

## Path Breaking Feat !!

Tanya Elizabeth Ken of PSBB KKN represented India in Technovation (USA) sponsored by Google, Adobe, Oracle in partnership with UN for Women, MIT Media Lab.

She created her app “Lakshyashala” that provides educational opportunities for underprivileged kids. Children who are in disadvantaged situations can connect with professionals who can help them chart a course for a better future. Her app is a crunch point for children with limited scope.



### A LOT LIKE LAKSHYA

Tanya Elizabeth Ken tells *Shirlene Grace Isaac* about her app LakshyaShala and why it's a game-changer for students

An app that can help you actualise your dreams? You read that right! Dreams, in terms of your professional career, in the future. Before I explain how, let me introduce you to the mastermind behind the app LakshyaShala — Tanya Elizabeth Ken, a 16-year-old student of Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan Senior Secondary School.

The journey of LakshyaShala began when Tanya, in grade IX, questioned the whole purpose of education. Tanya, being the tech-savvy person that she is, was keen on a career in cyber security. But when she found that the education system did not connect the dots to help her reach her lakshya (goal), she decided to do it herself. “My parents had to network to find which were the appropriate skills. If this was what it took for someone like me, I couldn't imagine the condition of students in rural areas. That is when I started working on LakshyaShala,” she explains.

How does the app work? Every student needs on-the-ground professionals to tell them whether they can cut it or not in a particular career. LakshyaShala makes that connection simple. Students who need guidance, irrespective of where they're from can register on the app and be connected to people from several professions — doctors, engineers, IT professionals and so on. They can then ask questions, almost like chatting on WhatsApp, and the experts will step right up and answer them. “Very rarely are there cases wherein we reach out to professionals via LinkedIn and ask them to mentor students. The app is sort of a communicative tool and the mentors and students can communicate back and forth,” she says. There's a skill development module if the students want to take things up a notch, concludes the 16-year-old entrepreneur, who just finished her XII board exams.

Reach Out: [lakshyashala.com](http://lakshyashala.com)

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