

CHILDREN'S

SKILLS REPORT 2017-18

IMPACT.

WHEN SUSTAINABILITY IS A NEW IDEA. IN SEARCH OF NEW WORDS, MEANING AND SKILLS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN RURAL BIHAR, INDIA.

**NEXT GENERATION CHANGE
LINKING SKILLS AT
SECONDARY SCHOOL
TO WORK/ENTERPRISE
#GIRLS**



**GROUND-BREAKING
ENTREPRENEURS
HEROES WHO VISIT
SCHOOLS TO SHARE
IT FORWARD THE POWER
OF REAL STORIES**

**THE CHILDREN'S
SCRAPPY NEWS
SERVICE.**

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO MAKE
YOUR SCHOOL 100% WILD?**

ORGANIC, RECYCLED, LOCAL,
YOURS. PITCH IT! RETURNS WITH 12,000
SCHOOL-ENTERPRISE PLAN IDEAS.

IN SEARCH OF A PLACE TO
PLAY ON AIR, ONLINE AND
OFFLINE, SCRAPPY SKILLS
DIGGING DEEP, GIVING KIDS
A PLATFORM AND A VOICE



The Children's Skills Report, Bihar
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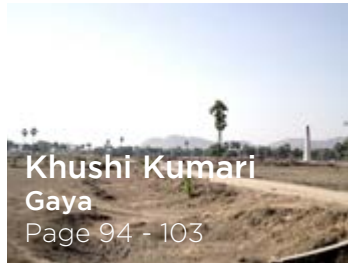
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When words escape you

What do they say... that we misunderstand each other despite the best intentions?

We've been learning a lot about different ways of seeing this year. Remembering that when you see, you need to check yourself to understand that you are looking through a lens of your own culture and values. It's different on the other side. Think of children looking through their own telescopes at you. Who then is the visitor, the storyteller, the traveller...

Roles reverse. Digging deep to try to see and not see through our own set of values our internal impact teams listened to children. Our teams didn't say much. They graded and logged hundreds of thousands of children's projects to discover new places where children are mapping their skills and their own experiences of truth/untruth, justice/injustice, sustainability and climate change.

Time is running out. That's what we heard from children. The large-scale change of everything needs to happen now in whatever way, shape or form. Call it what you want, perhaps it doesn't have a series of words or a name. 'Moving forward together' that's what children want and that includes everyone, girls, elderly grandparents, the environment, farmers, the world around us.

What we heard and found from children was that the line-up works. Best to run a story, book and project together, each part shows a different part of the skill. But there are outstanding skills games such as The Marketing Game that you can play with your friends without the story and project and get it. Repetition works, similar projects in a flow help to reinforce the skill and bigger idea, be it girls running enterprises or recycling everything. And the Children's Scrappy News Service? Well, according to children that is doing something different altogether.

Interestingly kids don't see Scrappy as being linked to our skills at school program. They see Scrappy as being its own thing, its own planet with new skills that is governed differently, no exams, it is what you make it and anyone can be scrappy. That's good news for scale. Scrappy TV airs on television on July 1st, every weekend at 4pm and we're hoping children, teachers, schools will get in touch with us to be able to run their own news services wherever in India they might be.

Entrepreneurs visited schools and met thousands of children across the past year, real heroes turning up made a huge difference.

As a new school year begins with Grade 9 skills at school impact revealed in many ways, we're excited for next steps - designing new skills at school content for Grade 10, 11, 12 and working with the Government of Bihar and all partners, foundations, to design a high-impact skills at school transition to work or enterprise of young people's choice program. With as always, a very special focus on girls and young women charting and actioning new life plans in one of the most challenging contexts in India: Bihar.

Skills

- Empathy
- Problem Solving
- Curiosity
- Innovation
- Taking Risks
- Facing failure
- Teamwork
- Social Connections
- Patience
- Determination
- Hard Work
- Taking Initiative
- Resourcefulness
- Sustainable Design
- Sustainability
- Design thinking
- Identifying problems
- Problem Solving
- Make a plan
- Draw a Blueprint
- Determine the right price
- Market your new idea
- Make a decision



My Family Tree (Vanshvriksh)

"Everyone in my family is an entrepreneur." Follow Seema to explore how her family is a family of entrepreneurs.



Skills Challenge 202

Make your own family tree and identify hero entrepreneurs in your family... What are the skills that make them a hero? How do they inspire you?



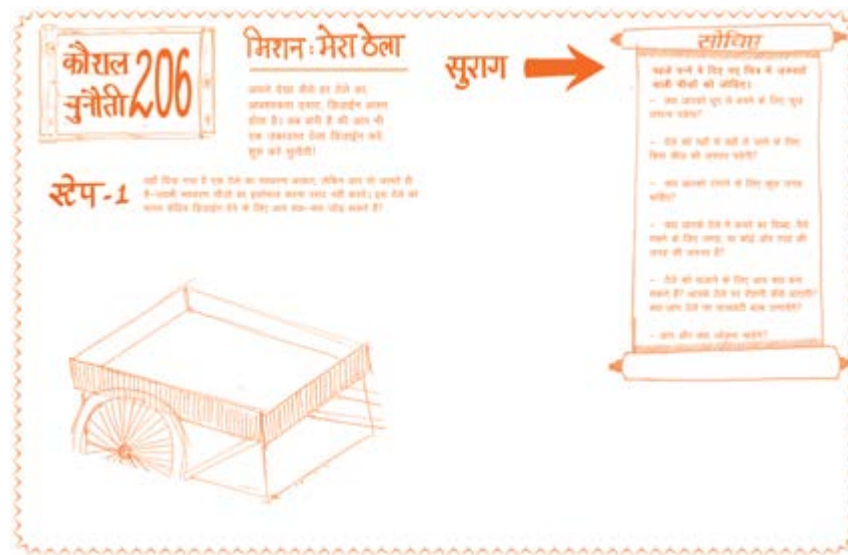
Guess Who? (Pehchaan Kaun)

Your friends guess the word you are dealt without using the most common words associated with it. Played in a group of 6-8 children, a child gives hints while others guess.



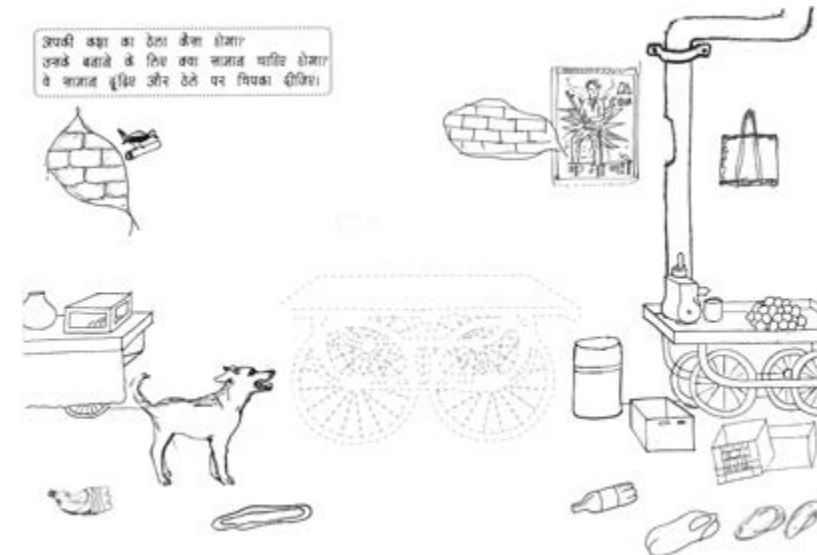
Design in Everyday Life (Design Aam Anokha Kaam)

Yes, it's all around us. Can you spot it?



Skills Challenge 206

Design your own street cart, tell us what you want to use it for and how you will make it sustainable.



Design a Cart Poster (Mera Thela)

A poster with an outline of a street cart. Work together to complete the outline with different resources that can help build the cart. For example, on the surface of the cart you can paste leftover wood.



Book of Leaves (Patton ka Anokha Safar)

One problem. Two locations. Two Heroes. Two unique solutions. Jitesh and Archana tell us their leafy story.



Skills Challenge 207

Find resources around you that can help you create something out of nothing. But remember, they must be products that solve a problem. Draw and illustrate a blueprint to share your plan with the world.



Cash Flow Game

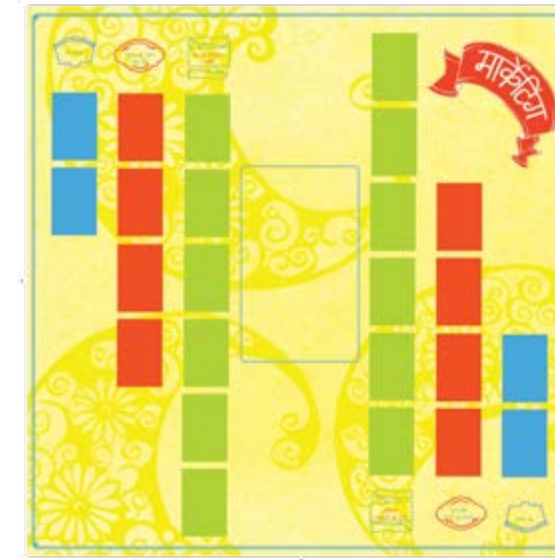
Played between 4-8 players, you choose an enterprise by rolling the dice and keep a track of your money through the ups and downs in your business. The players maintain a cash flow statement. The one with the highest balance is the winner.



Plan Bee (Ek Gungunati Yojana)
A buzzing marketing plan for Neelakantesh's beekeeping enterprise.



Skills Challenge 209
Choose a product and design the marketing strategy for it. Think about your customers. What's the best way to reach them?



Marketing Game:
Fast-paced two-player game and yes, you play to win! You get two minutes to design the ultimate marketing strategy. The rest is up to the referee to decide who wins.



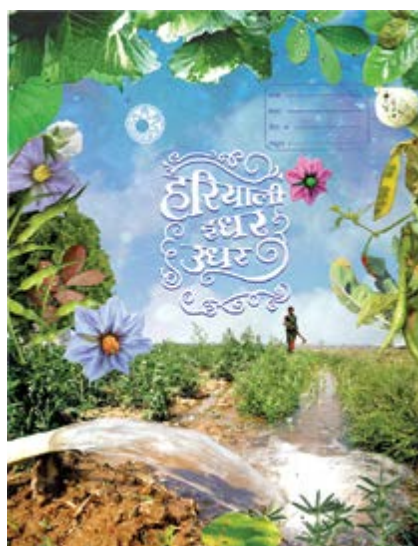
Choose Your Own Adventure (Apni Raah Khud Chuno)
A story with multiple endings, it all depends on where you want to go.



Skills Challenge 210
Children complete the skills challenge as they read the story and tell us the reason for making a decision for their enterprise, every step along the way.



Swap-it! (Adla Badli)
5-8 players play together. Every person gets a recipe card, and a set of ingredients to build the recipe. But you may not have all the ingredients! You must barter with the other players to swap resources and collect all the ingredients you need.



The Story of One Acre (Hariyali Idhar Udhar)
A month-by-month guide to planting your own organic garden.



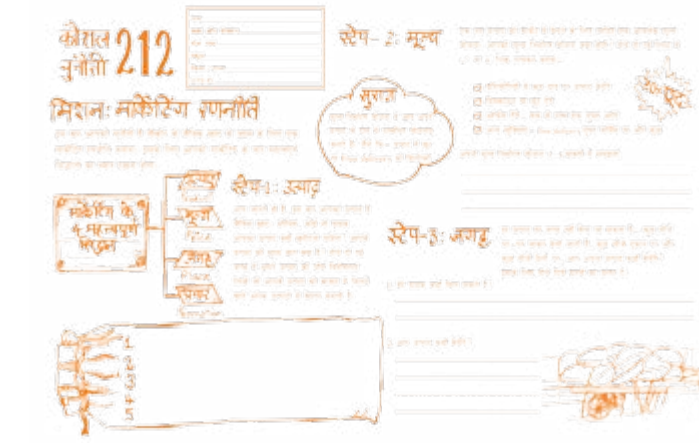
Skills Challenge
From seeds to vegetables, each school receives a packet of organic seeds, for children to plant and nurture in teams.



Nursery Game: How many nurseries can you build?!
A fast-pace four player game to get into the shoes of an entrepreneur. Roll the dice, trade and strategise to build drains, wells and nurseries in a sustainable way. The player with the highest cumulative score wins.



The Brown Eyed Boy
Taukir changes the face of fruits and vegetables, how? Two words-organic compost.



Skills Challenge 212
Mission Marketing Plan: Children make a marketing strategy for Taukir's Vermi compost Business. following the four principles of marketing they learnt from this story.



अखबार इशतेहार के साथ डिस्काउंट कूपन
प्रतियोगियों के पोस्टर और बैनर पर अपने पोस्टर और बैनर चिपकायेंगे।
सेहत के लिए अच्छा
नाले के पास

Charkhi Bazaar:
Market are always unpredictable. Spin the wheel to know where you land with your marketing strategy for your unique product. A 4-player challenge, ruled by a referee lets the players to run against time to get the best marketing strategy for their product following the principle of 4P.



Where's the Loo
How can we have children back in school? Building toilets is the solution.

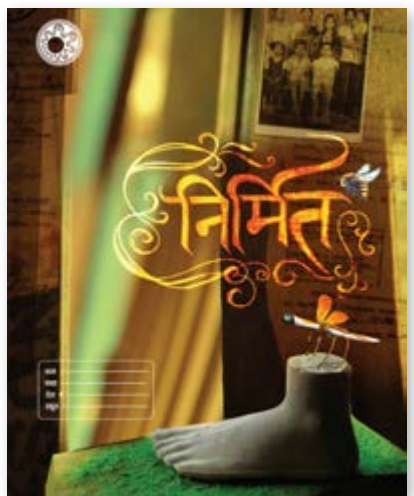


Mission Toilet Audit: 214
To understand the real needs of the people in their community, conducting a survey may just be the best tool. It is important you ask the right questions in the right way. Children complete a little survey understanding people's toilet needs in the community.



2 स्टेप आगे बढ़े।
आपका विक्रेता समय से डिलीवरी करता है लेकिन काफी महँगे दाम पर। अपनी जगह पर ही रहें।
आपके भाई को मोबाइल फोन चाहिए आपका विक्रेता आपसे महीने का हिसाब माँग रहा है। आपको समझ नहीं आ रहा है आप क्या करेंगे? अपनी जगह पर बने रहें।
आपका बिजनेस बढ़ रहा है, आपको अपने बिजनेस के लिए 2 कर्मचारी चाहिए। इसके लिए आप विज्ञापन और बात करके लोगों को दुकान का निर्माण लेंते हैं। 2 स्टेप आगे बढ़े।

Flush:
If you do not make the right move in this 4-player board game to avoid getting flushed out of your business. Stay cautious, as anything may your way while you are paying all your effort to your work.



Made, A Story of Two Ways
Ganesh and Manjula embark on a journey and end up at the same place. Read to find what they do?



Skills Challenge 213
Mission Product Testing: Just Manjula and Ganesh come up with a prototype and run it by their potential customers to get feedback and making appropriate changes to the same.



