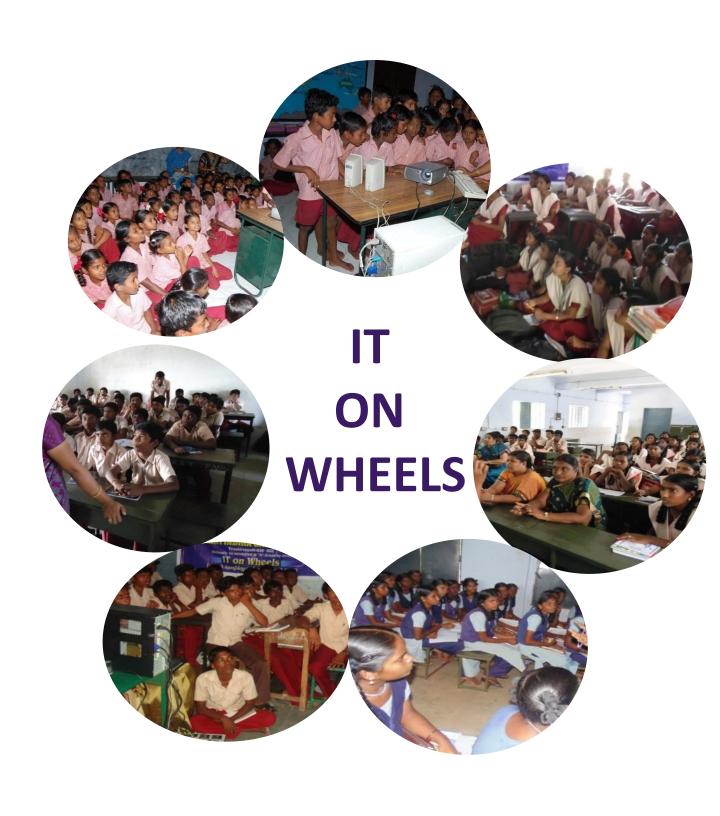


Computer Awareness Programme & Video Presentation on "Information Technology on Wheels"





IT on Wheels at Several Doorsteps....







Computer Training Programme on Multimedia for Housewives



A one-day Computer Awareness Programme on The use of Computer, & Internet to Headmaster / Headmistress of all the Higher Secondary Schools in Tiruchirapalli District



Vocational Training Programme on Computer
Awareness for Accounting Packages for Self - Help
Group of Women





"Training on Techniques of IT



One-day Workshop on "Communication Skills using Language Laboratory for all Headmasters and English Teachers of High and Higher Secondary Schools in Tiruchirappalli District



One-day Special Computer Training Programme on Tamil Computing (Murasu Anjal)



Programme on "Know-how techniques of MS-OFFICE"



Demo on Data Entry Operation



Computer Awareness Training Programme for B.T Assistants in Maths and English and Drawing masters of High and Hr.Sec.Schools in Trichy District



Computer Awareness Training Programme on progress...



Training on AUTO-CAD for SHG Women



Computer Training Programme for Women Police



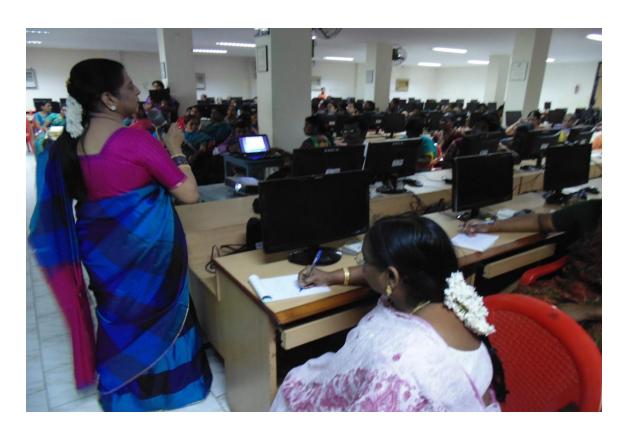
Computer Awareness Training Programme on DTP for Women



Demo on "A Tour on Internet"



Release of a CD-ROM with Training Manual prepared on INTERNET



"Free Internet Awareness Training Programme for Housewives" on 04.01.2014





Computer Awareness to School Children



Advanced Computer Training Programme



A CD-ROM and a Training Manual prepared under her guidance and were also released.



"Free Internet Awareness Training Programme for Housewives"

Taking computer to villages

Residents of S.Pudukottai, a small village about 20 km from Tiruchi turned up in hundreds recently to participate in the valedictory function of the 10 day special camp of the NSS students of the Indira

Gandhi College, The students during the 10-day camp organised a computer awareness programme for school children/educated women in the village, held a kolam competition and doll show (bomma kolu) for the villagers, besides dental camp, an eye camp and a legal clinic. Also a lecture on care for the mentally Also a secture on care for the medianly retarded children was organised by the Holy Cross Service Society. The residents were extremely happy over the exposure they got during the ten days. The students also felt they had learnt a jot

from the villages, during their participation in the construction of 26 houses for the poor organised by the Society for Education Village Action and Improvement.

The students carried hollow blocks for

construction, mixed the cement mortar, and also watered the building daily besides assisting the masons in fixing the blocks.

On Gandhi Jayanthi day, the students cleaned the Sri Chadrasekhara Swamy temple at Truchendurai in collaboration with the at Truchendural in collaboration with the Archaeology department. K. Meena, Principal of the Indira Gandhi College, who visited the camp almost daily said the students realised the importance of dignity of labour, the togetherness and team work among the village folk and also their progressive views on many matters like literacy, local self

government, thrift schemes, etc.

A delighted K. Rangayyan, president of the
S. Pudukottai Milk supply society said the



students did an extremely good job constructing within ten days a community centre where, the women's cooperative milk society office would be housed. K. Govindarajan. Director of SEVAI, said the volunteers had evinced keen interest in watershed management and the quality of work turned out during the house construction was extremely good.

K. N. Nehru, Minister for Food and Cooperation inaugurated the camp and K. Ramalingara. Director of Collegiate Education presided over the valedictory function. The NSS students of the Seethalakshmi

Ramaswami College, Tiruchi also organised a 10 day special camp at Kambarasampettai. Watershed management, wasteland development, child labour eradication programme, health, hygiene and nutrition, education, eradication of social evils like alcoholism, were the main areas selected by he students. K. Rajaraman, District Collector, gave away the certificates to the participants at the valedictory function presided over by Mr. R. Panchapakesan, Managing Trustee of the College.

