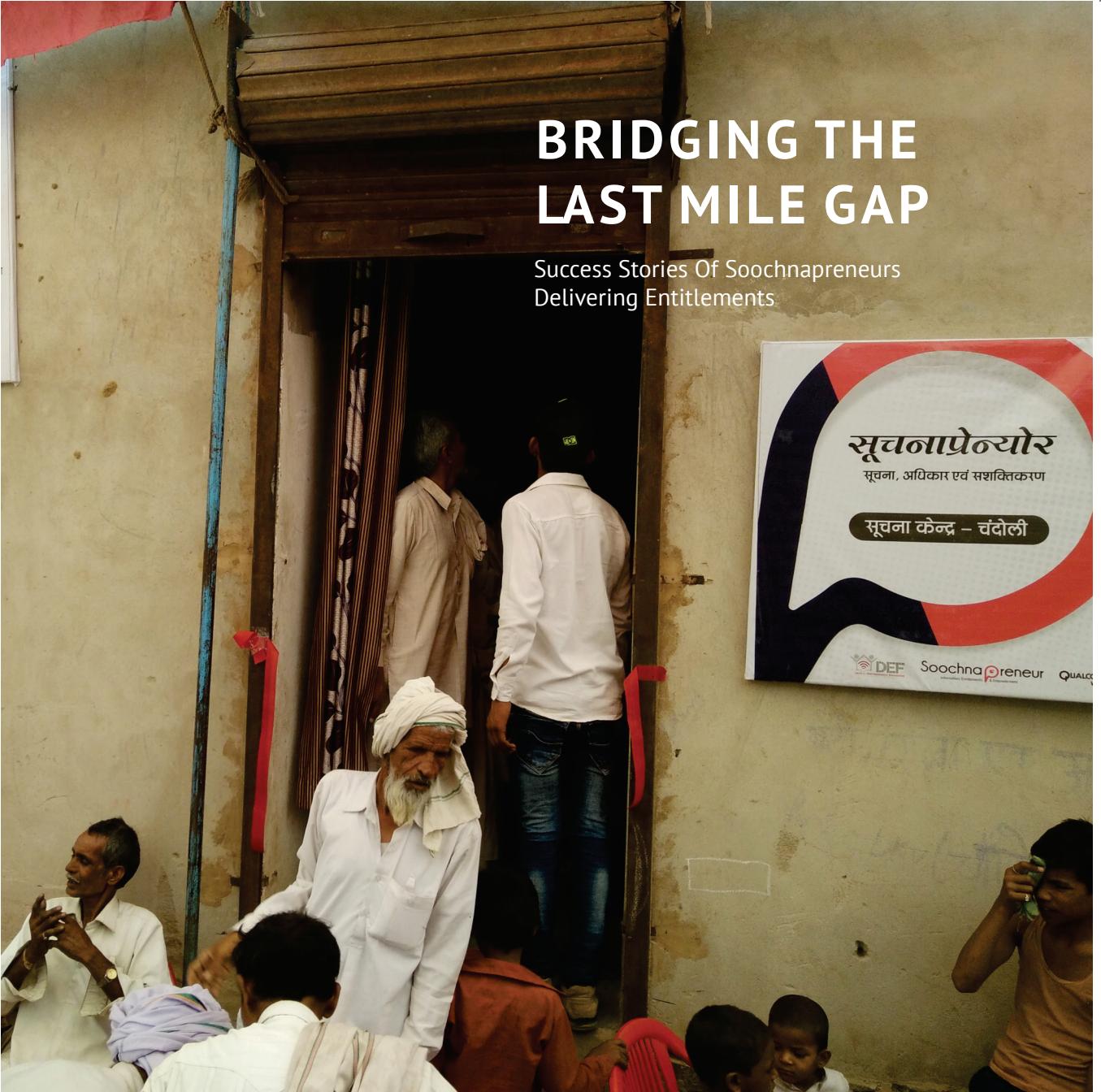
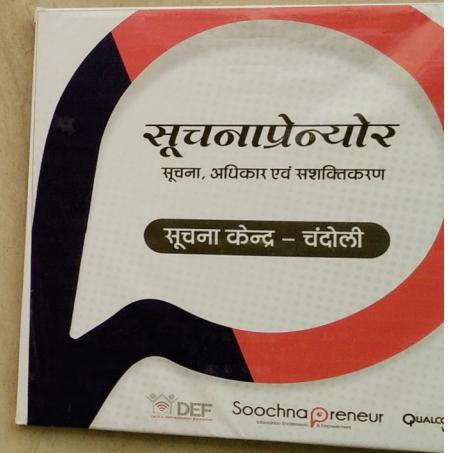


