

Women and Girls of Digital Age

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**Digital Empowerment Foundation salutes
all the women of digital age**



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Preface

According to The Mobile Gender Gap Report, women in India are 56 percent less likely to use mobile internet than men i.e., only 35 percent of active users in the country (2019). The data suggests that the digital divide will get wider with time and add to the existing issues of gender inequality.

During the pandemic we have seen how digital technology can supplement and transform our conventional ways of doing business. Therefore, it gets crucial for each one of us to be a part of the digital movement and play our role.

The Coffee Table Book is an anthology of the girls and women transforming into the change makers, and is dedicated to them. This initiative is a part of Digital Literacy for Women and Girls program run by Digital Empowerment Foundation in association with United Way of Delhi.







The hunger for information among communities is very high. Digital infrastructure and facilitation have become boon for the underserved communities in metros and have brought in all kind of creativity that is benefiting them.

Good Luck,

Osama Manzar

Director, Digital Empowerment Foundation

**Message from
Digital
Empowerment
Foundation**

India is ranked 112 of 153 countries on the Global Gender Gap Index, 2020. As per estimates, it will take a 100 years, to bridge the gender gap. In today's age, empowering girls and women on digital mediums has a major role to play in bridging inequality and increasing equitable access to all opportunities to grow and lead. DEFs work, captured beautifully through this Coffee Table book provides us with many shimmers of hope, which is evident on the faces of these confident and empowered young women.

Best Regards

Sachin S. Golwalkar

CEO, United Way Delhi



**Message from
United Way Delhi**

“The path from dreams to success does not exist. May you have the vision to find it, the courage to get on to it, and the perseverance to follow it.”

- Kalpana Chawala





About the Programme

During the decade we have seen a paradigm shift, the world has moved from a conventional to a digital way of doing business. Likewise the meaning of being literate has changed, today the literacy skills are tested on the digital parameters.

On the contrary, the digital gap has widened, more males are using the internet than females.

This digital gender gap is due to social conditioning, lack of awareness to use the modern technology, accessibility & lack of digital skills training and education. Hence, to tackle the challenge, Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) and United Way of Delhi (UWD), have collaborated to mobilise and impart digital literacy to 2000 women and adolescent girls (between 14 to 44 years of age) of urban and semi-urban areas in India. This programme will enable them to use IT-related applications i.e. financial literacy skills and ICT enabled career training to enhance the opportunity of livelihood and economic inclusion.







Jai Hind Camp, New Bengali Basti Vasant Kunj, New Delhi

Jai Hind Camp is a slum settlement located in Vasant Kunj, New Delhi. It is mainly habituated by one of the most down ridden sections of the society-rag pickers. Area is occupied by around 6000 residents sharing roofs, they are mainly minority migrants and belong to the Bengal region. These people live in the most compromising and hazardous conditions with garbage all around them.

The camp is a contrast to the digital era that we advocate and want to actively participate in. The socio-economic condition of women and girls in this region is bad, most of them are engaged in the household activity or helping the men in their job of rag-picking. Thus, it gets important to initiate change where it is needed the most.

The Digital Literacy for Women and Girls program is imparting job oriented digital literacy skills. It is their zeal and commitment that is thriving the program towards changing lives for a better and secured future.



Ghazipur Dairy Farm, Ghazipur, East Delhi

The Gazipur Digital Literacy for Women and Girls centre is located near the largest landfills. Mostly resided by the migrant community coming from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Men are mainly engaged in rag picking, few are rickshaw pullers and a handful running small petty businesses. While, girls and women work as a peripheral functionaries, supporting the men, taking care of child and doing house hold activities.

Hence, the community is in sincere need of opportunities. The Digital Literacy centre has sprouted as a hope for these women and girls to live their dreams and lead life with dignity and respect.

Digital Literacy For a
Better Future

Stories of Hope and Change





Seeing Through the Lens of Amina Khatun

“I could only dream of using a computer” said Amina Khatun, a 13 years old girl who lives with her parents in Jai Hind Camp of New Bengal Basti. Amina was astonished when she first used a computer in the Community Information Resource Centre (CIRC) established by Digital Empowerment Foundation in collaboration with United Way of Delhi.

Amina and her family have migrate from Bangladesh to Delhi in search of better livelihood opportunities. Her father is a salesman, earning just to meet the ends meet, but with no security and safety for a better future. Amina has a thirst for learning and wants to support her father. It was his father who motivated her to join the Digital Literacy for Women and Girls.

