

Internet Saathi is a joint initiative of Google and Tata Trusts launched to empower women in rural India through digital literacy and in the process bridge one of the largest online gender gaps (Only 1 in 10 Internet users in Rural India was a woman as per IMRB i-cube, 2014).

Based on a train the trainer model, the program is structured to enable women Internet trainers in villages (called Internet Saathis) to further train other women in their village communities on basics of internet usage and the information and services it provides.

As of 31st July 2018, there are over 50,000 Internet Saathis have covered 1.8 lakh villages and benefited over 1.9 crore women. The initiative aims to empower 3 lakh villages through Internet Saathis.

In December 2017, an extension to the program was announced with FRENED (Foundation for Rural Entrepreneurship Development), a not-for-profit entity promoted by Tata Trusts and supported by Google to help build sustainable models of livelihood for Internet Saathis.