# BRIDGING THE LAST MILE GAP

Success Stories Of Soochnapreneurs  
Delivering Entitlements







# BRIDGING THE LAST MILE GAP

Success Stories Of Soochnapreneurs  
Delivering Entitlements

August 2017





## INTRODUCTION

As much as 67 per cent of India's population lives in rural India; and even by 2016, over 900 million Indians do not have access to the Internet. More than 300 million identified individuals fall under the category of below poverty line (BPL) who, by definition, earn less than a dollar a day. This is the same share of population that directly depends on access to government schemes and entitlements as their most basic rights.

Realising the need to serve India's rural, remote and marginalised population with relevant information about government services, schemes and entitlements in a timely manner, Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF), in partnership with Qualcomm, initiated the Sochnapreneur programme in April 2016. Sochnapreneur is a rural entrepreneurship-based model that aims at empowering youth in the villages of India to sustain their livelihood by providing information and services to those who are information deprived and digitally excluded.

As you go through this booklet, you will understand how the Sochnapreneurs are working tirelessly to ensure that underserved and marginalised communities living in rural and remote locations of India are not deprived of their rights and entitlements guaranteed to them by the laws of the land. These case stories highlight the importance of access to government schemes and entitlements for those at the bottom of the pyramid for their basic needs.



## SECURING AN EASY RETIRED LIFE

Chandrama Meher lives in the rural village of Bijepur Block of Bargarh District in Odisha. She is about 71 years old. Her husband had expired in the year 2000. She belongs to Scheduled Caste (SC) category. After the death of her husband her son had gone away and she was left to fend on her own. Chandrama is living in a small paddy roof hut and is barely able to make her ends meet. She is working in a neighbourhood house as a washerwoman for her survival, somehow managing two meals a day. Life has been difficult for her since the demise of her husband.

For the past 10 years she had approached lot of fellow villagers to help her get old age pension but all her efforts went in vain and she was clueless as what could be done. Coincidentally, Gopal Behera, Soochnapreneur of Bijepur came to know about her misery and assured her that she would be able to get benefit of old age pension scheme which is called as Madhu Babu Pension Yojana in Odisha. In order to get her application processed, Gopal collected all the



required documents from Chandrama and got in touch with the Block Development Officer (BDO) of Bijepur Block with the supporting documents and a video recording of Chandrama Meher, where she explained her pitiful situation in tears and how she had been unable to get her old age pension. On seeing the video and supporting documents, the BDO of the Bijepur Block immediately issued an order to the Village Executive Officer to investigate the matter so that Chandrama should get her pension at the earliest. Due to this urgent intervention, Chandrama was able to get her pension within a week. She could not express her happiness and pleasure in words and was teary-eyed when she got her pension for the first time. She felt really grateful for the help provided by Gopal Behera.

This story soon got spread across the locality and many of the villagers applauded him for his great humanitarian work. Without the involvement of Soochnapreneur team this would not have been possible.

---

For the past 10 years Chandrama Meher had approached lot of fellow villagers to help her get old age pension but all her efforts went in vain and she was clueless as what could be done.



## BAIRAGI, EMBARKS A NEW JOURNEY

Bairagi Kanda is a 45 years old farmer from Bhalubahal Village of Bijepur Block of Bargarh District in Odisha. In his family there are his parents, wife and three children. He earns his meagre livelihood by working as a cultivator on the fields of others. Due to frequent natural calamities in the region, land owners are not able to pay wages to him. Because of this his family often suffers through financial crisis, which in turn affects the education of his children.

