



MID YEAR REPORT 2026

Bangalore, India: ICT vocational education for girls

In Bangalore, our project partner Planet Hope offers free, certified computer courses to girls and young women from Dalit communities, one of the most disadvantaged groups in Indian society. Most of them went to schools without a working computer lab. Without digital skills, it is hard to find a decent job or continue studying. This year the project runs five courses: Basic ICT, Graphic Design, Tally Accounting (a bookkeeping program used by many Indian businesses), Content Creation and a new course on AI. Every student works towards a certificate as well as towards the confidence to use her skills.

Impact & Achievements



327 students have joined thus far, 99% of the goal for the year. A total of 368 students is expected by the end of the year.



94% of the students whose course has finished have obtained a certificate.



A total of 288 students joined the four existing courses, and all of the course are at or above their target for the year.



39 students have joined the new AI course so far, and all 18 students of the first group graduated.



A total of 95 parents attended the two organised parent meetings.



An additional teacher was hired this year, which allows for smaller groups where every student receives more attention.

Starting a new course on AI

The AI course is new this year. Students get to know different AI tools and learn to write good prompts. They use them to create images, write a CV and look up information. Just as important, they learn to question what AI tells them: check the facts, ask where the information comes from and not simply accept the first answer. The lessons start from situations the girls know from daily life, such as looking for work or managing money. Every lesson also has printed materials, so the course can continue during a power cut.

Additional laptops

Until this year, students often had to share equipment during their classes. Thanks to an extra donation of laptops, every student can now work on her own device. But the donation has a second effect: the older computers were passed on to schools where children have never had the chance to work on a computer. They now follow basic computer lessons there. In this way, the donation is creating impact beyond the regular courses, giving two generations of learners the opportunity to develop their digital skills.

Beyond ICT skills

Every course also includes lessons on self-confidence, communication, digital safety, girls' rights and handling money, such as budgeting and saving. Students also learn how to write a CV and prepare for an interview. In Graphic Design, students practised presenting their own work, and one student pitched her own brand to the class. Many girls have no computer at home, so the classroom computers stay available after lessons for extra practice.

Families and employers are involved as well. During the parent meetings, parents heard how their daughters are doing and how they can support them. Guest sessions with working professionals have taken place in Graphic Design and Tally Accounting, and company visits are planned for November.

Challenges

Engaging parents and families remains an important area of attention. Many parents have had limited access to education and digital skills themselves, while their daughters are gaining new knowledge and opportunities through the programme. This can sometimes create a gap between generations, making it especially important to keep parents involved and informed. Regular parent and family sessions help families understand the programme and support their daughters as they develop new skills and opportunities.

What's next

With the number of graduates rising every year, it becomes more and more important to keep track of students post-graduation in a systematic manner. Does a graduate find a job, continue her studies, start freelancing, or is she still looking? Until now, contact with former students mostly ran through WhatsApp. That works for some of them, but others get lost.

That is why Planet Hope is setting up a graduate follow-up system. The team will keep an up-to-date record of graduates' contact details and regularly check in to learn where they are now, whether they have found work, continued their studies, started freelancing, or are still looking. This will help to understand what happens after graduation, where graduates may need additional support, and how the courses can be improved. Graduates can also stay connected to current students and share their experiences, while an annual gathering will give former students a chance to reconnect with each other.



Graphic Design course



Students during their Basic ICT course in school, with second generation computers



A proud graduate



Two girls following the course on Content Creation