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

Project Period: Ongoing

Reporting Period: 01st November 2013 to 31st January 2014

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.

Sambhaji* completes his computer course!

Sambhaji, a student of Grade 7, is 13-year-old boy who staying in David Sassoon Industrial School (DSIS) since the last one year. He used to stay with his family at Ulhas Nagar before coming in DSIS. Sambhaji has two siblings. After his father died around 12 years ago, his mother couldn't look after her children and due to financial constraints, she admitted Sambhaji is DSIS.

Initially Sambhaji did not like to stay in DSIS. But after some time, he got friends and adapted himself to the Home. One day he came to know that there is a Sahaara computer class in DSIS and he asked the Sahaara staff to teach him how to use a computer. When asked why he wanted to learn computers he said " I saw some people working on the computer in the children's court in the home at Ulhasnagar where I was before I came to DSIS and after that I desired to learn computers and work in a computer related field". On seeing his eagerness to learn computers, the Sahaara staff enrolled Sambhaji into the computer literacy program in June 2013. He was regular to the computer class and his

overall progress in learning the computer basics such as MS Word and Paint has been good. He has completed his course in December 2013.

Sambhaji desires to get a job, which is computer related as soon as he finishes his education and is discharged from the Home. He thanks Sahaara for helping him learn to use a computer.

Prakash* looks forward to a colourful life!

Prakash is a 16-year-old boy presently in Grade 9 at the Chembur Children's Home. He is a very helpful person by nature. His mother died in a tragic accident caused due to bursting of the gas cylinder and his father had hanged himself soon after.

In 2006, Prakash was admitted in the Chembur Children's Home when he was 8 years old. He came in touch with Sahaara when he started attending Sahaara coaching class from Grade 2 onwards. Prakash joined Sahaara's computer literacy course in the year 2013. He was very regular to the class and has completed six-month basic computer literacy course successfully.

He is happy that he has learnt a few computer skills such as cut, copy, paste, work in Excel, insert pictures in PowerPoint, adding special effects, and using the calculator. Prakash is good in painting so he wants to further learn graphics and be a graphic designer.

Prakash says, "I am so excited that I have learnt so much about computers and whatever I have learnt I share it with my grandmother and I also help my aunt whenever she needs help in PowerPoint .

Sahaara now follows up with him and helps him in guidance for his career. In his free time, he comes to Sahaara computer centre to practice whatever he has learnt and the teachers help him whenever required.

* Names changed to protect identity.