**Name of Project:** Impart computer literacy to poor children in India

**Project Period:** Ongoing

**Reporting Period:** 01st August to 31st October 2013

**Specific Objectives of the Project:**
- To improve access to computers
- To increase computer literacy of the children
- To deliver quality computer education

**Achievements of the Project:**
- Improvements in the grades of the children.
- Innovative teaching methods employed
- One to one individualized attention is given to the students

**Number of beneficiaries:** 34 beneficiaries

**Key Activities:**
The two computer centres currently ongoing are in the following homes:
- Chembur Children's Home (CCH), Mankhurd
- David Sassoon Industrial School (DSIS) Matunga

Each center is well equipped with 10 computers. Each batch consists of 17 students. The computer classes are being carried out on all weekdays (Monday to Friday). The total number of beneficiaries is 34 (17 in DSIS and 17 in CCH).

Sahaara believes that every person has a dream, and our work centers around ensuring that marginalized persons are able to articulate and work towards achieving their dream. Children living in Mumbai juvenile homes are one of the most marginalized children in Mumbai. Institutionalized, these children are most often from highly poverty stricken families.

As a part of the holistic intervention therein, Sahaara imparts computer education to the children between fourteen to eighteen years of age in the juvenile homes. Sahaara's in-house computer course delivers a fitting foundation to the children preparing their skills for the technology-driven world outside the homes. The children attending the computer training get a start which will help them break out of the poverty cycle and fulfill their dreams of a stable future.

Below are the stories of some children who have benefited with the help of the computer training carried out by Sahaara personnel.

**Deepak\* looks forward to complete his computer course!**

Deepak had run away from his Home in Uttar Pradesh and came to Mumbai. On the day of his arrival in Mumbai, he was caught by the railway police and then brought to Umerkhadi Observation Home where the children who stray away from home are kept till either their parents are found or unless their parents come to claim them. Deepak's parents did not come to claim him, hence he was shifted to David Sassoon Industrial School (DSIS) at Matunga where the basic needs of the children are taken care of and they are also provided with education up to age of 18 years.

Deepak is now a 15 year old boy studying in Grade V. When the Sahaara staff met him, they found that he was often very quiet. Sahaara teachers encouraged him to learn English and also counseled him. This brought about a change in his behavior. He became confident, more open to talk and was now keen on learning. He is now studying the basics in computers such as MS Office and Paint at the Sahaara Computer Centre in DSIS, Matunga and is scheduled to complete his course in November 2013.

Deepak is thankful for the efforts the Sahaara teachers have taken for him.

**Aakash\* is enthusiastic about learning computers!**

Aakash has faced a difficult childhood. His father deserted the family while Aakash was very small and since then the economic condition of the family is poor. His mother could not afford to provide Aakash and his two brothers their basic needs and formal education. She also found it extremely difficult to take care of Aakash as he was very mischievous and disobedient after his father left the home. His mother then began working and living in a monastery with her two other sons while she decided to send Aakash to Chembur Children Home (CCH) where the basic needs and education are provided to children.

Akash is now a 14 year old boy presently studying in Grade 8. The Sahaara staff met him when he joined the computer class run by Sahaara, where the basics of computers such as MS Office and Paint are taught to the children of CCH who are studying in Grade 8 and 9. Aakash is an average student in his studies but he shows much enthusiasm in learning computers. He is scheduled to complete his course in November 2013.

Aakash is happy that he has got this opportunity to learn computers through Sahaara and desires to secure a suitable job with his acquired skills after the completion of his higher studies.

\*Names changed to protect identity.