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## ANNUAL REPORT 2025

# India, Bangalore: ICT vocational education for girls

In 2025, Planet Hope continued to provide digital education and empowerment programmes for young people from disadvantaged Dalit communities in Bangalore. Many schools in these communities lack computer facilities and trained ICT teachers, leaving students without essential digital skills for further education or employment. Through this programme, students developed practical ICT skills combined with life skills training and career guidance. The programme focuses particularly on girls and young women, who often face additional barriers to education and employment.

### Impact & Achievements



337 students reached in total



117 youth trained in basic ICT skills in primary & secondary schools



44 girls from tailoring and beautician programmes trained in basic ICT



3 specialised courses were offered on Tally Accounting (63 students), Content Creation (45 students) and Graphic Design (58 students)



Approximately 80 percent female participation in specialised ICT courses



48 workshops on life skills empowerment were organized for 166 students in total

## Programme at a glance

The programme focused on expanding access to digital education for young people who would otherwise have limited opportunities to develop these skills.

Basic ICT education was provided to 117 school students. For many participants this was their first experience working with a computer. By the end of the course students were able to create documents, prepare presentations, send emails, and use the internet safely.

In addition, 44 women who were enrolled in tailoring and beautician training programmes participated in a basic ICT course. The training strengthened their digital and entrepreneurial skills, including managing finances digitally and promoting services online.

Three specialised ICT courses provided more advanced training aligned with labour market opportunities. Students learned practical skills in graphic design, digital accounting, and content creation. Several graduates have already begun using these skills for freelance assignments or small projects. Others have applied for higher education, such as a Bachelor of Commerce.

Life skills and empowerment training formed an important part of the programme. In total, 166 students participated in 48 workshops focusing on communication, confidence building, financial awareness, and preparation for the workplace. Teachers reported clear improvements in student confidence and participation throughout the year.

## Beyond ICT training

Planet Hope complements ICT training with activities that support students during and after the courses.

Students presented their work during open days organised at the training centre. These events allowed parents and community members to see the students' achievements and helped strengthen support for girls' education.

Parent meetings were organised to encourage families to support their daughters' learning. Students also received guidance on career readiness, including CV writing, interview preparation, and workplace expectations.

For students who required additional support, social workers provided individual counselling and guidance. Planet Hope also assisted students in exploring further education opportunities and applying for higher education programmes.

## Challenges & Learnings

Students in the programme face several barriers that affect participation and learning. Many girls combine training with family responsibilities, and in some cases, families place pressure on them to stop attending. Limited access to computers at home, differences in starting skill levels, and language barriers in technical courses can also make learning more difficult. In addition, some students deal with significant stress related to financial pressure or challenging home environments. Planet Hope addresses these challenges through flexible scheduling, home visits, close contact with families, and individual support from teachers and a social worker.



**School students receiving basic ICT training**



**Girls following their specialised ICT training**



**Planet Hope conducts home visits to participants' families when necessary**

Combining ICT training with life skills and empowerment sessions has proven essential in helping students build confidence and remain engaged. The programme has also shown that small class sizes, strong teacher-student relationships, and active family involvement are key factors in supporting girls to complete the courses and continue their education or career pathways.

### Next steps

In 2026, Planet Hope will continue delivering ICT training in schools and community locations while further strengthening the link between training and employment. The organisation plans to expand its network of employers in fields such as communications, finance, administration, and digital media through guest lectures, workplace visits, and professional mentoring. Greater attention will also be given to supporting graduates after completing the programme, including assistance with job searches and further education opportunities. Parent engagement will remain a key part of the approach. At the same time, Planet Hope will work toward greater financial sustainability by preparing for the future introduction of paid computer courses for working adults once suitable training facilities are secured.

### Story of Change

Sujitha, 18, completed the Content Creation course in 2025. She grew up in challenging circumstances. She and her mother live in a hostel where her mother works, and the hostel warden pays Sujitha's school fees. Without this support, she would not have been able to finish secondary school.

Before joining Planet Hope, Sujitha had little experience with technology. During the course she learned how to design posters, create videos, and develop digital content. At first the lessons were challenging, but with practice and support from her teacher she successfully completed the programme and gained confidence in her abilities.

The course has also changed how Sujitha sees her role at home and in her community. She now shows her mother what is possible with a phone and computer, and explains the digital skills she has learned. Other girls in the hostel have started asking her questions as well, and she often shows them how to create simple designs and content.

Sujitha is now looking for work where she can use her digital and creative skills. Her goal is to build a stable future and support her mother.



Girls in class



Sujitha holding her training certificate