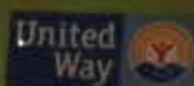
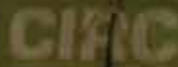
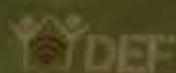
From the first day she is a fast learner and likes to explore new things on her own. So far she has learned all the basics of computer along with some data software. In her own words “The course served to deepen my interest in digital technology which expanded my knowledge on further topics related to computing and building a career.”











Paving Path to
Digital Literacy



DIGITAL LITERACY
FOR
WOMEN AND



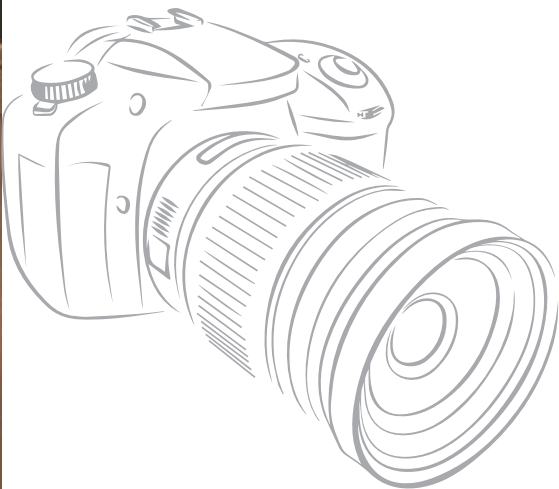
Zooming Through Dreams!

“I love how a camera sees the world differently,” says Beena Joshi, a 15 year-old-girl who is a 11th class student. Her father is a driver, and her mother, a waitress at a local restaurant. Since her childhood, Beena was fascinated by technology especially, by a camera, and she always wanted to capture the raw emotions of the people through the lenses. While watching the tourists clicking photographs, Beena always dreamt of doing the same.

Beena joined the Digital Literacy Programme of the Community Information Resource centre in Vasant Kunj to learn about photography and social media.

“With the help of this programme, I got a chance to attend workshops on Photography, Videography and Adobe Photoshop. Now, I am well experienced in using a camera and also do photography and videography”, says Beena.

She wishes to buy a camera one day and do street photography. She aspires to become a cinematographer and capture the world through her lens.

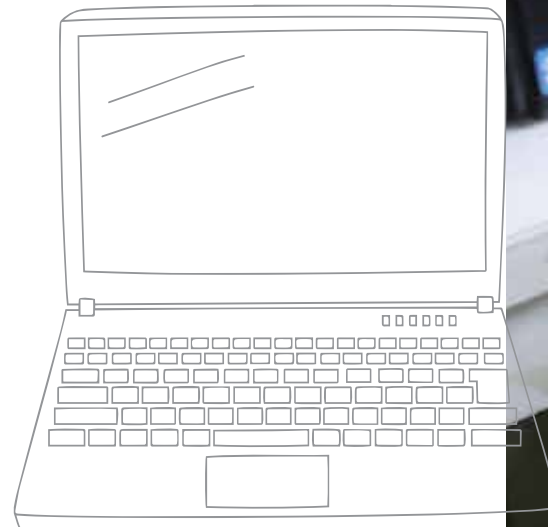


Carving Her Own Destiny

“Once learning computer was a necessity, but now it is the reason for my success,” says Shivani, a Bachelor of Arts student who resides in Kalyanpuri, New Delhi. She is a part of the Community Information Centre at Ghazipur in December to attend the Digital Literacy programme.

Shivani’s father runs a small shop to somehow covers the family expenses, while her brothers are unemployed. She desperately wants to support her father and share his load, but was continuously denied from job due the lack of digital skills. Therefore, she decided to learn the modern digital skills and join the Digital Literacy for Women and Girls program.

Now, the situation has changed and she has gained all the required skills to venture out for a job. In her own words “I realised that digital knowledge not only has the potential to expand your skills but also provides a vast platform to communicate.”







Working Towards a Better Future

“In my first year of graduation, I struggled a lot while making projects given my the professors. That time I realized how crucial it is to be digitally literate and aware”, Nikita Verma explains the problems that made her understand the importance of digital technologies. Soon, Nikita joined the Digital Literacy program.

