

## Intel® Easy Steps

# Ushering in Change

In a village where girls have few rights and choices, Rekha Ravat scripts a success story of digital literacy



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– Rekha Ravat

Education for girls is not a priority in Bhavanikheda, a village of Pisangan block in Ajmer district, Rajasthan. Here girls are married off at a very young age. It’s the norm, and anyone breaking the norm is not well received. Despite this, the parents of Rekha Ravat chose to send their daughter to school. Their family members protested, but they did not budge. Rekha attended school regularly and completed class XII in 2008. She wanted to study further, but because of financial hardships and family constraints, she could not do so.

Rekha hit a roadblock—she could not get a job in her village which had limited avenues for earning, nor could she study further because of various issues. Despite her best intentions and her parents’ support, go-getter Rekha’s life came to a standstill. “Even after 14 years of schooling, I had nothing to show in my life! It was very depressing,” says Rekha.

Rekha finally took up a small job as a teacher in a private school 5 kms from her village. Then she came to know of Pratham and their Education for Education (EfE) initiative. In September 2011, Rekha was selected to attend a one-week residential training program of Intel® Easy Steps through EfE. She completed her training successfully and started working as an entrepreneur running a Digital Literacy Centre in her village. This was the turning point in her life.

Today, Rekha supports her family financially, and is respected by the villagers. She is a popular face in the village now. She has resumed her studies as well. “I cannot thank Intel and Pratham enough for this huge change in my life!” she says.

Rekha understands what digital literacy is really about. Especially because she had attended a 5-month computer training program in Ajmer, through a not-for-profit organisation. She says, “That was all theory, and there was no exposure to practical training. But, after the Intel® Easy Steps training, I know how to use computers for various purposes and am able to train the volunteers properly.”

Now that she is successfully running the Pratham Digital Literacy Centre, Rekha is setting her eyes on more ambitious goals. “I want to become better at using computers, and learn how to use all the software and applications. I also want to have a computer centre of my own, where I can teach this skill to everyone.”

Despite her ambition, she remains firmly rooted in reality. From people who cannot afford to pay much to learn computer skills, she charges a token amount of just Rs 100. Her aim is to get as many interested people digitally literate.

Intel® Easy Steps stepped into Rekha’s life when she needed it the most and now has opened up the path of sustainable livelihood for her, and through her many more in the future. Girls and women come to her centre to learn how to use computers now. Rekha’s story will inspire the girls in her village to explore new choices for themselves.

**Intel® Easy Steps** : Intel® Easy Steps is a basic technology literacy education program meant for adult learners with little or no experience with computers. Participants of the program are enabled to use computer in ways that are relevant to their daily lives.

Pratham is the largest NGO working to provide quality education to the underprivileged in India.