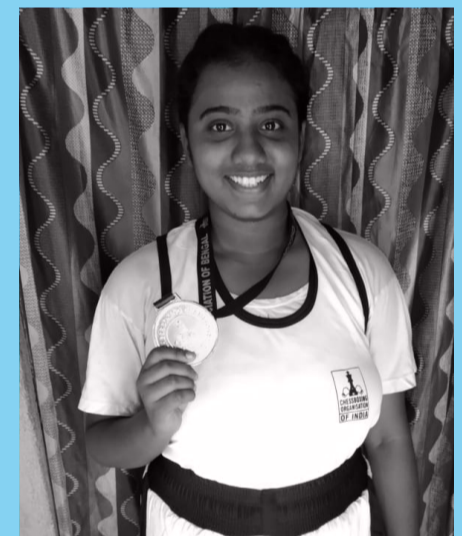
Breakthrough India's Taaron Ki Toli programme in which young school students come together every week to learn about gender-based discrimination and ways to prevent them, has achieved yet another milestone. One such *Tara*, Mansi from Saraiya village in Bakshi ka Talab, not only protected herself from a violation but went a step further and tried to address the source of such behaviour. She taught a lesson on consent to a young boy when he clicked a picture of her without her knowing it. Moreover, she challenged community elders when they prohibited girls from wearing jeans.

Click here to read more about Mansi's journey.

#ConsentIsEverything



From constant encouragement and support with the help of **Nishtha** in enrolment to training for Martial Arts as a means of self defense, we are proud to share that Sonia Dundapat, a member of the adolescent group supported under the Youth Fund, won the 8th West Bengal State Chessboxing Championship 2019 along with the 8th National Chessboxing Championship 2019 and secured a gold medal in both. Her current dream of winning an international medal for India is keeping her busy presently. She aspires to represent India at an international competition in Turkey this December.



Collective Conversations



Mann Deshi Foundation's founder Chetna Gala Sinha was invited to speak at the first edition of the **Women's Forum Asia** meeting held in Singapore to share Mann Deshi's journey with more than 1,500 trailblazers and leaders from across the globe. Other participants included Helen Clark, former Prime Minister of New Zealand, Anne- Gabrielle Heilbronner, Director, Publicis Group and similar such luminaries.

Members from the Mann Deshi Foundation's team also participated in parallel sessions on **"Women Empowerment to Enterprises: An Innovative Approach of Lifelong Learning for Farmers"**, where they displayed products handcrafted by the women beneficiaries and the innovations Mann Deshi made towards empowering farmers.

#KnowledgeSharing

Breaking Convention



Pinjaron ki Udaan was a documentary made by Sujith Kumar KV on a few survivors associated to **Shaheen Women's Resource and Welfare Association**, portraying gender related issues such as violence against women, harassment, child abuse, marriages with Arabs from the Gulf countries and narratives of stories of violence, survival and struggle of these women. The women featured in the film hail from various castes and religion with the common thread of sustenance of patriarchy connecting them all. Shaheen has screened the 85-minute long documentary at two occasions for women and school children to highlight the way a helping hand can aid women in finding hope in their lives.