

**UN GIRLS ADVOCACY FORUM  
ELEVATOR PITCH by Srijoni Nandi**

“Work with communities with low digital literacy to emphasize the benefits of technology on girls’ lives.”

My name is Srijoni Nandi and I am a 16 year old girl living in Kolkata, one of the largest cities in India. I am no stranger to the appalling gap of literacy between young girls of varied ages. The housekeeper of my home has a daughter who happens to be only a little younger than me and it is concerning that she is completely unaware of the rights and measures that protect her in cyber space. This illiteracy in terms of technology and its means stems from a lack of teaching and education to the lesser privileged girls in the society and can lead to dangerous activities online. She can easily become a victim to cybercrime and other risky activities.

As a youth advocate, I want to be able to help raise awareness about the benefits and dangers of technology on girls’ lives. This is not possible unless they have access to safe means of technology.

I am aware that my experience is not an uncommon sight here in India. Even though my housekeeper’s daughter and I are so close in age and live in the same developed metropolitan city, only one of us gets to reap the benefits of technology.

It is the 21<sup>st</sup> century and I strongly believe that if it is not us girls who can help bridge the gap of low digital literacy across all backgrounds, then no one can.