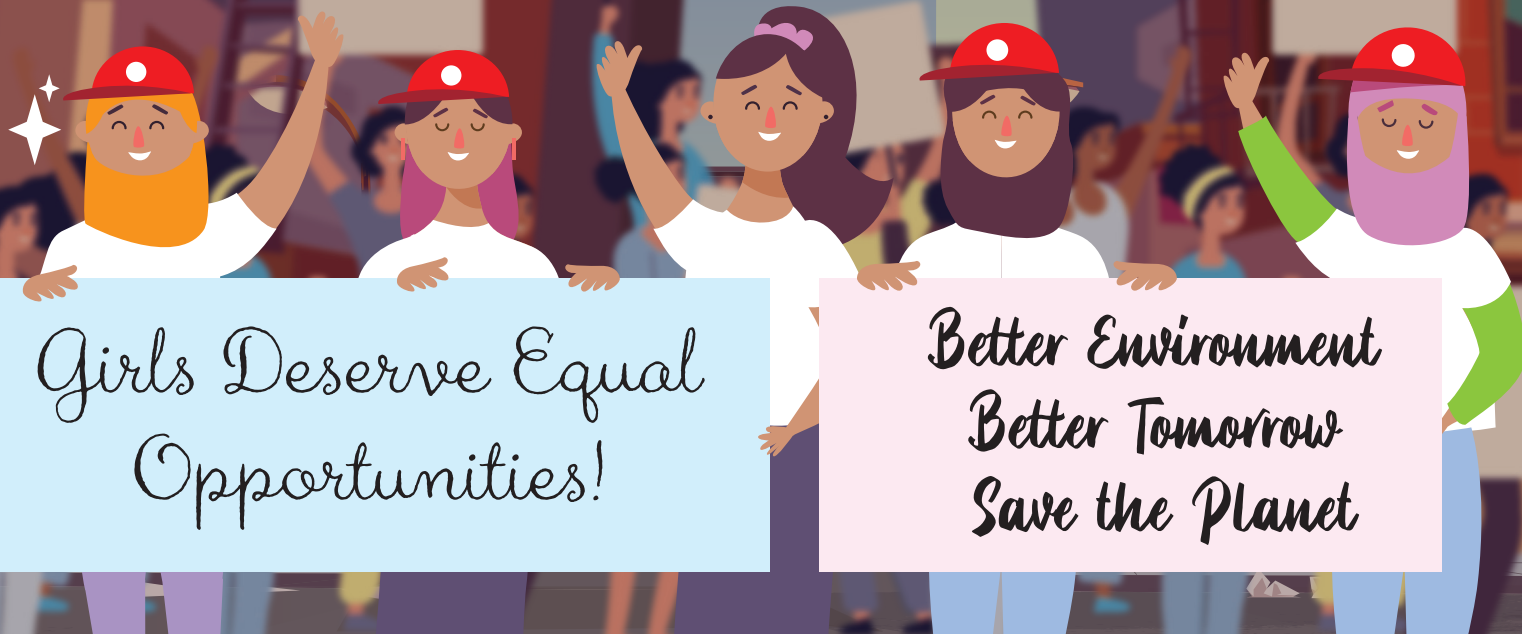


# Tech Age Girls India

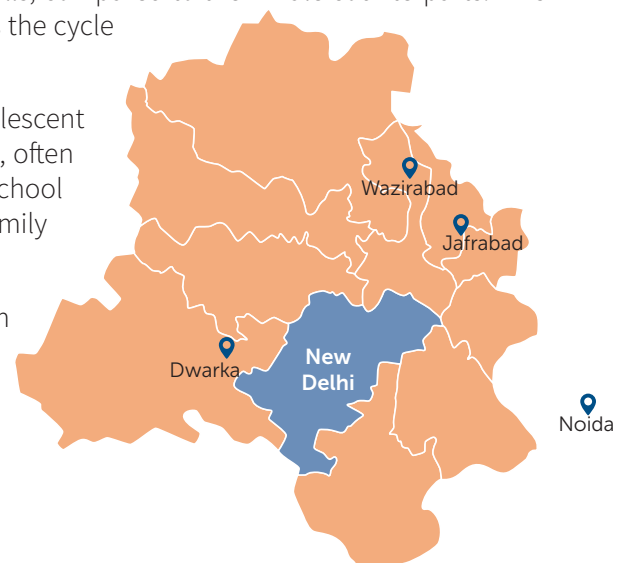


## Expanding young women's digital skills and economic opportunity

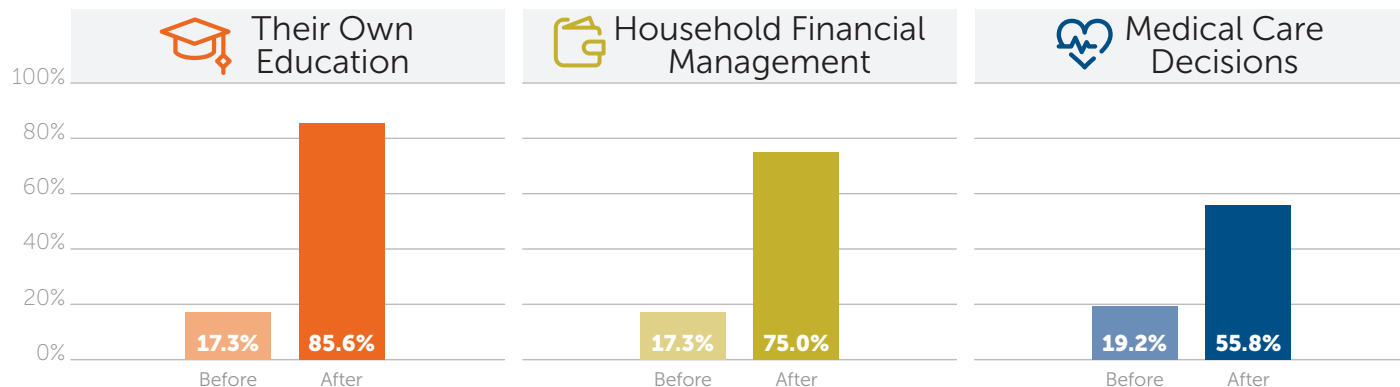
While the technology sector has expanded job opportunities in India, gender inequalities significantly limit women's access to technology and their opportunities to develop 21st century skills, compared to their male counterparts. This disadvantage closes doors to the information economy and perpetuates the cycle of uneven opportunity that limits women's economic prosperity.

Adolescent girls are particularly vulnerable. At this stage, about 43% of adolescent girls in India drop out of school before completing secondary education, often to meet the demands of household care duties. Even those who stay in school have limited influence over their own educational, employment, and family decisions.

To help bridge this divide, READ launched the Tech Age Girls (TAG) program in four communities in India's National Capital Region surrounding Delhi, with funding from The Asia Group Foundation. Through a mix of leadership and technology training, community projects and mentorship support with local female leaders, participants are seeing a significant boost in their confidence, employability skills, and influence in their communities and families.