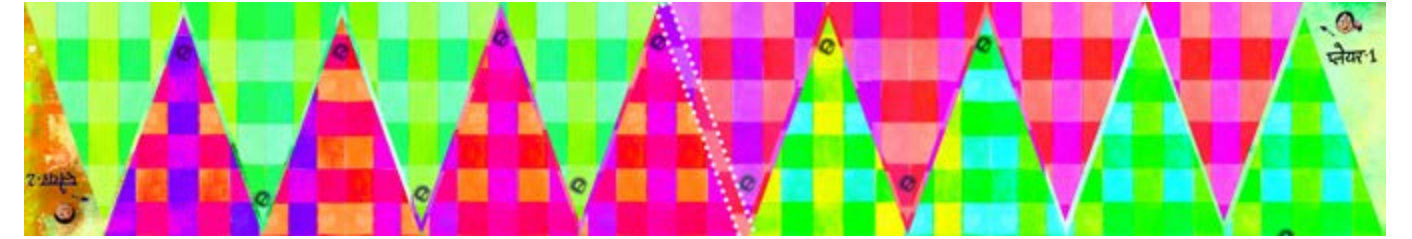
Robot
How to build a robot DIY kit: geared with a glue gun and the necessary materials to build a simple yet heavy duty all terrain robot gives kids a chance to practice some engineering themselves.



Recycled Paper Bag Hero
 What can girls do? Everything. And also, run an enterprise. Shazia's is the new paper bag hero, will she be able to fight the vattle against plastic?



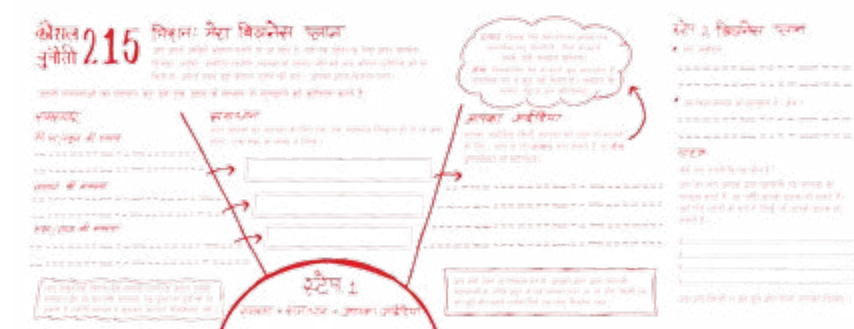
Skills Challenge 216
 Mission financial planning: As the name suggests, the skills challenge drills kids on the various heads of expenditure and earning leading the kids to come up with the most concrete financial plan for their enterprise.



Debit Credit Game:
 After getting their hands on writing an error free cash flow, this game encourages children to work with real coins to see the money come and go in their accounts. A challenging series of mathematical tasks to be done using coins makes this for an exciting play.



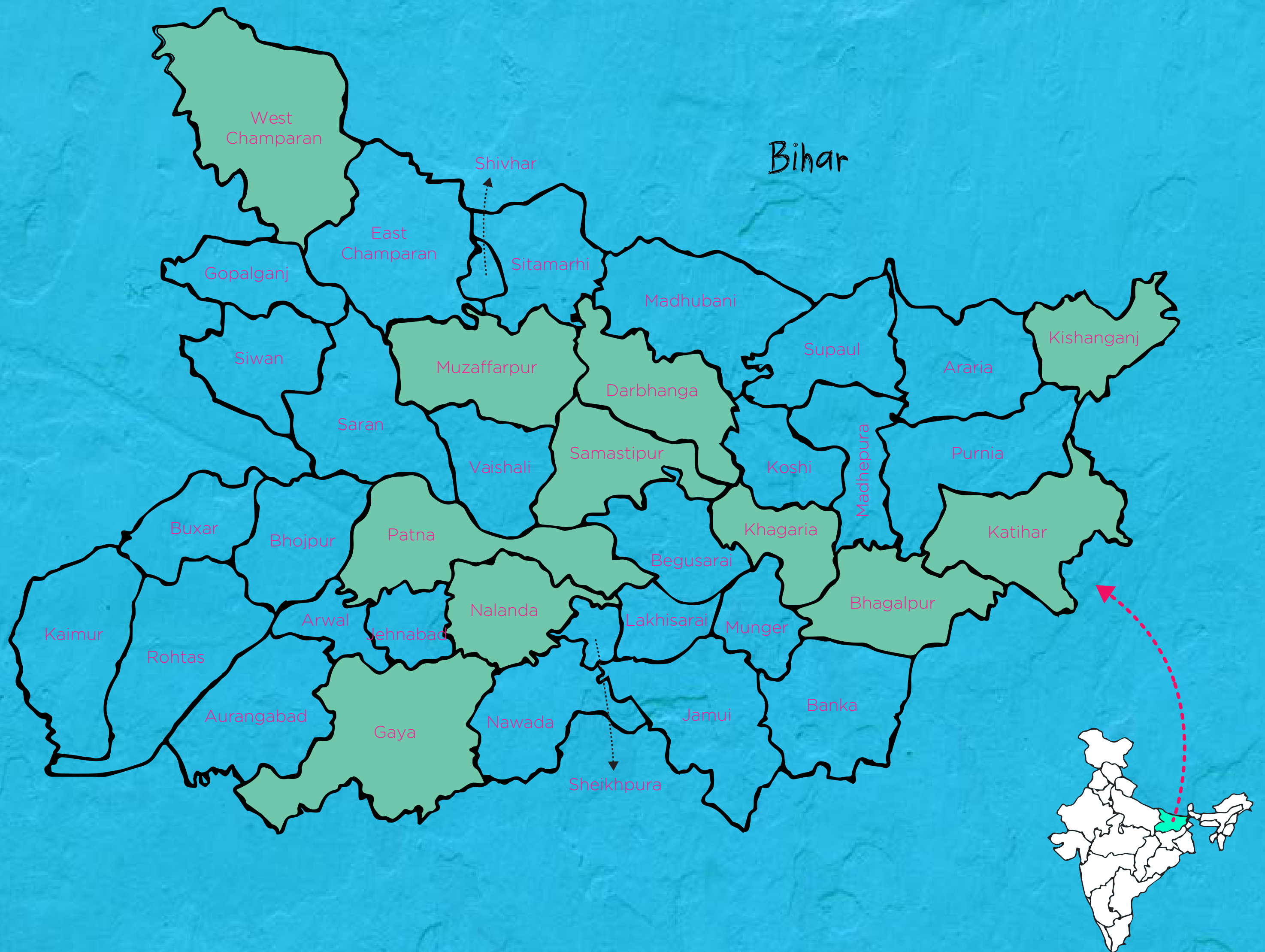
The Ultimate Stitch
 Sometimes you take many wrong turns to find your way. Find out how Angat learns branding and marketing to find success.

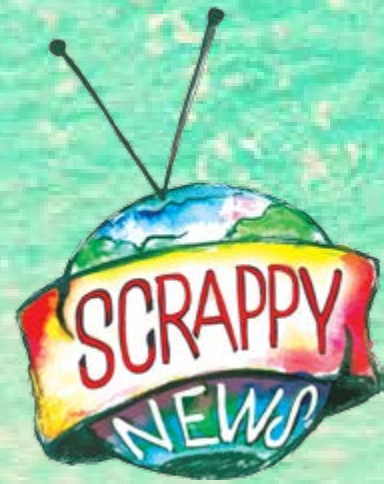


Skills Challenge 215
 My Business Plan Game V2: A big board game that provides four different contexts and options to choose from to set out your perfect business plans. The one who gets the connection between the problem, customers, services and the supply correct is the winner at the end.



Mission business plan:
 This skills challenge combines kids' knowledge gained from book 1 to book 10 to help them create a business plan for their enterprise idea.





The Children's Scrappy News Service

We built 20 new rooms in Bihar





Muzaffarpur



Darbhanga



Bhagalpur



Bhagalpur



West Champaran



Nalanda



Bhagalpur



Gaya



West Champaran



Nalanda



Bhagalpur



Gaya

Samastipur





Anuradha

Anuradha Kumari,

Grade 9, B.S. High School Aatapur,
Nakuni, Samastipur

Wild young women-farmer-entrepreneurs, learning how to drive

It was spring time in Samastipur, and flowers and trees bloomed out of the lazy winter. Nagaland Coriandrum, Parrot Flower, Gooseberry, Marigold, Aloe Vera, Clitoria Termite, Hibiscus. Anuradha pointed at each of the plants we saw as we entered her house, she told us what these plants are good for and where they come from. Her grandfather, an avid traveler collected plants from across India, he brought them home.

Growing plants, gardening and farming runs in Anuradha's family, from her grandfather collecting plants from all over the country to how her father enjoys taking care of the plants, using them for medicinal purposes, she feels well equipped to be a successful farmer when she grows up. A woman farmer who runs an organic farm. She smiles and shows us more of her marigold plants lined behind their house: "Natural," she reinforces "No pesticides."

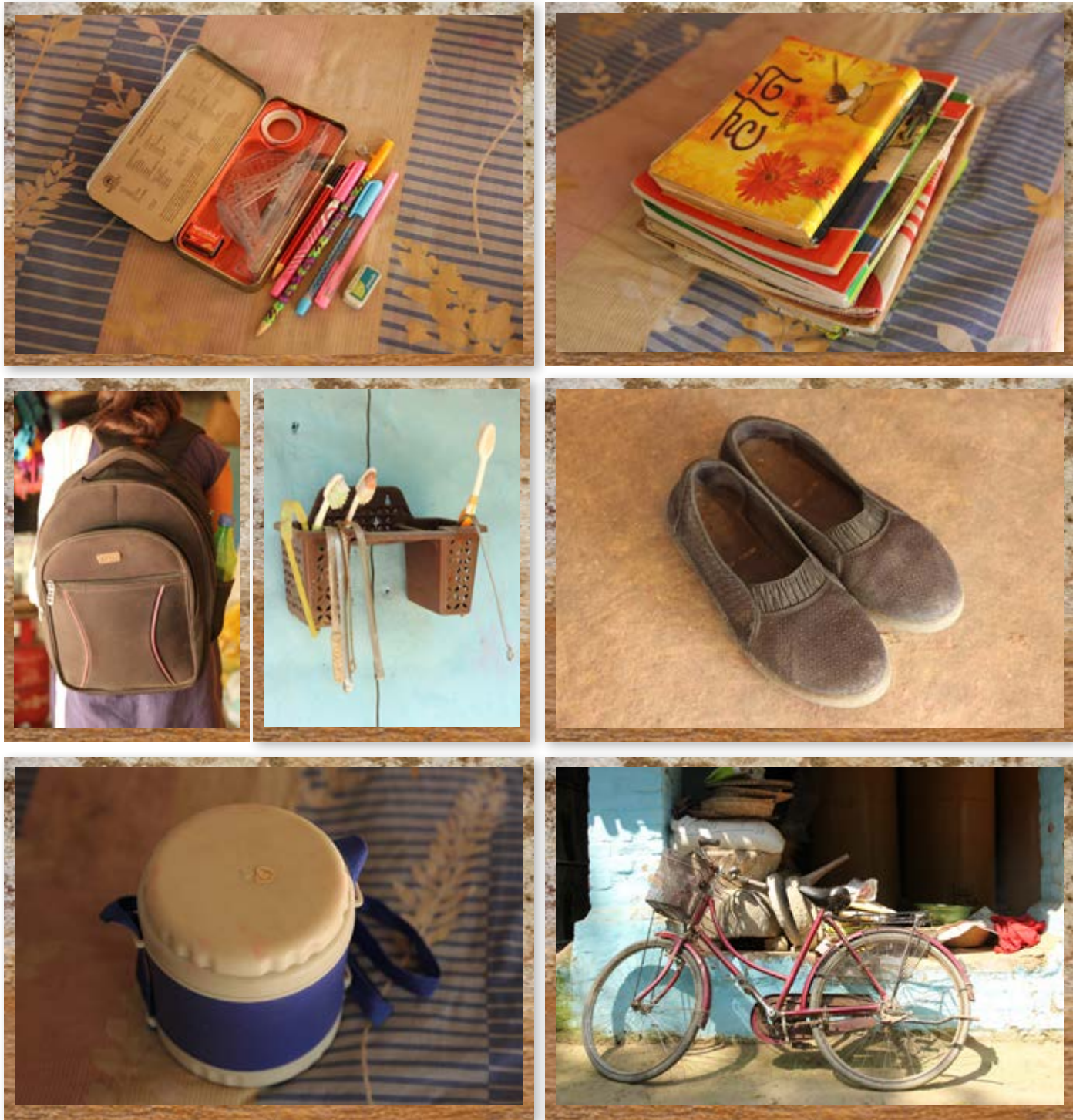
Are you going to be a farmer entrepreneur, to run your own company when you are older? "Yes. Why not. Absolutely. People are afraid of failure, that's why they don't start new things but I'm not" Anuradha replies as if we've asked the most obvious question we could and forgot to ask Why people don't start enterprises. "Let me tell you about the failure part. I'm not worried about failing because when you fail you learn new skills like Angat in the story, 'The Ultimate Stitch' he learned the importance of market research after he failed by just going to market, you learn, you fix it, you go back again with new skills and you make it."

Anuradha explains with excitement and a plan, "I want to be an organic farmer. Like Tauqeer, I will use natural manure, but I will grow flowers. Flowers of all kinds and colors. I will be an entrepreneur just like the woman who sells homemade snacks outside our school and the other woman who runs a jewelry shop in the market." We're equally excited that Anuradha lists women-entrepreneurs where she lives. Anuradha looks at her watch and shows us the time, "Do you know what time it is? Its time for girls to be everywhere, there's a woman in my neighborhood who I saw practicing how to drive, do you know how crazy and world-changing that is, do you?" Yes we do Anuradha, and yes, it is time.

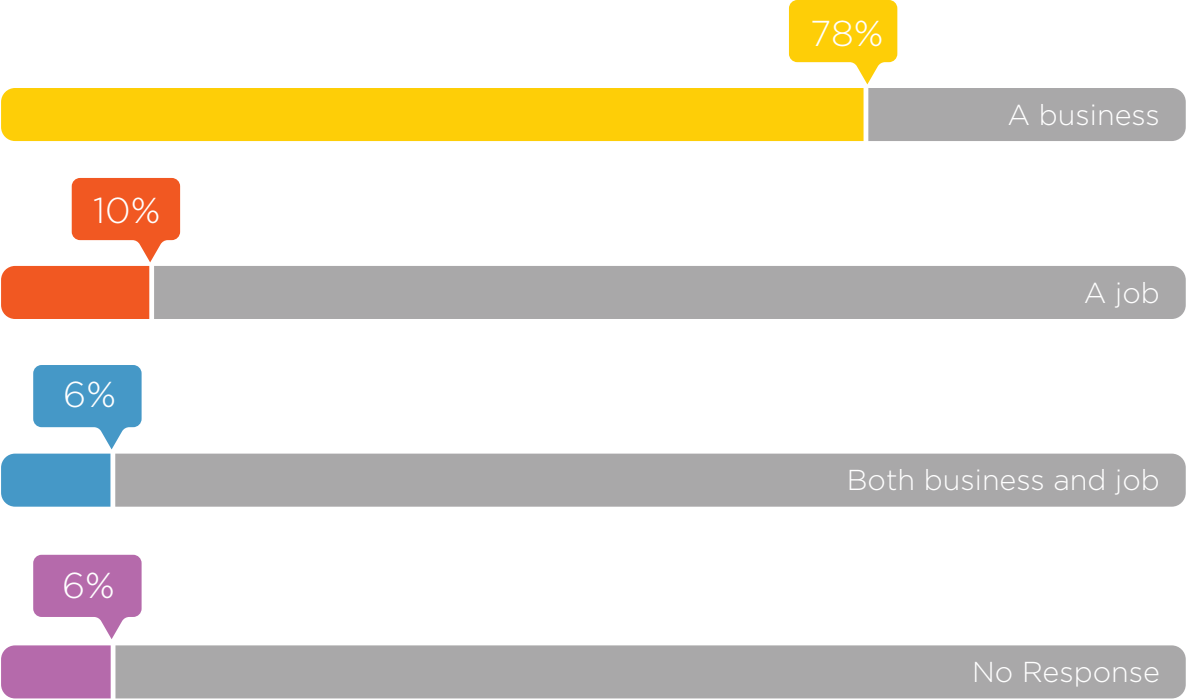
Highlighted book: The Ultimate Stitch

Skills learnt: **Problem solving, market research, taking risks**

Tools for School



What do you want to do?
A job or start your own enterprise



Given an option between a job or an enterprise, 78% children opt for a job, 10% to start their own enterprise/ a business, and 6% still wait to decide as they opt for both a job and an enterprise.