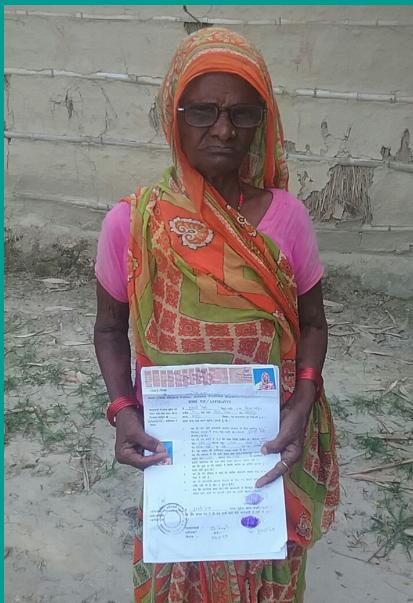
Gopal Behera, Soochnapreneur of Bijepur, went for a door-to-door survey last month in the Bhalubahal village and came across Bairagi Kanda and got to know about his difficult situation. Gopal educated Bairagi about the MGNREGA scheme and mentioned the benefits of guaranteed rural employment, through which he can get the opportunity of earning wages inside the Panchayat area by working in the government works like digging, construction, etc. Gopal collected the necessary documents and submitted it in the Block Office and followed up with the concerned Labour Officer for



getting the required formalities done for Bairagi Kanda. As a result, Bairagi Kanda got his Labour Card from the BDO of Bijepur Block and now he is earning regularly through the guaranteed employment under MGNREGA scheme, which is quite helpful for his family in managing their day-to-day expenses. The beneficiary is very thankful to the Soochnapreneur Gopal Behera for his efforts. This could only be possible through the involvement of Soochnapreneur team, who are committed for the upliftment and economic growth of the rural people.

---

Bairagi Kanda was unaware of the benefits of MGNREGA scheme through which he could get guaranteed rural employment, through which he can get the opportunity of earning wages by working in the government works like digging, construction, etc.



## AT LAST A ROOF OVER HEAD

Dukhni Devi is a 65 year old resident of Damrapur Panchayat in Mainatand Panchayat of West Champaran district in Bihar. She is a widow and her husband passed away 10 years ago. She lives alone with great difficulty in a dilapidated kutcha house of mud and thatch with bare minimum articles in the house. She has two daughters who are married but they are now living far away from her village after their marriages. Since the death of her husband life has been difficult for her and she made her living by washing utensils in homes of others and doing some other odd jobs. With the increasing age her survival has become much more difficult.

The SoचनाPreneur team came across Dukhni Devi during one of their field visits. She shared her difficult situation in great detail with the SoचनाPreneur team. Apparently she had not received benefits of any of the Government schemes, whether it was a widow pension, an old age pension or any other kind of assistance. The fact that she had no clue as whom to approach for availing



such schemes prolonged her misery. The SoochnaPreneur team got in touch with the Sarpanch of her village to get her name cleared for Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and the related paperwork was done on her behalf. Recently, she got the grant for building a new house. The SoochnaPreneur team has also processed application for her old age pension. SoochnaPreneur team has provided some light in darkness of her life and showered her blessings on them.

---

Dukhni Devi had not received benefits of any of the Government schemes, whether it was a widow pension, an old age pension or any other kind of assistance.



## FREEDOM FROM HELPLESSNESS

Bhikhari Musahar is a 64 years old resident of Matiyariya Panchayat under Gaunaha Block in West Champaran, Bihar. He belongs to a backward caste and has faced extreme poverty all his life. For the last two years he had been trying to get his old age pension under Government's National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP). He had submitted his application twice but it was of no avail. He was badly in need of the pension due to his poor economic condition.

While visiting his village one day Soochnapreneur Brij Kumar came to his house and enquired whether he is receiving any pension. He explained his situation to Brij Kumar in detail. He was given the assurance that he would be receiving his pension soon. His application form was filled by Brij Kumar and the Soochnapreneur submitted his application at the Gaunaha Block office and did the required follow up. In next two months his pension application got accepted and Bhikhari Musahar also received his pension passbook. In all likelihood if the intervention by Brij



Case story from **Bihar**

Kumar was not done then Bhikhari Musahar would still have been waiting for his pension.

