

INAUGURATION OF COMPUTER CENTRE FOR VISUALLY CHALLENGED AT PUNE

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Amway takes IT to visually challenged children

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Pune, Jun 21: Amway Opportunity Foundation (AOF), Amway India's CSR arm, has set up a computer centre for visually challenged in Pune in association with the Pune School & Home for Blind Trust (PSHBT). This is their ninth computer center for visually challenged.

AOF has such centre in Delhi, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Chandigarh, Thiruvananthapuram and Patna. The next computer centre for visually challenged will come up in Mumbai and after that in Gurgaon, Achinta Banerjee, VP Amway India (West), said.

The AOF - Pune School and Home for Blind Trust - Centre of Excellence will provide basic computer education to the school children. The Poona School and Home for the Blind has been working for rehabilitation of visually challenged boys and girls. Almost all students are residents of the institution without having to pay for their accommodation and education and study from KG to class 10 here.

AOF has invested in the infrastructure and will also take care of consumables till the organization is able to run it independently, Banerjee said. They have put in Rs 10 lakh for infrastructure so

far in the Pune centre. And all centres follow this model and have similar look and feel.

AOF is also working on Project Sunrise in Pune with Jagriti School for blind girls wherein it supports the educational, health and medical related expenses of more than 100 visually challenged girls. "We will adopt them for three years. We do not believe in just donating money but would like to continue the relationship to make a real difference,"

The computers installed at the centre are equipped with special software for the visually impaired namely Super Nova that will enable them to use the machine effectively. This talking software facilitates in 'hearing' the function of the particular key/command simultaneously with the click of the key thus enabling the visually challenged person to hear what they are typing.

One of the biggest challenges in education of visually impaired children is to make books available in Braille, text or audio described format so that students can read themselves. Under the National Project for the Blind, AOF along with the NAB and All India Confederation of the Blind are making available Braille textbooks to over 85,000 school-going visually challenged children in 15 states.