Blanket dreams

As a child, Rajni and her sisters had to share one blanket in the harsh and cold winter nights. It really bothered Rajni that she was not able to keep her little sisters warm. A chance encounter with an old woman who made blankets out of old sarees, served as the inspiration for Rajni's enterprise. It was born both out of need and a passion for self-determination. The beginnings were humble, Rajni went door-to-door to explain her idea to people in her village and the surrounding ones. But, within a space of five years, Rajni has created an enterprise which now employs five other women, and has hundreds of customers from these villages. Rajni is now responsible for providing solace to so many families on cold winter nights by creating a product that is both affordable, yet sustainable.



Samastipur



Shalini



Shalini Kumari

Grade 9, High School, Atapur,
Nakuni, Samastipur

Breaking new ground, generation after generation

“My aim is to complete school, and then study until I finish my Ph.D. in Science, then one day I will have a job that pays me well and I will be independent. Nobody will ever question WHY I need money. It’s important that women earn money and not just ask for it from your family, when you ask them for it and they give it to you then control you. You need to earn it yourself to make your own decisions. It’s a simple equation, I have no idea why no one else has really figured that out. If you don’t take their money they can’t tell you what to do.”

Shalini figured this out in reverse: all the women in her house do not work, they have no financial control or decision making power. Her grandmother tells us all the reasons why people would not let girls go to school, she wasn’t allowed either, it just gets handed down, like traditions. Girls don’t go to school, women don’t work out of the house or earn money. Shalini’s Mum made one break in the chain, she completed Grade 12, but she was promptly married right after.

Shalini thinks she can take the next step. Grade 12, not get married and go to work. She has a plan. She knows its about who earns and controls the money. She’s not that money-minded but she also doesn’t care if you think she is. “When you are poor money matters,” she says matter of factly. She’s a science enthusiast, confident and thoughtful, she’s seen science everywhere. “We have started a composting unit at school inspired by Tauqeer in ‘The Brown Eyed Boy’, and we’ve largely stopped burning things that could be used for compost,” she shows us the mini pits and introduces us to her team. Connecting the dots between the problems and their effects, she moves from talking about burning leaf waste to use of chemicals in the farms, how it harms the soil and how it is slowly leading rural economies to hit rock bottom, lose money and get even poorer.

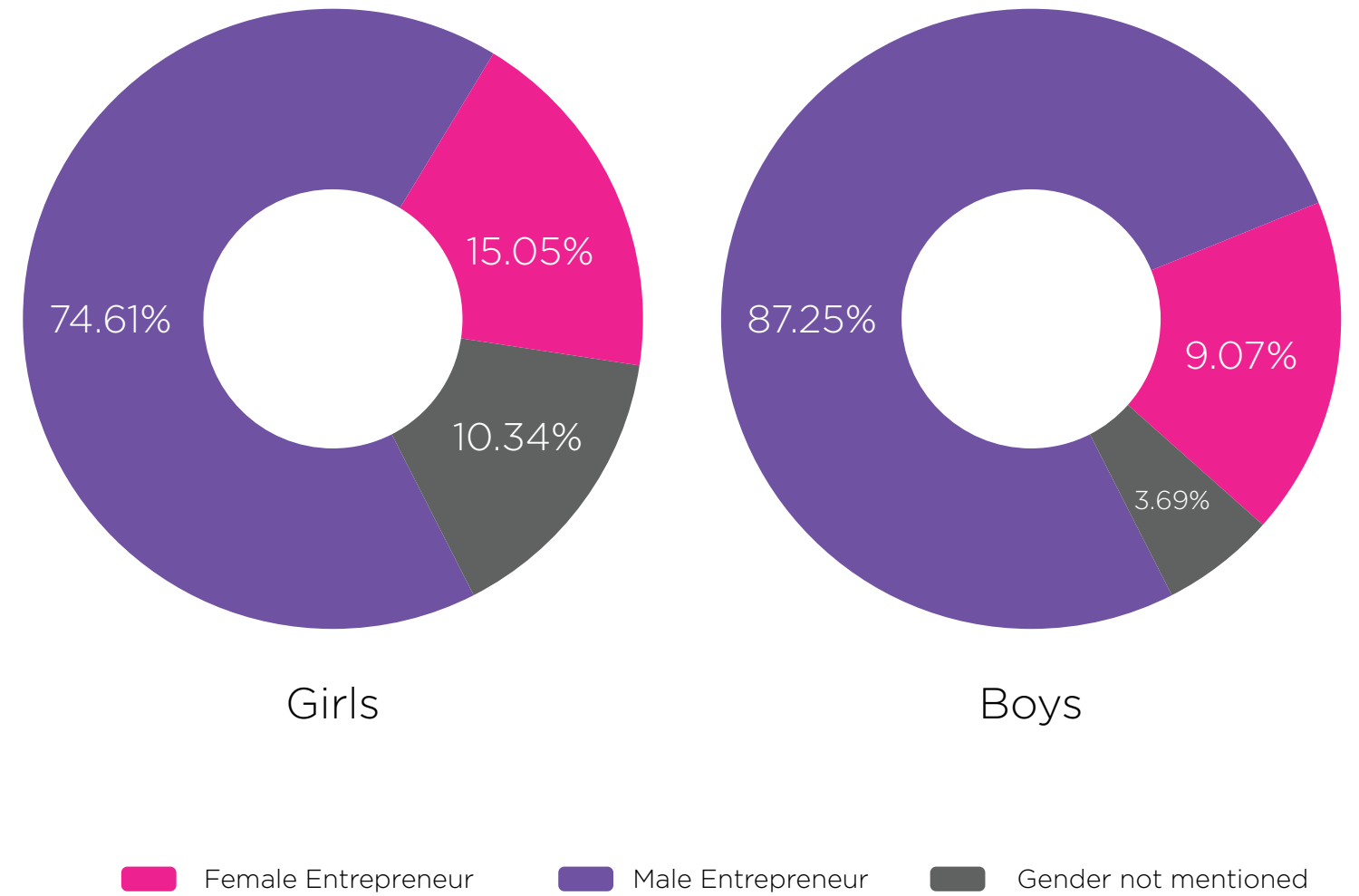
“Schools used to teach values, now if you are not going to do that you need to teach skills that help people get jobs or start companies to earn money and stop this cycle of nothing and women not having choices, why is everyone so afraid about talking about work as being what you get if you get skills? I’m going to work, did I tell you, I’m going to get a job after I complete Grade 12 and earn money so I can choose what I do next, so when my daughter comes along she’ll be able to complete Grade 12, go to work, and who knows what next? Well, I know. She’ll choose.”

Skills learnt: **Goal setting, identification of sustainable resources, teamwork**

Tools for School



Gender of Hero Entrepreneur



What was the basis of the identification of an entrepreneur? The term entrepreneur often gets translated into being a businessman, or a social worker but in the purview of the skills program, an entrepreneur is the one who combines the skills and resources available to them to solve a problem that people face in their community. 52% children have identified an entrepreneur who solves a problem for many people in their community, 33% think that their heroes are entrepreneurs because they solve a problem (only a few people in the family or their community). Yet, there are 6% who do not solve a problem and are heroes for kids. 9% kids have not responded to this question/ left it as blank.





The Children's Scrappy News Service



One of the many important considerations while making a newsroom is space. Is there enough space to make it? Is there shade where the newsroom is? This school in Gaya did not have enough space on ground to be able to make a newsroom. But, there was a space on the terrace that was unused and locked. The children, while gathering materials to build the newsroom, submitted an application to make the terrace space open for them to make their newsroom. And thus was born, the first and only newsroom on a first floor. When children are not busy creating their reports in the newsroom, it has become a haven for them away from the trials and tribulations of daily life, where they can go and be children once again.



Muzaffarpur



Jyoti

Jyoti Kumari

Grade 9, Rajkiyakrit +2 Uchttar Madhyamik Vidyalay,
Jarang, Muzzaffarpur

Everyday heroes, we are, if we choose

11:45 am. It is time for another story in Jyoti's school. It's a hot day in Muzzaffarpur, but she can hardly hold back her excitement. Today's story is, 'Recycled Paper Bag Hero', a story of Shazia who is not a hero at all, according to Jyoti, and that's why it is such a fantastic story, it is a book, a printed book, about girls who Jyoti sees and meets everyday. Imagine, Jyoti, muses, a story about no one especially extraordinary at all. That's the part that Jyoti seems to like the most - the 'not extraordinary' part. The fact that 300,000 other children are reading a story about a young woman who is every young woman in Bihar.

Jyoti explains, "When children read this story first they'll ask, why? Why is she in the story? Then they'll figure it out, that she, we, every girl and woman in Bihar could be so un-extraordinary that she could be in a story published and read in school. They'll get it, you know I think they'll really get it, that everyone has features, skills, talents, ordinary things that make them extraordinary and normal at the same time. Do you know what I mean?" Every day heroes we offer. "Yes, I think our world needs that, everyone to be heroes everyday."

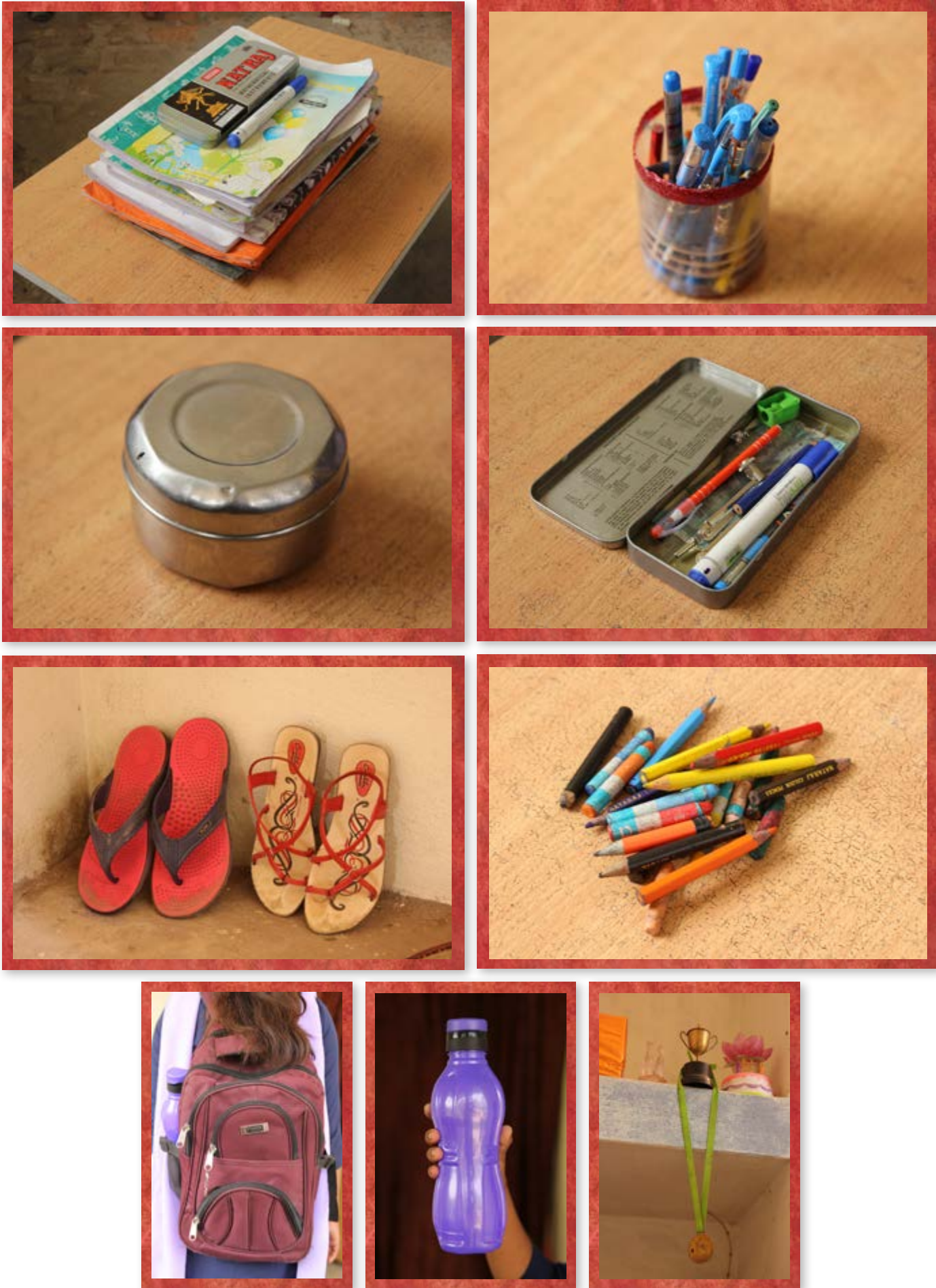
Her mother, Mangli Devi, who runs a small general store outside of their house. Her aunt, who runs a beauty parlor. "Yes they are but they don't know it and they need to frame their skills, polish them, shine them up, you can't shine your skills unless you know you have them now, can you? Knowing is more than half the battle." Competition from big shops was taking away her mother's business and her aunt hasn't had many customers lately. "They need these stories."

We went home with Jyoti to meet her heroes and they shared that Jyoti had been sharing what she's learned at school through stories. "After Jyoti installed this banner outside my shop, my business did better, I earn more than before", said Jyoti's mother pointing at the new sign that read, 'Beat the heat with a Cold Drink @ Rs 5'. She got her aunt to think about new schemes, package deals and offers - marketing. A simple hand written note about special offers did the trick for her to attract customers who were hesitant to pay more.