V. GANAPATHY

Village kids have a feel of computers

HILE the is fast becoming a global village, thanks to the day-today advancements made in the field of communication technology, unfortunately many an Indian village continues to be isolated due to the poor penetration of knowledge.

In an effort to provide an interface with modern technology to the rural students, the NSS unit of the Shrimathi Indira Gandhi College for Women, Tiruchi has hit upon a novel idea of taking computers literally, right to the remote villages.

One such programme was organised for the benefit of the students of the Jerico School for Handicapped at Nagamangalam village near Tiruchi, who showed that given an opportunity these nature's babes were more than willing to explore and learn the marvels of world of computers and CDROMS.



These students were not only taught the various operations, including basic Lotus and Wordstar language, but were also encouraged to do small programmes of

Armed with this basic knowledge the students explored their way into map reading, location of rivers, cities etc.

Almost all of these students had not even cast their eyes on a computer ever before and had no hope of either doing so during their student-life.

Apart from the thrill of handling the mouse and the computer, these children were certain to cherish this opportunity forever.

Apart from the computer awareness programme, the NSS volunteers of the College also crected a borewell in the village and constructed a modernised toilet

S. Ganesan

Taking information to the doorstep

Correspondent
TRUCHE In the modern world,
information is power, And the
knowledge is power. And the
knowledge is power. And the
information technology sphered
in by the spectacular and
harmonious blending of the
latest in the field of
telecommunications and
computers, has made it
possible for anyone to gain
access to the information
possible for anyone to gain
access to the information
house of knowledge in any
part of the world, marks to the
therent Easilty. The internet is
a network of networks, spread
all owes the world, and it is
estimated that by the year
2000, the number of internet
users will cross the 200 million.

could, the number of internet users will cross the 200 million mark. The industrial revolution mark in the industrial revolution and property on a mase socie, the information revolution means bits and bytes and giving the outsomers, what they need, when they needed, and in the exact quantity be at their markets and some of computer science. The markets are some of their markets and some of their means and their markets and their means and their

numbers in Karur, Perambalur, Musin, Manasparan, Lalgudi Musin, Manasparan, Manas

Truchi
Truchi
The college had also or firuchi
The college had also organised a special awareness programme for teachers in AdiDravidra schools, police personnel and barin difficult parameters of the special laternel and computer awareness programmes arganised by the IUCT for doctors and lawyers not despend on the special laternel and computer awareness programmes organised by the IUCT for doctors and lawyers not Manager, Teaconomynomication Department, said Truchs would be getting a 10 000-line automatic exchange, and an



Housewives attending a computer training programme

Housewise company with more than 2,000 subscribers. The recent decision of BPL to make all incoming calls free has resulted in a surge in demand to the telegraph of telegraph of the telegraph of telegraph

should instal a server in Truchi, which alone will help assy uploading and downloading of information through limiters are server in the serve

Thousands of computer students who had left Truchi in the past three decades to in the past three decades to started using the facility. The most of the hour is to take the massage to other sections of society and also, industrialists and businessment.

indistrialets and businessmen. In recent months the Centre and the State Governments have an owned the state of the State Governments have an owned the intention stormation technology to the rural areas. Leaching institutions, computer enthusuality, endustrialists and government officials should go all our to make full use of the intradiculary shullburst and power ment officials should go all our to make full use of the intradiculary shullburst and intradiculary shullburst engine and opportunities that crop us white taking the fulls of information technology to the

Child labourers get computer education

Tiruchi: Tiruchi has become the first district in the State to expose selected child labourers from special schools to basic computer education for a mo-

Part of a project conducted

by the Indira Gandhi College that the children develop confidence in themselves and in education and thereby develop a wish to continue studies further, according to District Collector V.Murthy.

The innovative move was chapter of the Computer Society of India (CSI) it ensures collaboration with the Indira Gandhi College, ensured that children having a liking for mathematics and drawing were selected from out of the 1,500 currently enrolled in more than 30 special schools run by

Students of special schools for child labourers learning computer operation at Indira Gandhi College in Tiruchi: Express

the Child Labour Effective Eradication and Rehabilitation Society (CHEERS) in the district.

A total of 40 children were taken to the college where computer staff selected 27 from amo ng them. College sources said a couple of boys, who have shown skill at handling the computer mouse, were provided with initial training for two days in advance enabling the Collector to have a look at their drawing skills when the course was inaugurated on Nov 4.
Principal Dr.K.Meena

the drawing and maths skills of the children would be improved through use of computer graphics. As the children's kno wledge was not on par with their regular school counterpa-rts and as their exposure to computers is only for a limited period, they were not yet ready for any full-fledged computer syllabus, she added.

Attending this course would ensure that these underprivileged children do not develop a complex when brought before computers. The children, who are brought to the college daily by their teachers, attend these classes from 9.30 a.m. to 3 p.m. While the college provides tea, CHEERS provides the lunch, of ficials said. With government now providing computer cour-ses right from class nine in schools, early exposure will ensure

continued interest for the subject in these children, officials

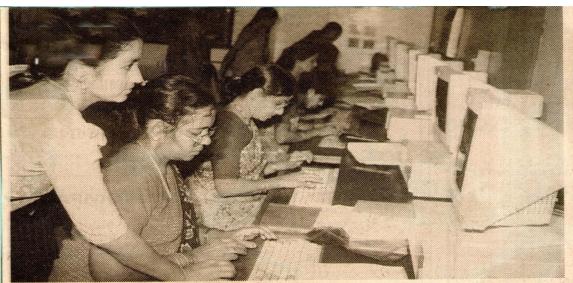
At the conclusion of the course, students would be exposed further to graphics through CDs, Dr.Meena said. Similarly, accompanying teachers were also taught basic computer skills to ensure that they keep up with their wards in this course.

However, the course was not without its teething troubles. As most children come for daily classes from surrounding vi-llages, CHEERS now provides their bus fare which works out to Rs.108 at the rate of Rs.4 per

child per day.

Though the Collector wrote to the TNSTC officials requesting that these children be issued free bus passes for the duration of the course, no reply has been received, official sources said. Hence, as nearly 17 days of the month-long course is alr-eady over, CHEERS proposed to request participating NGOs to share the bus fare burden.

While the course would only expose kids to computers, neaexpose Rots to computers, near-rly 10 of the brightest would be selected to participate in the second batch of a similar cou-rse proposed by the college in January. And in the meantime, child labourers are proving they are equal to regular child-ren when they sit before comp uter screens.



