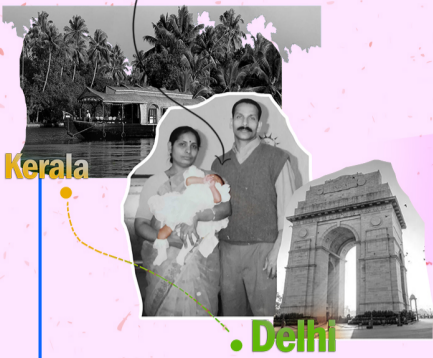


ELEENA'S JOURNEY

Eleena George



Kerala

Delhi

1993

I was born in Kerala but Delhi became home when my parents moved to the capital city for work. They sacrificed a lot so that my brothers and I could receive an education in an English medium school.



Childhood

One of my favorite memories of childhood was seeing my dad equally participate in making breakfast, doing laundry, and washing dishes alongside my mom. My friends and extended family found this an unusual sight.



Adolescence

However, most of my memories of being a young girl in Delhi involve being sexually harassed. When I shared these experiences with friends and family, their responses were disheartening. Most women around me had faced similar and sometimes even worse sexual abuse by men.

UNLEARN classes in Prisons



Action Time

Upon completing my Masters in Sociology, I got a fellowship that allowed me to interact with men in prison who had been accused of violence and crimes against women. During my workshops with these men, I got an insight into what drives men to commit such violence and their perceptions of women. I customized the workshops and named them Project Unlearn.

Entrepreneurship

My work on Project Unlearn inspired me to form a team of formerly incarcerated young men and design a curriculum with them. Together, we made 'Pehal' which weaves their real-life experience into learning tools such as comics, board games, and flashcards teaching about consent and toxic masculinity.



Grassroot's Change

In the next few years, my team and I worked with our curriculum in prisons and high-crime neighborhoods to create a safe space for unlearning problematic societal norms and cultural influences that contribute to gender-based violence.

Vision

In my 7 years running Project Unlearn, I have seen formerly incarcerated men become agents of change in their communities. Long term, I hope to scale this change through Unlearn Institute, a campus where young people can do research, advocacy, and education to address gender-based violence and crime in India.

