

# **Digital visual communication**

## **Good Shepherd Home**

### **Virar, Mumbai**

It was in 2020, one day in Sept. an old friend of mine Mr. Arul Raja from Madurai contacted me after a long time and shared with me about Google Program for IT skills. He sent me a link to go through and get back to him. I went through it. But I said to him our girls do not have the basic skills in computer and we have no computers here for the children. He responded to me “If you are convinced of the Program and you would like to help the girls for the future do what you can”.

I discussed with Sr. Sylvia, the Director of the Children’s program, in Virar. We purchased 6 computers and made it possible for the students to begin the programs from Oct.28<sup>th</sup> 2020. Sr. Urmila from our community, also joined the program with the girls.

Sangeeta, Shobha, and Shabnam have completed 12<sup>th</sup> grade with very good percentage of marks. Asmatara and Manisha have completed the 11<sup>th</sup> and now they are in 12<sup>th</sup>. These were the five students along with Sr. Urmila and another student Preethi from Chennai, attended the program along with our students.

Mr. Arul Raja had a small team of qualified People who were willing to teach the basics of the computer and English to the girls on line. Thus, we had Mr. Rinold, a software Engineer from Hosur and a few others to help them with different skills.

The team started with basics of typing, Spoken English, Phonetics and slang, motivation and confidence building classes, goal setting and social skills, basics of HTML, MS Word, Excel, Power point, Introduction to Python, web designing, coding, life skills, small entrepreneurships etc. Some of our relations and friends from USA, Dubai, Australia and other parts of India had classes with the students. The students showed a lot of interest and learned the skills. They each have created a website for themselves.

Mr Arul Raja from Madurai, who was heading the team of Professors passed away on 24<sup>th</sup> of May, due to Covid. It was a very sad day for all of us. He had motivated the girls to have a positive attitude towards life. He also took Phonetics and slang which were helpful for the students to understand different accents in English. We miss him much. RIP.

The others in the team, especially, Mr. Rinold is continuing to help the girls. From June 2021, and a team of teachers from Chennai Good Shepherd Matriculation School, have started Grammar, spoken English and writing skills in English for the students. This program has really strengthened their self- confidence, self-esteem, self-worth, that they can do something different and be light in someone's life with the skills and paved way for their future.

They will begin an on line Google Program for three months from Harvard University USA, by the end of this month which will provide them with a certificate.

Along with our students, I express my gratitude to each one of you for helping them to reach so far. Many of you contributed your skills and taught the students and they are making good progress. Please continue to journey with our students in the future too.

Sr.Sabina Pathrose.RGS