A ten-day course to make housewives 'computer literate' organised by the women's branch of the Computer Society of India, at the Indira Gandhi College for Women, Tiruchi.

The banner at the entrance of the computer department in the Indira Gandhi College for Women reads: "Working woman's envy, housewife's pride." Indeed, the 76 housewives in the 25 to 60 age group with varying educational qualifications from SSLC to P.G. degrees who emerged successful in the 10-day computer awareness programme, said they realised, that the computer was a useful addition to the other gadgets such as the Washing machine, mixer, grinder and television in their homes. The course was organised by the women's branch of the Computer Society of India under its plan to develop and spread computer literacy.

Mrs. Champaka Ramakrishnan, a 56-yearold grandmother, echoed the sentiments of the other participants that they had felt at a loss even during family discussions whenever the topic of computers came up. All of them had felt that the computer, a sophisticated instrument to be kept in an airconditioned room and to be handled only by experts. But within just 10 days, they had become "friendly" with the computer, and had realised that it would respond to multifarious commands like a trusted servant.

Dr. K. Meena, Principal and Head of the Department of Computer Science of the college, said while it had been planned to enrol only 50 housewives for the course as many as 76 had finally registered and several others had been denied admission. The participants were introduced to utilities such as Wordstar, Lotus 1, 2, 3, dBase, III plus using special books prepared to teach adult learners. Within 10 days, the housewives were able to plan the monthly budget, prepare an inventory of grocery items, ascertain household requirements taking into account family size, prepare a list of essentials purchased, and the total expenditure incurred,

Computer training for Adi Dravidar teachers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

Tiruchi, May 13: A computer training programme for the teachers of Adi Dravidar welfare high schools and higher secondary schools from all over the State, has been organised by the Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Directorate at Shrimati Indira Gandhi College (SIGC) here. About 60 teachers. including women, are attending the course which would conclude on May 20.

Giving an outline of the objectives of the programme, Dr. K.Meena, College Principal and Head of the Computer Department, said the teachers would be taught the basics of computer education which would enable them to take classes for plus two students. The topics chosen for the training include Wordstar, Lotus, D-Base etc., she said.

The Principal said the teachers from 51 higher secondary schools and nine high schools rom Chennai, Madurai, Chengalpattu, Cuddalore, Namakkıl, Perambalur, Chidambaram and Dharmapuri were attending the programme. By imparting such training, the teachers would be better-placed in teaching computer applications and also be able to register information about students' progress and important details relating to the subjects.

The college had conducted computer training camps to housewives, teachers and children during the last summer holidays. Similarly, 47 Adi Dravidar school teachers from Tiruchi district were benefitted in week-long training during December last.

Meena said the college had plans to conduct training camps for the children studying in fourth to seventh standards during August-September this

R.Munusamy, Joint Director of Adi Dravidar and Tribes Welfare, Chennai, who visited the college, said such training programmes would be organised for headmasters and teachers, particularly during summer holidays in future, as there was also a need for computer awareness among the teaching staff.



Teachers from the Adi Dravidar welfare schools in the State undergoing a training programme in computers at Shrimati Indira Gandhi College, Tiruchi: Express Photo

Action plan to enumerate child labourers

TIRUCHI, JAN. 7. The Tiruchi district administration has drafted an action plan to enumerate all categories of child labour-ers including the street children.

This would pave the way for making any rehabilitative measures for them to be effective in future, said the Collector, K.

Pointing out that the district has been in the forefront in rehabilitating child la-bourers, Dr. Manivasan said during the present year, a total 910 students of spe-cial schools for child labourers have been admitted to regular schools, which was an

admitted to regular schools, which was an all-time high.
At present, over 1,500 children were studying in 30 special schools functioning under the aegis of the Child Labour Elimination and Effective Rehabilitation (CHEERS), a pioneer programme.
Speaking at the valedictory of the computer strainer, programme for children

puter-training programme for children from the special schools here today, he said that the programme was envisaged to ensure that these children got the same educational opportunities as others.

A total of 35 students benefited from the

month-long training programme conducted by the district administration in association with Shrimati Indira Gandhi

not only exposed to the basics of comput-ers but also taught some packages that could help them in tackling aptitude tests. Dr. Manivasan said effective enforce-

Dr. Manivasan said effective entorce-ment of labour laws was the need of the hour and the district administration was planning to conduct a sensitisation pro-gramme for the Labour Department offi-cials on dealing with child labourers. Parents of these children have benefited immensely as they have been integrated lists the Sevensionarthi Corn. Supergrated

immensely as they have been integrated into the Swaranjayanthi Cram Swarozgar Yojana by organising self-help groups. The Collector noted with satisfaction that the project has been continuously bagging the Macloim Audies-shaiah Award in recent years. Simflarly, the Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Manacement vase an international award on

agement gave an international award on learning about the project, selected among 10 best innovative community welfare projects in the Commonwealth

Dr. Maniyasan lauded the role of Shrimati Indira Gandhi College and its princi-pal, K. Meena, for showing keen effort in successful completion of the training pro-

He distributed certificates to those who underwent the training and released the training manual brought out by Meena. College. These children could use the manual to puring the training, the students were refresh what they have learnt during the

training.

Dr. Meena expressed the hope that a centre to impart computer training to spe cial children, including the physically challenged and those with learning diffi-culties, would be established in the city.

Philanthropists could donate their used computers to the centre which could be used to train children, she opined.

CM's gesture to head constable

By Our Staff Reporter

JAN. 7. The Chief Minister, Jayalalithaa, has sanctioned Rs. one lakh to a head constable attached to the Kallakud police station, Somasundaram, for his heart surgery. The police constable had present-ed a petition to the Chief Minister recently seeking financial assistance for undergoing treatment for his heart ailment.

The constable attached to the Armed Reserve Police here, Govindasamy, had also sought assistance from the Chief Minister for his two-year-old daughter's heart sur-gery. Ms. Jayalalithaa has sanctioned Rs. one lakh to him too.

The Superintendent of Police, M. C. Sarangan today presented cheques to both the constables today.



VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRES COMING UP / RS. 3.20 LAKHS SPENT

Computer literacy imparted to SHGs

as Around 30 members of about 10 SHGs including Nesam, Valarthamizh, Vanavil,

Computer helps the common mar

E live in the world of computers. The computer has invaded all domains of life in the modern world. It can be compared to an octopus but one which is a thousand times more powerful than an ordinary octopus. There is no field left without a "Computer." The computer asserts its presence anywhere and everywhere

Thanks to the computer, it is not necessary for anybody to wait for a long time to know the availability of seats in a particular train. The number of seats/berths available in a particular train at any time can be seen on the disply board and the allotment of seats/berths is computer-

The day has come where we cannot even imagine the concept of living without computers! Wherever you go, be it a bank, office, railway station, bus stop, airport, music concert, super market, textile shop, hospital, leading hotel, college, research organisation, industries or fashion centre, and so on, you will find that the computer has gone ahead of you. In such an atmosphere, the time has come when the compon man cannot get on without owning or at mon man cannot get on without owning or at east knowing about the computer and its capa-

Though the computer is a human invention, it is slowly becoming master of its creator. It makes out an amicable environment for satisfactory work. Of late, the computer is establishing a friendly atmosphere with people and has become a good companion to all. In olden days, people were generally found absorbed in books all the time and they were called book warms without any practical knowledge. But nowadays they are becoming computer worms. The computer can also be our best friend. Even a child from its buggy can learn to operate the comput-

Any common man can operate the computer and reduce the tension in day-do-day life. Computers can be used by all — from the ordinary clerk to the manager. It can also be used by businessmen for their financial transactions. A common man can take his own decision without anybody's help.

Let us start with the uses of the computer at our dwelling houses. For constructing a house, we need the assistance of an architect. If we use computers, 3D home design or any other pack-ages we can draw our own plan according to

Students participating in a computer competition.

our tastes and imagination. Using this package we can also plan the interior decoration that should be made at our home.

Once again, computers assist the head of the family in planning the monthly budget. The computer easily understands their needs and helps the head of the family do away with any expenditure. It also helps them keep their own

record of visits to the family doctor. may record the medicines given to them different cirunder cumstances. They can keep record of all the symptoms for any particular diseases by using which they can themselves easily analyse their disease.

Housewives can use computers for recording cookery menu and programs which they can retrieve for their future use. Computers are nowadays used by the common man and many agencies to keep a record of the day to day financial transactions.

We can also use the computer to maintain a "personal record" for noting down the birthdays, names and ad-dress of important relatives and other family friends.

Nowadays, computers help cast horo-scopes. We can also maintain a record concerning the due dates for payments to be made towards insurance premia, provident fund, tax and other important accounts. The computer can also be used for keeping a rec-

ord about our collection of books, their authors cost etc. Computers can also help the voracious reader in storing important and interesting articles from newspapers and rarely available mag-

The computer plays its role nowadays in beauty parlors also in giving an outsketch for hairstyle and make-up which are suitable for a

person. The computer can also be used at tailoring shops to design and stitch according to the customer's taste.

It can also be used by the medical representative or any other sales executive to record his professional visits. It plays an important role in fashion technology and dress designing.

Computers can also be used for entering important addresses and creating our own telephone directories by which we can reduce our work.

If we look at the ordinary telephone directory we will find a lot of minute details. But if we database concerning details of our relatives and family friends alone so that we can easily retrieve information at any time.

The common man can also use the print shop deluxe or any other package to design his own greetings and send to his friends and relatives. Nowadays, the selection of cards is becoming a difficult job. If we select a card of a particular design, the wording may not be to our taste and vice versa. Just to avoid this problem, we can design our own greetings cards.

The salary earner, as soon as he gets his salary may plan his monthly budget. Generally buddesign our own directory, we can create the gets are noted for their failure and inadequacy.

Our computer can help us draw a successful

It is said that after the advent of the computer the typewriter has become obsolete and is discarded in the U.S. When a friend of mine wanted buy an American typewriter and bring it to In dia, he had to travel 80 miles in a car, only to be told by a shopkeeper "Yes. There used to be What you call a typewriter. But now you can find it only in museums or in old bookshops.

K. Meena (The author is Principal of Smt.Indira Gandhi College for women, Tiruchi).

Computers with new dimensions

THE need for and the value of education cannot be overemphasised.

According to an adage in Tamil.

"Ennum Enathalma Kann Enathagum". "Enn", or figure stands for Mathematics. while "Entuthin" or letter stands for the alphabet. In other words, the three Rs constitute the two eyes of man. The present system of education in our country is Macaulayan in origin, devised by Macaulay to produce clerks and officials to run the British administration of India. Our educational system has not changed much from the days of Macaulay. Ever since we achieved Independence, we have been trying to improve our system of education to suit our differing needs and objectives.

In the meanwhile, the content of education

Ever since we achieved independence, we have been trying to improve our system of education to suit our differing needs and objectives.

In the meanwhile, the content of education has also steadily widened, just as certain periods in the history of civilisation are called "The Stone Age," in The Bronze Age, see, the "Computer Age," or the "Computer Fa". There is a wide range and variety of computers suited for various purposes. The computer is everywhere around us like the air. It is used not only for reservation of tickets at airports, railway and bus stations, but also in shops, hotels, banks, offices and even for medical diagnosis of a complicated nature. A sailor in mid sea is able to correspond with his people at home through a specially devised computer. A computerised X-ray unit helps the doctor to detect any abnormaly in the child while still in the mother's womb and enables him to rectify the defect by passing a particular ray. The computer is very useful to store the notes of lessons and the action plan throughout the year for handling the classes. All this is due to the tremendous progress in the Information Technology. And with the help of computer, an advocate can not only store data relating to his cases, but also maintain a kind of personal diary relating to judgments delivered at various courts. In the normal course, if an advocate applies for a copy of a judgment delivered by her Supreme Court, it may take several months before he can get it. But with the help of the Internet, advocates alter a laborious search in the Record Room of Courts or in the Registrar's Office have to be handled with extreme care, since the old paper would be britted and liable to be easily broken and damaged. Such documents can very well be preserved in a floppy. Incidentally, it saves a lot of space also. Rare books in a public library like the famous Saraswathi Mahal can also be kept alive in the

Internet

The latest and the greatest advance in the Information Technology sector is the Internet. The advent of computer has resulted in a tremendous exposure of knowledge in the modern world. Computer and knowledge should not be a close preserve of the chosen

few. Definitely, it should be made accessible to everybody and no doubt it is more "user-friendly". The entire concept of education needs to be revitalised through the hybrid use of internet. It is a very powerful tool in bridging the gulf between the intellectual haves and have-nots of the society. There can be no two opinion about the value of knowledge and training in Internet for people belonging to all walks of life, particularly students.

