

**INAUGURATION OF PMGDISHA AT C.S.C in S.M.C.E.P.C
IN THIRUPACHUR VILLAGE, THIRUVALLUR DISTRICT ON 9th JUNE 2017**

Stella Maris College (Autonomous), Chennai had taken the initiative to set up a rural centre at Thirupachur village in Thiruvallur District and named it “Stella Maris College Extension Project Centre(SMCEPC)” on 15th November 2013. It then applied to the Ministry of Communication, Government of India, New Delhi in 2014, to set up a Common Service Centre (CSC) to offer e-Services and Digital Literacy training to 27 villages.

Being granted permission, the CSC-TPU was inaugurated on 3rd October 2015 by the State Director Mr. Vinod Kuriakose, CSC e Governance Services Pvt Ltd of Ministry of Communication, New Delhi. The training of villagers under the National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM) was launched on 7th October 2015 and the Project Officer Ms. R. Jayashree of the Integrated Child Development Scheme(ICDS) nominated 180 Anganwadi workers to be trained in batches of 20. A solar powered, air-conditioned computer lab was made available by the SMC management for the NDLM training.

The first graduation of 100 Anganwadi workers was conducted on 18th February 2016 and the second graduation of 80 Anganwadi workers was conducted on 15th April 2016.

With the State elections being held the training was stopped for some time and then resumed for the public, i.e., women and children of the village and 51 villagers graduated on 10th January 2017. The NDLM was closed and the PMGDISHA program was launched with new features.

On 9th June 2017 PMGDISHA was launched with Digital Literacy training being offered to villagers and health personnel of Public Health and Medical Services in CSC - TPU



Figure 1: Sr Susan Matheikal, Village Level Entrepreneur inaugurates PMGDISHA on 9th June 2017



Figure 2: The V.L.E outlines the activities of PMGDISHA in SMCEPC at Thirupachur village, Thiruvallur District



Figure 3: Villagers who had volunteered to undergo Digital Literacy training under PMGDISHA



Figure 4: Sr Susan, felicitates Mr. C. Kamalesan, Project Officer in CSC governance Services Pvt Ltd



Figure 5: Mr. Naveen Kumar, TVL Project Leader being welcomed to PMGDISHA in CSC-TPU



Figure 6: Trainees starting the training program in the computer lab after inauguration



Figure 7; V.L.E Sr Susan MAtheikal in front of CSC-TPU at SMCEPC, Thirupachur Village, Thiruvallur District



Objective

Making one person in every family digitally literate is one of the integral components of the Prime Minister's vision of "Digital India".

Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan is the scheme to make six crore persons in rural areas, across States/UTs, digitally literate, reaching to around 40% of rural households by covering one member from every eligible household by 31st March, 2019.

The Scheme would empower the citizens in rural areas by training them to operate computer or digital access devices (like tablets, smart phones etc.), send and receive e-mails, browse Internet, access Government services, search for information, undertake digital payment etc. and hence enable them to use the Information Technology and related applications especially Digital Payments to actively participate in the process of nation building. The Scheme aims to bridge the digital divide, specifically targeting the rural population including the marginalised sections of society like Scheduled Castes (SC) / Scheduled Tribes (ST), Minorities, Below Poverty Line (BPL), women and differently-abled persons and minorities.

Appreciation of Digital Literacy

To make a person digitally literate, so that he/she can operate digital devices (like Tablets, Smart phones etc) send and receive emails & browse Internet for information and undertake digital payment etc.

Eligibility Criteria

Nominated digitally illiterate person from every eligible rural household.

Age : 14 to 60 years

Course Duration

20 Hours (Minimum 10 Days and Maximum 30 Days)

Medium of Instruction

Official Languages of India

Fee

NIL

Place of Learning

The eligible households can nominate one person from their family. The selected person to get themselves enrolled under this programme in a nearest Training Centre/ Common Service Centre (CSC) – Stella Maris College Extension Project Centre (SMCEPC), Thirupachur Village, Tiruvallur District.

Evaluation

Independent external evaluation will be conducted by a National level certifying agency like NIELIT, NIOS, IGNOU, HKCL, ICTACT, NIESBUD etc.