

Government Degree College, Nandikotkur

Institutional Distinctiveness

Digital Empowerment: Enhancing Digital Literacy

Introduction

In the contemporary digital age, computer literacy has become indispensable for individuals to thrive in various spheres of life. However, rural areas often face significant challenges in accessing such educational resources. Rural areas often lack access to basic amenities, including educational resources crucial for digital literacy. Recognizing this gap, Government Degree College, Nandikotkur, have undertaken the initiative to equip the students and individuals in the surrounding localities with essential computer skills. This endeavor aims to empower students and rural communities, which result in enhancing their socio-economic development.

1. Jawahar Knowledge Centre

The institution has Jawahar Knowledge Centre (JKC) which provides intensive training to the students in computer related skills.

Fundamentals of Computer taught under JKC:

- Keyboarding Skills
- Using Web Browsers
- Working with Microsoft Office
- File Maintenance and Organization
- Email Etiquette
- Using the Internet for Research
- Basic Computer Skills: Troubleshooting
- Digital Safety and Security

2. Department of Computer Science

In the year 2021 the institution has undertaken an initiative of providing free Computer course to the students and Women (House Wives and Working Women) by the Department of Computer Science.

Course offered by the Department of Computer Science:

- Basic Computer Skills

3. Skill Hub

In the year 2022, Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC) Skill Hub was established in the college campus with an objective of empowering the youth with adequate Digital skill sets that will enable their employment in relevant sectors. Till now 10 batches completed the courses under the Skill Hub.

Objectives of Skill Hub:

- To improve employability of the youth so that they get fair employment.
- To enhance entrepreneurship among them.
- To create new hallmark 'Rural India Skill'.
- To offer Customized need-based programmes for specific age groups in communication, life, and positive thinking skills, language skills, behavioral skills, management skills, etc.
- To adopt innovative teaching methodology which involves games, brainstorming sessions, group discussions, case studies, and so on.

Computer Courses Completed under Skill Hub

- Computer Hardware & Networking Associate
- Solar PV Maintenance Technician
- Assistant Computer Hardware & Technician
- Associate Data Entry Operator
- Assistant Computer Hardware & Technician

- Junior Software Developer (offered 3 times)
- Domestic Data Entry Operator

Outcomes:

The provision of computer skills training has yielded several positive outcomes which are as follows

1. Enhanced Employability: Acquiring computer skills improved job prospects and income-earning potential for rural individuals.
2. Empowerment: Computer literacy empowers individuals to access information, communicate effectively, and participate in digital platforms.
3. Socio-economic Development: The proliferation of computer skills contributes to the overall development of rural areas by fostering entrepreneurship and innovation.
4. Digital Inclusion: Bridging the digital divide ensures equitable access to opportunities and resources for rural populations.

Despite challenges, these initiatives have the potential to empower the students, rural communities and drive socio-economic development. By addressing infrastructure limitations, enhancing instructor capacity, and fostering community engagement, stakeholders can maximize the impact of computer literacy programs in rural areas, thereby paving the way for a more inclusive and digitally empowered society.