

## Transformative Journey of Anjali: Empowering Education through IIFL Foundation's Sakhiyon ki Baadi Intervention

**Name: Anjali Kumari**

Community: Kanjar

Father Name: Jafar

Mother Name: Ganga

Occupation: Begging

Location: Kacchi Basti, District – Pratapgarh, Rajasthan.



The Sakhiyon ki baadi centre established at the Kacchi Basti in Pratapgarh district of Rajasthan, marked as the beginning of a transformative journey for Anjali Kumari, native to Kanjar community, which is primarily engaged in begging and menial tasks in hope to get money in return.

Amidst this community, Anjali, an 8-year-old girl, is a symbol of resilience. Deprived of education, she spent her days collecting waste with her mother and seeking alms at the temple on Saturdays. This cycle of survival consumed her time and dreams.

Through IIFL Foundation's Sakhiyon Ki Badi program, a pivotal meeting was arranged with the community members to discuss the importance of educating girls. The gathering sought to enrol education-deprived children in the program. Daksha Pulaya devi and Cluster Head Roshan Bhati visited Anjali's home to advocate for her education, eventually persuading her mother to allow Anjali to join the Sakhiyon Ki Badi center. After a series of conversations, Anjali's mother consented.

In the initial stages, like her peers, Anjali was hesitant and shy. Tears and stubbornness marked her presence at the center. However, within just 15 days, she started mingling with her classmates. Singing songs and reciting poems, she embraced the activities offered at the Sakhiyon ki badi center. She even participated in initiatives by her teacher, which further accelerated her interest and growth.

Anjali's dedication yielded remarkable outcomes. From reading books published in Hindi language to introducing herself in English and mastering basic arithmetic, she showcased newfound talents. Her participation in the activities designed by the teacher further fuelled her development. Anjali's parents, witnessing her transformation, expressed their gratitude to the IIFL Foundation for making this possible.

Anjali's parents, who faced challenges accessing education themselves, were overwhelmed by the progress made by their daughter. Despite their own limitations, they expressed immense joy in seeing their daughter embrace education. They extended heartfelt thanks to the IIFL Foundation for this transformative opportunity.

Anjali's story echoes the potential of targeted interventions in breaking the cycle of poverty and illiteracy. Her journey has also catalysed a shift in community perceptions. Now, Anjali is set to join a government school and embark on new journey towards a literate future.



**About the programme:** IIFL Foundation's Sakhiyon ki Baadi is an initiative aimed at eradicating illiteracy among females in Rajasthan. The programme engages with girls in age group of 4 to 14 years, who have dropped out of school or were never enrolled. The programme is operational in 13 districts of Rajasthan with 1,148 learning centres and engaged with 33,965 girl students. The programme also contributes to livelihood and skill development of over 1,150 women, who are employed as Daksha (teachers), Cluster Heads, Block Heads, Trainers and District managers.

(The beneficiary count limited only to IIFL Finance Ltd., is 560 learning centres, 16,800 girl students and 560 women)

**Thank You!**