The educational sector needs to make use of this facility fully unfettered by organisational barriers. In olden days, people sent information from one place to another through birds. Later on, correspondence was made mainly through letters. Today, believe it or not, you have the facility to send messages abroad or anywhere in India at the cost of a local call. With just a telephone, a modem, a

Such a comprehensive word processing package is useful for everyone in his or her day-to-day life, for example sending invitations to different people (i.e.,) mass

invitations to different people (i.e.,) mass mailing.

The participants were taught to create worksheets which had a number of real time applications like: Planning the monthly budget. Creating a database containing information such as the name of the customers/ firms, sales summary in a departmental store, details of monthly grocery consumption, etc. performance of their consumption, etc., performance of their children in studies and other activities, planning the activity-schedule for the month

For these applications, they were trained to create various types of graphs (i.e.,) LINE. BAR, PIE-CHART etc. The participants were trained to create a data base to store large amount of information. like malling lists.



PC and an Internet connection, you can literally your future. If you pick up any newspaper or magazine, you will always find some reference to the Internet. It is the ultimate tool for the home computer. To sum up, we can say that our society depends on the Information Technology in many aspects of work and personal life and it becomes absolutely necessary to be familiar with applications of computers catering to various needs.

Summer camp
It is with this view the Shrimati Indira
Gandhi College, Truchirapalli organised last
November a short-term course on Computer
Applications for the housewives of
Truchirapalli and nearby places. The object
of the 10-day course was to create computer
awareness among housewives. The basic
course included training in Wordstar. Lous
1.2.3 and Dbase. Using Wordstar, the text
was created in the memory of the computer.

inventory records etc. Some applications like forming a mini-directory containing the list of phone numbers in the same area code, to the containing the list of phone and the same in the specified area, basic arithmetic operations, pay bill preparation etc., have also been explained. They also learnt to generate reports for the above said applications. These inputs will enable them to check the correction of the telephone bills, electricity bill etc. The course also helped them in many ways like designing greeting cards taking the design as well as 3D layout to build a house directory' containing recipes of various items. The housewives also had an exposure to multimedia. As many as 100 housewives (from 22 year old to 66 year old grandmas) took part in the course. The participants included a few PG students, Graduates and S.S.L.C students.

In response to their request for an enlarged

course and the public demand for a repetition of the same course for other members, this year, the SIGC organised a 15-day Twin year, the SIGC organised a 15-day Twin Basic course for 1900 per summer holidays, and course included training in Foxpro 2.5, and Corelloraw. All real time applications specified earlier in DOS were performed under Windows Environment. In DOS, at least some knowledge of simple commands is necessary to implement graphics. On the other hand, Windows provides a Graphical User Interface (GUI) which means that anybody can make use of picture Icons present, to draw pictures so that user interaction increases.

The GUI environment which makes user friendliness easier can be very well appreciated by the excellent performance of the handicapped children of Jerico Matriculation School. Nagamangalam, and rural children of the elementary school of Mudalaipatti village, where 'Computer Awareness' camps were held recently. The children could locate rivers, vegetation, identify the flags of different countries and use many other applications in Windows Environment. This proves that even a student studying in II Std or any interested person, for that matter, will be able to work in Windows. The GUI environment which makes user

The trainees were exposed to MS Word, a powerful word processing package that included several options including change of fonts and graphical support. The training in EXCEL enabled the user to move quickly from one application to another for result analysis. Using Powerpoint, they designed their own pictures, or texts with different shading of colours. They created their own slides and handouts. By setting the timer, it can be used for children for Quiz or Cartoon, to prepare a catalogue of recipes and designs etc.

Corellbraw provides a freehand drawing using which one can draw designs for sarees. T-shirts, a variety of Kolams etc. It is also possible to design our own greetings and invitation cards with more than 1000 stylish fonts. This is one of the few drawing packages that enabled "Word Art" in various forms like arch, zig-zag etc.

The use of scanner will capture the existing design and modify it according to our taste (shape, colour etc.) The most notable feature of these courses was that the participants fixed their feet firmly on the first day itself at the Computer Centrel Various contests were also held to test their aptitude, etc. An interesting Quiz competition was also conducted. The stress was on practicals and personal handling of computers.

"Learn core—uter or perish" can very well be the slogans of the modern world. The application of computer in the field of Information Technology and in the dissemination of knowledge is a very fascinating subject of study in the modern context.

Dr. K. Meena

Computer-aided educational programme for disabled

By Our Special Correspondent

CHENNAI, Aug 8.

The Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF) and NIIT, have come together to implement a computer-aided educational programme that will cover an estimated 20,000 severely disabled children countrywide.

The "Computer Aided Teaching and Rehabilitation of the Disabled" (CATERED) project, developed jointly by the RGF, NIIT and the Spastics Society of Tamil Nadu (SPASTN), had been implemented successfully at SPASTN, covering 500 spastic children, Mr.Javed Abidi, RGF's Programme Officer of the Disabled, told presspersons here on Friday.

The project, launched on August 20, 1995, commemorating the 51st birth anniversary of the Rajiv Gandhi, involved development of a special education software based on "I- write" package of NIIT.

The software enabled teachers to enter educational courseware into the system for its easy usage by the severely disabled. Instruction manuals and teacher training have been included together with the monitoring and management support facilities to achieve success.

Mr. Abidi and Mr.D. Krishna Rao, Media Ad-

viser of the RGF, said the total cost of the twoyear project was Rs.17 lakhs. As per the agreement entered into then, the RGF funded the cost of the hardware and research to the tune of Rs.6 lakhs; NIIT met the cost of the software and providing training to the computer staff of the SPASTN to the extent of Rs.6 lakhs, and SPASTN took care of all the local expenses, salaries for the computer programmers and the annual maintenance cost accruing to Rs.5 lakhs.

The computer-aided interactive learning environment process had made imparting education to the severely disabled a "fun loving exercise" at the SPASTN, said Prof.J.R. Isaac, Advisor, NI-IT, New Delhi. The software package had proved beyond doubt that the disabled did not lag behind in not only using computers but also in applying the hi-tech software.

NIIT. he said, would also write to the University Grants Commission (UGC) and make a detailed presentation to the principals and directors of institutions such as SPASTN for early implementation of the programme.

