

Yeoor girls speak German!

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Can one imagine that teenage girls coming from remote tribal area of Thane district reciting German songs fluently or sitting in row, managing technical work over a dozen computers? Yes. This amazing project is getting shaped at Anantashram, amidst the jungle of Yeoor.

"Initially the girls were little baffled but since all of us are staying together now we have been bonded like a family", said Apoorva Agwan, project head and inspiration behind the activity.

"These are the candidates of 'Pratigya Apprenticeship for community transformation' (PACT), a two year residential programme where tribal youths are trained to become self-sufficient and after going back to their native place, will teach others and spread the knowledge in their community which will enable them to earn through outsourcing jobs", informed Apoorva.

The pilot batch has been launched on 26th January at Anantashram, Yeoor. They are getting trained in array of advanced computer skills such as 2D and 3D Graphic, design, animation data entry in several languages such as Hindi, Marathi, English, Gujarat, digitization of ancient manuscripts in Sanskrit and Prakrut language, ERP software development and supporting Data Entry work, website development", explained project manager and mentor Nancy D'souza.

The tribal group comprises Mangala Ghatala, Rekha Maule, Savita Jadhav, Neelam Rohankar, Sonali Chaudhary, Vaishali Dive, Vaishali Bhoir, and others who have come from small places from Dahanu and Jawhar district. Said Richa, "After completing XII, I applied at many places but couldn't get job. In fact I wanted to do something for my people and this course given me the golden opportunity".



Barbara Binder, A language expert from Austria has offered her voluntary services to teach German and Arabic to these girls. She was happily singing German songs with them. "I found that these girls are very eager to learn and have better grasping power than others", averred Barbara. In this group Dr. Sarita Parikh and Apoorva's Austrian friend Klara Koepl also joined this all women project and are working on snake bite project.

"Every year many patients die due to snake bites in tribal area. We are training these girls about the precautionary measures, giving first aid and reach the patient safely to the nearest hospital", said Dr. Sarita Parikh.

The aim of the project is to develop educational multimedia that is relevant to tribals and will be used to provide free education across the country. This innovative self-funded programme has been designed, developed and sponsored by Crisys, a Thane based NGO. Its founder director Glenn Fernandes and his son Robin Fernandes have designed intelligence (AI) based on software systems that are for the first time make it possible for the tribals to work in this advanced technical field.

Anantashram Trust offered their place to execute the project and Pragati Pratishthan Jawhar helped to select deserving Adivasi candidates.