The digital divide between rural and urban India is growing slowly. The National Sample Survey Organisation reported in 2014 that 94 percent of those living in rural India did not own a computer. Though more than 38 million users in rural India have accessed the Internet at least once in their lives, which is about 4.6 percent of the rural population, still there were 833 million who had no online experience as of mid-2016.
S M Sehgal Foundation (Sehgal Foundation) has been addressing the digital disparity between rural and urban India by setting up digital literacy centers in rural villages, which provide digital literacy training and life skills education along with a valuable component that creates good rural governance awareness.

The mixed curriculum includes fun activities, individual and group interactions, and discussions that enable participants to leave aside their shyness and open up to each other. Adolescents have become change agents in their villages as they become more informed and aware about the various topics, even influencing household decisions. The resulting empowerment of those involved in the various trainings is making a positive difference in rural villages.

OUTREACH

1,000 boys and girls in Nuh, Haryana, and Alwar, Rajasthan

A VOICE FROM THE GRASSROOTS

Fiza, a determined teenager from village Mandikhera in district Nuh of Haryana, is one of many girls who aspires to study, even after school. But she faced continued pressure from her parents and society to get married. Fiza joined the new course on digital literacy and life skills education. With a receptive platform to share her fears, hopes, and dreams, and ongoing training and support from facilitators, Fiza gained the courage to speak with her family about not being ready yet for marriage and persuaded them to let her study further. Fiza happily enrolled in ITI classes in Computer Trade and became a role model to others.

For further information, please email partnerships@smsfoundation.org
Join the team! www.smsfoundation.org

S M Sehgal Foundation is a public, charitable trust registered in India since 1999, based in Gurugram, Haryana.