Mrs.Aloka Guha, Director of SPASTN, said the computer-aided teaching and rehabilitation of the disabled programme opened new vistas in imparting education to the disabled.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Internet facility in Tiruchi soon

THE citizens of Tiruchi will be lawyers, engineers, architects, in a position to enjoy the fruits of the revolution in he field of information technology hat has taken place in the past wo decades by the spectacular development in computer echnology and elecommunications, when the /SNL node will be commissioned o put the city on the INTERNET nap on May 20. Tiruchi is the ourth station in the State to get he prestigious facility after hennai, Coimbatore and /adurai.

Internet is a conglomeration of etworks and other connecting nachines spanning the world. According to the Internet Society. t consists of about 40,000 etworks in 100 countries, and he number is steadily growing. Internet a global system of onnected computers, once vailable only to the government. cademic and research ommunities, is today the iformation highway now vailable to anyone with time, uriosity and the facility, says Mr. Parthasarathy, Deputy General lanager, VSNL, Chennai, who is atting up the NODE at Tiruchi. hich will be connecting the city ith Chennai Internet Centre, at a also on the Internet using ost of Rs. 15 lakhs. More stounding is the number of cople using the Internet, timated at around 75 million nw, and is expected to cross the 00 million mark by the year

ere dreaming of Internetdividuals, schools, colleges, small sounder financial footing, id large industries, business

stock- brokers, hoteliers, travel agencies and software developers. Internet will be reality soon. To educate the public on the various aspects of the new worldwide facility, an Internet user club of Tiruchi has been formed. Dr. V. Gopalakrishnan, General Manager, necessary facility. Today even BHEL and patron of the club, says privately owned desktop that the club proposed to organise computers could become Internet different programmes for different nodes, which one could carry on users of Internet such as students, educational institutions. industrialists, doctors, businessmen and hoteliers as to how best they could use the

Why do people want to be on the Internet? One of the most important reasons is the freedom that the system provides, says Dr. K. Meena, president of the Principal of the Smt. Indira Gandhi College. Internet is a rare example of a true, modern, functional anarchy, it is now owned by any organisation and every member of Internet in a sense owns it. There are no officials, censors, no bosses, board of Directors no stockholders. In principle any individual on Internet can speak with any other could touch Rs. 1.000 crores by computers. The wealth of information available from astrology to zoology in any part of the universe can be accessed by anyone sitting in Tiruchi and its neighbourhood. Everyone who contributes to Internet wants it to At last for those in Tiruchi who do more and more. Thus business people want the Internet put on a Government wants it to be more uses, professionals like doctors, stringently regulated, academics

exclusively to research, the military wants it spy-proof and secure, and so on. But the Internet remains and thrives because it is owned by none and yet by all, and hence is open to anyone and everyone with the their arm. And soon, perhaps on

institutions, since it connects the institutions to the global campus to the entire information available in all the libraries in universities around the world, in books stores, and school systems. Internet is for that the faculty members use entertaining and educating everyone at home, from the little Internet Users Club of Tiruchi, and baby to the grandmother. It helps one to participate in group discussions on topics that interest different groups. It will also help one to buy a million commodities just sitting at home. According to Mr. S. Ramani, president of the Computer Society of India, the potential for Internet commerce is enormous. The net amount transacted by Internet in India the turn of the century.

In order to get an Internet connection, one should have a personal computer, a telephone, and a modem, an instrument to connect the telephone and computer. The cost of getting a connection is Rs. 500. The three types of usage fees are - Rs. 3,000 for 100 hours, or for one year whichever is earlier; Rs. 6.500 for 250 hours or for one year whichever is earlier, and Rs.

10,000 for 500 hours, or for one year whichever is earlier. For students, special concessions are available, and for educational institutions, and commercial establishments, which could provide access for a large number of students simultaneously a line could be leased.

The Regional Engineering College, Tiruchi, has Internet facility for the past two years, with the help of V-Sat earth station, established at a cost of Rs Internet is useful for educational 10 lakhs and the students are using it for interaction with foreign universities and the companies are contacted through E-Mail for placement services.

Dr. P. Aravindan, Principal, says Internet to interact with their counterparts in various parts of the country and abroad. The REC has assigned 50 acres in its campus for the establishment of a software technology park basically for export purposes, and ELCOT will conduct a feasibility study in this regard at a cost of Rs. 4 lakhs.

The Bharathidasan University too has installed a V-Sat in its campus at Sooriyur for helping research activities in various departments. BHEL has also taken a lease line from VSNL, Chennai. for its Internet connectivity.

Mr. R. M. P. Jawahar, Manager, Science and Technology Park, of the Regional Engineering College. Tiruchi, cautions that while Internet, is an excellent support and guide for students, parents. should ensure proper restrictions over its use, since there are many negative lessons and pastimes too. available. Similarly, while Internet provides an abundance of opportunity for electronic commerce special attention shoul be paid to identifying the target market and directions and goals of marketing.

Mr. Sanjay Bhardwaj, Chief Operating Officer, Kashyap Radiant Information School, a joint venture between the Ram Kashyap Group, and the Radiant Systems of U.S. says the school aimed at giving the latest training in computer technology, including Internet with value-based Indian teaching methods.

The school will provide adequate training from basics to advanced levels with the help of visual aids and also explain real life problems. The training is oriented to meet the global needs in respect of software development, web development, Internet HTML browser, multimedia jawa programming. applets and networking.

Tiruchi which has an excellent academic set up for training students in computer science. backed up by a very large number of professional computer training centres, could make full use of the Internet facility first to get on the information superhighway, and then plan ahead for the proposed software technology park in the Regional Engineering college campus, says Mr. B. Pattabhiraman, president, Confederation of Indian Industry. The CII Tiruchi Chapter will be organising a one-day workshop on May 29, to educate the public on Internet resources, on how to access Internet on the working of the World Wide Web, conduct live

demonstrations on Internet and the World Wide Web, create awareness on Internet marketing strategies, use of Internet for sales promotion, and do a cost benefit analysis on Internet vs other media.

He said that businessmen. educationists, industrialists and the public should change their mindset and accept the new computer culture, so that the maximum advantage of the new facility could be derived.

