



Impact Stories

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Khetu Dwarkaram

by the **Livelihood team** on January 15, 2024





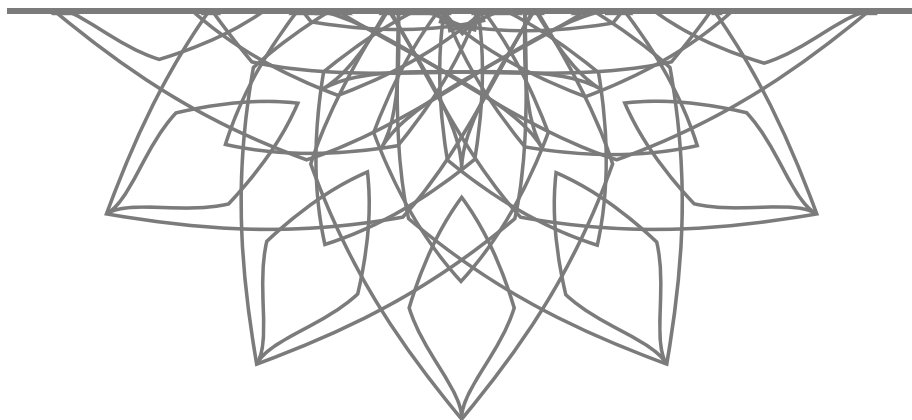
****Unveiling Transformation: Khetu Kumari's Inspirational Journey****

In the heart of Kanoi village in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, a tale of personal growth and empowerment unfolds through the extraordinary journey of 18-year-old Khetu Kumari. Supported by her resilient single mother, Hawa Devi, Khetu's life has taken a meaningful turn over the past few months within CITTA India's embroidery program.

****Embarking on a Creative Odyssey:****

Khetu's entry into the embroidery program marked the beginning of a profound transformation. Infused with unwavering dedication, she approached each session with sincerity, uncovering a newfound passion for embroidery. In a community where collaborative work is rare, Khetu cherished the freedom to interact with school friends, making her journey even more extraordinary.

She has recently joined the Ratnavati School's Camel Library project where she shall volunteer with the teaching fellows and assist them. She has not said no to any opportunity and is eager to learn, earn, and participate.





****Technical Skills and Artistry:****

The impact of Khetu's journey is evident in her newly acquired technical skills. From mastering the basics of embroidery to creating intricate designs like kha khas, chhappai, and mirror-work, Khetu has immersed herself in the world of creativity. What began as a practical skill for stitching has evolved into an avenue for crafting phone covers, bags, dresses, and salwar suits—a promising source of side income.





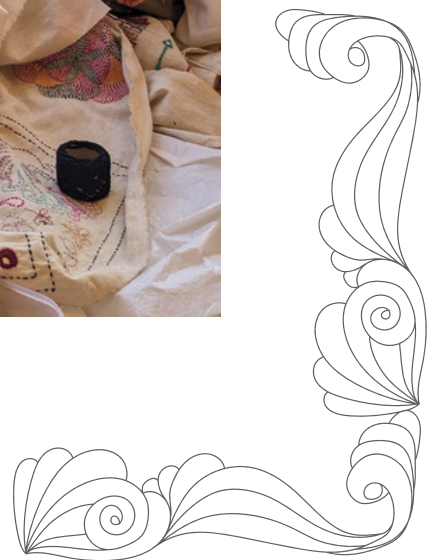
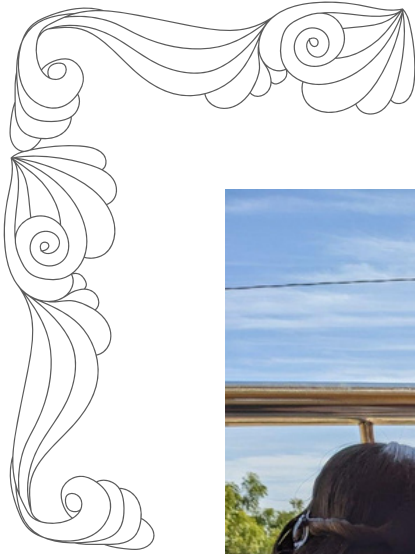
****Education and Aspirations:****

