

About Uddami



Our aim is to empower the potential of youth from low income communities in urban Kolkata so that they can develop sustainable livelihoods.

Uddami Computer Training Centre began as a computer school teaching practical, job-oriented skills. We highlight a different philosophy that emphasizes practical training over theory, and includes soft skills like problem solving and creative thinking. Over the years we have added teacher training as well as capacity building for other NGOs who want to start a computer program of their own through our Uddami Partner Program (UPP).

Uddami India Foundation Projects

- UDDAMI COMPUTER TRAINING CENTRE (UCTC) – free practical computer training & computer teacher training for UCTC graduates
- UDDAMI PARTNER PROJECT (UPP) - partnering with other NGOs to help them develop computer programs

Uddami Computer Training Centre

Everyone knows that ICT has taken a firm hold in India. What most people don't realize is that this technological revolution has affected only a very small percentage of the population.

- * In India there are just **14** computers for every **1000** people¹
- * In West Bengal only **3.47%** of all schools have computers²
- * Internet users in India are less than **5%** of the total population³

We believe that youth from low-income communities should have the opportunity to participate in and benefit from the technology boom in India. UCTC provides free computer access and practical skill training to increase the capacity of our students so they can develop sustainable livelihoods in the mainstream IT sector.

NEWS



From the start in our centre on Prince Anwar Shah Road **Nivedita Pal**, founder and President of UIF, has been an integral part of the Uddami Computer Training Centre. In October Miss Pal decided to accept a position as English teacher in a West Bengal government school.

Although her daily presence will be missed we look forward to her continued guidance to make the Uddami Computer Training Centre even more successful.

¹ SDA India, April 2005 - http://sda-india.com/sda/news/psecom,id,1742,nodeid,4,_language,India.html

² Digital Learning - <http://schoolreportcards.in/Media/m52.html>

³ 37,000,000 out of 1 billion people according to 2006 survey - <http://expressindia.com/news/fullstory.php?newsid=74132>

For many years the UCTC policy of admitting students has been to start students in the course when students graduate and space becomes available. This meant many different small classes of 1-3 students, all at a different point in the curriculum.

This past year we decided to stop taking new students in June and finish all of our current students by December. In this way we can start 36 students at the same time so that they can progress through the curriculum as a group and graduate together.

STATISTICS - 2007

Graduate total	21	
Female	10	48%
Male	11	52%
Current Status		
working	8	38%
further education	10	48%
not working	1	5%
unknown	2	10%
Economic Status		
poor	13	62%
lower middle class	8	38%

TEACHER TRAINING

We train graduates of UCTC as computer teachers for other organizations because we strongly believe in peer educators. Teachers who have been former students have similar backgrounds to the students they are teaching and often inspire their students by their own achievements.

- This year two new teachers were trained to work in our new partner organisation located in North Kolkata, **Msiha**:



SARWESH KUMAR JHA, 2007



SK SAMIR ALI, 2007

- We also provided training for two teachers from **Digital Bridges**, an organisation working with slum children in Dhakuria.

These are the computer teachers who are working for our other partner organizations:

- **Sanlaap India**



GURIA GOWALA



SUKLA MAJUMDAR

- **Shiksamitra**



SUJATA GAYEN

- **Soma Home/New Light**



SUMITRA GHOSH

- **Tomorrow's Foundation**



SOMNATH SARDAR



RABIA KHATOON



SUKLA MAJUMDAR

Uddami Partner Project

Our partners:

- MSIHA – working with children and teenagers in Sonagachi (started 2007)
- SHIKSAMITRA – an alternative school working with drop-outs from the regular school system in the Chetla area. (started 2006)
- SANLAAP INDIA – working against trafficking of woman and children (started 2006)
- NEW LIGHT/SOMA HOME – working with young girls at risk from the Kalighat area (started 2005)
- TOMORROW'S FOUNDATION - working with deprived children from the streets, slums and red light areas in the most extreme and vulnerable zones of urban Kolkata. (started 2005)

Future Plans

- Partner with two organisations in 2008 to help them develop a computer centre based on the UCTC model
- Update our computers and equipment
- Train more computer teachers from our graduates who have aptitude and wish to teach
- Donate used equipment to other organisations

Acknowledgement - thanks to these individuals and organisations for their invaluable support:

MR. AJAY DEY
MRS. HARSHAMANJARI NANDA
MISS MAHUA BERA
MR. NAGENDRA K. MISRA
NEW LIGHT
MISS NIVEDITA PAL
MISS RABIA KHATOON
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MR. SHANTARA RAO
MISS SHARMISTHA MUKHERJEE
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SISTER SAJITHA
MR. SOMNATH SARDAR
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UDDAMI SOFTWARE SERVICES
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