V. Ganapathy

Assessing the ability of differently endowed children

e computer aided tool meant for mentally arded, tries to assess r knowledge, using the ual media as a tool for ining. It helps to make children interact more fectively, to test and lyse their performance, that they develop selfconfidence and self-

RECENT years, there has been a nong the public, the Government challenged, that they need a beteal, better support, and better rtunity so that they would not to onsidered as a burden, and they ould contribute for the develope decision of the Union Govern-

esteem. .

a decade ago, that every child in the country has the right to ation, cast on it the duty to proeducation for all, and the one segto benefit most by the decision

deaf, the blind, the mentally redear, the billing, the mentally re-da, and the physically challenged never came into the purview of the riment except as receivers of sinal assistance through different they be born out of sympathy, were they they trop had the right for eduthat they too had the right for edu-

educated. In our country, hardly per cent of the deaf, blind and tally retarded children get any faci-or education. The few specialised utions cater mostly to upper class

COMPUTER AIDED TRAINING



gramme for the child in his/her own home, where the members of the fam-ily will help him/her to implement the programme. Shrimati Indira Gandhi College, Tiruchi, in collaboration with the Holy Cross Service Society of Tiruchi, has made an attempt to use computer technology as a tool to assess the magnitude of the problem of hand-icapped children and bring about a uniform method for assessing them, whether they be in institutions or are part of the community based rehabil-itation programme. The software de-veloped has been released in the form

of a CDROM.

The number of institutions in the country to train and educate the differ-ently endowed children is limited as also suitably trained personnel for assessing the ability, disability and atti-tude of the children. Hence, there is an tude of the children retures many meeting of the children returns returns resulting to the children returns retu children and plan a training pro-gramme for them. The tools developed can be used in special institutions for the children on a permanent basis. Children in the other institutions or in

Teaching children with the help of the computer and the visual media is an interactive and interesting process. Software has been developed to help these children to understand and speak better, after assessing their hearing capacity and intelligence level.

Deaf children can learn

easily by seeing pictures.

country comes under great academic pressure right from the tender age of The happy childhood is cut short by their mental ability

After assessing their mental ability

the higher level. Once the disability of the student is assessed as moderate or

severe, the special educators formulate the syllabus and training according to the needs and requirements of individ-ual child. The assessment method with

the help of the computer is scientific, very quick, uniform and above all, child friendly.

Communication with others is not an easy task for deaf children. A special teaching method is needed to attract

their attention and to make them inter-

by seeing pictures. Teaching children with the help of the computer and the

Using visual media

over anxiety of parents, rigid curricu-lum, mindless homework load, and frethe graph is plotted according to their level of ability. In the graph, level 0 in-dicates the lower level, level 5 indicates the medium level and level 10 indicates quent tests.

While a high level of performance is

expected of every child, educators are finding more and more underachievers

Apart from physical disabilities like deafness and blindness, academic un-derachievement may be due to specific learning disabilities or Dyslexia. Such children exhibit a disorder in

one or more of the basic processes in-volved in the understanding and may be manifested in disorders of listening. thinking, reading, spelling, writing or

Lessons and tests could be made in-teresting to children with disability, if they are presented on a computer

At present, the assessment of such children is mostly done manually. The assessment process could be made in-teresting to children with the help of a

mputer-aided tool!

The remediation could also be done ore effectively through the visual visual media is an interactive and in-teresting process. Software has been developed to help these children to un-

get educated. In our country, hardly five per cent of the deaf, blind and mentally retarded children get any facility for education. The few specialised institutions cater mostly to upper class elite society and are concentrated in urban areas. Considering the vital need to provide educational facilities to tens of thousands of physically challenged children spread all over the country, mostly in rural areas, belonging to poorer sections of society, the concept of community based education of the in recent years.

trained educators, whose number is The problem of mentally handicapped limited, give training to the parents in has assumed great significance in pretheir own home environment of the sent day society with greater awareness children. The parents are taught the of the society towards the handbasic approach to correcting the hand- icapped. Such training builds a strong themselves in a limited manner, so that teract freely with others. they would not be a burden to their family and society.

solution, and the most fundamental to identify the picture. More than thirty step is to assess the exact degree of pictures are shown and the perform-

the children on a permanent basis. duct them to training programme.

Assessing mental ability

a child with incomplete mental development. They are those whose normal Under this programme, the specially in the early years of the development. icap, or helping the children to help self-image and motivates them to in-

Many pictures of objects one could see in his/her locality are displayed in Spot them young' is the key to the the monitor and the students are asked handicap, and specify a training pro- ance is studied to evaluate and test

ernment the duty to provide opportu- method of assessment of the abilities of their knowledge is through visual nities and special facilities for them to children and plan a training pro- media. Deaf children can learn easily gramme for them. The tools developed by seeing pictures. Teaching children can be used in special institutions for with the help of the computer and the visual media is an interactive and in-Children in the other institutions or in teresting process. Software has been the community-based programme of developed to help these children to unrehabilitation could be taken to the derstand and speak better, after assessnearest centre for assessment and in- ing the hearing capacity and en for assessing the mathematical intelligence level of the child.

In this tool many words are introduced to make them learn and exercis-'Mentally handicapped' child means es to check their ability. There are two modules in this tool namely, Tutor and Exercises. Tutor is used in order to handicapped has gained momentum intellectual growth is arrested either make the children learn the language before birth or during birth process or efficiently, and involves one letter word, two letter words, three letter words and four letter words.

The Exercise module involves various kinds of testing procedures such as es and remedial lessons to the curre match the following, find the missing letter, find the odd man out and rearranging the given letters.

Various pictures and corresponding words in Tamil have been used to enable the students to learn that

Learning disabilities

Every school going student in our

children is mostly done manually. I assessment process could be made teresting to children with the help of computer-aided tool!

The remediation could also be do more effectively through the vis

In the assessment part, tests are g pacity of the children such as counti sequence, number identification, ranging in ascending and descend

Exercises to work" is the remed part where effective remedial lesso are given for the children.

The task of assessing and remedy children below five years is made ea by this tool. This software could be a graded further by adding more exerc

The response of the children, w have been using the computer-aid lessons, is very encouraging.

The children love to click the butto and see the pictorial representation and they welcome this kind of joy method of learning.

K. MEEL



Keen on learning computer skills.

Bringing them to the IT world

ROM CLEANING the dining table at a hotel to handling the mouse at the computer table, these rehabilitated child labourers in Tiruchi have come a long way. Tiruchi district has been a forerunner in not just rehabilitation but also empowerment of liberated child labourers.

One of the measures towards betterment of their life was exposing them to information

technology.

Overcoming several odds, the tutors at the Shrimati Indira Gandhi College have done a commendable job in creating an abiding interest in the world of computers among the 35 children assigned to them under the training programme.