Khetu's commitment to education remains unwavering, despite facing numerous challenges. Currently enrolled in a Basic School Teaching Course, she aspires to become a teacher—a dream she nurtures with determination. Balancing her daily schedule between household chores, embroidery work, and participation in the MNREGA initiative, Khetu exemplifies resilience.

****Family Inspiration and Challenges:****

Raised by the indomitable Hawa Devi, Khetu draws inspiration from her single mother's strength. The challenges they face, including water scarcity and the absence of male income sources, are met with unwavering resolve. Hawa Devi stands as a steadfast pillar of support, encouraging Khetu to pursue education and work independently, imparting the values of self-reliance.







****Community Impact and Leadership:****

Khetu's impact extends beyond her immediate family. As the first girl in her bloodline to complete education further than the 12th grade, she is gradually assuming a leadership role in her community. Trusted by others, Khetu actively contributes to initiatives like Kasida and leads a Self-Help Group (SHG), becoming a beacon of hope for those around her.

****Dreams and Challenges Ahead:****

Khetu, with dreams that initially aimed for the medical profession, adapted to circumstances and pursued Arts due to the unavailability of science schools in her village. Undeterred, she aspires to establish her brand, crafting purses, dresses, and phone covers—an entrepreneur in the making. She wants to also become a teacher someday. Amidst the triumphs, challenges persist, with water scarcity and societal pressures casting shadows on their daily lives. Yet, Khetu remains undaunted, inspired by the resilience of her mother and fueled by a determination to carve a path of independence for herself.



Khetu's story is not just about overcoming challenges; it's about transforming adversity into a canvas of opportunity, one stitch at a time. As she dreams of a future where her creativity knows no bounds, Khetu embodies the spirit of empowerment and resilience—a beacon of inspiration for us all.



Purnima's POV: "Khetu has transformed from being initially reserved to becoming an initiative-taker. Initially, she followed instructions quietly, but now she actively contributes her ideas and suggestions during group discussions with fellow women and the CITTA team of trainers. Her confidence has grown, and she fearlessly expresses her opinions, displaying a newfound firmness.

While her early visits were irregular, Khetu later became a pillar of support alongside her mother, Hawa Devi, who serves as our CRP. Hawa Devi sometimes struggled with tasks requiring a bit of education, such as reading, checking files, finding names in a list, or calculating the number of women. Khetu stepped in as a significant support for her mother. Recently, she has taken on a leadership role in the Camel Library project with Ratnavati School Academic fellow, Mohm Sarfaarz, contributing to the program's clarity and efficient operation. Khetu's dedication has not gone unnoticed, and she has become a well-known figure in the community.

People now reach out to Khetu, recognizing her as a community leader. Despite her young age, she has emerged as an inspiration for other girls in the community, showcasing the potential of an educated young woman. Khetu's growing attitude and reputation have made her a source of motivation for others."



Anirudh's POV: "Over time, Khetu has undergone significant changes in her approach. Initially, her attendance in our sessions was sporadic. As the responsibilities on her mother increased and educational challenges emerged, Khetu stepped up to assist her mother in various tasks. Gradually, she assumed many of her mother's roles. Starting with a simple intention to support her mother, this role evolved into a genuine passion.

In the beginning, Khetu was reserved and often hid behind her mother and aunts. However, she now actively presents her work, demonstrating a newfound confidence. She not only showcases her creations with enthusiasm but also eagerly takes on new tasks.