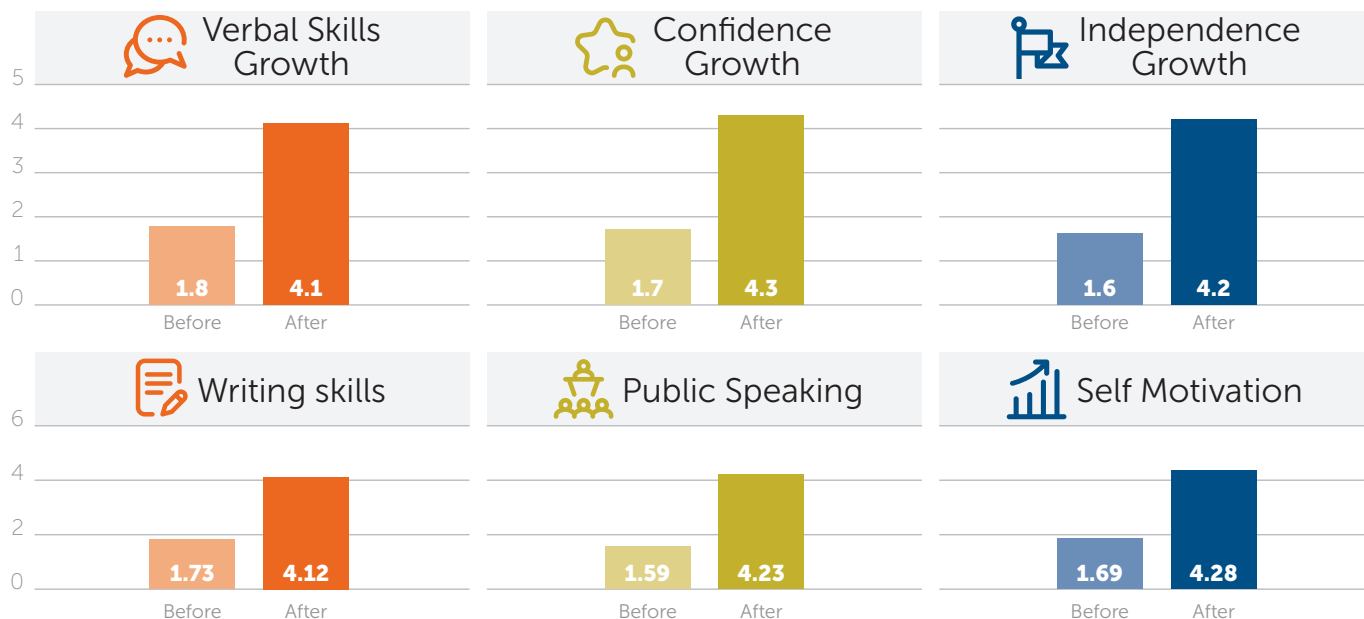


## Participants now have greater influence in their families and communities



## Participants' confidence levels have improved

### Change in Confidence Levels



## Supporting community-level COVID-19 response

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit India, the TAG program adapted to educate participants on how to keep themselves and their families safe. Many participants experienced high stress levels, boredom, and grief. During this difficult time, TAG helped participants feel more connected and supported. To support their communities, participants used their new technology skills to design posters on COVID-19 prevention and shared them through social media.

## Stories from Tech Age Girls

**Laiba, 22 years old:** Laiba joined READ activities because she saw a path towards increased independence and away from cultural and family norms in which she is expected to live a home-bound life. She believes that the goal-oriented nature of READ activities has helped to grow her self-confidence. After participating in READ programs, she was offered a position by READ India. Laiba's work as a computer trainer and instructor of cyber safety and online selling courses keeps her in close contact with her community and allows her to help other likeminded young women that are seeking to create their own opportunities. Now as a TAG coordinator she is passing on the skills she's learned to TAG trainees.

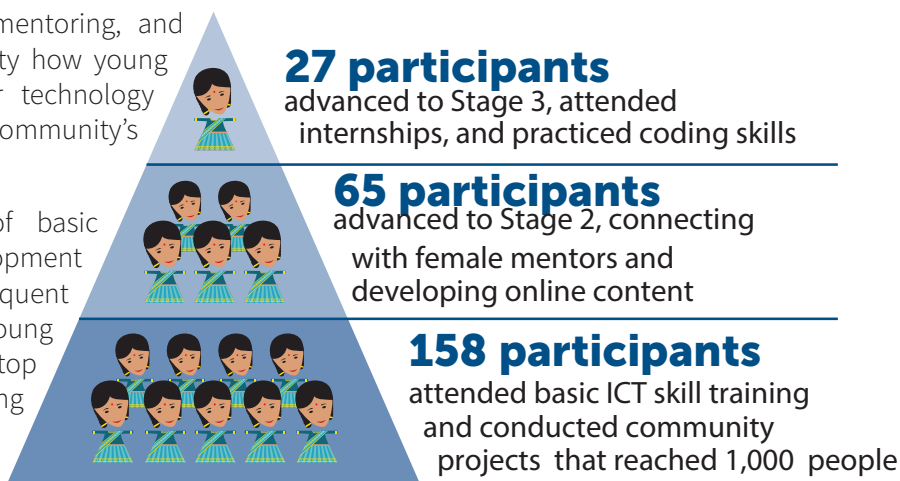
**Anjana, 26 years old:** Shortly after completing the 10th grade, Anjana's legs became paralyzed. Due to her disability, she left school at 16 and until the age of 25 did not step out of the house except to receive medical treatment. Anjana became aware of TAG through staff at one of READ India's health camps. With their assistance she enrolled and began to learn basic ICT skills, continuing her education after a long hiatus. She has recently joined a social media marketing program and her plan is to begin an online business, selling clothing which she stitches. Participating in TAG has helped Anjana to gain some of the technological knowledge she had fallen behind on since leaving school as a teenager, and along with it, increase her confidence and gain a much needed degree of independence.

## How Tech Age Girls Works

Tech Age Girls is an intensive training, mentoring, and networking program that models for society how young female leaders can confidently use their technology expertise to contribute to their community's development.

TAG is structured into three stages of basic professional skills and leadership development with select participants advancing to subsequent stages. This ensures that a broad group of young women build their employability skills, while top performers receive targeted, advanced training and internship opportunities.

Originally developed by IREX, Tech Age Girls has reached over 2,000 participants across 11 countries.



**The READ Model:** Bringing together education, enterprise, and community development.

READ's proven and replicable model focuses on community-owned and -led library and resource centers (READ Centers) in Nepal, India, and Bhutan. The Centers serve as vehicles for sustainable social and economic transformation by empowering people with information, education, and skills training through a whole community approach.

**IREX:** Striving for a more just, prosperous, and inclusive world.

IREX works with partners in more than 100 countries in four areas essential to progress: empowering youth, cultivating leaders, strengthening institutions, and extending access to quality education and information. Over the past 15 years, IREX has implemented Tech Age Girls in 11 countries across Southeast and Central Asia.



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