



**Published Date:** 17 Feb 2016

## **Spreading 'Digital Literacy'**

**VGEC students aim to make schoolkids familiar with computer basics for free**

**dna correspondent**

@dnaahmedabad

Computer Engineering students of Vishwakarma Government Engineering College (VGEC) are set to provide 'Digital Literacy' to school kids, housewives, senior citizens and disabled people free of cost under the social start-up 'Computalent'. They are promoting the initiative through social media, banners, pamphlets, to reach out to masses.

'Computalent' was born in 2013 and is the brainchild of Nikhil Suthar, a student of VGEC. Despite being handicapped, Nikhil did his diploma in engineering before opting for Bachelors of Engineering in VGEC.

While on a visit to a government school, Nikhil was shocked to see that students there have no clue about learning through computers. It was then that the idea began to root itself and he asked his school teachers, relatives and neighbours help him in this initiative. He started the movement in Vadodara on social media and got four volunteers to teach kids. Today, his team comprises 2,000 children, old and disabled people and retired government officials. They have been learning excel, power point, paint, MS office, word and others. Other students are also part of this movement.

Says Suthar, "I am a part of GTU Innovation Council (IC) wherein I get immense mentoring support." Suthar recently held a 'Digital Literacy camp' for primary kids of Bagalwadi school in Chandkheda with 25 volunteers of the college. He has also received requests from volunteers of Junagadh and Surat.

He adds, "We can always teach the kids either before or after college hours. It is important for kids to be digitally literate. The college has been very supportive about the initiative and provided us with infrastructure, internet and wifi connectivity."

Keval Purohit, first year student, VGEC, said, "We want kids of government schools to be self-independent and self-learners. I was aware about the condition of government schools but Nikhil made me more sensitive to the cause. This one step is in the direction to better the inner cover of India. If we make them computer literate, they can avail many benefits." He is also spreading this awareness in Junagadh and asking college students to take up this cause.

**Copyright restricted. For reprint rights [click here](#)**



**Published Date:** 17 Feb 2016



It is an attempt where they are taking up responsibility to solve the problems.”

Nirav Mehta, assistant professor, power electronics

We want teachers to be equipped with computers. Teaching is fun and this effort also develops our skills a lot. We do not spend on movies and save our pocket money to contribute to the cause.”

Enlarge Image

Urjit Dave, first year computer engineering, VGEC

All activities in the college are student driven. This is by students for the students. It will give them immense satisfaction as they will get many more ideas about the problems people face in the society and to come up with solutions. This will help them identify the needs of the society.”

Dr Rajul Gajjar, principal of VGEC

We can always teach kids either before or after college hours. It is important for kids to be digitally literate. The college has been very supportive about the initiative and provided us with infrastructure, internet and wifi connectivity.”

Nikhil Suthar, brainchild of ‘Computalent’



Enlarge Image

**Copyright restricted. For reprint rights [click here](#)**