ARYALOKA COMPUTER EDUCATION: 50 IT RESIDENTIAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS 2023

Report prepared by Lucia Arman, using information provided by Aryaloka Computer Education (ACE)

In 2023 BODHI Australia provided ACE with $A13,394 to support residential scholarships for 50 disadvantaged students to attain basic computer skills, greatly enhancing their opportunities for reasonable employment, a viable pathway into further education and a start out of poverty.

The ACE program is a six-month computer and information technology (IT) skills training programme, based in Nagpur and administered by Arayaloka Education Society (AES) (ACE is a programme of the AES).

Of the 50 BODHI Australia funded scholarship students all successfully completed the Maharashtra State Certificate in Information Technology (MSCIT). 47 of the 50 students completed additional ACE courses in hardware networking, information technology, graphic design, Tally accounting, desktop publishing, photo shop, career guidance (e.g., interview skills and job applications), meditation and English language tuition.

Of the 50 MSCIT graduates 11 have moved onto entry level jobs in the IT industry with the remaining 39 enrolled in school, graduate and post graduate degree courses.

Student Demographics

In 2023 the 50 resident scholarship students enrolled in the ACE program originated from the following Indian states: Maharashtra (38), Chhattisgarh (3), Bihar (2), Rajasthan (1), Odisha (1), Uttarakhand (1), Uttar Pradesh (4).

ACE Graduates

Of the 50 students who enrolled in the ACE program, all successfully completed their *Maharashtra State Certificate in Information Technology (MSCIT).* 47 of the 50 students undertook additional supplementary ACE programs:

- 15 completed the hardware networking course (i.e. computer repairs), the desktop publishing course, the graphic design photoshop course, the Tally accounting course, the English speaking course, the personality development course and the meditation course.

- 30 completed the Tally accounting course, personality development course and the English-speaking course only.

- 2 completed the desktop publishing, graphic design and photoshop course only.

Education, Employment and Training Outcomes

Of the 50 students who completed the MSCIT, 11 moved onto entry level jobs in the IT industry including accounting (1), architect design (1), IT teacher (1), call center operator (2), receptionist (1), and back office work (5).

Most of these students have left their villages to earn a living and are working in cities. As such these students have become role models and a source of inspiration for other young people in their villages.

Of the remaining 39 ACE scholarship students, one graduand has opted to open a branch of Aryaloka Computer Education in Kannoj District, Uttarpradesh; and the other students have enrolled in further studies, delaying their entry into the paid workforce until they have completed their studies. Examples include:

- Bachelor of commerce degree course (8)
- Bachelor of Arts (13)
- Master of Arts (1)
- Bachelor of Commerce Computer Applications (1)
- Master of Business Administration (1)
- Diploma in Pharmacy (1)
- Enrolled in 11th and 12th standard of education (7)

Arayaloka Education Society FCRA Status
In 2023 Arayaloka Education Society successfully secured another 5 years of FCRA status. FCRA status makes it possible and legal for BODHI Australia's funds to be provided to an Indian NGO.