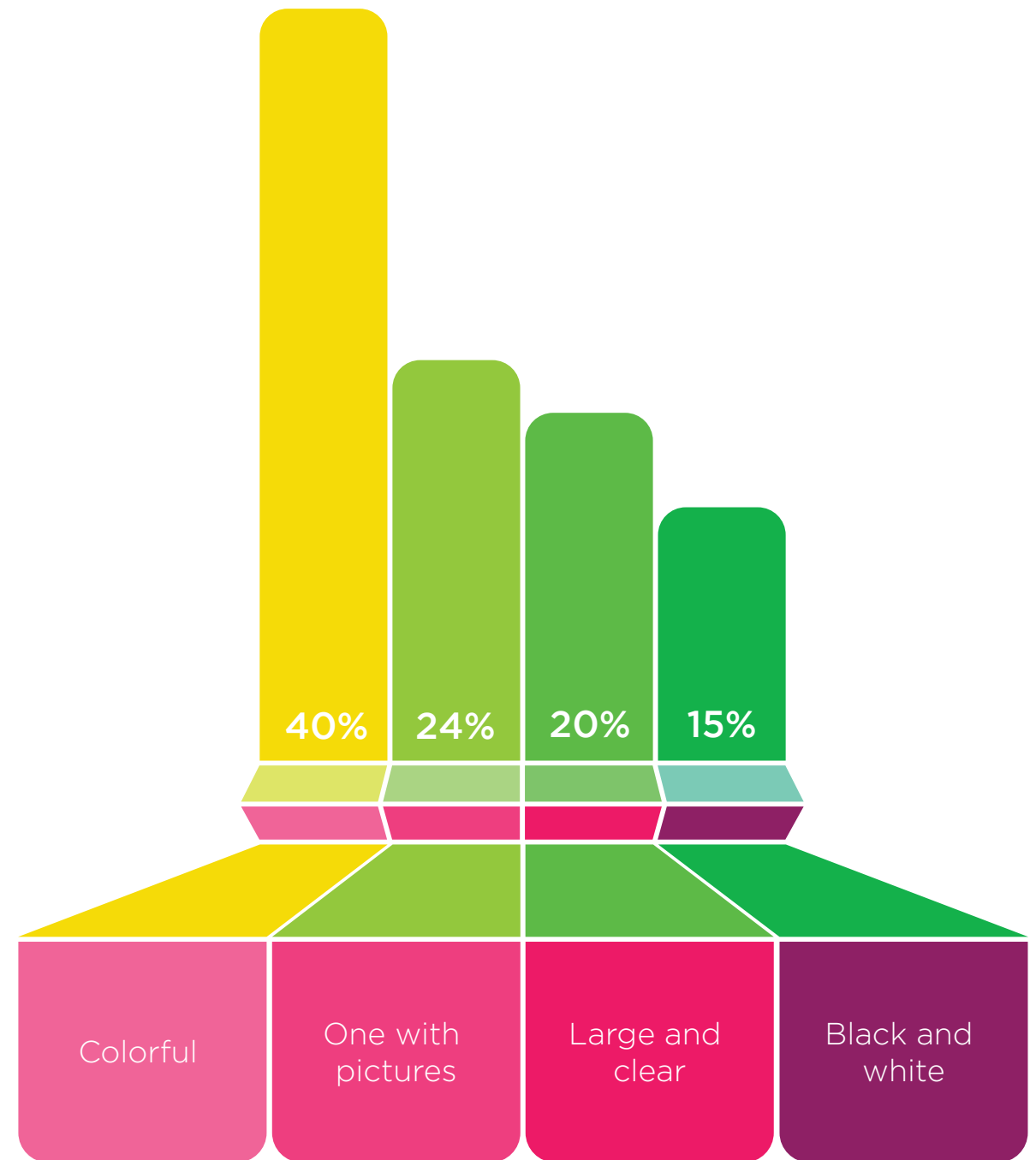
Jyoti shrugged, "Told you, everyday heroes, we all are, we just need to choose to act, share and be."

Skills learnt: **Problem solving, Marketing, Entrepreneurship**

Tools for School



Characteristics of an attractive advertisement



When it comes to planning an actual advertisement, a poster or a pamphlet, a colorful aid, one with pictures and the one that is large and clear earns the most points, compared to a black and white advertisements.



S.K.P.
HERO
BR06BE-जय माता दे-8493



May the sun shine on you and power all of your dreams

Rinku lives in a small village in Gaya. Her village is one of the many that do not receive any electricity. Her son Srishitraj was forced to study under the dim light of a kerosene lamp, affecting his health. Necessity is the mother of invention, so goes a cliché all of us have heard way too often. But necessity is often the mother of determination as well. Rinku was determined to give her son a better and healthier future. Her determination led her on a quest to finding solution until she stumbled on to the magic of solar power. As with most visionaries, Rinku saw in this not just an opportunity for her but also everyone around her who was deprived of electricity. Rinku's enterprise now provides solar powered home solutions to not only her village, but to so many more around her as well.



Muzaffarpur



Khushboo

Grade 9, Rajkiya Krishi Dhanraj High School,
Muzzaffarpur

Building robots, playing fair in the ongoing battle that is a young woman's war

"Every day is a battle in a long war that I'm not sure I'm winning."
Another morning where Khushboo begins her day at 4.30 am. A little before the sun comes out in the summer. Khushboo's days begin and end in darkness, which she fills up with the light of her energy. Up and at it, make breakfast, make lunch for everyone, complete your homework, finish every chore, clean, wash, everything for everyone, then run, race to her coaching classes. "I cannot afford to miss these even if I am so exhausted that I declare the war is over" she says with a fiery fighting spirit, "It can't be over, it's just begun because after coaching there's school, six days a week. Did you hear me, I said six."

Khushboo has a top three and since we are here she asks.

"Tell me, really, did Kalpana Chawla, the astronaut, Mithali Raj, the cricket team captain, Sumitra Mahajan, Hon'ble Speaker at the Lok Sabha, have to do all of this?"

We're not sure so we say so.

"Did they play with girls? I have to play cricket with boys as there is no girl's team and no girls to play with. I guess they are all doing housework."

She almost punches the air in her war as she adds: "People have so much time on their hands they talk about me. Don't they have to do everything too, like who is cleaning their floor, making their lunch, is it the same girl who's playing cricket with boys? If so, I'd keep quiet, remain mum, be silent. She's doing it all. Don't talk about her too."

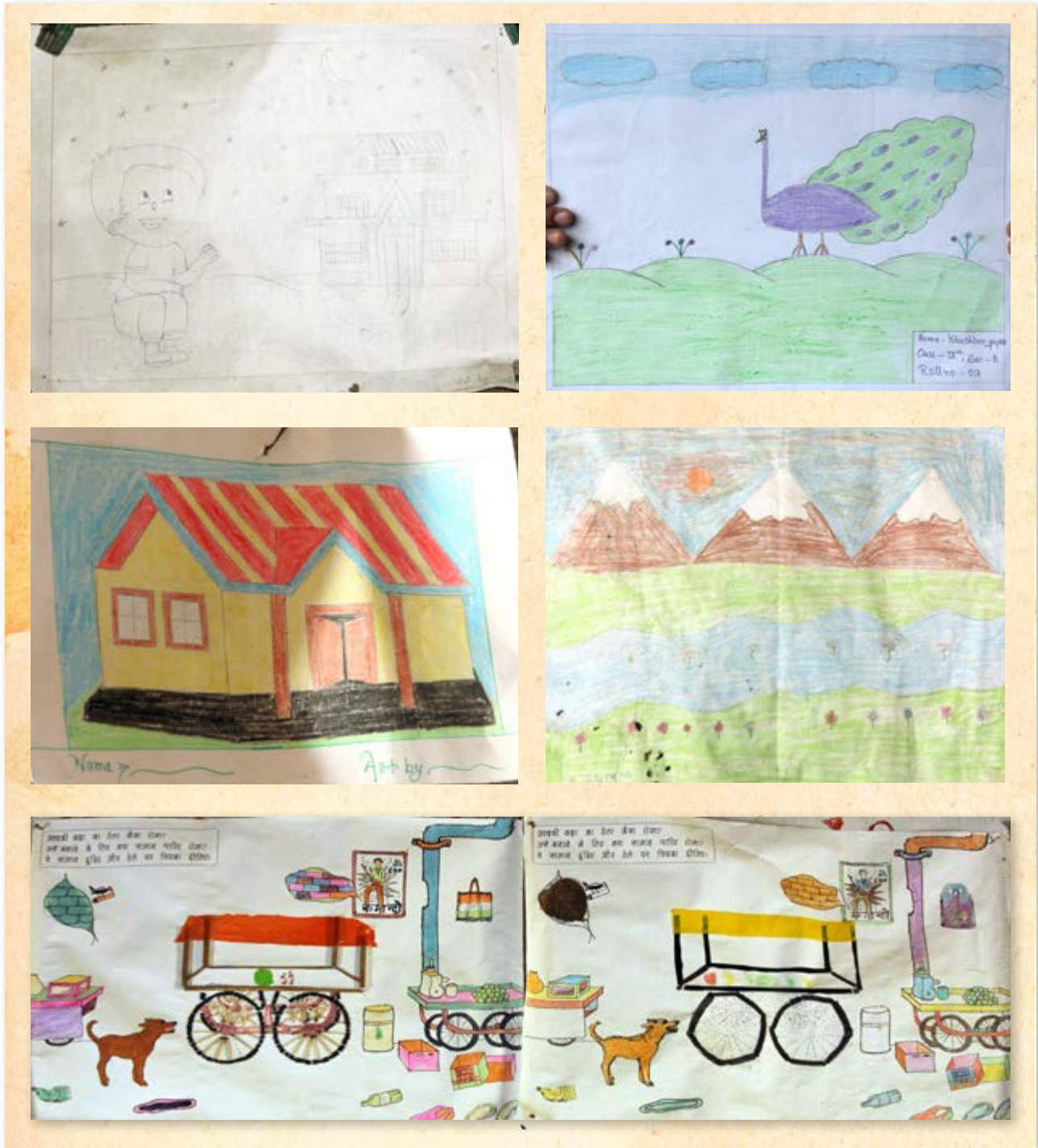
"I've built a robot at school that's going to do my chores, clean, make breakfast and lunch, free girls and women so we can work and play. Maybe they can talk about the robot then instead of me?"

She swings as if hitting a cricket ball into the sun.

Skills learnt: **Problem solving, Time Management, Innovation**



Tools for School











Making robots – Pitch It!
Scrappy Reporters in Kishanganj invited different teams of children to make their own unique robots using scrap. This was a Pitch It! with a twist though – everyone was a winner!

Darbhangha



Shilpi



Shilpi Kumari, 13

Grade 9, +2 Sarvodaya High School,
Darbhanga

Make the switch, role reversal.

Its early morning in Darbhanga. The play grounds on the way to Shilpi's home are bustling with people, young and old. Some are running, some are playing cricket or football, some are doing yoga, while others just dreamily watching the activity in front of them. Hustling through her morning chores, Shilpi informs us that her parents and sister are out and therefore, all this work is on her right now. She winds up her tasks of cleaning the house, the dishes and washing clothes and a swiftly dressing up to begin for school. She knows she has to manage everything well to be at school on time, from waking up at 5 am to cycling the 2.5 kilometers to school fast and safe.

Juggling between being on time, taking responsibility and being safe on the road, she says the greatest skill that she has is "confidence" and asks us if we still consider confidence as one skill.

Of course we do.

"My mother is a housewife; she manages everything at home when my father is away on his trips; he is a truck driver. When they both are at home, they share household work."

Can they switch their jobs? We ask.

"Really... can women drive a truck?" she questioned, she hadn't thought about it. She said, "I have seen women drive scooters and bicycles but never a truck or a car. Maybe they can, if there is an opportunity to learn. But then what about safety? It is unsafe for women out there."

"For any girl or woman movement outside the house gets restricted as she grows up. Boys are allowed to do whatever they like and move about wherever they want to, at any time."

Continuing to decipher the reasons for restrictions on the girls and how everything in the universe for girls gets connected to nothing but a web, dowry plays an important role in deciding how girls are treated all their lives. "Girls are aware of the dowry burdens from a very early in their lives, pulling down their levels of confidence, families are aware how it is an evil practice, yet practice it. It continues to destroy lives—of girls and their families," she said. "I wish I could end dowry system, just like erasing a mark of a pencil from the surface paper."

Tools for School



She looks at her bicycle and says, and clearly displaying the confidence she mentioned earlier, she says “I think I want to learn how to drive a truck or a car or a scooter, after all I love to cycle. If I can do that, I can also drive. My mother can too. And maybe these small steps can lead us to bigger victories.”

Skills learnt: **Problem identification, goal setting.**





Bags for all seasons

Very often, Rekha would buy vegetables from the market, and at some point the plastic bag that she carried the vegetables in broke, her vegetables rolling down the road. She realized two things - this wasn't happening to her for the first time, this wasn't happening just to her. At home she saw a big bag that rice and flour come in. And there it was - her big idea. She liked doing these things - reusing, innovating, recycling, re-designing. There was already too much trash on the planet. She would do this with many other things. Re-using plastic boxes in kitchen. Making flower pots out of spare boxes. What if she could upcycle used bags to create sturdier, affordable, reusable bags? And that is exactly what she did. She now makes big and small bags, bags in different colours and designs, based on the needs of her customers. None of whom ever have to worry about their bags breaking apart.



Even newsrooms are not immune to rains and floods, and so was the story of this newsroom. During the monsoon, the rains flooded the school as well and the newsroom was submerged in water too. However, instead of being dejected, the children took this on as a challenge. Once the rains subsided, they dismantled the newsroom, piece by piece, created a mound, equivalent to the space required by the newsroom, made out of soil and rocks, and rebuilt the newsroom on it. And thus came about, the newsroom on the (tiny) hill, that can sustain any amount of rains or floods. The disaster relief authorities should look into bringing these children in as consultants.



Darbhanga



Shubham



Shubham Kumar

Grade 9, Sarvodaya High School,
Darbhanga

Be your own hero

“Good teachers make a good school,” points out Shubham who has studied in both private and public schools, “everything else is just the same.”

According to Shubham, there are many things that make a bad school, he lists them: “Having no toilets or dirty toilets, bad roads leading to the school, no drinking water, no electricity and a hot and a humid classroom.”

