

IN PURSUIT OF LEARNING

Learning is an eternal endeavour of all those who have a great yearning to learn. This doesn't stop with an ordinary man's craving to explore new areas. The limitless potential of any man is explored only when he is put into unknown situations. Necessity is the mother of all inventions and this period of Lockdown has made people discover new ways to achieve what is thought nearly impossible.

The same applies to the students of EMET who have found various ways to learn in these hard times. Each of these students have gone back to their home town far away from the cities.

It was a matter of few months prior, where all the blind students were given training in various areas (such as English, Computer, Employability skills) in the comfort of college where a separate room with Computers were given. Uninterrupted power supply was there. Internet facility with WIFI was given to each of these systems. They were also given Laptops with the help of which they could practice even in their hostels.



With the advent of Covid 19, things have not been the same for all these students. Those students who reside in the urban areas may not feel the difference. But it is not the same for these students. It has made an immense impact on their personal life. It is an arduous task for them to learn and attend the classes. When some students are asked about the challenges they face attending online classes, they expressed several difficulties. To mention a few:

- They won't get proper network,
- They will have the power supply only for four hours during the day time
- For some of them they can't attend the classes during evenings because most of the family members would have come back home, they don't have an extra room where they can sit and listen to what is being taught. There is a lot of disturbance.
- Some of the students said that the moment they open Laptop other family members come to them asking them to show films and other entertainment programmes in Youtube.
- Some of them expressed that, as they are at home it is their duty to help the family members in the daily chores hence, they just can't sit for the classes.

The above-mentioned problems have not stopped the students from learning. They are making constant efforts to learn no matter what the barriers are. Accordingly, even HTBF has made necessary provisions to help these students to learn without much hindrance. HTBF has helped these students to recharge their mobile phones with

Internet facilities, they are given virtual teaching sessions of both English & Computer Skills, batches are changed according to the convenience of most of the students.

Now it is the students turn to make the best use of the facilities and at least 30 to 40% of the students are striving hard to make use of all these.

Devendra: The most hard working among all the students. He has been constantly learning and he has a great yearning to advance in academics. He never misses the classes and makes the best use of the opportunities provided by HTBF.



Naksha: Sincere efforts of this girl who could not speak a word has now progressed so beautifully that she tries to help others while answering, encourages them to substitute words by giving clues.



Varalakshmi: Motivates all those who are around her to learn and speak English. She does least mistakes, even while typing. She started another whatsapp group which included members with other disabilities as well to learn English. After getting trained

she started speaking in English with her English Professors who in turn congratulated the English Trainer for having filled that confidence in her to speak in an open class. She wants to be an English Trainer.

Manoj: A Tech gene who explores all possibilities of Technology, born blind, has learnt to upload videos in Youtube, edits audio files and video files, he has learnt a lot in online classes.

Yadappa: He hails from a family of Shepherds. During the lockdown most of his family members, specially his sisters and sisters-in-law were at home. He said that the moment he opens his laptop they would run to him asking him to show some movie. He found it hard to learn in between them and he would sit in goats & sheeps' shed and attend the classes.

Most of these students have stayed in the hostels right from their childhood. Lock down was also a period when they got an opportunity to stay with their families. This also made them to venture into Kitchen and make small attempts to learn cooking.



All these are just a few samples of the hardships which did not stop these disabled youngsters from learning. This really motivates anyone to go beyond oneself to learn. Let us really hope that their pursuit of learning doesn't stop here.

Thank You.