---

Bhikhari Musahar had submitted his application twice but it was of no avail. He was badly in need of the pension due to his poor economic condition.



## SOWING SEEDS OF HAPPINESS



Dharmesh Yadav is a 45 year old farmer from Damrapur village in Mainatand Block of West Champaran district in Bihar. He lives with his parents, his wife and three children. He cultivates on a small piece of land being barely able to meet expenses for his family. At times he has also faced crop losses due to inclement weather and flooding during monsoons. He says that the input costs for farming are increasing day by day and farming is becoming more and more unprofitable for small farmers like him. Dharmesh is himself illiterate but sends his children to a nearby Government school. He is concerned about the sorry state of his children's school. However, with his limited means he does not have much of options.

When the SoochnaPreneur Team met Dharmesh during one of their field visits to Damrapur village, they informed Dharmesh that the Block office provides subsidized seeds, fertilizers and pesticides for farmers. Dharmesh had been taking loans from time to time to buy seeds and fertilizers from th market,



but was finding himself burdened more by debts because of lower profit margins. The SoochnaPreneur team helped him in getting the subsidized seeds and fertilizers from the Block office and Dharmesh Yadav was very thankful for their help. He says that compared to other years he has better and cheaper crops this year through the subsidy program and he hopes that he would have better yield when the crops would be harvested. He says that he wants at least one of his children to continue farming in the future as he sees it as a very noble profession.

---

Dharmesh says that the input costs for farming are increasing day by day and farming is becoming more and more unprofitable for small farmers like him.



## GOT HIS RIGHTS, WILL HOLD HIS HEAD HIGH

Bhola Sheikh is a resident of Bakhri Village in Sitthi Panchayat of Gaunaha Block in West Champaran. Belonging to an economically backward family, Bhola Sheikh's family has been living in a kutcha house (made from mud and thatch) and he wanted to get a proper house for his family through the Government's rural housing scheme. For the last 10 years Bhola Sheikh had been approaching the Mukhiya (Head) of his village ward, but his request had been turned deaf ears. He had not been able to make any progress in terms of getting the benefit of this scheme, even though he was qualified to get the due benefits. Being an illiterate person from a poor family in a remote region in Bihar makes even simple things quite difficult, like getting an application processed in a Government department.

A few months back Bhola Sheikh got in touch with Soochnapreneur Brij Kumar and requested him to help so that he can get the grant under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). Brij Kumar got in



touch with the required officials to get the application for Bholu Sheikh processed and due to his efforts Bholu Sheikh was finally able to receive the grant in his bank account. He had almost lost all hopes that he would be able to build a decent house for his family. His family wholeheartedly thanked Brij Kumar for providing the much needed help.

---

Being an illiterate person from a poor family in a remote region in Bihar makes even simple things quite difficult, like getting an application processed in a Government department.



## A SMALL DREAM COME TRUE

Jatri Oran is a 60 year old resident of Kundi Panchayat in Bero Block of Ranchi, Jharkhand who lives with her 65 years old husband Som Kerketta. She belongs to Scheduled Tribe (ST) category and her financial condition is very weak. She is involved in farming and is barely able to make ends meet. Her kutcha house is made of clay roof through which water leakage is quite common in the rainy days because of which she has to face lot of difficulties. She lives with her husband and three sons. Her two younger sons go to a Government school, but her eldest son Sunil had to discontinue studies as he had to shoulder family's responsibility. Sunil helps Jatri in farming work.

When the SoochnaPreneur Team met Jatri during a field visit, they got to know about her difficult condition. She shared her predicament as how she faced difficulty in cooking because of lack of availability of dry wood/leaves during the rainy days, which she used for cooking for rest of the year. She would have to spend a lot of time picking woods and leaves from the nearby jungle for



her fuel needs and during monsoon she would end up spending her hard-earned money in buying wood from the market for cooking. The SoचनाPreneur team informed her about Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) through which she could avail free gas connection for her home. The SoचनाPreneur Team helped her do all the required paperwork for availing the gas connection. Within a month her application was processed and the gas stove was distributed to her in front of BDO and village ahead during a camp. She thanked the SoचनाPreneur team saying that she had never dreamed of having a gas connection on her in her lifetime.

