

# INDIA: IT SKILLS TRAINING FOR GIRLS

YEAR REPORT - JAN - DEC 2022



**PlanetHOPE**  
Een wereld van verschil

The next generation  
**net  
4  
kids**  
foundation

**energy**WORX





5 MASTERCLASSES OF  
ENERGYWORX



23 STUDENTS ICT COURSE

## THE IMPACT

The impact of the ICT courses for the girls is great. For example, one of the assignments was to develop a brand for their own (future) company. The girls showed their colourful logos, the explanation that matched the logo and tell the dreams they have to put this brand on the market one day. So fantastic to hear the students talk so enthusiastically about their dreams and skills, finally having a perspective. Also the story of one other student explains the impact of the program. She wasn't allowed by her father and brothers to use a mobile or be on internet. As a girl, they think, it's not safe to be in contact with 'strangers' online, and being in contact with the modern world is not good for their (traditional) upbringing. Despite the resistance of her family, she was able to convince her mother to go to the parents' meeting where information was given about the IT courses. She eventually participated in the course and after a few months she proudly shows her IT skills to her parents. In a few months she has become very agile, has a dream of having a career in the IT sector and believes that she will get a modern job and not a low paid traditional job like her parents. Her parents are proud and also see this as a good development for their daughter.

# INDIA: IT SKILLS TRAINING FOR GIRLS

## 2022 IN SHORT

The goal of this project is to provide qualified vocational education that is accessible to (girl) students of lower social class and that meets the current demands of the labour market. Together with Planet Hope we train students to become professionals with practical experience for a profession with good prospects on the labour market, especially in the fields of IT. The growth of this sector in India offers the young generation opportunities for a job with potential.

The pandemic has shown the digital division between youngsters of different socio-economic origins. Technology is also very gender conscious in India. Stereotypes and social expectations often keep girls away from technology. All this means that many poor girls and young women are low digitally literate. Limited access to technology puts young girls and women at a disadvantage to access information online.

That's why its of great importance that we could start this year (2022) with the first pilot of IT & Entrepreneurship vocational training, Branding & Design. 23 young girls from poor families could finally participate in the digital world and learn the skills that are appropriate for the 21st century. In 8 months (it took a bit longer than the 6 months planned, because of festivities in October) these girls have had weekly classes in Branding & Design. With the help of ROC Mondriaan the syllabus with the work sheets was finalized in the first months of 2022, and in June 2022 the first classes were given to the students in India.

Planet Hope also added computer lessons to the curriculum of other vocational education courses, Tailoring and Beautician, and on 2 colleges (VJR High school, BBMP composite junior college).

Thanks to the career guidance and financial literacy masterclasses of Energyworx the girls improve their soft skills, are more confident and we hope (and we will monitor this next year) that this increases their chances on the labour market.

## ABOUT PLANET HOPE

Many (young) people in India become or remain unemployed due to a lack of education, insufficient basic knowledge and practical skills. Often because they cannot afford their education or because they do not have the right basic qualification. Our local partner Planet Hope offers good quality vocational training that offers prospects and helps young girls (and boys) to find a job, and to acquire sufficient financial resources to break through the generations-long spiral of poverty.

Planet Hope works in different communities around Bangalore and in Darjeeling and Pondicherry. Their interventions in these communities are based on a holistic approach by conducting need-based assessments, accessing resources and addressing community issues at grass root level.

## INTERACTIVE TEACHING

The teachers in India are not used to teach by an interactive teaching method. They are acquainted with passive learning, a teaching method where a teacher discusses topics in class and the students follow the lesson by listening and taking notes.

Active learning is the opposite. In this approach, the students play a more practical role. Instead of making the teacher act as a teacher, he becomes a facilitator guiding the students in putting the concepts learned into practice. During the lesson, the teachers constantly engage the students by asking them questions and offering them activities that stimulate thinking. Students are encouraged to come up with their own ideas.

The teachers of Planet Hope were coached by Dutch teachers in active learning regularly. Planet Hope has sessions to discuss the teaching experiences. Videos of the lessons are analysed and evaluated.

## FUTURE STEPS

A major challenge during this pilot year is the fact that most students do not have a computer at home. A mobile phone often has to be shared with other family members. The course has many practical assignments. The students often make these assignments during or after class, but during the holidays and weekends it is actually the intention that students also practice and make assignments on a computer. This didn't always work. Students do not always have money to go to a computer shop. So we had to deal with the challenge that it was difficult for students to complete their homework and prepare for interim tests. We solves this problem to allow students to use the computers after the class and during the holidays and in the weekend they could come to the classroom to use the computers. For the next batch students in 2023 Planet Hope wants to include second hand laptops for students to use at home during the course. Together we are looking for opportunities to get these laptops sponsored.