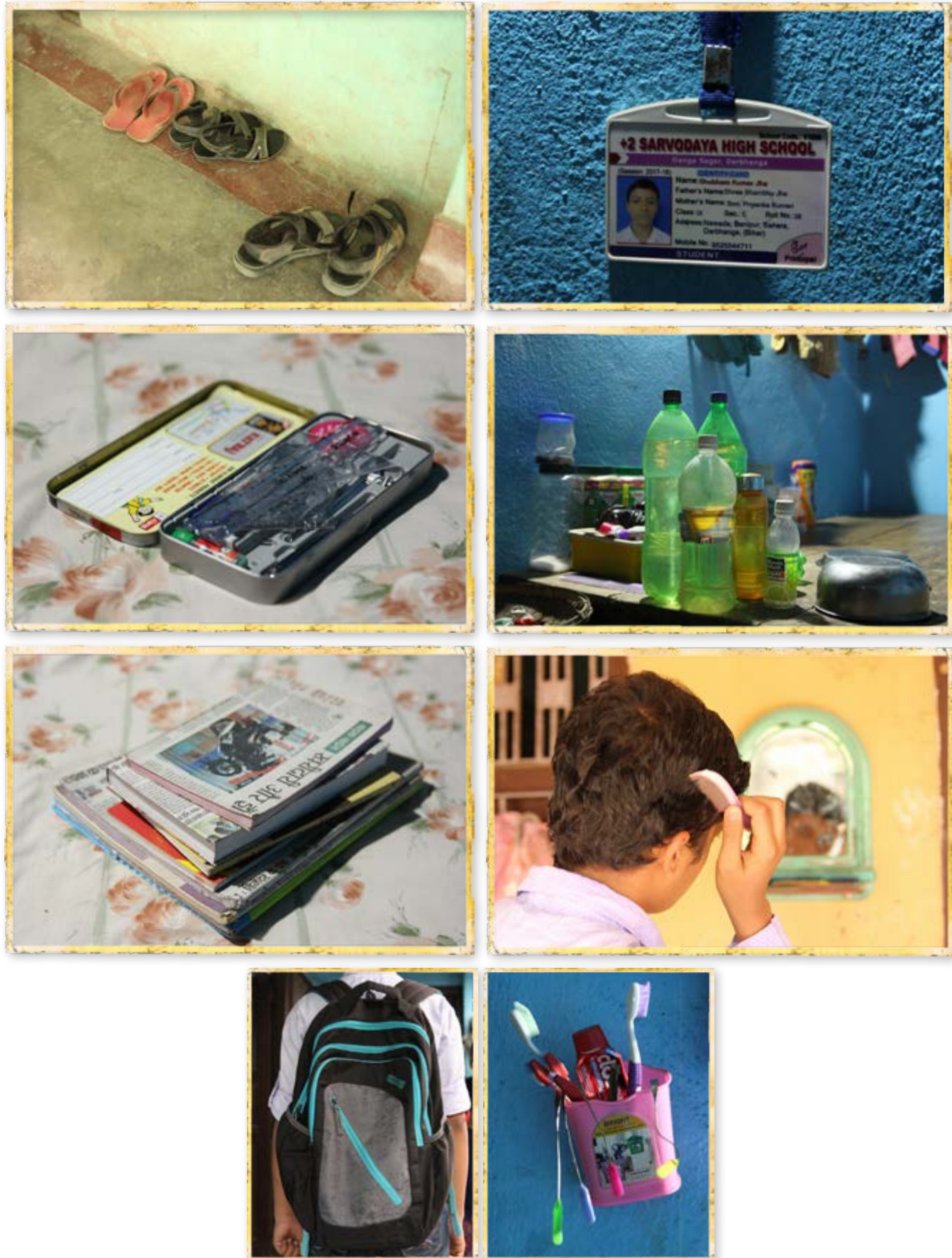
How do you intend to solve these problems?

“I want to be an IAS officer to be able to use my skills to bring simple solutions to the everyday problems that we face and learn to eventually live with the solutions, now we just live with and accept the problems and that’s not right, we accept apathy. An entrepreneur is someone who solves a problem, so an IAS officer is an entrepreneur too, you can work for yourself or the Government, choosing to problem-solve is within your power.” The first things that he has on his list of problems to be solved are open drains, bad traffic on the roads, lack of awareness about laws and policies, “People don’t know so they do whatever, if they knew, maybe they’d think twice?”

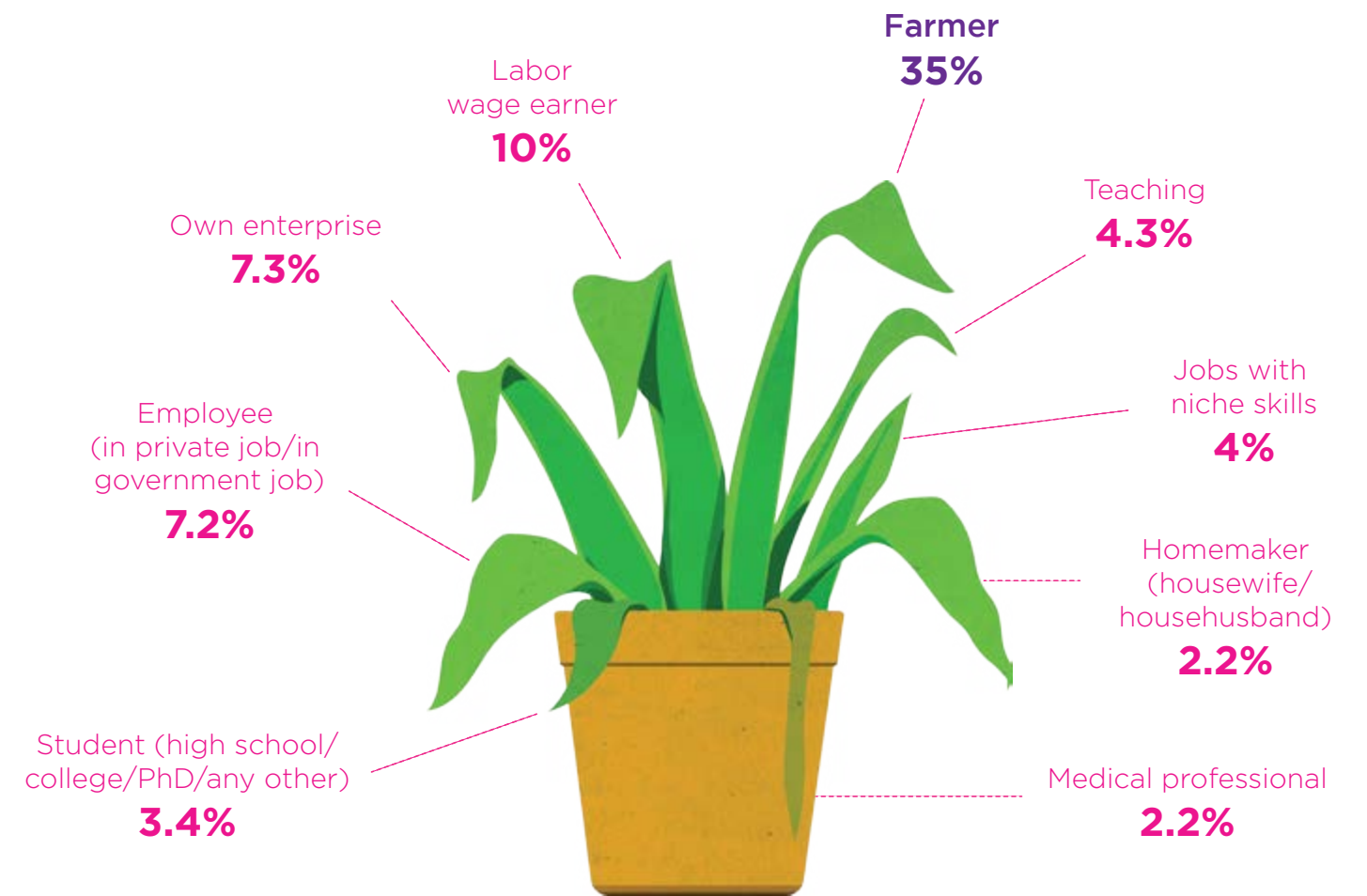
“Choose Your Own Adventure is my most favorite story of all, as I am the hero in the story, I take my own decisions and I pay the price for the bad decisions I’ve made, but I can always go back and choose again, that’s what’s fun about a story...and life too, you can choose again.”

Skills learnt: **Problem solving, Taking Initiative, Goal Setting.**

Tools for School



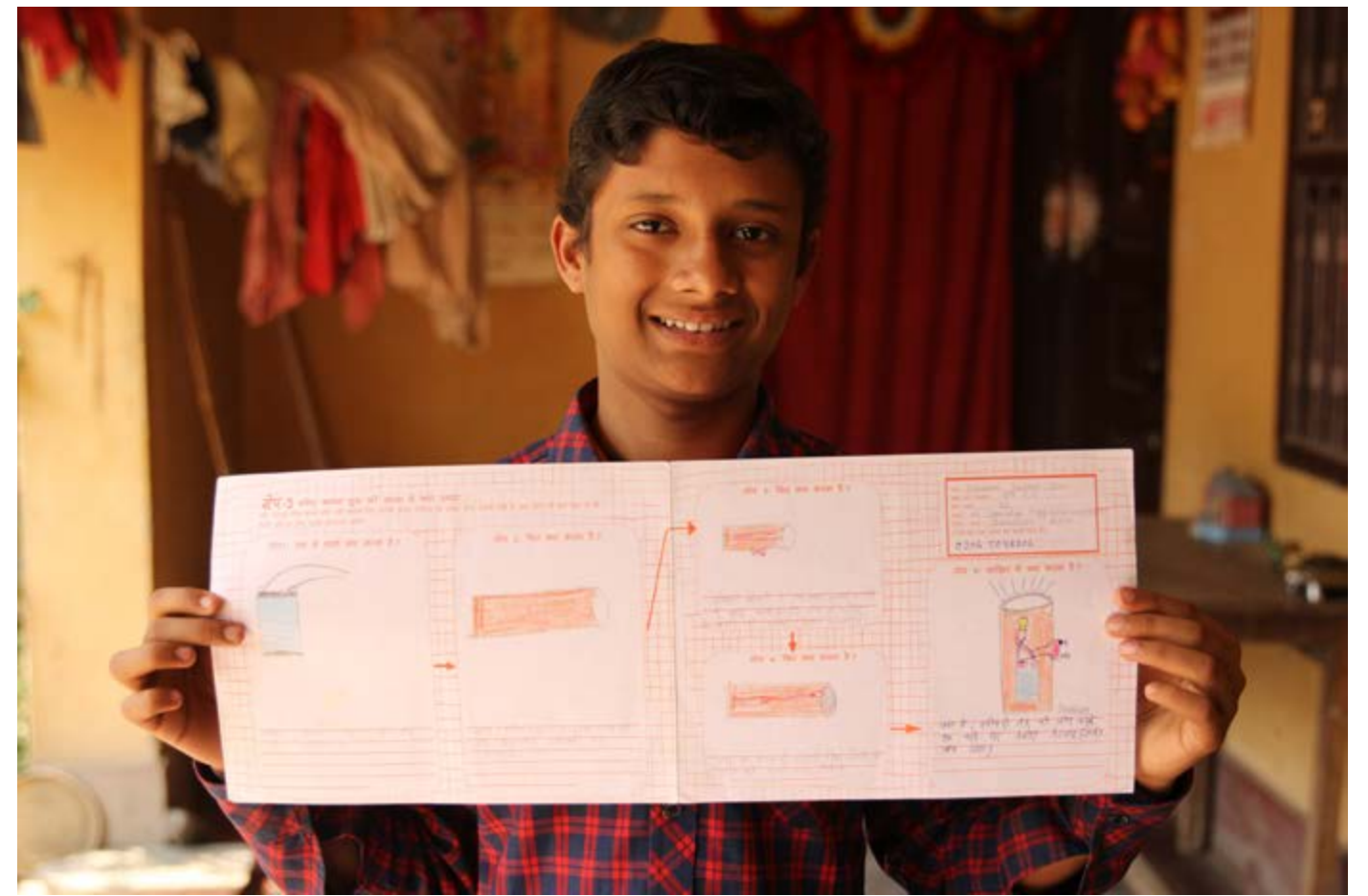
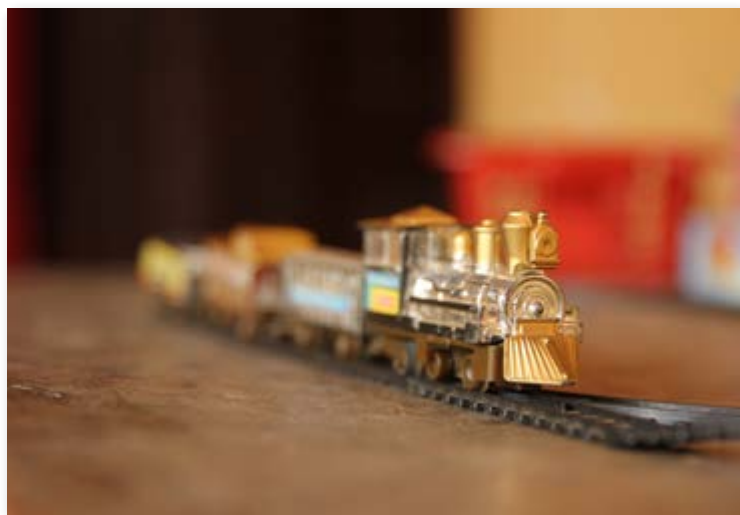
What do the Heroes do?



Journalists, Property dealers, Creative professional, Leader/Politician, Engineer, Transport Jobs, Police/Armed Forces/ Security services, Business, Dairy enterprise/cattle keeping/rearing, Mechanic, Others, 24.4%

Kids have identified heroes who are engaged in a variety of roles and occupations. The hero entrepreneurs identified by children are farmers (35%), followed by daily wage earners (10%), those who run their own business/enterprise (7%) and ones who are employed in a government or a private job (7%) followed by other occupations as is shown in the graph below. A number of children who identified their role models did miss out on explaining about their occupations (16.18%). The data on the graph indicates that majority of available hero role models available to children are still engaged in traditional roles and occupations.







A large group of approximately 500 teachers are posed on a stage in a convention center. They are arranged in several rows, with some standing and some sitting. Many are wearing lanyards with identification badges. The background shows a large, modern convention center with a curved ceiling and multiple levels of seating. The lighting is bright and focused on the group.

500 Teachers' Skills Convention

First time ever in the history of our teacher trainings, we organized first of its kind, 500 teachers' skills convention. A three-day residential exposure camp for teachers from across the state of Bihar to come together and workshop a new teacher informed skills curriculum. We received 600 applications from across Bihar to finally shortlist 504 teachers to participate in this three day convention.

Learning about new stories, meeting the real entrepreneurs, the fun convention led to creation of an army of teachers who were then certified as Skills Educators. The event took place at Rajgir International Convention Centre in Nalanda between December 7th and 9th December.

Gaya



Khushi



Khushi Kumari

Grade 9, Girls High School,
Shreepur, Gaya

Doing two things to achieve one, indirectly

“This is how I used to think: Our parents spend so much money on our education, in bringing us up, our wedding, it is then our duty after our wedding to do the household chores and it is boys’ duty to earn money,” pauses Khushi. “I’m the oldest of five siblings, I’ve always done what I’m supposed to do, think what I’m supposed to think then I read about Archana in the book ‘Patton kaAnokha Safar’.

“And for the first time, I felt my mind flip. It just changed.”

“Archana doesn’t take on the woman thing directly, she’s not all loud and out there and feminist. She does two other seemingly unlinked things to get there ~ she does something to protect the environment, leaf plates instead of plastic, and she creates jobs for other people, not her first, and those people happen to be mostly women.”

Khushi shrugs, “She went the other way round to prove something.”

“I made a business plan for fixing the toilet in my school. I put two and two together, like Archana, something for other people, mostly girls, and something I could research and do. The Business Plan competition was hard, it took a lot of research but I was happy with what I realised in the end, all of the girls wanted a new toilet, not just me. We all did. We agreed.”

“Toilets are the problem in our school, but overall it’s plastic that’s the problem in Bihar. People burn it. I guess it’s all about handing it over. You see, Sweety won Pitch it last year for cleaning up our school with dustbins, that’s how I knew the Business Plan competition worked, that you could win with an idea. I pitched toilets, I’m waiting to hear, perhaps if I win, then I can ask girls to take on plastic next year. Something that’s for all of us, but not directly for us, you know, led by girls with a wider impact. That’s how we change things, round about, by going round about.”

