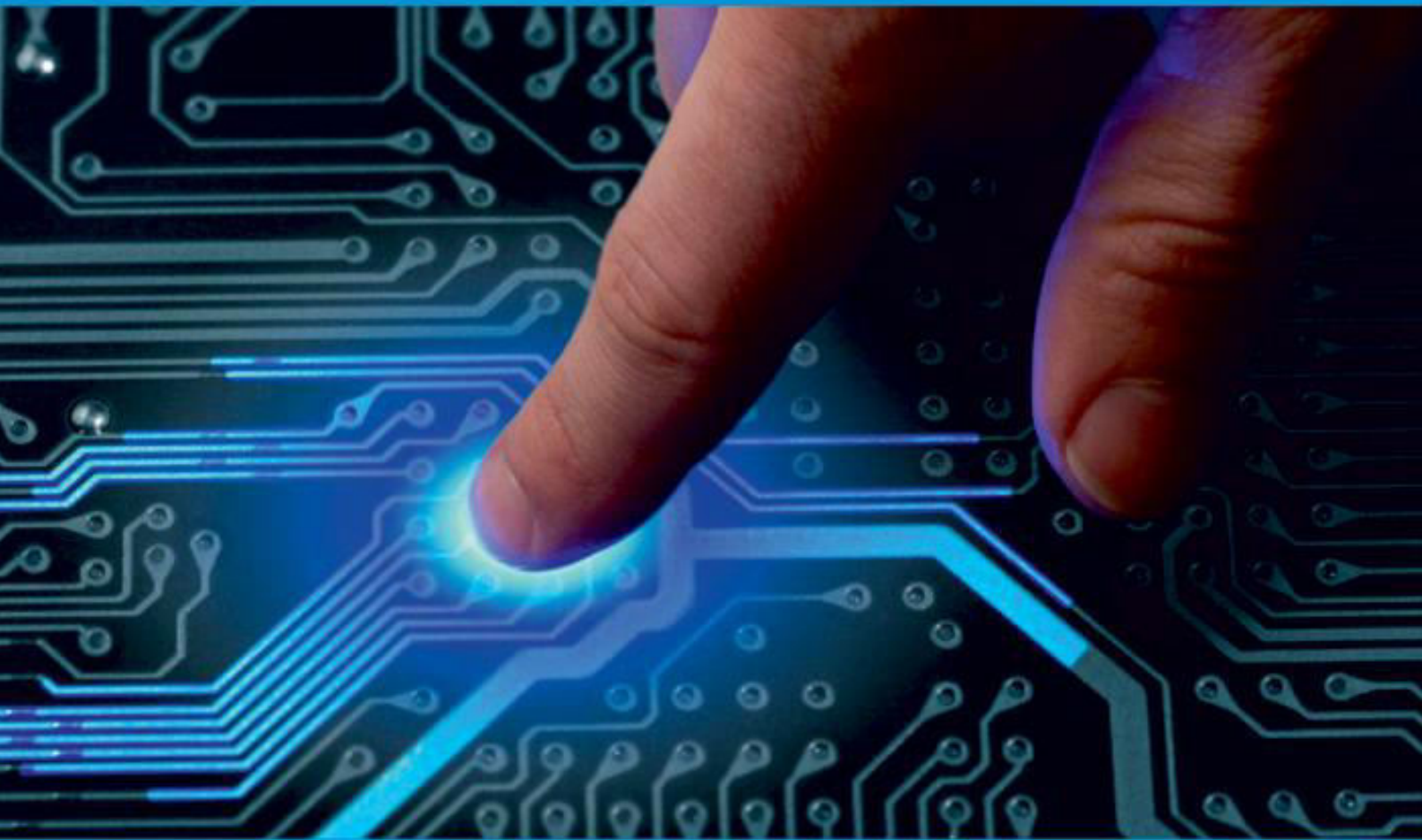




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Computer Education for Women and Society (Especially for Hindu Women of Bareilly)

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ABSTRACT: Computer Training and Digital Literacy Program is an initiative under BharatCares (by CSRBOX) that aims to provide basic computer and digital literacy training to the girls and women who have either dropout from the school or currently pursuing their education. The onsite training program has also opened up the avenues for housewives and married women who want to get the hands-on training in Computer and Digital Literacy Space. The program focuses on bridging the digital divide by imparting the essential digital literacy skills to empower the girls and women, especially for Hindu women of Bareilly

