

## About Uddami



**Our aim is to empower the potential of youth from low income communities in urban Kolkata so that they can develop sustainable livelihoods.**

Uddami began as a computer school teaching practical, job-oriented skills. What we bring to the educational part of the project is a different philosophy that emphasizes practical training over theory, and includes soft skills like problem solving and creative thinking. Over the years we have added teacher training as well as capacity building for other NGOs who want to start a computer program of their own through our Uddami Partner Program (UPP).

In the last year we have been developing Uddami Software Services (USS), the for-profit part of Uddami. We train our graduates using on-the-job training in our USS office and hire our graduates at a living wage. Using our profits we have been able to support over 20% of the expenses of Uddami Computer Training Centre (UCTC).

## Uddami CTC (Uddami Computer Technology Centre)

UCTC has three main components:

- UCTC - PRACTICAL COMPUTER TRAINING & TEACHER TRAINING
- USS - FOR-PROFIT SUSTAINABILITY BRANCH
- UPP - PARTNERING WITH OTHER NGOS TO HELP THEM DEVELOP COMPUTER PROGRAMS

## **UCTC**

### UDDAMI COMPUTER TRAINING CENTRE

Everyone knows that ICT has taken a firm hold in India. What most people don't realize is that this technological revolution has affected only a very small percentage of the population.

\* In India there are just **14** computers for every **1000** people<sup>1</sup>

\* In West Bengal only **3.47%** of all schools have computers<sup>2</sup>

\* Internet users in India are less than **5%** of the total population<sup>3</sup>

We believe that youth from low-income communities should have an equal chance to participate in and benefit from the technology boom in India. UCTC provides free computer access and practical skill training to increase the capacity of our students so they can develop sustainable livelihoods in the mainstream IT sector.

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## NEWS



Way back in 2001 we moved the school out of our flat and into our current location on Prince Anwar Shah Road. From that time **Nivedita Pal** has been an integral part of the Uddami team, starting out as a teacher and within a few short years taking over all administrative duties in the school. In October Nivedita decided to change her career path and accepted a position as English teacher in a West Bengal government school.

We wish her all the best in her new job but she will be missed – her skill as a teacher and her endless patience has been responsible for the success of many of our students.

<sup>1</sup> SDA India, April 2005 - [http://sda-india.com/sda/news/psecom,id,1742,nodeid,4,\\_language,India.html](http://sda-india.com/sda/news/psecom,id,1742,nodeid,4,_language,India.html)

<sup>2</sup> Digital Learning - <http://schoolreportcards.in/Media/m52.html>

<sup>3</sup> 37,000,000 out of 1 billion people according to 2006 survey - <http://expressindia.com/news/fullstory.php?newsid=74132>

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For many years our policy of admitting students has been to start them in the course when students graduate and space becomes available. This meant many different classes of 1-3 students, all at a different point in the curriculum.

This past year we decided to stop taking new students in June and finish all of our current students by December. In this way we can start 36 students at the same time so that they can progress through the curriculum as a group and graduate together.

#### STATISTICS - 2007

<b>Graduate total</b>	21	
Female	10	48%
Male	11	52%
<b>Current Status</b>		
working	8	38%
further education	10	48%
not working	1	5%
unknown	2	10%
<b>Economic Status</b>		
poor	13	62%
lower middle class	8	38%

#### TEACHER TRAINING

We train graduates of UCTC as computer teachers for other organizations because we strongly believe in peer education. Teachers who have been former students have similar backgrounds to the students they are teaching and often inspire their students by their own achievements.

- This year two new teachers were trained to work in our new partner organisation located in North Kolkata, **Mshia**:



- We also provided training for two teachers from **Digital Bridges**, an organisation working with slum children.

These are the computer teachers who are working for our other partner organisations.

- **Sanlaap India**



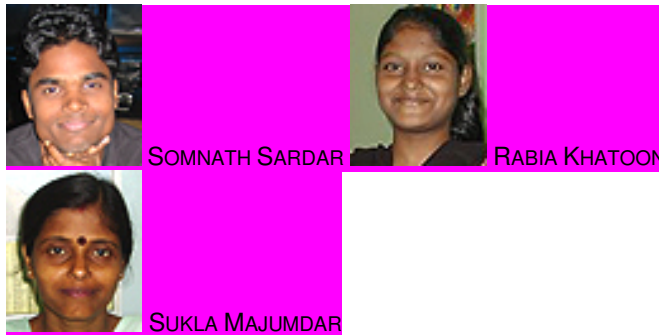
• Shiksamitra



• Soma Home/New Light



• Tomorrow's Foundation



**USS**

UDDAMI SOFTWARE SERVICES

USS trains graduates by hiring them as paid interns so that they can “earn while they learn”. This part of Uddami has two goals:

1. To employ our graduates at a living wage
2. To fully support our training center UCTC with profits from our own work

INTERNSHIPS

We offer on the job training through our for-profit USS so that students can get real work experience in a supportive yet professional environment.

USS now has:

- Four full-time employees



KHOKON DAS, 2001



PALASH MONDAL, 2001



SAMSONI SARKAR, 2006



DALIA PAUL, 2007



- Three part-time employees working on two pilot software testing projects: Reena Singh, Yougesh Singh, Seema Halder

## UPP

### UDDAMI PARTNERS PROGRAM

Our partners:

- MSHIHA – working with children and teenagers in Sonagachi (2007)
- SHIKSAMITRA – an alternative school working with drop-outs from the regular school system in the Chetla area. (started 2006)
- SANLAAP INDIA – working against trafficking of woman and children (started 2006)
- NEW LIGHT/SOMA HOME – working with young girls at risk from the Kalighat area (started 2005)
- TOMORROW'S FOUNDATION - working with deprived children from the streets, slums and red light areas in the most extreme and vulnerable zones of urban Kolkata. (started 2004)

## Help for Individuals

UDDAMI sometimes helps members of our community if they need financial aid for education. We look at each person individually and if we feel it is appropriate to help, we look for a sponsor. Because our teachers develop personal relationships with our students they know and understand the circumstances of individual situations and can advise us on which students need assistance..

**MEGHA MAZUMDAR** – *Kevin Barker* (one of UDDAMI's angels and longtime supporters) sponsors Megha's education.

**GURIA GOWALA** – *Lynda Leigh* sponsored an Introduction to Programming course at Brainware.

*100 Friends* sponsored educational expenses for **MONIKA GHOSH** (achieved BACHELOR DEGREE OF COMPUTER this year!), **REENA SINGH, SABINA KHATOON & KABITA GOWALA.**

**PRASANTA DAS** - This year Prasanta turned eight in July and he attends Class 1 at St. Sebastian's School. *Sonya Anderson* is sponsoring his education and other necessities as Prasanta is from a very poor family. His English is improving almost as fast as his computer skills – he can google photos of animals and plants and he can email from his own address.

**SANTU JANA** – *Barbara Sundquist* is supporting his education.

**Financials - Expenses & Donations**

