

Setting Up of SmartLabs

ZILLA PARISHAT HIGH SCHOOLS AT

ADILABAD DISTRICT

TELANGANA STATE

Submitted by



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1.0 Executive Summary

Digital literacy is no longer optional—it is foundational to education, employability, and informed citizenship. However, in economically backward districts like Adilabad of Telangana State, access to computers and structured digital education remains extremely limited, particularly for students in Government schools.

Over the past 18 months, we have successfully established 4 Smart Labs in 4 Government Schools in Adilabad district, primarily serving students from Classes 8 to 10. These labs are equipped with computers, digital teacher software, and supported by a dedicated computer instructor. The initiative has significantly improved students' digital awareness, confidence, and basic computer skills.

Encouraged by the measurable impact, we now seek donor support to establish 10 additional Smart Labs beginning academic year 26-27, reaching at least 1,000 additional underprivileged students. Each lab requires approximately ₹2 lakhs (including installation and first-year maintenance). Continued support will sustain licensing and instructor costs in subsequent years.

This initiative aims to bridge the digital divide and equip underprivileged students with essential skills to make informed educational and career choices after Class 10.

2.0 Context

Adilabad is one of the economically backward districts of Telangana. A significant portion of the population lives below the poverty line. Many students studying in Government schools come from marginalized and tribal communities. For most of them:

- There is no computer at home.
- There is no exposure to digital tools.
- There is limited awareness of career opportunities in the digital economy.

Without intervention, students complete Class 10 with little or no practical exposure to technology. This severely restricts their future options—whether in higher education, vocational training, or employment.

In today's world, even basic tasks—applications, scholarships, job registrations,

banking, government services—require digital literacy. The absence of these skills further perpetuates poverty and exclusion.

3.0 About SmartLab Initiative

The Smart Lab model is designed to provide structured, practical, and interactive digital learning within Government schools. Each Smart Lab includes:

- Desktop computers with essential educational software
- Digital Teacher Software for interactive subject learning
- Structured curriculum for computer fundamentals
- Trained Computer Instructor

Key Components:

a. Digital Teacher Software

The digital teacher software enables students to:

- Learn school subjects interactively
- Watch visual explanations of complex concepts
- Practice through quizzes and exercises
- Improve retention through audio-visual learning

This enhances classroom teaching and supports students who struggle with traditional learning methods.

b. Computer Literacy Training

Students are trained in:

- Basic computer operations
- Typing skills
- MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- Internet basics and online safety
- Digital applications relevant to education (Scratch)

c. Dedicated Computer Instructor

A trained instructor ensures:

- Regular hands-on practice

- Structured learning sessions
- Doubt clarification
- Monitoring student progress

4.0 Impact Achieved So Far (Last 18 Months)

Since establishing 4 Smart Labs:

- Hundreds of students have touched and used a computer for the first time.
- Students demonstrate increased confidence and curiosity about technology.
- Improved familiarity with typing, basic applications, and digital navigation.
- Enhanced classroom engagement through digital learning.
- Increased awareness about future career options.

Teachers have observed:

- Better attentiveness in classes
- Increased interest in learning
- Improved academic performance in certain subjects supported by digital modules

Most importantly, students who would otherwise have had no exposure to computers are now digitally aware and future-ready.

5.0 Proposed Expansion Plan

We propose to establish 10 additional Smart Labs in Government Schools in and around Adilabad district starting next academic year 26-27.

Target Beneficiaries:

- Students from Classes 8, 9, and 10
- Approximately 100 students per school
- Total reach: 1,000+ students annually

Implementation Plan:

- Selection of schools in coordination with local education authorities
- Infrastructure readiness assessment
- Procurement and installation of equipment
- Deployment of digital teacher software

- Appointment and training of computer instructors
- Monitoring and evaluation system

6.0 Estimated Cost

Cost per Smart Lab: ₹2,00,000 (First Year)

This includes:

- Computers and peripherals
- Furniture (Computer Tables and Chairs)
- Installation and setup
- Digital teacher software license (first year)
- Instructor support
- Maintenance

Total Budget for 10 Smart Labs: ₹20,00,000 (₹20 Lakhs)

Subsequent Year Costs:

- Software license renewal
- Instructor salary
- Basic maintenance

Detailed financial breakdown can be provided upon request.

7.0 Long-Term Vision and Sustainability

The Smart Lab initiative is not just about computer access—it is about empowerment.

Long-Term Outcomes:

- Improved digital literacy among rural youth
- Better preparedness for higher education
- Increased employability
- Informed career choices after Class 10
- Reduced digital divide between urban and rural students

Over time, schools will become digitally enabled environments where technology supports mainstream education. With sustained donor partnerships, this model can be expanded to additional districts.

8.0 Why Support This Initiative?

Your support will:

- Directly impact underprivileged students
- Provide first-time digital access to rural children
- Enable skill development at a crucial stage (Classes 8-10)
- Contribute to long-term socio-economic upliftment
- Strengthen Government school education systems

In economically backward regions like Adilabad, such interventions create transformational change—not just incremental improvement.

9.0 Call for Partnership

We invite individual donors, CSR partners, foundations, and philanthropic organizations to partner with us in this mission.

By sponsoring:

- One Smart Lab (₹2 Lakhs), or
- Multiple labs, or
- Supporting annual operational costs

you will help create a lasting impact in the lives of rural students.

Together, we can ensure that no child completes schooling without basic digital skills.

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ANNEXURE A



ANNEXURE B

ABOUT FORTESS

FORTESS is a society established in 2016 by former employees of Tata Consultancy Services Limited and its subsidiaries. Registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 and The Societies Registration [Maharashtra] Rules 1971, FORTESS is dedicated to driving meaningful change in society. FORTESS is registered under Darpan (MH/2025/0505158), Society's registration Act, Charities Commissioner and CSR regulations (CSR00065347).

Padma Vibhushan Sri S. Ramadorai, former MD & CEO of TCS, is one of the founding members and currently serves as the President. Mr. S. Mahalingam, former CFO of TCS, holds the position of Vice President. The other Trustees and Governing Council members are seasoned industry leaders and leading technologists, having dedicated decades of service to TCS and other leading IT organizations. FORTESS currently has over 300 members spread globally.

While community service remains at the heart of FORTESS, we are equally committed to creating & fostering knowledge-sharing opportunities that inspire and empower the younger generation to dream big and achieve more. The measure of life is not in its duration but its impact. (<https://www.fortessgroup.org>)

Our Vision

To be an agent of significant change in the social sphere across the areas we will focus – Education, Environment, Health, Culture and Heritage

Our Mission

- **Create self-sustaining initiatives** that drive long-term impact.
- **Bridge the digital divide** through cutting-edge, technology-driven learning solutions.
- **Inspire innovation and problem-solving** among the next generation of thinkers and creators.

Our Values

Inspired by the TCS culture of professionalism, competence, values and predictable execution

Governing Body

Padma Vibhushan Sri S Ramadorai – President

Sri S Mahalingam – ex CFO TCS, - Vice President

Sri PR Krishnan – Former EVP, TCS, - Secretary

Sri Viswanathan Iyer – Former President APAC, TCS and IBM – Treasurer

R Chandrasekaran – Former EVP, Cognizant

Ajoy Mukherjee - Chairman, Tata Technologies

Anita Rajan – COO & Former CEO, TATA Strive

V Ravi & PVLN Rao

******* End of Proposal *******