Skills learnt: **Problem identification, Problem solving, Setting up a goal.**

Tools for School



लाल कार्ड के सम्बन्धित बच्चों का पूरा विवरण			
क्र.सं.	बच्चे का नाम	उम्र	बालिकाओं में संख्या
1	अर्पिता कुमारी	5/0	2/0
2	अर्पिता कुमारी	3/5	1/0
3	अर्पिता कुमारी	1/2	1/0
4	अर्पिता कुमारी	1/0	1/0
5	अर्पिता कुमारी	7	1/0
6	अर्पिता कुमारी	5	1/0
7	अर्पिता कुमारी	3	1/0

लाल राशन कार्ड
4049187
बच्चे का नाम: अर्पिता कुमारी
पिता/माता का नाम: विनोद कुमारी
पेता: देवी
आवासीय पता: दौलतपुर - पंच-पन्ना
पुस्तक: 4049187 कार्ड नं. 4049187
जन विवरण प्रकृति के अनुसार का नाम: अर्पिता कुमारी
संश्लेषित नं.: 02
राशन कार्ड निर्गत की तिथि: 03/04/2011
जब तक पुस्तक/कार्ड 30 दिन पुराने (कार्ड निर्गत) तक वैध रहेगा।







The boy who spoke the language of nature

Once upon a time, there lived a young 12 year boy in a small village in Bihar. He loved the river, the fields, flowers, colors of the rainbow. His name is Jayjeet. Like his father, he wanted to be a farmer. But one, who did not see the soil, land and water as expendable resources, but as his most precious possessions. Growing up, he had seen how the use of chemicals killed the lands of so many farmers around his home. This made Jayjeet sad. In search of solutions, he spotted something on a random wall. It said 'Vermi Compost - restore the health of your soil'. Very soon, he learnt all about how organic residues, cow dung and worms are the perfect medicine for the affected soil. He began using this new organic compost on his father's fields, and on noticing the positive results, he started making more to sell to all the farmers around him. The soil and land all around him has started recovering. Jayjeet can once again be seen smiling looking at thriving nature all around him.



Gaya



Seema Kumari



Seema Kumari

Grade 9, Girls High School,
Shreepur, Gaya

For girls, For women, For us

“Honestly I had no idea what a toilet ring looks like until I saw a ring in the book the Toilet Story. It’s huge, big infrastructure like a bridge or flyover. It got me thinking if such big stuff goes under the ground to make a toilet so we can go there, we should know about it, we should know how much goes into making something to help us, so I wrote a play about it, we performed it at school.”

“Geeta in that story caught me. She pees and poops in an open field at night, just like me. I have to go before sunrise and after sunset with women from my family, otherwise it’s not safe, but it’s also next to impossible to hold everything for the whole day. I tell you I read that story, I took that story home, I showed the women in my family and I said when they come here, we’re first, they are going to build that giant toilet thing in our house first. And you know what? They all agreed.”

“I bicycle everywhere and I’m the ‘Cleanliness Minister’ in my school, I’m going to be a police officer, maybe the toilet-police patrol” and she smiles seeming to like to the sound of that.

“For girls and women” she adds with a resolute nod, “for us.”

Skills Learnt: **Problem identification, communication skills, goal setting.**

Tools for School







दिनांक	दिनांक	दिनांक
1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9
10	11	12
13	14	15
16	17	18
19	20	21
22	23	24
25	26	27
28	29	30
31		

**METRO
TYR**

Weather Report

Scrappy reporters across the country interviewed grandparents to tell beautifully and moving stories of their childhood. They asked them about the traditional, sustainable practices that existed during their childhood, but are not practiced anymore; how they measured weather using different bio-indicators like trees, clouds, insects, birds; and how children and everyone can work together to reverse climate change.



Gaya



Shakshi Dixit



Shakshi Dixit

Grade 9, Girls High School,
Shreepur, Gaya

Worms

“If we use organic compost, it will not only improve the health of the soil but also the plants. I know this because in my favorite book *The Brown Eyed Boy*, I learnt that with worms, banana skins, vegetable peels we can make good compost at home,” she enthusiastically shows us the dirt under her nails. “It is good dirt.”

Gaya, surrounded by little hills, is a fertile land, making farming the most lucrative profession there, Farmers grow all sorts of fruits and trees.

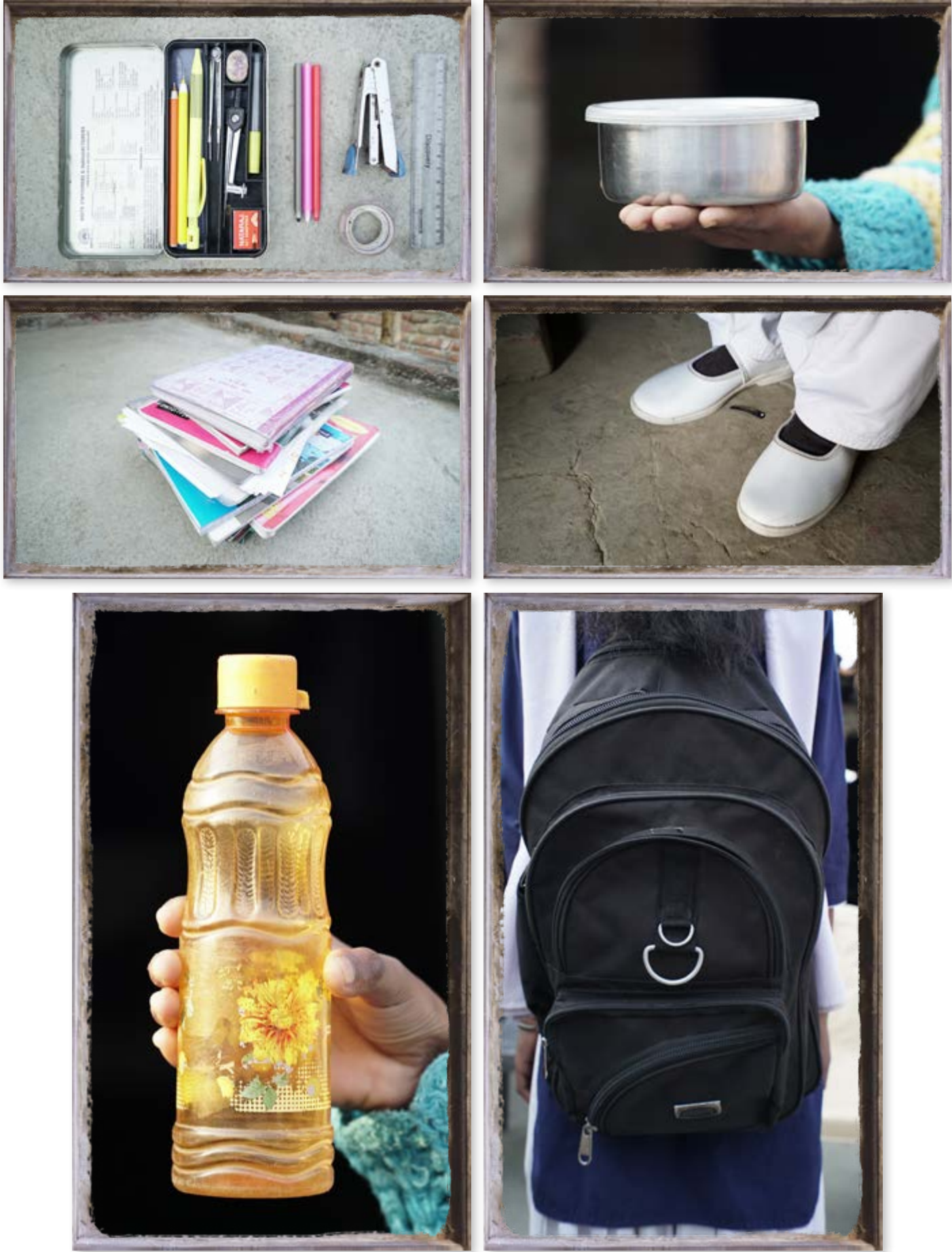
“My farmland has different trees - black plum, mangoes, papaya, banana, guava. We also have a small kitchen garden where we grow cauliflower, cabbage, eggplants and we only use cow-dung as manure, no chemical fertilizers, we’re already organic but that book helped, it made me try out the worms.”

“Plastic bothers me. It is everywhere. Every snack everyone buys or eats is wrapped in plastic. “Instead of a plastic bag, I use a paper bag that I made myself for a school project. Even when I go to market, I make sure to carry my own bag so I don’t have to be given a plastic bag.”

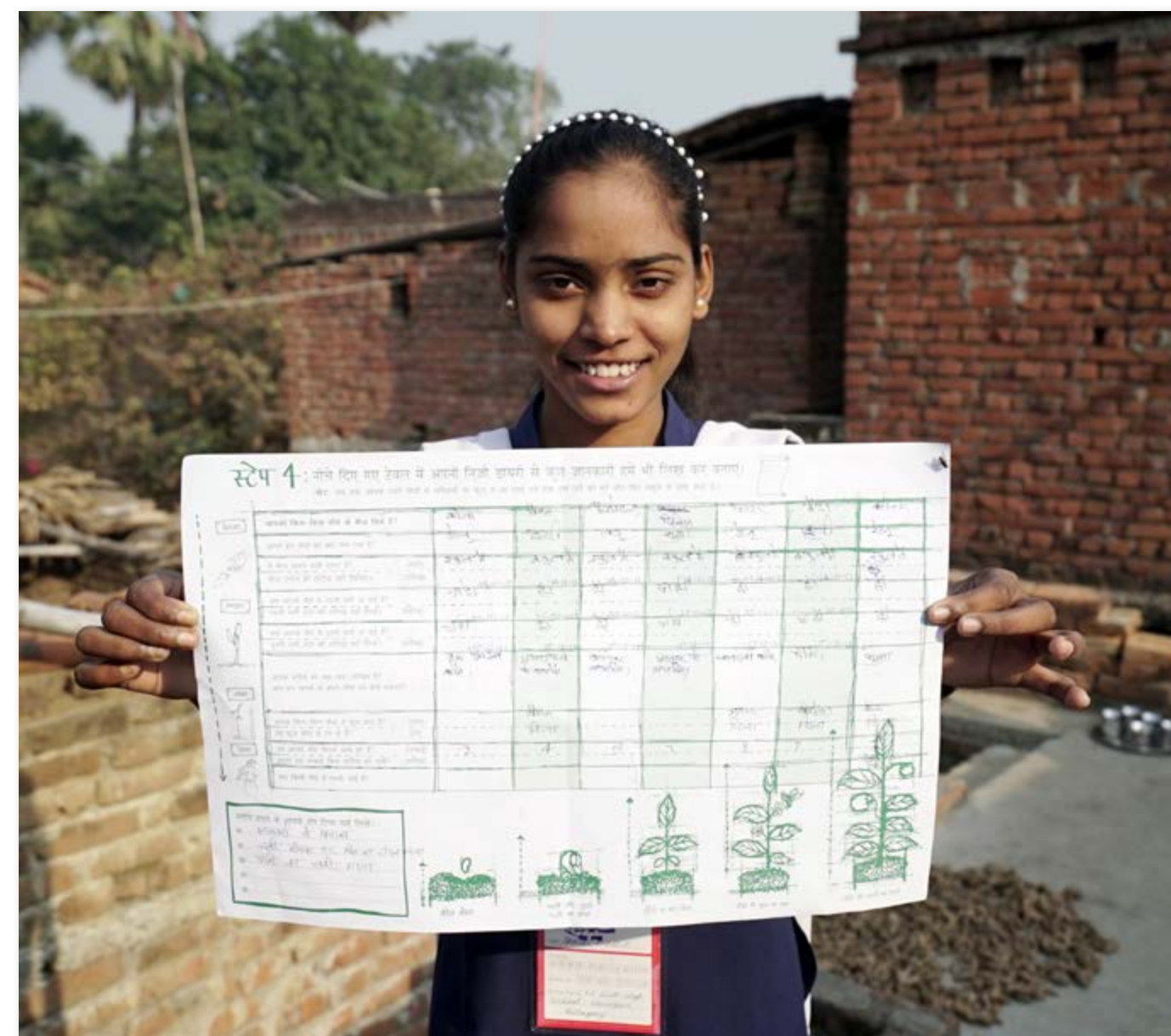
“We read all of the stories I get at school together, as a family, my Dad says there are lots of top farming tips in them. That’s why we tried worms, now we’re trying leaf plates. Maybe I’ll try beekeeping next.”
“Girls can do anything” her father re-states.

Skills learnt: **Taking initiative, Identification of sustainable resources, Teamwork**

Tools for School









A newsroom can be many things. It can be a boat, it can be a car, it can be an old DJ platform. Or it can be the universe itself. Welcome to the globe shaped newsroom, that has the world map painted on it and is covered with stars inside. Its an interesting conception of the universe as only children can imagine it. In a world where so many things are not the way as they are supposed to be, then why not a world that is inside out. Children spend their free time during school sitting inside the newsroom, staring at the stars, spinning fantasies, and creating amazing Scrappy reports.



Nalanda



Anisha Singh

Anisha Singh

Grade 9, R.A.H.S, Nanad,
Silao, Nalanda

Don't wait for things to happen, make them happen

We are in the ancient land of Nalanda, where the landscape is filled with golden, green and blue hues, owing to endless mustard fields and a clear blue sky.

This is where we met Anisha. She is singing in front of an audience as we reach her house.

"I really want to become a singer. I know that I can sing well, despite the fact that I never had any formal training in music," asserts Anisha, as she finishes her first solo performance in front of her family members. "But it is difficult to pursue when my whole family is against it." Despite being appreciative of her talents, her father thinks that singing is a 'ridiculous' profession.

Anisha is fond of reading 'Going to school' books. She mentions that one of her favourite stories is the one where a girl wanted to have a swing and her grandmother inspired her not to ask, but to make one on her own from the available sources." She could not remember the name of book though.

The family tree?

"Yes! Family tree! I really enjoyed working on the skills challenge for this book, "she said picking up the skill challenge in her hand and looking at it admiringly.

What are the different skills in your family?

"My father is a great planner, he makes plans for everything and everyone. And my mother is good at managing things." Anisha is extremely fond of her grandmother. While talking about her grandmother, Anisha says "she is the decision maker at the home."

A woman making decisions at home sounds promising, but, as a girl, she has faced biases all through her childhood. She used to study in a private school, but was later moved to a government school, so that her brother could go to the private school. Though clearly unfair this does not seem to deter her spirit.

Tools for School



How does the government school compare to the private school you were in earlier?

“No one is ever on time in government schools, and that really bothers me. The progress of the entire class gets affected because of that,” she said in a worried voice.

She takes us to see the damaged toilet in her school. There appears to be no functional toilet in the school. “I have seen some of my classmates going to the fields, it’s not safe.”

Have you raised your concerns with any of the teachers?

“I am planning to write a letter to the principal. We cannot just sit and wait for things to improve themselves,” she says, again with that spirit that will not give up, no matter what the obstacles are.

Skills learnt: **Problem identification, social connections, determination.**







The prodigy

Prakash is no ordinary entrepreneur. He is a 19 year old student of Economics, who wanted to support his education through some form of livelihood. But, not just any livelihood. He wanted to support himself by creating something that solved a problem that people around him. In a place riddled with problems, it wasn't hard to smell out the biggest concern people had - open defecation. Thus, he set about creating a low-cost toilet systems by building toilet rings and then supplying them to all the villages nearby. Prakash often visits schools in Khagaria to talk to children about his enterprise, and has soon emerged as role-model for so many children. To be able to see someone not much older than them, not only succeed, but solve a crucial problem for all of them, is nothing short of inspirational



There was an old auto-rickshaw in the school that just lay abandoned. For months and months on end. Until one day, children from the school decided that this would be the structure of their newsroom. They hauled the auto-rickshaw outside the school to bring other scrap for the newsroom inside, and found a space for it within the school that lay abandoned as well. And so, an abandoned auto-rickshaw, an abandoned space and many other rejected objects came together in the imagination of the children from this school in the form of this beautiful newsroom.



