

## **“Introduction to Computers” by VanniTech, Program Report**

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### **Introduction:**

The program “Introduction to Computers” was organized by VanniTech to spread public awareness on computers during the first quarter break of academic programs. The program was carried out by the VanniTech students and it was very successful. Some highlights from the program were:

- It was completely driven by the VanniTech students.
- It took place not only in the VanniTech premises, but also in some field sites in the North-East.
- Seventeen schools from five districts in the North-East were covered by this program. More than 1000 students were benefited.
- Programs were held for more than three hours for each participant. Also most of the participants were given hands on experience.
- For the field demonstrations, students went with laptop computers.
- The Government Agent (G.A.) of Mannar also participated in a field seminar at Pattima M.M.V. in Mannar

### **Program Outline:**

The program was meant to give an introduction to computers. It basically addressed the following questions:

- What is a computer?
- Why do we need computers?
- How can we make use of it in our day-to-day activities?

The seminar was started with a presentation which was addressed the first two questions. Then it was followed by a demonstration on some basic applications such as,

- Word processing
- Simple accounting using Spreadsheets
- Photo editing
- e-Learning
- Entertainment
- CAD

Also most of the attendees were given some practical sessions during the seminars. Especially in the in-house programs all of them were provided with a chance to play with computers for a period of more than half an hour.

After the practical session, the seminar came to an end with a discussion.

**Resources Utilized:**

Following resources were utilized for the quarter break program.

- Human resources:  
The students and staff of the VanniTech voluntarily contributed their effort towards the success. More than 92% of the student population was participated during quarter break program. The staff members of VanniTech were given their great support to the students all over the program.
- Equipment resources:  
For the in-house seminars, which were held in the VanniTech premises, main lecture hall, software lab with 20 computers and a multimedia projector were used. For the field seminars a desktop and two laptops were effectively utilized.

**Participants Detail:**

The program basically targeted schools in north-east. Seven schools participated in the in-house seminars. Our students visited 6 places and covered 10 schools.

Participants of the in-house seminars:

Date of Seminar	School	No of Groups	No of participants
03/09/2003	Sivapatha Kalaiyakam, Kilinochchi	1	55
04/09/2003	Kilinochchi M.V., Kilinochchi	1	55
05/09/2003	Kanakapuram M.V., Kilinochchi	1	60
05/09/2003	Central College, Kilinochchi	1	60
08/09/2003	Central College, Kilinochchi	2	120
10/09/2003	Barathy Vidyalayam, Kilinochchi	1	55
11/09/2003	Kanakapuram M.V., Kilinochchi	1	60
12/09/2003	Kanagampikaikulam G.T.M.S., Kilinochchi	1	55
14/09/2003	Paranthan M.V., Paranthan	1	41

Participants of the field seminars:

Date of Seminar	School/Organization	No of Participants
06/09/2003	Pallai Central College, Pallai	70
06/09/2003	Sivappiragasa M.V., Point Pedro	65
07/09/2003	Nanaaddaan M.V., Mannar ***	100
07/09/2003	Pattima M.M.V, Mannar **	100
11/09/2003	Thooyavan School, Kilinochchi.	165
12/09/2003	Poompukar Kannaki Vidyalayam, Vavuniya	16
12/09/2003	Kalmadu M.V., Kalmadu, Vavuniya	19
07/09/2003	Annayar Illam, Mannar	28
11/09/2003	Information Technology Training Centre, Kilinochchi	25
11/09/2003	Hindu College, Selvanayagapuram, Trincomallee	52

- \*\*\* In the Nannaddaan M.V. seminar, students from six schools participated.
- \*\* G.A. of Mannar visited this seminar and at the end, he specially requested our team to do another seminar at Annayar Illam in Mannar.

### **Expenses of QBP:**

For the field programs we were spent Rs.23, 333.50 and for in-house programs the expenditure was Rs.5142.00. In total our expenses for the whole program was Rs.28, 475.50. Further details are available in Annex 01.

### **Staff Members Contribution in the QBP:**

VanniTech staff members had given their great support towards the success of the program. They worked with the students from start to finish during the quarter break.

- The President, who put the seeds for the program, encouraged the students during their preparation and had given them some guidelines on making a “Professional Presentation”.
- Our Registrar played a major role in selecting and finding most of the participants for the program. He visited so many schools in the Vanni area to invite the students for the seminars. Also he helped us to identify some schools in Trincomalee and Mannar Districts for field visits.
- Senthil, Employee of the quarter break, had been working day and night with the students during whole quarter break. He acted as a program supervisor, managed all the systems and directed the students to fields in time.
- Our Accountant, Sritharan, managed all the financial accounts.
- Sanjeev helped us in field visit arrangements. He organized trips to schools in Vavuniya and Pallai.
- During the preparation work Siva helped the students, especially in the CAD demonstration.
- Our security guards Vettivel, Martin and all the other staff, Varan, Ananthan and Visu, cooperated with the QBP team willingly and helped us very much.