KEYWORDS: computer, women, society, Hindu, Bareilly, literacy, training, basics, empowerment

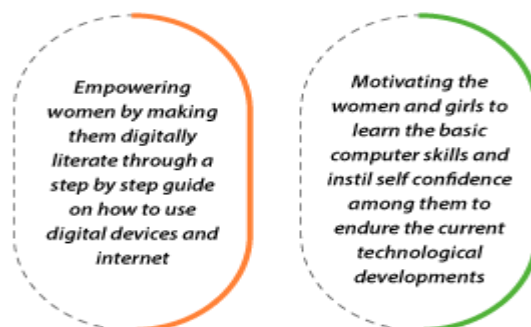
I. INTRODUCTION

The status of digital literacy among women can be understood by this fact that the digital gender gap in India is huge. [1] As per the recent survey conducted by National Family Health Survey, over 60 per cent women in 12 states and union territories have never used the internet. In comparison, more percentage of men that is 50% have used the internet. [2,3] Being a literate in the present context, is not enough. Literacy has now changed into digital literacy. It may be called the need of the hour, but disruptive changes this year have spurred the urgency for digital literacy among both men and women. With the world changing, technology becomes the inevitable part of everyday life. The technology is being used everywhere starting from our homes to schools to hospitals to offices and more. [3,4] The pandemic also increased the use of digital technology and opened new platforms for e-commerce and online learning, enabling access to markets that were previously out of reach for women micro-entrepreneurs and women's collectives, especially for Hindu women of Bareilly [4,5]

Why Computer Training and Digital Literacy Program for Girls and Women, especially for Hindu women of Bareilly Under this initiative, we are working on equipping the students with the basic computer and digital literacy skills to make them ready for the current digital era. As technology proves to be a great equalizer in an unequal world, BharatCares' Computer Training and Digital Literacy Program works on making these women and girls digitally literate.

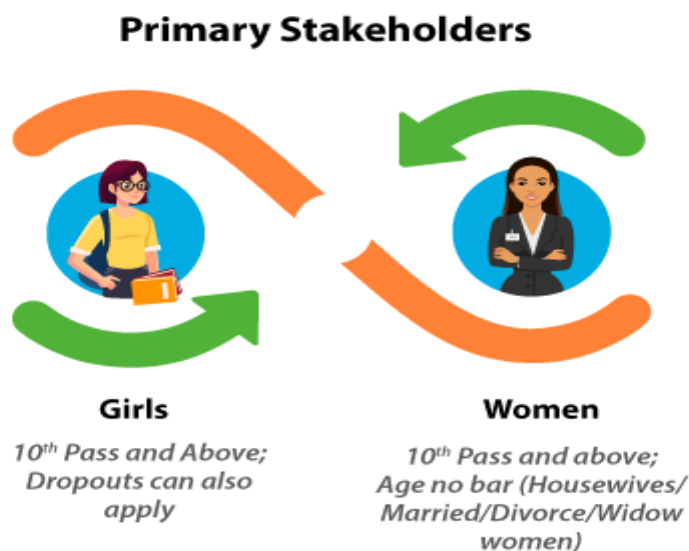
II. DISCUSSION

The program focusses on 2 major pillars:



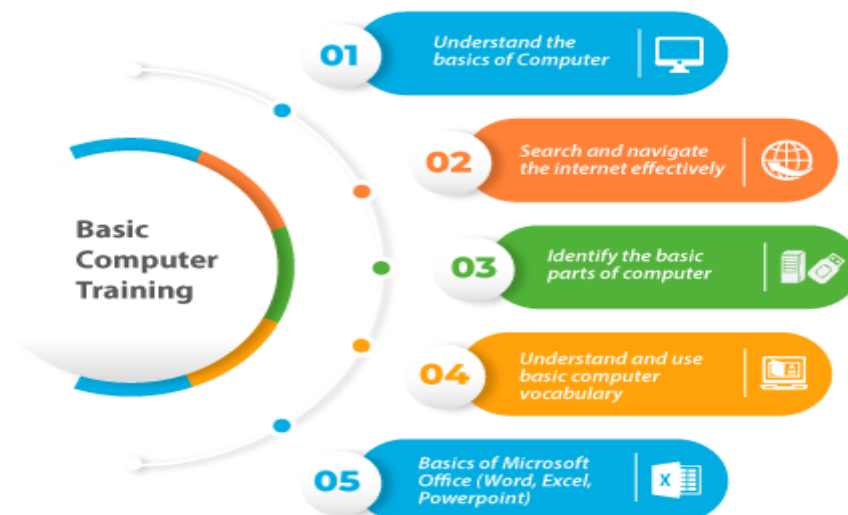
The 1-month onsite training program led by instructor makes these women and girls digitally-ready by providing training on basic computer skills, skills needed to navigate a smartphone, to create an email account and use it effectively, to make digital payments and more. We are currently running our centre in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.[5,6]

Primary Stakeholders



What Program Curriculum cover?

