BIOGRAPHY

Shilpa is an artist who taught herself how to paint in the traditional style of the Bhilwara region, where she grew up. She moved to the state capital, Jaipur, after marrying a clothing salesman. She supplements the family income by working as an art tutor for the neighborhood children. Her husband owns a desktop computer and has an Airtel WiFi modem at home.

Shilpa is very social, and it was her friends who first convinced her to go online. They installed Facebook and WhatsApp on her phone so that they could all stay in touch. She has also found the internet useful for her art. Her husband installed the YouTube app on her phone and showed her how to search for video tutorials on new painting techniques. A few loyal customers successfully encouraged her to sell her paintings on Facebook.

Shilpa is very proud of her two children: Gagan, who is studying commerce in 12th grade to become a businessman like his father, and Savita, who is completing her Bachelor’s in History at JNU in Delhi. She stays in touch with Savita usually via WhatsApp chat and voice calls. Her children don’t have the patience to teach her how to make better use of her phone, so she sticks to familiar apps.

Last year, Shilpa’s husband installed UC Browser Mini on her phone and told her that it is the fastest search engine, but she rarely uses it. She found the UC Browser notifications annoying, so he did something to minimize their appearances. Her husband used to help the children with school projects on the desktop computer at home; and by watching them, Shilpa learned how to search on Google. But today, if she needs to find information online, she still asks her husband for help because his English is much more advanced than hers, and he knows which links to click.

She has never heard of Wikipedia and cannot recall ever using it.