The SIGC is extending the technical support in training the students in its facilities, apart from providing a training manual for each of the students to help them retain and build on

what they had learnt.

The month-long training programme, conducted jointly by the district administration and the SIGC under the aegis of the Child Labour Elimination and Effective Rehabilitation Society (CHEERS), has helped the 35 children including 25 girls get an exposure in some packages including MS Office and MS Word, useful in acquiring practical knowledge.

The SIGC principal, K. Meena, who personally took care of the whole course, says with pride that the children are ready to use packages such as MS Office, Word, Excel and Powerpoint, and amazingly the children have indeed gained preliminary knowledge in their applications.

The children are enjoying new-found joy in giving shape to their imaginations through inserting clips and pictures, preparation of greeting cards, test manipulation, worksheet and

chart preparations.

"The ease with which they navigate through the menu stands testimony to their increased self-confidence and that is the success of the training programme" says the Collector, K. Manivasan.

By L. Renganathan, Photo: R.M. Rajarathinam.

IT is now within their reach

ONE ARE the days when computer remained a treasured possession of a select few in big towns. Also consigned to the annals of history is the concept that it can be taught only in classrooms.

In keeping with the spirit of the changed scenario Shrimati Indira Gandhi College, Tiruchi, rolled out an 'Information Technology on Wheels'' show at a rural school recently.

Shattering the common belief, afloat until recently, that the information technology revolution had not percolated down to the rural masses, the SIGC has embarked on a mission, harnessing the potential of its NSS unit cadres in association with the Computer Science and Applications department and the Computer Awareness Society. Thus was born the 'Information Technology on Wheels' concept.

The Collector, K.
Manivasan, flagged off the
mobile show at the Rajah
Aided Primary School,
Bikshandar Koil recently.

"The twin aim of the programme is creating an awareness of computers among rural school children and reaching out to members



A beginning...

of women self-help groups," says the SIGC principal, K. Meena.

The programme would help rural school children grasp the efficacy of computer education and the significance of information and communication technology. It would guide the SHGs especially in areas such as product potential, marketing, training, etc.

For the SIGC, this is not the first time. It has associated itself with numerous computer training programmes for different sections of society, jointly with the Tiruchi district administration, the Computer Society of India, the Internet

Users' Club, etc. Housewives, Adi Dravida school teachers, Collectorate staff, panchayat unions and police department have been provided computer training on the college premises.

Two computer-training assignments, taken up by the SIGC, have really left, an indelible mark on the society. First, the month-long computer-training programme for the child labour special school children under the National Child Labour Eradication Project and the other, an inclusive education for the differently-abled children.

From L. Renganathan in Tiruchi.



The present age is known aptly as the age of Information Technology. Spectacular changes have been brought about in all aspects of human life by I.T. All our efforts should be taken to spread the I.T. knowledge and applications to the remotest parts of the state and the Country.

தற்போது நாம் வாமும் காலம் தகவல் தொழில் நுட்பகாலமாக போற்றப்படுகிறது. மனிதனுடைய வாழ்க்கையில் தகவல் தொழில் நுட்பமானது சிறந்த வேறுபட்ட மாற்றங்களை கொண்டு வருகிறது. நமது தேசத்திலும், மாநிலத்திலும் உள்ள பட்டி தொட்டிகள் அனைத்திலும் தகவல் தொழில் நுட்ப அறிவையும், பயன்பாடுகளையும் பரப்பும் விதமாக நமது செயல்பாடுகள் அமைய வேண்டும்.





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Jointly Organised by

Department of Computer Science & Applications Computer Awareness Society

NSS UNIT of SIGC

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI COLLEGE TIRUCHIRAPALLI - 2.







<u>Creation of Computer Awareness for the School</u> <u>Children in Rural Areas:</u>

- ★ Serving the needs of Children's education.
- ★ Highlighting the importance of Computer Education
- ★ Making them understand the basic concepts of computers
- ★ Making them understand the significance of Information Technology & Communication Technology.
- ★ Enabling them to know the recent technologies related to computers.
- ★ Acquainting them with Job Opportunities.

Launching Computer Awareness to Self - Help Groups of Women

- ★ Creating Social Awareness among women
- ★ Imparting the significance of Women's Education
- ★ Highlighting the importance of Computer Education
- ★ Shaping them to face the environmental challenges.
- ★ Motivating them to come out of their ignorance and fixed mindset.
- ★ Making them take their own decisions.
- ★ Exploring employment potential & Marketing their products.
- ★ Training the Trainees.
- * Improving their quality of life.

கிராமப்புற பள்ளி மாணவ மாணவிகளுக்கு கணினிக் கல்வியைப் பற்றிய ஒரு விழிப்புணர்வை உருவாக்குதல்

- பள்ளி மாணவ, மாணவியர்க்கு கல்விக்குத் தேவையானவற்றை பூர்த்தி செய்தல்.
- கணினிக் கல்வியின் முக்கியத்துவத்தையும், மேன்மையையும் எடுத்துரைத்தல்.
- 3. கணினியின் அடிப்படைக் கருத்துக்களை புரிய வைத்தல்.
- தகவல், தொடர்பு தொழில்நுட்பத்தின் தனிச்சிறப்பை தெளிவாக்குதல்.
- கணினியின் தற்போதைய தொழில்நுட்பத்தை எடுத்துரைத்தல்
- 6. வேலைவாய்ப்பை பற்றி தெரிவித்தல்.

மகளிர் சுயஉதவிக் குழுவினருக்கு கணினி விழிப்புணர்வை உருவாக்குதல் :

- 1. பெண்களிடத்தில் சமூக விழிப்புணர்வை உருவாக்குதல்.
- 2. பெண் கல்வியின் தனிச்சிறப்பை வெளிப்படுத்துதல்.
- 3. கணினிக் கல்வியின் முக்கியத்துவத்தை எடுத்துரைத்தல்.
- சமூகத்தில் ஏற்படும் சவால்களை சமாளிக்க தைரியப் படுத்துதல்.
- அறியாமையிலிருந்து வெளிவர அவர்களை தயார்படுத்துதல்
- 6. சுயமாக சிந்தித்து முடிவெடுக்க வைத்தல்
- 7. வேலை வாய்ப்புகளை அவர்களுக்கு உருவாக்குதல்.
- 8. பயிற்சியாளர்களை பயிற்றுவித்தல்
- 9. வாழ்க்கைத்தர மேம்பாடு குறித்த விளக்கம்