Progress Report

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

Project Period: Ongoing

Reporting Period: 01st July to 30th September 2018

Specific Objectives of the Project:

- To improve access to computers
- To increase computer literacy of the children
- To deliver quality computer education

Number of beneficiaries: 20 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 8-10 students. The computer classes are being carried out with two batches each day at each centre (Monday to Friday). The total number of beneficiaries is 20 in DSIS.

Vilas* is growing in computer skills and English too!

Hailing from Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, Vilas lived with his parents. As a daily wage laborer, his mother worked at different locations.

Vilas' mother didn't have a good relationship with her mother-in-law and had regular conflicts which ended with Vilas' family leaving the house.

In 2007, they moved to Panvel in Raigad District and continued the same work. Vilas' mother started consuming alcohol and soon became an addict which resulted in complete neglect of family responsibilities. This resulted in Vilas dropping out school and picking scraps along with his other friends.

One day in 2015, as Vilas was travelling towards Mumbai from Panvel, he got lost. The Railway Police caught him as he was a minor and seemed like a run-away. He was unable to give information concerning his family or his place of residence. So the police admitted him in a Children's Home in Mumbai. He was 12 years of age at the time, but he had to restart his education from 1st grade due to different language medium of teaching.

In 2016, he was transferred to DSIS (David Sassoon Industrial School), an advanced observation home by the government where children are given education and are given an opportunity to learn a vocational skill.

Sahaara runs a computer course in DSIS, where children can gain computer literacy and be prepared for their future.

In July 2018, when Vilas first joined Sahaara's computer coaching classes, he was observed to be weak in studies. Having difficulties in reading and understanding the English words, he made excuses and would attend the classes late. Vilas found Microsoft Word hard because this was the first time he was using a computer and this was altogether a new subject for him.

The Sahara staff would give him personal attention and guide him in practicing the computer skills on a daily basis. Besides computer coaching he was also taught English from primary classes study books to improve his vocabulary. He has started to enjoy using the computer as a privilege to study and a necessary skill.

Teachers have given him career guidance and taught the importance being educated. He has been taught to practice good etiquettes too.

He has learnt to be responsible. Apart from computer skills he has also completed a tailoring course conducted by DSIS home.

Vilas has dreams to work and earn a good income. We at Sahaara hope for his reunion with his family.

* Name changed to protect identity.

Sahaara Charitable Society
Hari Niwas, Row House, Plot no.72, Sector 7, Behind DMart, Kopar Khairane, Navi Mumbai – 400709
Tel: +91 22 2754 7893 , Email: contactus@sahaarasociety.org , Website: www.sahaarasociety.org