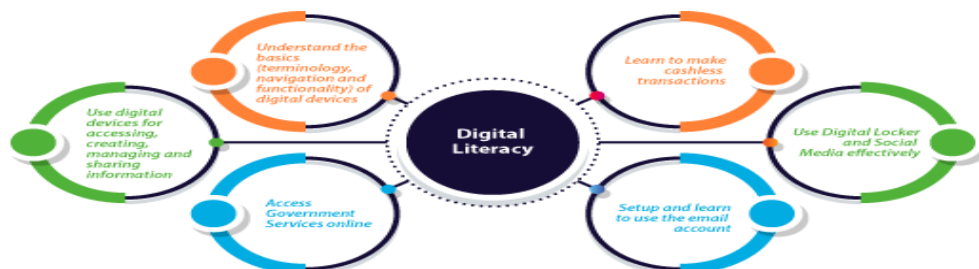
The program is divided into 2 segments and covers the following skills.



III.RESULTS

We need more girls and women to consider careers in STEM--science, technology, engineering, and math--particularly computer science. Computers are everywhere and are part of our lives in so many ways--phones, cars, home, workplace.

Women who can master technology may find more career opportunities and new ways to make a difference in their communities and the world.[6,7]



Further,STEM careers offer financial rewards and some flexibility. According to Department of Education Analysis of Girls in Education, women in STEM jobs earn 33 percent more than those in non-STEM occupations and experience a smaller wage gap relative to men. Yet, a 2011 report “Women in STEM: A Gender Gap to Innovation” confirms that women pursue STEM jobs and STEM degrees less than men. I am hopeful that more women will enter STEM fields, or at least include computer science as part of their education, especially for Hindu women of Bareilly

Technology today is significantly different than in the past. Today it’s an art of adapting and knitting pieces together, evaluating possible strategies, and understanding requirements and limitations of functionality and outcomes. U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan described learning to code as “creative and empowering”; this past winter he encouraged students, teachers, and parents to participate in the Hour of Code campaign as a preparation for the critical thinking and problem solving needed for academic and career success. The Maker Movement, with sponsors such as Cognizant, Intel, and Pixar, encourages kids to combine creativity with science, technology, engineering, art, and math. I believe that the emphasis on creativity is why the Maker Movement reports a 55 percent female participation rate, especially for Hindu women of Bareilly[7,8]

In my hometown, I see evidence that women are emerging as confident, enthusiastic leaders of technology. Recently, I was at a public meeting for a community group planning the inaugural Wellesley Science & Technology Expo slated for next month. The feedback from local women programmers who had an idea for using Raspberry Pis in a computer science demo resulted in the room buzzing with energy and excitement.[8,9]

We need to reach a critical mass of women in technology and we need to keep young girls engaged throughout their academic trajectories. Similar to the finding that three or more women are needed to make an impact on a corporate board, we need better female representation to change the culture of computing. Entering technology today is an opportunity for adolescent girls and young women to make large strides toward equality, to decrease the gender gap in pay, and to attain leadership positions where they can inform workplace policies and bring women’s perspectives into our technology-driven society. By utilizing and sharing these skills, women can help drive social change for the field, for the world.[9,10]

So, here’s my call-to-action women of the world: Be innovators, become comfortable with technology. Learn something new and share your knowledge; become a wizard using applications on your phone or tablet. If you have children in your life, learn with them so they may associate technology learning from and with women as well as men. Be a leader!Provision of online computing classes from US especially for Hindu women of Bareilly is done.[10,11]

IV.CONCLUSIONS

1. Mobilisation: Dropouts, School students, housewives, married girls and women will be mobilized through the personal network, field mobilisation, social media promotions etc.
2. Counselling: Detailed and appropriate counselling to the learners at the time of enrollment will be provided to understand the learner’s objective for choosing the program

3. Training: Training will be provided by the experienced experts in the field of computers and digital literacy.
4. Assessment: Weekly and final assessment to be conducted to measure the learners progress[11,12]

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