

Harnessing an Olympic dream

Akshara, from Farrukhabad, a small town in Uttar Pradesh, harbors a dream to represent the country at the Olympics.

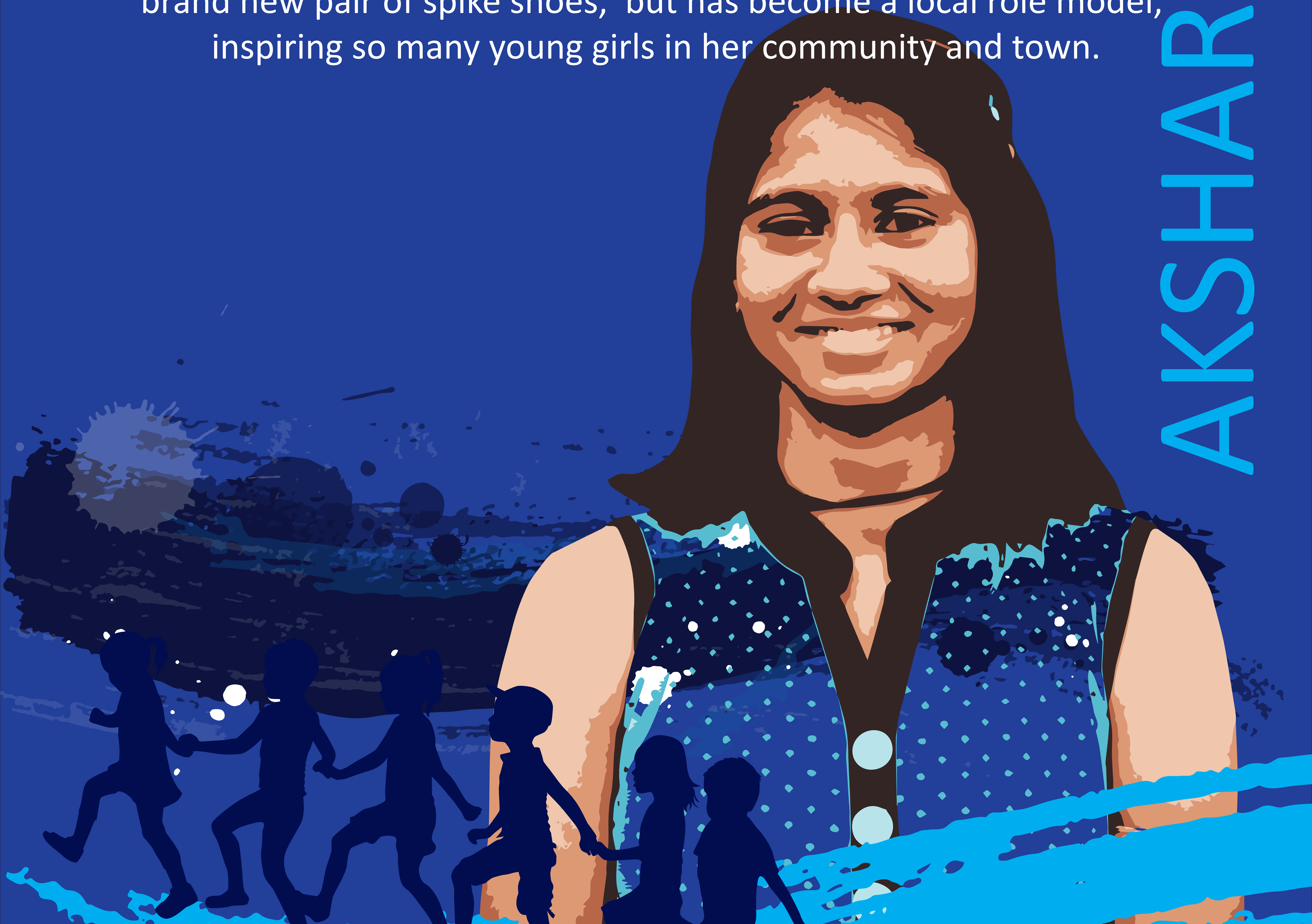
As a sprinter practicing in the local sports stadium, she found herself tied down by the patriarchal mindset, which frowned upon her passion and prevented her from training in comfortable running wear.

Being selected for the Milaan Girl Icon Fellowship program in 2015, was a transformative experience for her. The unsure, shy girl metamorphosed into a confident young girl who developed a burning ambition to succeed.

She mobilized her peer group of 20 girls and worked towards breaking the barriers to sports for girls and empowering them.

Today, Akshara is not only a celebrated 100 meter sprinter, who takes pride in running in her sports gear - shorts and her brand new pair of spike shoes, but has become a local role model, inspiring so many young girls in her community and town.

AKSHARA



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