



Computer Literacy Program 2018 Annual Report

The Computer Literacy Program (CLP) turned **fourteen** in 2018. It is a pleasure to report to you that with your generous help and support, CLP continues to make steady progress in its core mission of *empowering underprivileged rural youths through computer literacy and technology-aided education*. We accomplish this through the established mechanisms, such as, Computer Literacy Centers (CLCs), Smart Class Rooms (SCRs), Education through Entertainment (EE), and the more recent initiative, Connecting Students around the World (CSAW). A brief overview of the key activities of CLP's fourteenth year follows.

- ❖ While the current focus is more on sustaining and advancing the established CLCs and SCRs, with some further additions last year, the total number of CLCs stand at 267 associated CLCs at 97 and SCRs at 163.
- ❖ The number of students completing the computer literacy training from the above-mentioned CLCs in 2018 operation year is over 13000 (more than 120,000 since the inception of the program). Over 40,000 students used the CLC labs and 90,000 students benefited from SCRs annually. Over 1150 teachers received training about how teach the students using these smart platforms.
- ❖ **Education through Entertainment** (EE), an innovative project initiated in 2016 to educate students through entertaining structured activities, enjoyed substantial growth and acceptance. EE now has 26 content videos covering environment, science, history, health and hygiene, discipline, biography of influential people, safety practices when natural calamities strike, and others. DUDOK, the Anti-Corruption Commission of Bangladesh found some of the content videos valuable for instilling moral values in students, and signed a memorandum of understanding with CLP and Kite Bangladesh Limited to initiate a Moral Value Education through Entertainment pilot project. The pilot project is running in 32 schools, 10 schools in Chittagong and 12 in Lalmonirhat and involve over 12,000 students.
- ❖ The *Connecting Students Around the World* (CSAW) project had a successful second year. CSAW aims to establish communication (sometimes live through Skype) between students in

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rural Bangladesh and students in US (and potentially other countries) through joint projects to foster cultural exchange, building communication, self-confidence and global exposure. As a part of this initiative, students from William Annin Middle School (WAMS) in Baskin Ridge, New Jersey, USA and Uddipon Badar-Shamsu Bidya Niketon (UBSBN) in Chitali, Bagerhat, Bangladesh undertook the project of reading, analyzing and interpreting Rabindranath Tagore's poem *Where the Mind is Without Fear*. Each group made a video presentation, exchanged it with the other group, and then participated in a Skype conversation that pertained not only to the poem but also to their respective schools, educational experiences, environments and aspects of daily life. We plan to bring more schools under the project and are seeking volunteers to spearhead connection between schools in Bangladesh and abroad.

- ❖ Maintenance and sustenance of the established CLCs and SCRs is a major cost for the program. Even when the sponsor cost shares, the program has to come up with 50% of the funding required to provide full support for a CLC and/or a SCR. During this operation year CLP provided full maintenance to 71 CLCs for which respective sponsors participated in cost sharing arrangement. Remote monitoring and technical guidance was provided to remaining 196 CLCs and 163 SCRs without cost sharing. Hardware in quite a few of the earlier established centers required replacement. The program delivered 23 desktop and 01 laptop computers this year to the CLCs covered under the maintenance plan. We seek your support for maintenance of these CLCs and SCRs.
- ❖ Celebrated 14 years of achievement (2004-2018) in a lively CLP Annual Event on July 28, 2018 at Rutgers University Center, NJ, USA.
- ❖ CLP is taking initiative to improve its organizational and promotional activities. To enhance the participation of the younger generation and to involve them in policy making and governance, a Youth Board of CLP volunteers will be formed. The CLP website will be revamped to make it more attractive, dynamic, and appealing to potential donors.

Mark your Calendar!

2019 CLP Annual Event is scheduled for **Saturday, July 20, 2019** at Rutgers Cook College Student Center, New Brunswick. We will contact you with details as we get close to that date. We look forward to your continued active support in the future.

CLP Seeks your continued support

CLP sincerely appreciates your support and donations to maintain its current level of activities. *Your continued support and generous contributions* are crucial to the overall success of the program. Please visit www.clpweb.org for more detailed information on our program.

Please enable Amazon to donate 0.5% of your Amazon online shopping to CLP by using Amazon Smile browser and selecting CLP your favorite charity.

CLP wishes you, your family and friends a happy and successful New Year 2019.