For her it was like a dream come true, she had a imminent interest in pursuing a career in number crunching and computers. During her childhood she was mesmerised to see how the stock market functioned and the game of numbers, but surrounded by men.

She strongly believes that not only men but women can also build a successful career in digital technology and numbers.









Stepping Stone to a Secure Future

“I have developed a keen interest in computers since an early age, always fascinate by the way it simplifies problems” says Riya Chopra, a 16-year-old girl from Kalyanpuri, Delhi.

According to her, the world of computers is vast and limitless. *“When I first entered my computer laboratory in school, I was fascinated by how computers work which got deepened over the years”*. Therefore, she decided to join the computer course under the Digital Literacy Programme.

She is a determined girl who regularly attends all the workshops to expand her skills and knowledge and aspires to join the IT sector one day. She wants to be a role model for her younger siblings. Riya’s passion will help her to achieve her dreams, to secure a good job and support her family.

Writing Her Own Narrative

Nidhi Kanojiya is a 19-year-old student of History and Political Science. Her father works as a driver and her mother is a housewife. Nidhi believes that nothing is impossible in this world if we put our honest efforts. She joined the Digital Literacy Programme in the month of November 20', where she learned about computers and slowly mastered the art. Within months, she started teaching students online.

"I was a bit hesitant when I enrolled in the programme because never in my life, I thought of doing such a course. I entered the world of computers as a stranger but now I belong to this world".

Nidhi is also searching for a part-time job and wishes to become an IT expert one day. She believes in sharing her knowledge, and encourages her siblings and friends to take up the course which will help them to learn new things.



DIGITAL LITERACY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS



Learning Has No Age Bar

Sanju is 36 year old and works at a beauty parlour to financially support her husband. Sanju could not continue her education after high school due to societal barriers, but at Digital Literacy Programme she got a second chance to pursue her dreams. Not only she acquired digital literacy, but she also enhanced her communication skills too through the workshops.

“I was introduced to the Digital Literacy program by my neighbour who believed that I should at least have some basic computer knowledge. When I started attending the workshops, I had no idea about computers. I was overwhelmed but the mentors were very kind to a lady like me who had already crossed her learning age”.

Sanju has attended many workshops, where she was introduced to social media and business planning. She also wishes to help others and make them familiar with the benefits of the digital world. Her aspires to find a job in the field of digital media and earn a decent salary.







Serving the Nation

Obiran is a 15-year-old girl who studies in a government senior secondary school. She joined the Digital Literacy program in November. She lives with mother, who is the sole breadwinner of the family. Obiran always wanted to learn about computers, but her economic circumstances never permitted her to take any classes. She was introduced to the program by a friend.

Gone are the days when computer was an alien for her, today she knows about to work on Notepad, Paint, Microsoft Office etc. Her typing speed has also improved. She can now not only make presentations but also confidently present it to others.