Recognizing her dedication and the quality of her work, we encouraged Khetu to expand her skill set. She embraced the opportunity to learn additional skills like khaka making and printing. Today, she leads the printing of designs for fellow beneficiaries, ensuring smooth sessions. Beyond her individual growth, Khetu plays a leadership role by motivating and guiding other beneficiaries. She actively encourages their participation, addresses their concerns, and ensures that everyone adheres to the highest quality standards."

Khetu earned Rs 1660 by working on 7 products in the capsule collection. Her inspiring steps are a testament to her growing confidence, and she is a proud example of personal growth and determination.





After this impactful journey, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the cornerstone of our initiative, Vивиid Emissions Reductions Universal Pvt. Ltd., whose generous funding made the Livelihood project in Kanoi and Managaliyawas possible. This project has significantly impacted the lives of local women, equipping them with technical and hard skills alongside invaluable life skills and mindset development. While the changes may not appear drastic, they are profound, noticeable, and, most importantly, enduring.



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Keep Learning

Special thanks go to Rohit Sharma, who was always just a call away, ready to assist with any queries and seamlessly collaborate with us throughout the project. Rohit has consistently provided valuable suggestions, connected us with a broader network of people for fresh ideas, and granted us the flexibility needed to adapt and innovate within the project. His patience, understanding, and deep insight into the nuances of groundwork have been invaluable.

We deeply appreciate Santosh Vishwakarma for his consistent engagement and meticulous oversight, ensuring that our project stayed on course. Santosh, your attention to detail and interest in our progress have significantly aided in overcoming obstacles, facilitating a smoother journey toward our objectives.

The introduction of the weekly update system has transformed how we track our progress, offering us a consistent and streamlined method to oversee our project's development. This approach has significantly improved our operational efficiency, thanks to its simplicity and flexibility.

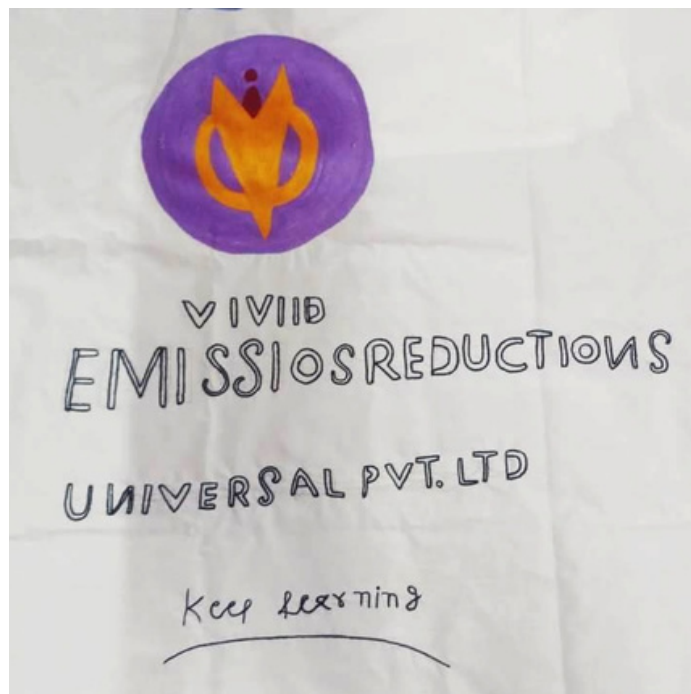




Your administrative team deserves immense recognition for their steadfast support and understanding. Their approach has fostered an environment where learning from mistakes is encouraged, enabling the women we support to grow sustainably and comfortably, truly empowering them.

We are also immensely grateful to Puneet Katyal, CEO of VIVIID, for championing this cause as part of their CSR efforts. has been instrumental in enabling social intervention and fostering long-term positive engagement with the local communities in challenging locations like Kanoi, and Jaisalmer.

VIVIID's support and commitment to making a difference has not only transformed these women's lives but also provided our team with a profound purpose, bringing us together to nurture these lives, young and old, toward a brighter future.



Thank you for your unwavering support and for believing in the potential of the women of Jaisalmer and our collective mission.