Nalanda





Chinki Kumari

Chinki Kumari,

Grade 9, Congress High School Daasrathpur,
Giriyak, Nalanda

Making something out of nothing, together. The Children's Scrappy News Service

"My friends didn't want to go get garbage to make a newsroom. They held their noses. I told them to stop being silly and that we would learn a lot by making something from thrown out or rejected things, that it is literally making something out of nothing and I think that is a very powerful force, it's also beautiful. I think it was the super powerful skill plus beauty argument that swayed them," Chinki laughed as if she's pulled the curtain up on her invention. "Even boys like the idea of beautiful things."

"The girls came later. I was the first girl building with boys. They saw me, then they came. Girls can be so funny sometimes about building things. Then there was the boys and girls thing, that people would pass comments that boys would say something, but it's all just silly. Build I said, use your super power, make something that was not there before, when we build and make together we're not girls or boys, we're just young people making something that was not there before. And that's cool."

What do other people think, say? She looks at us fiercely, "I don't listen, do you?"

With the organic seed packages that she received with "The Story of One Acre" book she planted a garden and fed her pet rabbits from the vegetables from the garden.

What's next? She's built a scrappy newsroom, run a news service, planted organic vegetables.

"A school" she notes, "We need a better school for girls and boys to get over this thing of not doing things together, our school should have a field, a farm" and she smiles mischievously, "And it should be built out of what other people throw away. That kind of school."

Highlighted story: The Story of One Acre

Skills learnt: **Teamwork, taking up ownership, understanding sustainability.**

Tools for School









Cycling Cities

Are Indian cities safe for cycling? What are the problems that girls face while cycling? Why are there no women mechanics? How do we get more people to cycle? Scrappy reporters went all over Bihar and got to the bottom of these questions. They created cycling maps in their villages to mark out unsafe spots, and even learnt how to fix a puncture.



Patna





M.D. Imtiaz,

Grade 9, St. M.G High School,
Patna

Heroes never give up, they fail, they get up again

“I must have something special inside of me, a special toolbox of skills to have been chosen for this interview,” explained Imtiaz to his friends when they asked him why he was the one. Pushed to think, he started to reflect back on everything he read, everything he learnt and that’s when it made sense. “I am open to learning new skills, I enjoy it, it is entrepreneurial to learn.”

Belonging from a big family of people that have so many diverse skills, he’s related to a carpenter, a welder, a tailor, a chef, a painter, he knows everyone has a special something, a talent and he feels lucky to be able to learn from them all at home. “I think I should be the next to be featured in the story, ‘My Family Tree’ along with my family he smiles widely. “Me”.

Who is your hero? “My hero is the one who never gives up,” he says referring to his uncle who started with pulling a rickshaw to make a living, but never settled. “He soon learned how to drive an auto rickshaw and used his savings to rent one. Soon enough made he made his dream a reality and brought a new auto rickshaw for himself. He is an inspiration for me, for us all really.”

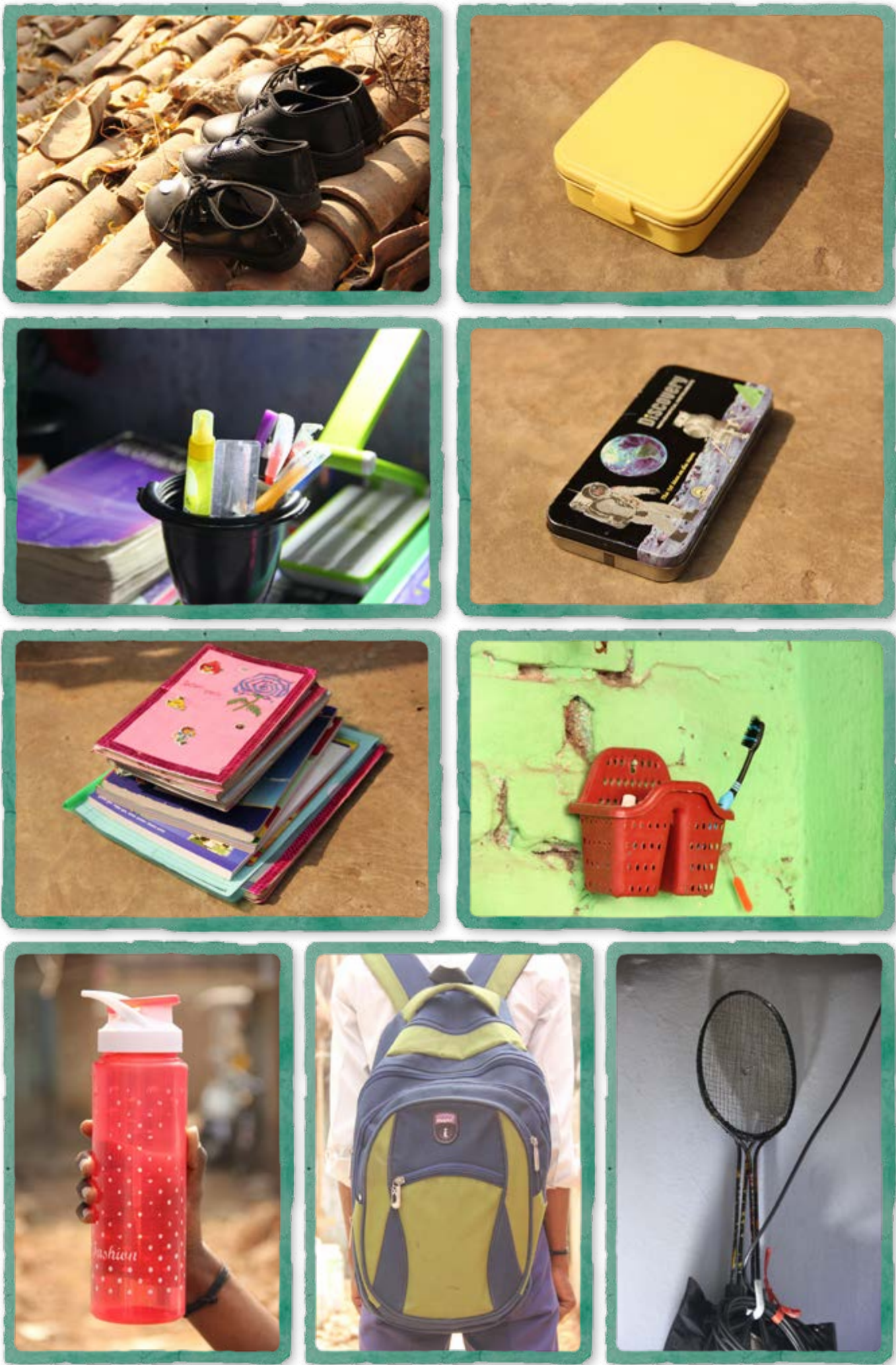
Imtiaz only learnt about entrepreneurial skills this year. That gave the skills he always knew existed a name. Soft, not hard skills, or soft and hard, whatever they are, plus persistence and never giving up, he was always surrounded by them. He tells us with pride, “No one in my family thinks about any work as being small or not good. All work is good work.” Imtiaz’s mother contributes to the family income by running a small enterprise of sewing customized banners for her clients. “That’s good work too” Imtiaz nods as if anticipating a question. We agree.

Imtiaz thinks that the Be! an Entrepreneur stories are super for the elders of his family to help them do better with their work, to be able to recognise their skills. He shares his knowledge of marketing with his mother and in turn, they trade, she teaches him how to sew. He confidently tells us, “I can stitch 25 banners in an hour, what about you?”

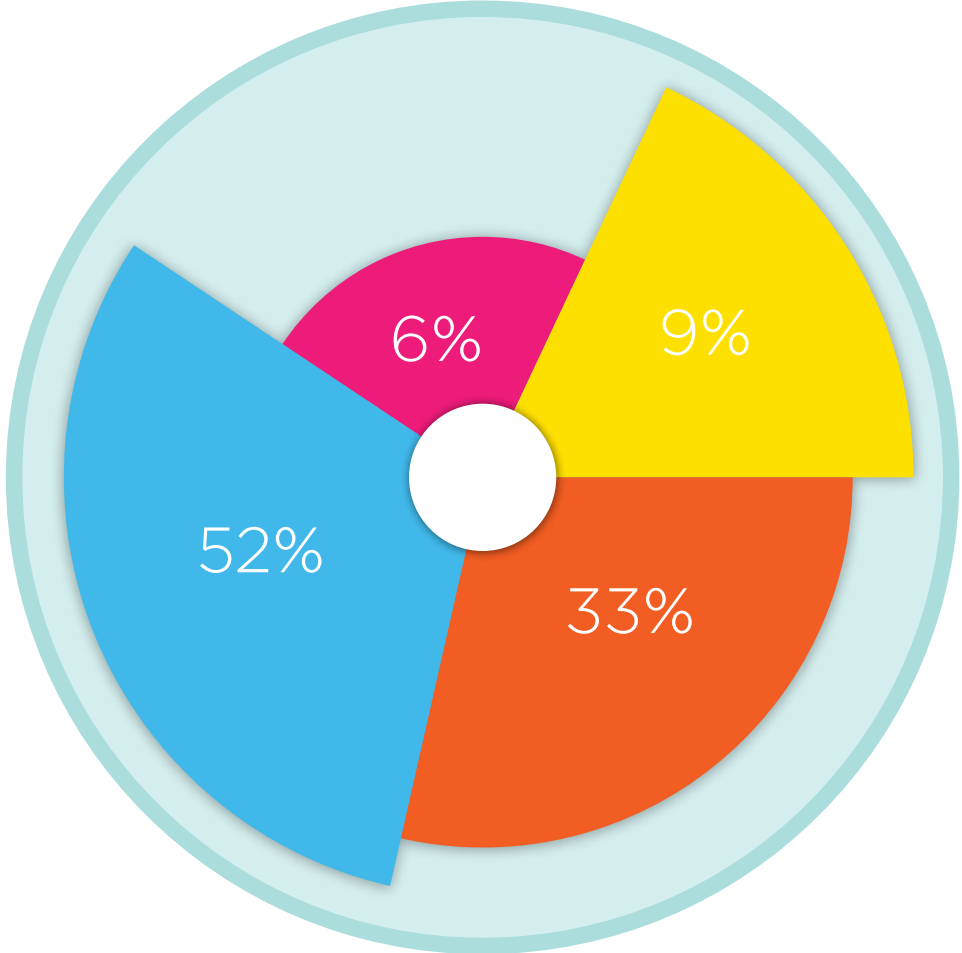
This time we do shake our heads, we can’t possibly of course. Imtiaz, we cannot, but we’ve just learnt that it’s never too late to learn. Would you teach us how?

Skills learnt: **Entrepreneurship, determination, social connection**

Tools for School



Basis of identification of entrepreneur



- Solves problems for the people in her/his community
- Solves problems for only a few people in the community or in her family
- Does not solve any problems for people in the community
- Blank

Between their skills, the work they do for a living and their relationship with the child, what did kids select as the reason for identifying one of their family members as an entrepreneur? Based on responses from 32,764 children, 44.11% children identified entrepreneurs based on their entrepreneurial skills, 32.82% based on their profession and the rest (10.42%) based on the relationship with their family member (as shown in the diagram below). 12.65% children are not sure or left this as blank.



AVOID EVIL DO GOOD PURIFY THE MIND

- ❖ DISCIPLINE IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS
- ❖ WHEN WEALTH IS LOST NOTHING IS LOST
- ❖ WHEN HEALTH IS LOST SOMETHING IS LOST
- ❖ WHEN CHARACTER IS LOST EVERYTHING IS LOST
- ❖ MAN IS THE ARCHITECT OF HIS OWN FUTURE.
- ❖ THE LIGHT OF EDUCATION ILLUMINATES THE WHOLE WORLD
- ❖ ARISE, AWAKE AND STOP NOT TILL THE GOAL IS REACHED.

R.A. VATSAYAN
SECRETARY





Pitch It!

100% Wild

The success of Year 1 with Pitch It! made way for the kids to be overly excited for the year 2. Of the total 11,884 completed business plans received this year, 103 were shortlisted using a pre-defined matrix to ensure the children with highest scores are validated with the content on their plans. We reached out to each of the kid finalists and filmed their one pitch to change their school to make it green and 100% Wild.



 WILD HONEY
450 mtrs

The Kids Sustainable School Challenge 2017-18

102 Finalists



Aayushi Kumari Samastipur
Aditya Kumar Katihar
Aftab Alam Khatkar
Akash Kumar Gaya
Amit Kumar Sharma Katihar
Anisha Kumari Khagaria



Anjali Kumari Patna
Anjali Kumari Darbhanga
Anjali Kumari Gaya
Anjali Kumari Samastipur
Ankesh Gaya
Ankita Kumari Gaya



Ankush Kumar Jha Samastipur
Annu Kumari Khagaria
Anshu Kumari Gaya
Anupriya Samastipur
Anuradha Jaisawal Nalanda
Anuradha Kumari Nalanda



Anushka Kumari Samastipur
Astha Kumari Darbhanga
Beauti Kumari Gaya
Chandni Kumari Darbhanga
Deepak Gaya
Dipak Katihar



Dolby Gaya
Gayatri Singh Patna
Gulshan Kumar Katihar
Harsh Vardhan Kumar Nalanda
Hemlata Kumari Bhagalpur
Hua Kurm & Divya Kumari, Katihar



Insha Khanam Khagaria
Jenish Bharti Katihar
Khusboo Kumari Gaya
Komal Kumari Khagaria
Koyal Kumari Kishanganj
Kumkum Kumari Chaurasiya, Patna



Malika Ansari Gaya
Manisha Kumari Bhagalpur
Manisha Kumari and Manisha Kumari Kishanganj
Mannu Kumar Darbhanga
Md. Junaid Ashfaqe Bhagalpur
Md. Farog Bilal Kishanganj



Md. Inzham Gaya
Naziya Parveen Kishanganj
Neha Kumari Bhagalpur
Nikita Kumari Khagaria
Nisha Kumari Nalanda
Nitin Kumari Nalanda



Nitish Kumar Sahu Darbhanga
Palak Kumari Katihar
Pallavi Kumari Gaya
Pallavi Kumari Nalanda
Pawan Kumar Das Darbhanga
Pooja Kumari Nalanda



Prachi Kumari Katihar
Preeti Kumari Bhagalpur
Preeti Kumari Katihar
Priya Kumari Muzaffarpur
Puja Kumari Gaya
Radha Kumari Darbhanga



Raja Kumar Shah Darbhanga
Rajan Kumar Sharma Darbhanga
Ramkumar Bhagalpur
Ravi Kumar Khagaria
Renu Kumari Katihar
Rifat Bushra Katihar



Riya Chakarvarti Kishanganj
Roshni Khatun Katihar
Ruchi Kumari Samastipur
Runi Kumari Gaya
Rupika Kumari West Champaran
Saba Afreen Darbhanga



Saba Parveen Katihar
Sabreen Darbhanga
Sachin Kumar Khagaria
Sana Fatma Patna
Sangeeta Kumari Bhojpur
Sanwali Kumari Kishanganj



Sapna Kumari Gaya
Sargam Kumari Samastipur
Saurabh Kumar Katihar
Shalini Kumari Samastipur
Shireen Fatima
Arshadi kahtoon
Rajni Parween
Chahat Parveen Kishanganj
Shivam Kumar Khagaria



Shivangi Maurya Nalanda
Shivani Kumari Gaya
Shiwani Kumari Gaya
Sintu Kumar Khagaria
Sonali Gaya
Sonam Muzaffarpur



Sonam Kumari Darbhanga
Soni Kumari Darbhanga
Soni Kumari Gaya
Sourav Kumar Gaya
Surekha Kumari Darbhanga
Swati Kumari Patna



Swati Kumari Muzaffarpur
Tannu Nalanda
Uma Kumari Kishanganj
Varsha Kumari Gaya
Vibhuti Katihar
Vishal Kumar Bhagalpur





Saurabh

Saurabh Kumar

Grade 9, Ramdhari Ucch Vidyalaya,
Tetripatra, Bhagalpur

Watch. Learn. Do. You are what you do well.

