Kumari is a new student at an NGO-run computer center in a resettlement colony on the outskirts of New Delhi. Her family was relocated to the colony seven years ago from their home on banks of the Yamuna River. When they first arrived, there was no water or electricity, and the school was nothing to write home about. Now, there is electricity most of the time, but Kumari or her mom still have to wait in long lines to buy water from water tankers. One day, while waiting in line, a neighbor told them about a community organization starting a three-month computer training program for only Rs 200 ($3.00). Kumari was interested in the program and had free time now that she was out of school. She mentioned this to her grandmother, who in turn encouraged her parents to enroll her, citing the low cost and increased job potential.

Kumari is shy and seeks information from her family and close friends. She lives with her parents, two grandparents, and two younger brothers, who are 5 and 10 years old. She gossips about neighbors with her mother and gets life advice from her grandmother.

Kumari’s father gave her his old smartphone, which she shares with her 10-year-old brother. Her brother and his friends play games on their phones all the time; once in a while, he will teach her a few games. Her favorite is a farm simulation game. If she asks, her mother will usually buy her a small data plan to chat with friends on WhatsApp and Facebook—it’s the primary way they update each other on what is new. She also browses clothing stores online, but does not buy anything because no one in her family owns a credit card—her grandmother and parents are wary of getting scammed. She enjoys shopping for clothes at the mall and in the market.

Kumari is excited to learn how to use computers because she knows such skills can help her get a good job. She hopes the NGO will employ her at the end of her training, like they did her neighbor. The computers in the center are WiFi-enabled, so she hopes to learn more about the internet and what else it can do. After a few classes, she has already learned how to use Google and search for any English word. Her English is very limited, but her classmate showed her how to type “in Hindi” at the end of every search to get information in Hindi. She’s now been doing this to find information on Shahrukh Khan, her favorite movie star, and read about his new movie Fan. She does not know what Wikipedia is but has seen the name come up in her recent searches. She would need significant guidance in navigating any of Wikipedia’s features.