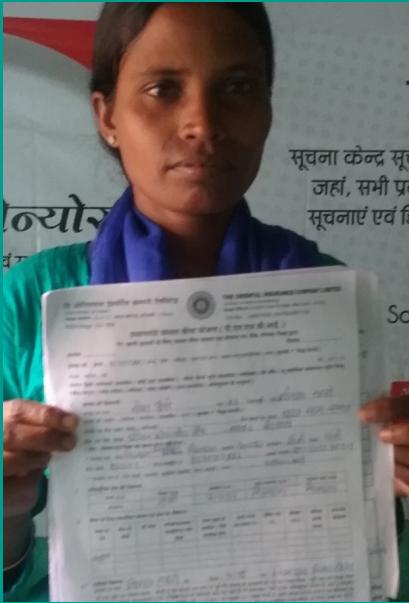
---

Jatni Oraon would have to spend a lot of time picking woods and leaves from the nearby jungle for her fuel needs and during monsoon she would end up spending her hard-earned money in buying wood from the market for cooking.

## A BETTER CONTROL OVER FUTURE

Seema Devi is a 25 year old woman belonging to Childag village in Angara Block of Ranchi, Jharkhand. She is a widow and her husband passed away back in 2010. After the death of her husband, she has been living with her parents. She belongs to Other Backward Caste (OBC) category. Her family is living in a Kutcha house. She is working in a private school as a teacher, getting a meagre income for her survival. Her family's traditional occupation has been farming and they have been mostly dependent on it to run their household.

Due to insufficient rains last year their paddy crop production turned out to be very low, which caused extreme financial hardships for her family. At that point of time her family was not aware about the facility of crop insurance provided by the Government. When the SoochnaPreneur team organized a camp in her village for registering beneficiaries for Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFSBY), she came to know that farmers can get their crop insured and would be compensated in case of any crop loss due to natural





calamities, pests and diseases. This was a big relief for her family as they would not have to live under fear subjected to vagaries of nature. Seema Devi was pleased to know about other useful Government schemes too through the SoochnaPreneur team and thanked them for their guidance and support.

---

Due to insufficient rains last year paddy crop production for Seema Devi's family turned out to be very low, which caused extreme financial hardships for her family.

## GIVING DIGITAL LITERACY GIFT TO THE COMMUNITY

Ashish Choudhary is a 14 year old boy from Pirtol village in Ranchi, Jharkhand studying in 8th Class in a Government school. In his family there are his parents and a younger sister. His family used to depend on farming for their livelihood. However, his father has been unable to work for past few years due to illness. Now her mother has to shoulder the responsibilities of running the family. She works a tailor in a shop and sometimes Ashish also assists his mother in her work.

The SoochnaPreneur Team had visited his school to share about the Digital Literacy program, where it was explained to the students that they can learn computers at a very affordable cost. There were no computers at Ashish's school and very few students there had any knowledge about it. The children there were excited to get enrolled in Digital Literacy classes. After a few sessions provided by the SoochnaPreneur Team Ashish and his friends were able to work on Windows applications on their own and were able





Case story from **Jharkhand**

to use Email, browse Internet, use Google Search, print their school projects, etc. The Sochnapreneur Team was able to make the reach of computers possible for the students who would have otherwise been left untouched from IT for a long time.

---

There were no computers at Ashish's school and very few students there had any knowledge about it. His friends were excited to get enrolled in Digital Literacy classes.

## ADOPTING CLEAN HABITS

Shanti Devi is a resident of Narayan Soso village in Angara Block of Ranchi, Jharkhand. She works as a labourer and her husband works as a mason. At the moment they are living in a Kutcha house. This 30 year old tribal woman had been hearing a lot about the importance of building toilets on radio and how Government has been giving incentives to build toilets at homes to prevent open defecation. However, she was not aware as how to register for this scheme.

The SoचनाPreneur team had visited her village to spread awareness about Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan. There the SoचनाPreneur team got to know that some people had spread the rumour that only the people who are part of a SHG can avail the benefit. However, they cleared the misconception that there is no such restriction for availing the benefit. SoचनाPreneur team helped Shanti Devi in getting the grant for building toilet at her home and she was happy that she would not have to depend on open defecation anymore.





