



# ILLINOIS INNOVATION PRIZE

**I** ILLINOIS

Technology Entrepreneur Center  
GRAINGER COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

**Ananya Tiwari** is the co-founder of the SwaTaleem Foundation that is transforming the government schools in extremely remote regions of India into model schools to solve the complex problem of child marriage by increasing educational outcomes for young girls. Ananya believes that building girls' capacity through formal education and livelihood training will enhance their ability to negotiate key life decisions that are crucial for delaying early marriages.

By using a human centered transformative approach, along with integrating socio-emotional learning with school education of girls and the teachers, Ananya aims to enable constructive engagement of the primary stakeholders (adolescent girls, teachers, government officials, and funders) towards driving educational outcomes through active participation, feedback, and creating opportunities to collectively problem-solve. The foundation fosters participatory development by enhancing leadership capacities of the primary stakeholders towards driving their own transformation.

Girls develop cognitive aptitude and socio-emotional skills; teachers develop socio-emotional skills, learner centered teaching practices, and emerge as problem-solving champions; and the government has better school and development indicators.

**#IIP**

2020 WINNER

# ANANYA TIWARI

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