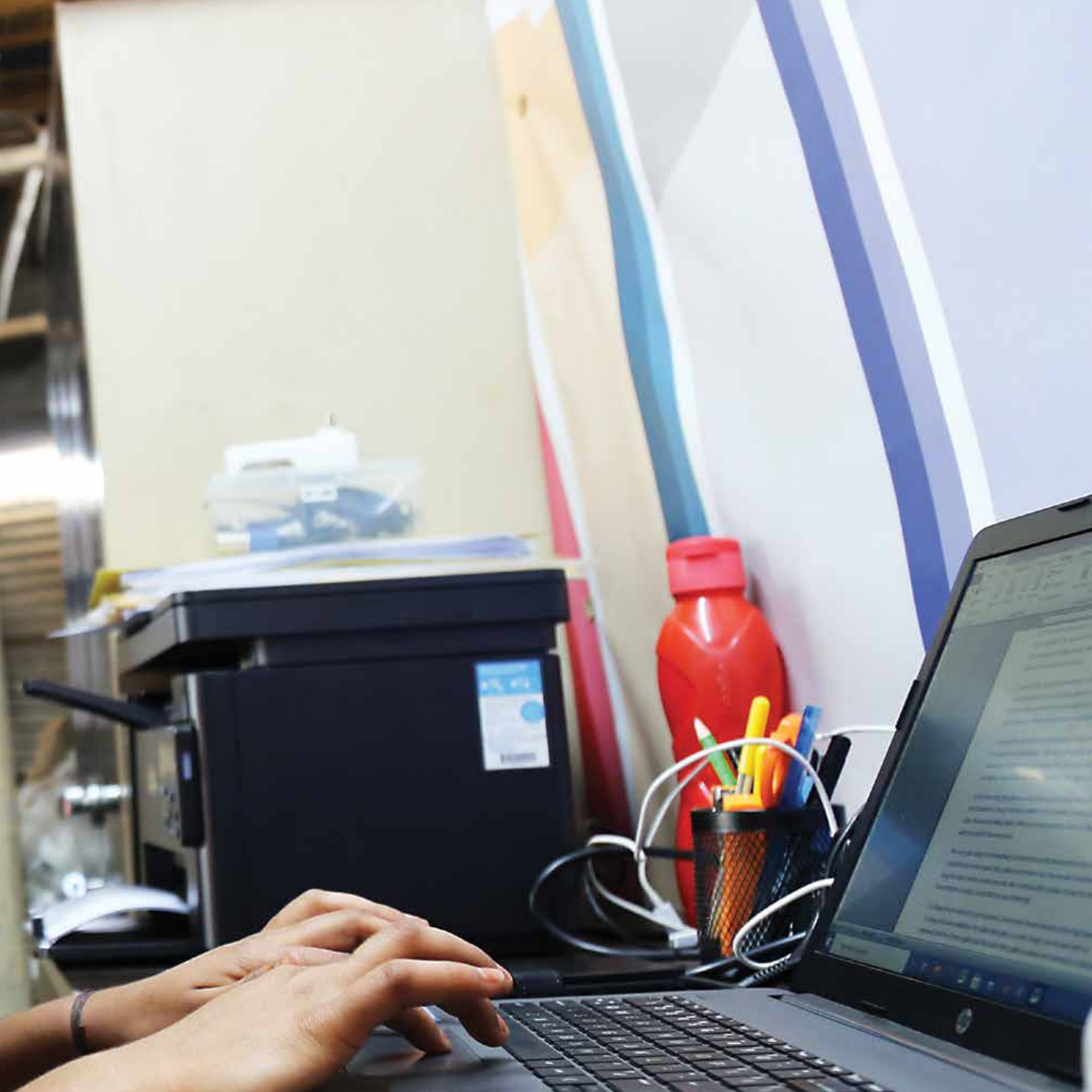
‘I am happy that I joined the program. I got to learn about life outside my community. I learned about computers and online banking which is going to help me in future. Currently, I am focusing on finishing my high school education, and I will probably focus on learning advanced computer skills’, says Obiran.

She aspires to become an IAS officer and serve the country and wants to make her mother proud.











Passionate Geetanjali

Geetanjali is a passionate 15 year old girl. Her father works at a cycle manufacturing company and earns meagre wages. She has a brother and three sisters who also study in school.

“In Digital Literacy Program, I showed my interest in computers and learned new things. I was an under confident girl at first, but the support helped me gain the confidence to stand in front of people. As I have seen hardships since childhood, I learned at a very early age that the only way out is to work hard and be determined. After spending a couple of weeks in the program, I realised that my passion is to teach primary students Science, Mathematics and History”, says Geetanjali.

“I am so glad that I joined this program. It has not only helped me in expanding my skills but has also built my overall personality”, adds Geetanjali.

Geetanjali has been in the program for the past year, and her growth is praiseworthy.





Turning hardships into opportunities

Shivani is 21 years old and pursuing her Master from IGNOU. She is a girl of modern world and clearly understands the importance of being digitally literate to be relevant.

Last year she enrolled in the Digital Literacy for Women and Girls Program at the Ghazipur resource centre. From early days Shivani had an interest in running her own business, thus she enrolled in the business planning and entrepreneurship program. In the program she gained knowledge of the digital skills of a business and landed to find a good job for her.

Shivani narrates her story, “Being born in a middle-class family, I know the importance of money since childhood. I could see how stressful it was for my father to meet our needs. The pandemic made things worse, as my father could not continue with his job. I enrolled myself in the course to expand my base of skills.”

One day she plans to live her dream to run a business.







**“Let us make our future
now, and let us make our
dreams tomorrow’s reality.”**

– Malala Yousafzai

CIRC

Community Information Resource Center

Digital Access, Information
& Empowerment for



CN 124, Jai Hind Camp, New Bengali
Vasant Kunj, Delhi- 110070



United
Way

Stitching and
Computer Center
Supported By



DEF