Case story from **Jharkhand**

---

Shanti Devi had been hearing a lot about the importance of building toilets on radio. However, she was not aware as how to register for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan scheme.



## DIGITAL IS THE WAY FORWARD

The site of school students learning a science theorem or some computer application on laptops would be considered normal anywhere in the world but for the residents of Genhu Khedi, Gram panchayat, Guna, Madhya Pradesh, it is nothing short of a spectacle. The view was breathtaking for villagers as it was a never seen before scene. The villagers saw community children receiving hands-on-training to run different computer applications at the Soochna Seva Kendra. The villagers were familiar to the old chalk-and-talk teaching methodology in the school but this was something beyond their imagination. It was the first day of computer training course by the SoochnaPreneur, Lakhan Khuswah, and he had invited the parents and other community members for the inauguration ceremony.

He is promoting digital literacy in the community people especially among the young minds, through his center. The elementary level course is designed to introduce computer and internet



Case story from **Madhya Pradesh**

understanding to the beginners and how it can be useful in doing our daily work. All the students came from humble background and they study at the Gram Panchayat School. The principal, Vishnu Namdev, of government school thanked Soचना Seva Kendra and Lakhan for bringing new digital wave and showing a new path to the school students. He accepted that students were missing out on digital literacy because school could not afford the digital tools and computer systems. He also mentioned that the student drop-out rate is bad, especially the girl students, and such unique efforts will aspire them to continue their education. He praised the SoचनाPreneur for his efforts and prayed that the center gives boost to the village development progress. The center is especially seeing higher footfall of girl students coming to learn about the digital technologies. The learning of the computers and internet is instilling grit in them and courage to overcome any odds in life.

---

The principal accepted that students were missing out on digital literacy because school could not afford the digital tools and computer systems.



## EFFORTS PAID-OFF

Khushwa village is a prominent neighborhood of gram panchayat Gehonkhedi, Guna, Madhya Pradesh. Its residents were facing lot of commuting problems as the roads there were in a bad condition. The Soochna Seva Kendra took the onus of fixing the issue. They met concerned authorities and also registered their request on 181- Chief Minister Helpline number. Soon the road construction department got into action and began developing brick roads in the neighborhood. Some locals objected to the construction and Road Department was forced to abruptly stop the work. The SoochnaPreneur, Golu Kushwah took the matter to the administrative level and complained about the nexus between some community members and Road Department government officials.

He exposed the elements who were interested in the road construction contract and their main purpose was to make profits and were not bothered about the quality of roads. This is the main reason why every year despite government funds and efforts the roads remain in bad shape. The feisty



Case story from **Madhya Pradesh**

SoochnaPreneur, Golu, is famous for taking tough stands against illegal practices. He has always spoken against corrupt officers and even got them transferred to other districts as he refused to accept the wrongdoings going on. He never hesitates in publicly exposing those people who are not doing justice to their jobs, including Panchayat and community members. Thanks to his intervention, three corrupt contractors were booked, one of them being the brother of a member of the elected chairman. The Soochnapreneur team did rigorous follow up with the higher police authorities and kept pushing the matter. Soon the road construction finally started and was successfully completed in few weeks.

---

Kushwaha's village residents were facing lot of commuting problems as roads were in a bad condition. The Soochna Seva center took the onus of fixing the issue.



## THE NEW HOME, A NEW LIFE

Gabbu Singh Yadav, 65 years old, lives in Vishanwada village of Bamori block in Guna, Madhya Pradesh. He had two daughters who are now married. Being a farmer, he always earned his living through working in the field. As age caught up with him, it became difficult for him to continue farming. Moreover, Gabbu had to mortgage his farmland to get his daughters' married for the sake of societal expectations. This exhausted all his life savings. He only had some unproductive land left with him but it was not suitable for farming, leaving him with zero options to payback his loans. With no source of income or support system, it soon became extremely difficult for he and his wife to survive.