### **Feedback from Participants:**

At the end of each seminar our students distributed some printed feedback forms to find out how the seminar was useful for them and how we can do better in the future. All the forms state that the seminar was very useful for the participants and these kinds of programs should be continuously held all over the north-east. Following points summary of some feedback forms.

- “We have learnt a lot about computers from this seminar. Also we expect more programs like this in the future.” – I. Anitha Nanthini (Kanagapuram M.V.)
- “All three demonstrators have done well. Now we are able to operate computers.” – A.Alistalah (Thumpalai Sivapragasa M.V.)
- “It would be much beneficial if you do these seminars every month”. –A group of students from Udayarkattu M.V.
- “This has given an opportunity to learn computers. That half an hour practical session has made us very happy.” –Mrs.S.Ravikumar (Paranthan M.V.)
- “90% of my students have not seen a computer earlier. From this seminar they have learnt the basics. It would be better, if you can provide some practical sessions.” –Mr.M.Kanagalingam(Thumpalai Sivapragasa M.V.)
- “We have gained some basics of computer. We need more.” –A. Mariyatharshini(Thullukudiyiruppu R.C.T.M.S., Mannar)
- “We request you to continue these seminars especially in backward areas like ours.” –A group of students (Uyilangulam R.C.)
- “We have found lots of new things from your seminar. We would like to study at your institute after completion of school studies.” –E.Nirmalaathevi (Kanagampikaikulam G.T.M.S. , Kilinochchi)
- “We are happy with this seminar. In future, please increase the lab practical hours. Als it would be better if you introduce Fax, E-mail to us.” -A. Abiraj, P. Kumarasingham, S. Thanuraj (Central college, Kilinochchi)
- “This seminar has provided an understanding about computer basics, internet and email for all. During the seminar we have found that VanniTech library has a collection of computer books. We hope, soon you would open your library for public usage too.” – A group of students (Central College, Kilinochchi)
- “This seminar was very useful for my students. In future it is better to have a full practical class with some handouts.” – S.Balachandran (Principal, Poompugar Kannaki Vidyalayam, Iranaieluppakulam)
- “We are very keen to learn more on computers. It would be better if the VanniTech do some part time courses for teachers and other staff.” – T.Sethupathy (Kanakapuram M.V., Kilinochchi)

**Conclusion:**

The feedback forms and reports from VanniTech students and staff confirmed that the “Introduction to Computers” program was a very successful one. Almost all the participants were amazed about our students’ performance. It was also provided a good experience for our students. Especially it brought all the students to work together as a team.

It also made us aware of how people in the North-East people are in computers. Although the Sri Lankan government implements some projects to spread IT in the country, none of them has reached North-East schools. So it is our responsibility to put seeds for IT development. In future more and more training programs should be conducted all over the North-East. We all should work together to achieve these goals. And there is no doubt, that VanniTech could play a major role in the development.

**Annex 01****Details of Quarter Break Program Financial Report**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Responsible Person</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Amount</b>	
3/9/2003	Petrol	Sanjeev	Palai	255.00	596.00
3/9/2003	Telephone	Sanjeev	Palai	132.00	
3/9/2003	Petrol	Sanjeev	Palai	209.00	
5/9/2003	Photograph	Sanjeev	Jaffna	637.50	707.50
5/9/2003	Petrol	Sanjeev	Jaffna	70.00	
8/9/2003	Meals	Keerthana	Mannar	1,227.00	5,612.00
8/9/2003	Accommodation	Keerthana	Mannar	900.00	
8/9/2003	Traveling	Keerthana	Manner	3,282.00	
8/9/2003	Telephone	Keerthana	Manner	203.00	
9/9/2003	Transport		Palai	400.00	400.00
9/9/2003	Transport	Poorvaja	Pointpedro	533.00	866.00
9/9/2003	Meals	Poorvaja	Pointpedro	333.00	
17/9/2003	Petrol	Sanjeev		78.00	152.00
17/9/2003	Telephone	Sanjeev		74.00	
17/9/2003	Traveling	Ratnakumar	Vavuniya	3,025.00	6,330.00
17/9/2003	Accommodation	Ratnakumar	Vavuniya	1,755.00	
17/9/2003	Meals	Ratnakumar	Vavuniya	1,550.00	
19/9/2003	Traveling	T.Ratheepan	Trincomalee	1,765.00	7,050.00
19/9/2003	Accommodation	T.Ratheepan	Trincomalee	3,100.00	
19/9/2003	Meals	T.Ratheepan	Trincomalee	2,185.00	5,142.00
	Meals		In-house	4,710.00	
	Tea		In-house	432.00	
19/9/2003	Photocopy	Senthil	Jaffna	1,350.00	1,620.00
19/9/2003	Petrol	Senthil	Jaffna	270.00	
<b>Total</b>					<b>28,475.50</b>

Annex 02

**Scenes from QBP**