Saurabh likes to start his day before sunrise. He goes for a long walk before starting his day, which includes going for coaching, then school, back home, then going to his stall where he sells eggs, omelettes and boiled eggs, and then finally back home at 9 pm.

He's been running his own business for three years. "I used to go with my elder brother who sell eggs, that's how I learned everything about the business," he offers.

What are the skills you need to run his business?

"First, be polite. It doesn't hurt to be formal, call everyone sir, madam, or didi, bhaiya. You have to respect your customers. If you don't talk to them nicely, they will not come back to you. Don't differentiate, they are all people who want to buy eggs, if your or my eggs are all the same, so are people. He paused for a few seconds. "But being in the right place, with a set of good eggs is important. If you are not in the right place, visible, central, then no one knows where you are and you end up with bad eggs," he smiles, enjoying his own metaphor.

Does this make you an entrepreneur?

"Perhaps. I think being an entrepreneur can have many meanings. I am an entrepreneur because I help people when they are hungry by making good omelettes... A farmer is also an entrepreneur because he or she grows good food so people can eat. Anyone who is solving a problem is an entrepreneur, it doesn't mean they have to be entrepreneurs full-time, just different moments during the day. You can work for someone else and be an entrepreneur. You can work for yourself and complain and not be really so entrepreneurial. Up to you really, you have a choice."

"We're farmers here, most people farm, so we have to do other things to supplement our income, like me, selling eggs. It also means a lot of people are unemployed for half of the year. Sometimes they can't find things to do to fill the gap. Life here is not easy. It's dictated by the weather and the market, well there isn't much of one is there?" he says pointing around him.

Tools for School

“The solution is to do more than one thing and to have more than one skill. You can learn wherever you are, that’s the secret. You just have to watch, observe and learn. I have learnt masonry, farming, how to cut and sell fruit, all by observing. One person can do a lot of things. School is important but the world or market can be your school. You should not get so hung up about if you learned it or school or not. Who cares where you learned it you can do it?”

“I have to tell you I love that Family Tree story, its like this market, our farming community and my life, it tells you that if you need anything, you should make it happen. Isn’t that what entrepreneurs do? You should also have talent. Many people think talent is something they’re born with but that’s not right. Talent is something that you can learn by doing things. All entrepreneurs know that. I know that.”

Skills learnt: **Entrepreneurship, Marketing, Time Management.**



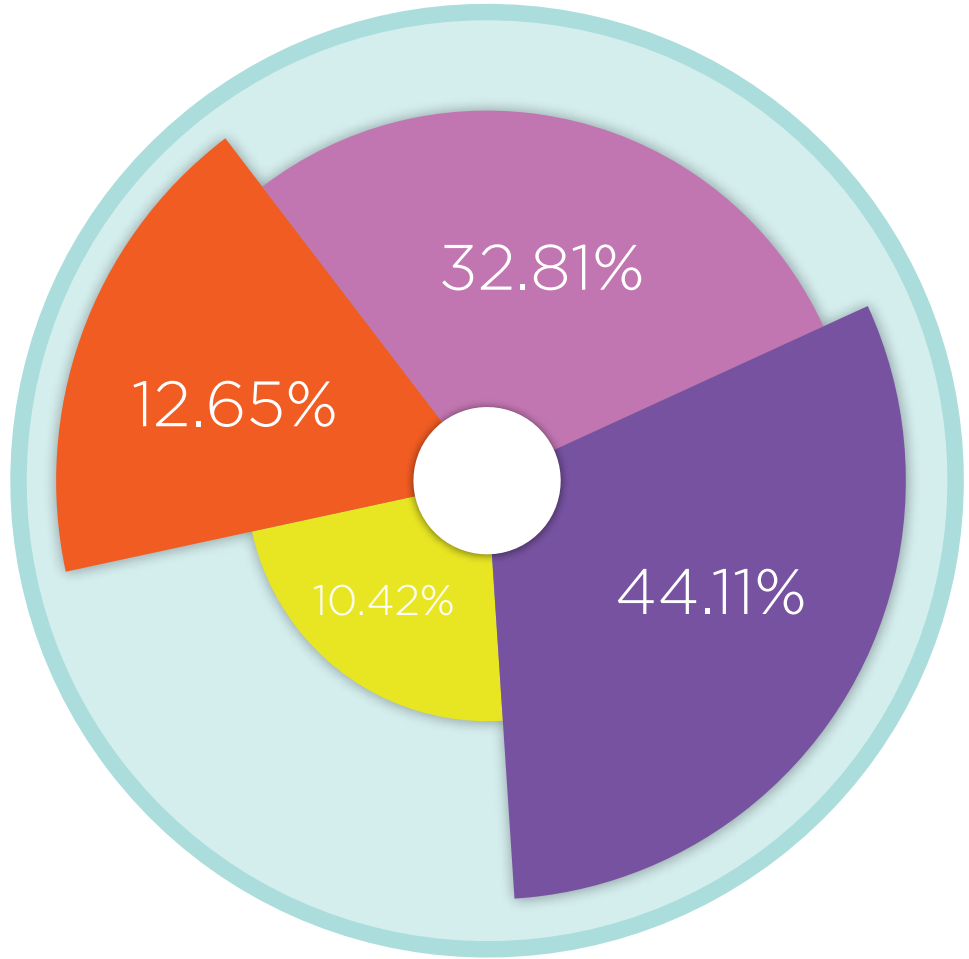








Why kids thought these were entrepreneurs?



- Based on their skills
- Based on their relationship with them
- Based on what they do
- Not Mentioned

Kids have identified heroes who are engaged in a variety of roles and occupations. The hero entrepreneurs identified by children are farmers (35%), followed by daily wage earners (10%), those who run their own business/enterprise (7%) and ones who are employed in a government or a private job (7%) followed by other occupations as is shown in the graph below. A number of children who identified their role models did miss out on explaining about their occupations (16.18%).

The young apprentice

Asha lives in a small village called Sharifganj in Katihar District. As a young girl, she remembers her grandfather working on handlooms, she was his young apprentice. They were the sweetest memories of her childhood. Spending hour and hours watching and helping him work. She did not think about this seriously again, until, after her marriage, her family went through a hard time financially. In an effort to supplement the family income, she started playing with an old handloom machine her grandfather had left for her. Her husband bought some jute for her to experiment with. And, voila. Today, she manufactures colourful floor mats using jute which are very popular and environmental friendly. She now owns five handloom machines and employs four other women. All of it, due to to a little spark that was ignited when she was just a little girl.



Katihar



Deepak



Deepak Kumar

Grade 9, UHS, Hasanganj
Katihar

It's in the bag and in your family, be an entrepreneur

"I want to experiment with bag designs to be able to give people what they need," Deepak says enthusiastically.

Deepak has an innate entrepreneurial approach to life, problem-solving and meeting people's needs which he found reflected in our story *The Ultimate Stitch*. He liked the story so much that he bought a sewing machine from the three thousand rupees that he had saved. Now he is waiting for his Grade exams to get over, so that he can start making bags for his friends. He's starting with his friends first.

Deepak studies in UHS High School, Katihar. Unlike other schools, Deepak's school runs from 7 in the morning to 11 am. After reaching home at 11 am, Deepak helps his father farming their fields. This is what most boys in his school do as well, as farming is the main occupation in Katihar. Deepak and his father grow masoor dal and potatoes.

"They taught us about mixed agriculture at school. I have told my father that next season we will should grow rice and farm fish together," said Deepak. Deepak thinks that people are afraid to try out new things. "But wasn't Tauqueer's organic compost enterprise also a new idea when he started it?" he asks making his point by referring to our story *The Brown Eyed Boy*.

"My friends tell me that instead of these ideas and enterprises, I should work towards getting a job, but I don't agree with them. Starting my own business is my biggest dream," he smiles in his usual determined and hopeful manner, "I'll make bags for my friends but I might not listen to them when they think I shouldn't do something new."

Highlighted book: *The Ultimate Stitch*

Skills learnt: **Design thinking, Identification of resources, Risk Taking.**

Tools for School







Make the Switch

Scrappy reporters in Gaya went to meet a family in Imamganj village. They conducted an energy audit of the family, more specifically, the amount they spend on Kerosene per month. They, then took the family to a biogas entrepreneur, who illustrated to the family the advantages of making the switch to biogas - both in its environmental impact and financially for the family. The family pledged to make a switch to biogas.

Kishanganj



Nasar



Nasar Hussain

Grade 9, School - +2 Russel High School,
Bahadurganj, Kishanganj

Believe me, believe in me, speak English

It was a cold morning in Kishanganj. As we made our way to the Nasar's school, we could see the fog slowly rising over the tea plantations. Nasar was waiting for us in his class. Excited he asked, "Can I introduce myself?" And he did, in English.

Nasar is the only child in his school who can speak in English. In a school, which has only 20 students attending regularly out of around 400 who are enrolled, he truly is in a league of his own.

How do you know how to speak English, Nasar?

"English is my favorite subject. I used to take classes but now I learn a few words from the dictionary every day, I practice. I write a page in my diary every day, what I did during the day, what I liked and disliked. I think English is going to be useful for me when I grow up. If I have to go to America or Chennai, how will I talk to people if I don't know English?"

What do you want to do when you grow up?

"I want to become the District Magistrate of Kishanganj. Because, they can change things for the better. For example, they can create job opportunities for young people so that they won't have to go to other states looking for work. And that is important. I see a lot of people without jobs where I live. And, they can change the infrastructure of schools, build roads."

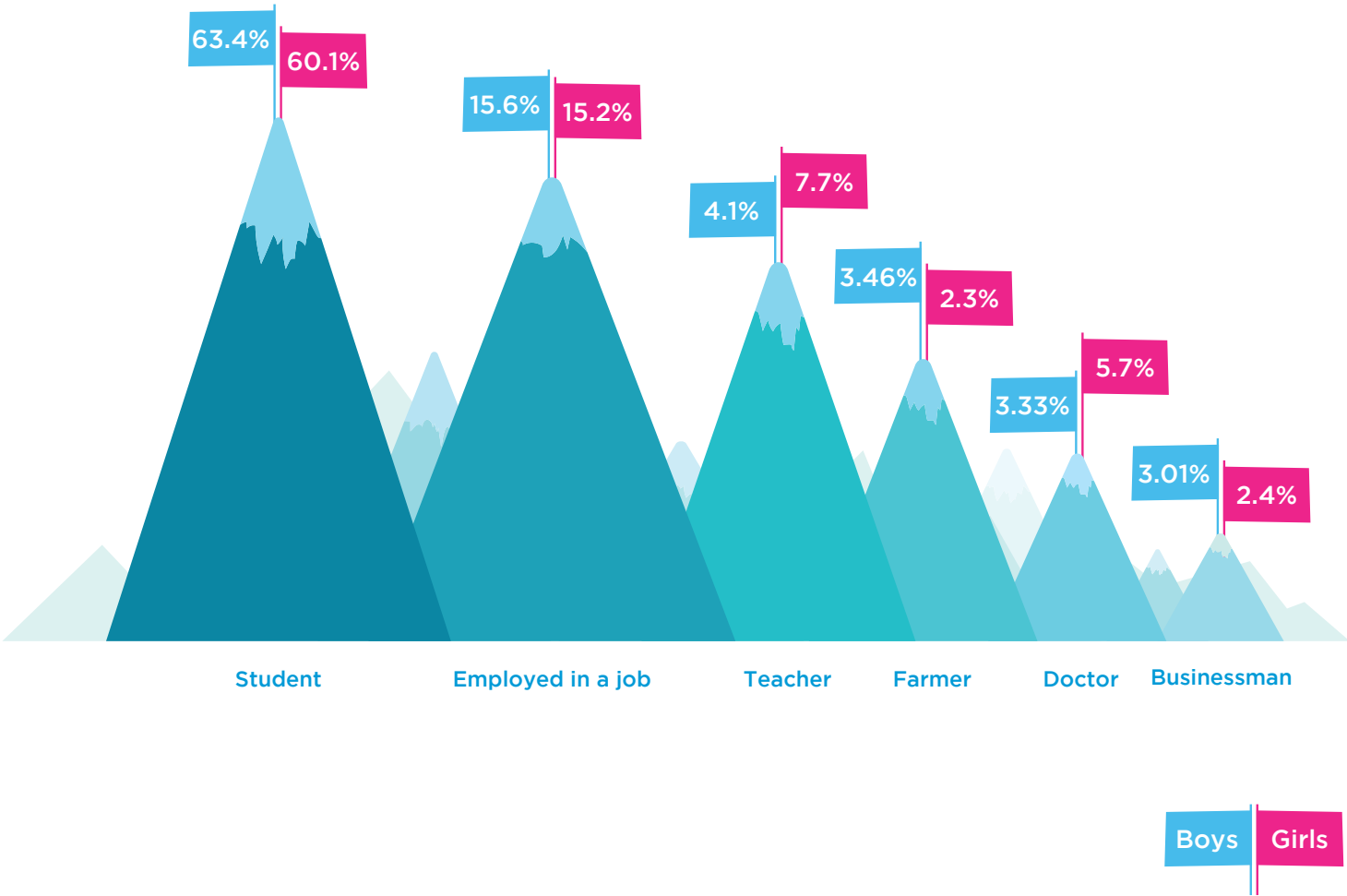
We went to his home with him. The drawing room's shelf had trophies, "Student of the Year", "Winner of Essay Competition," and more. Nasar knows one solution to the big problems of his school, attendance. "If we had clean toilets and clean drinking water, children would want to sit in the classes and attend more regularly, then perhaps we could learn English together, or not. If you have stuff where you are, you don't need to travel, it's always good to speak English, but we had everything we need at home, we could just chat in whatever language we like."

Skills Learnt: **Taking initiative, Need Assessment, Setting up goals**

Tools for School



What girls and boys want to be when they are 18 years old?



What do girls and boys want to do when they grow up to be 18 years old? With this first project that children complete after reading a skills story this year, we let them think and write about what they see themselves doing when they grow up to be an adult, also to identify who in their families do they see as a person or a resource that may be of help in reaching their goal. The data collected from this project gives us an insight into what girls and boys think as their probable professions after completing school.