Gabbu Singh was advised to visit the Soochna Seva Kendra by his son-in-law to look for any possible support. When Abdesch Dhakad, SoochnaPreneur, met Gabbu, it was gathered that it will not be an easy way out to get support from government as he had no identity documents. Without producing the mandatory documents, it was not possible to start any scheme application



for him. On personal front, Gabbu with old age, had become very obstinate and refused to visit different government offices to access his identity documents like Aadhar and other support letters from Panchayat endorsing his case. The SoochnaPreneur understood his state and continued to work on his case. After plenty of persuasion he finally agreed to visit block offices for the necessary paper work and other formalities. Abdesh efforts paid-off and Gabbu got his identity documents made. In the next round, Abdesh applied for the 'Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojna' and old age pension, separately, on behalf of Gabbu. After some time, Gabbu got Rs 1,50,000 from the government to construct his new house and his old age pension scheme also got approved. This development has made him less worried about his future.

---

With no source of income or support system, it soon became extremely difficult for the couple to survive. Gabbu singh was advised to visit the Soochna Seva Kendra by his son-in-law to look for any possible support.



## HOPE FOR A BETTER FUTURE

During an Aadhar camp in Vishanwada village, Soochna Seva Kendra team met Jankilal Aadiwasi. He is 35 years old, married and has 3 kids. Two years ago, in an unfortunate accident, Jankilal damaged his one leg. The accident not just crippled him but left his whole family shattered as he was the only breadwinner for them. In the event of finding no employment, the family financial situation went so grim that his young kids were left with no choice and had to start working to earn money. The Soochnapreneur team helped Jankilal family by informing them about various government schemes which can provide them much needed financial relief. The team decided to apply for Jankilal under the disabled pension scheme. The team first priority was to get his disability certificate made as soon as possible. After obtaining the certificate, the team applied for the disability pension scheme.

Today, Jankilal receives monthly Rs 500 grant to support his household expenses. This has helped him to cope-up with his financial burden, to some extent.



Case story from **Madhya Pradesh**

Now Abdesh (SoochnaPreneur) is using his network in block offices to endorse Jaankilal case for accessing the 'Palanhar Yojna' benefits. He has already processed the application along with the recommendation and verification details received from the village panchayat. Under the Paalanhaar Yojna, the family will receive Rs 1000 annually per child to pursue their school education. This will be a real help for the family to ensure a better future for their kids.

---

Two years ago, in an unfortunate accident, Jankilal damaged his one leg. The accident not just crippled him but left his whole family shattered as he was the only breadwinner for them.



## HEMARAM FAMILY GOT A NEW LEASE OF LIFE

Hemaram is a resident of Badha village, Kalyanpur block of Barmer district, Rajasthan. The region is absolutely parched and locals live in far-off areas in small settlements. Farming and husbandry forms a common occupation for the residents of the area. Some villagers even travel to Jodhpur stone mines to find employment opportunities as labourers. This is a story of Hemaram, who belongs to a lower-caste, and is 64 years old and has spent his last 40 years of life working as a mine worker. Hemaram is suffering from Silicosis disease- being weak and helpless- and is now forced to stay back at home. His misfortunes did not stop at this as his son, Dhalaram, 17 years old, is also mentally canlagned. Left with no options, his wife and daughter work as labourers to run the household.

Recently, Hemaram's health deteriorated and he was admitted to the hospital. The burden of delay in daughter's marriage and rising medical expenses were adding up to his misery. As luck would have it,



Gordharam, Hemaram's younger brother, accompanied him to Dhanau block hospital for his routine check-up. To get some photocopies of his treatment documents they came to Soochna Seva Kendra and met Timu Devi, a SoochnaPreneur. In a casual way, Gordharam mentioned about his brother's situation to her. Timu Devi asked both of them to come next day and bring documents of his entire medical history.

On the second day, Gordharam brought Hemaram's silicosis related papers in Soochna Seva Kendra. The documents were first analyzed by Timu Devi and then she went ahead to discuss the matter with Medical and health department officials in Dhanau block. Later, Timu Devi helped Hemaram to fill old age pension scheme forms. Today, the he receives monthly pension and it has helped the family, on many levels, to maintain a decent lifestyle. Timu is also working to build a case for him to get Hemaram some medical relief in near future.

---

Hemaram is suffering from Silicosis disease- being weak and helpless - and is now forced to stay back at home. His misfortunes do not stop at this as his son, Dhalaram, 17-years-old, is also mentally challenged.



## THE TIMEKEEPER'S STORY

Rajesh Soni is a watchmaker. He is from Mungaska block, Alwar, Rajasthan. There was a time when he was known for his craftsmanship and customer service. He had such a vast knowledge of repairing the watches that he would know the fault instantly just by looking at them. Rajesh, for a long time had health problems but he failed to heed the warning signs. One day while riding his cycle he felt strong chest pains and went straight to the doctor and ended up staying in the hospital for next three months. He was diagnosed with blood cancer. Rajesh was from a humble background and his only source of earning was working at the watch repair shop. His medical treatment costed him a fortune and he exhausted all his savings and ran into a huge debt. Even after all this, his medical condition was deteriorating and he needed a major operation to fix his health problems. His concern was that if his treatment stops at this stage then his chances of survival would be slim to none.

One day, Rajesh's neighbour suggested him to visit the nearest Soochna Seva



Kendra and meet the SoochnaPreneurs and see if they can be of any help. Next day, Rajesh went to Mungaska Soochna Seva Kendra and met Gurudev. After understanding and analyzing the complete details, Gurudev took him to the area chairman office for further guidance. As a SoochnaPreneur, Gurudev has strong network with government offices and is widely recognized and respected for his social work. Due to his reputation, Rajesh case was immediately considered by the authorities. The office asked Gurudev to help Rajesh apply for a BPL medical card and awarded a recommendation letter to help in his application. After Rajesh got his BPL medical card made, Gurudev applied for the medical grant. Soon Rajesh received the grant approval and went to Jaipur SMS hospital for his operation. He got the best treatment and was able to beat his medical problem.

---

He was diagnosed with blood cancer. Rajesh was from humble background and his only source of earning was working at the watch repair shop.



## LIVING THE DREAM

Most financial decisions that individuals take are forward-looking and are therefore shaped by the desire for a better life. Khushi irrespective of her modest background has no regrets in life but she does have big dreams for her son. She wants her son, Tanish, to become a pilot. His son is just four and is studying in Shiksha Bharti School in UKG standard. She loves watching her son going to a big school but her soul breaks knowing the fact that all this will be over soon. At the end of day, Khushi has to live with the reality that she is just a homemaker and financially dependent on her husband, who works as a labourer. Her husband was never interested in sending his son to school. For him, it was an unnecessary financial burden on family budget.

Every day, in every way, Khushi was trying to keep her son's schooling uninterrupted. She even started working as a housemaid in 2 houses for earning some money, which she thought of saving for paying Tanish's school fees later. But it was not enough. Often, she would go to school and meet the school management to request for school fee exemption.



During one of her visit to school, she met SoochnaPreneurs - Deepak and Gurudev. The SoochnaPreneur duo invited her to the Soochna Seva Kendra, Mungaska, Alwar. Khushi came to meet them and brought her BPL documents and her son's birth certificate, as suggested by the Gurudev and Deepak. Both discussed her case and met Pankaj, who is district manager, SoochnaPreneur Project, Alwar, Rajasthan. It was mutually decided that in Khushi's case, she is entitled to apply for grant help under the Right to Education Act.

The SoochnaPreneurs started helping Khushi with her documents application formalities. Khushi lacked her identity documents, so the prerequisite documents like Aadhaar card were arranged for her. After completing all the paper formalities her application was submitted in the block office and within one month her grant was approved. Today, Tanish is going to the same school and financial grant has covered his school fees till 8th class standard. Khushi is quite relaxed and happy to see that financial limitation is no more a threat to her son's education.

---

Every day, in every way, Khushi was trying to keep her son's schooling, uninterrupted. She even started working as a housemaid in 2 houses for earning some money, which she thought of saving for paying Tanish's school fees later.











# Soochna reneur

Information, Entitlements & Empowerment



PHOTO COURTESY: QUALCOMM



August 2017