Office of The District Magistrate, Hooghly
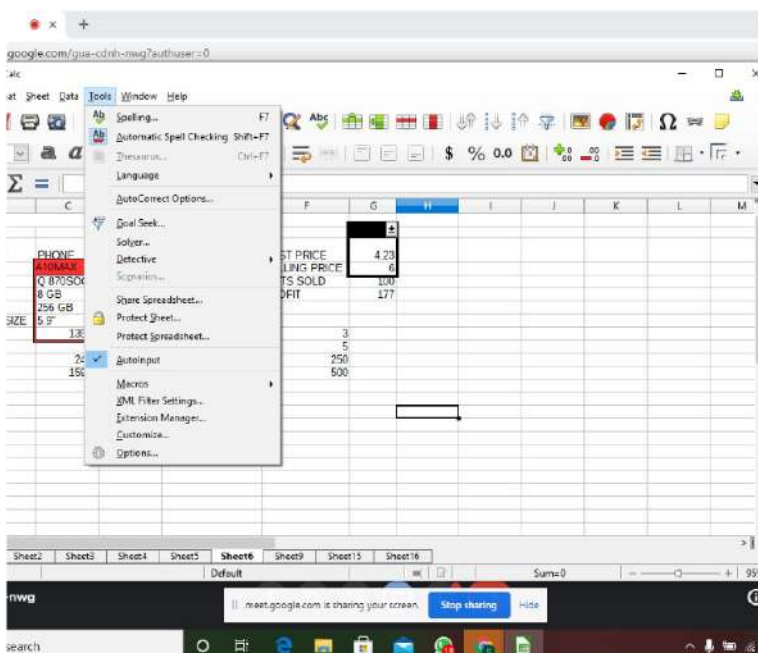
Hooghly

e-Sopan

improving digital literacy among the students,
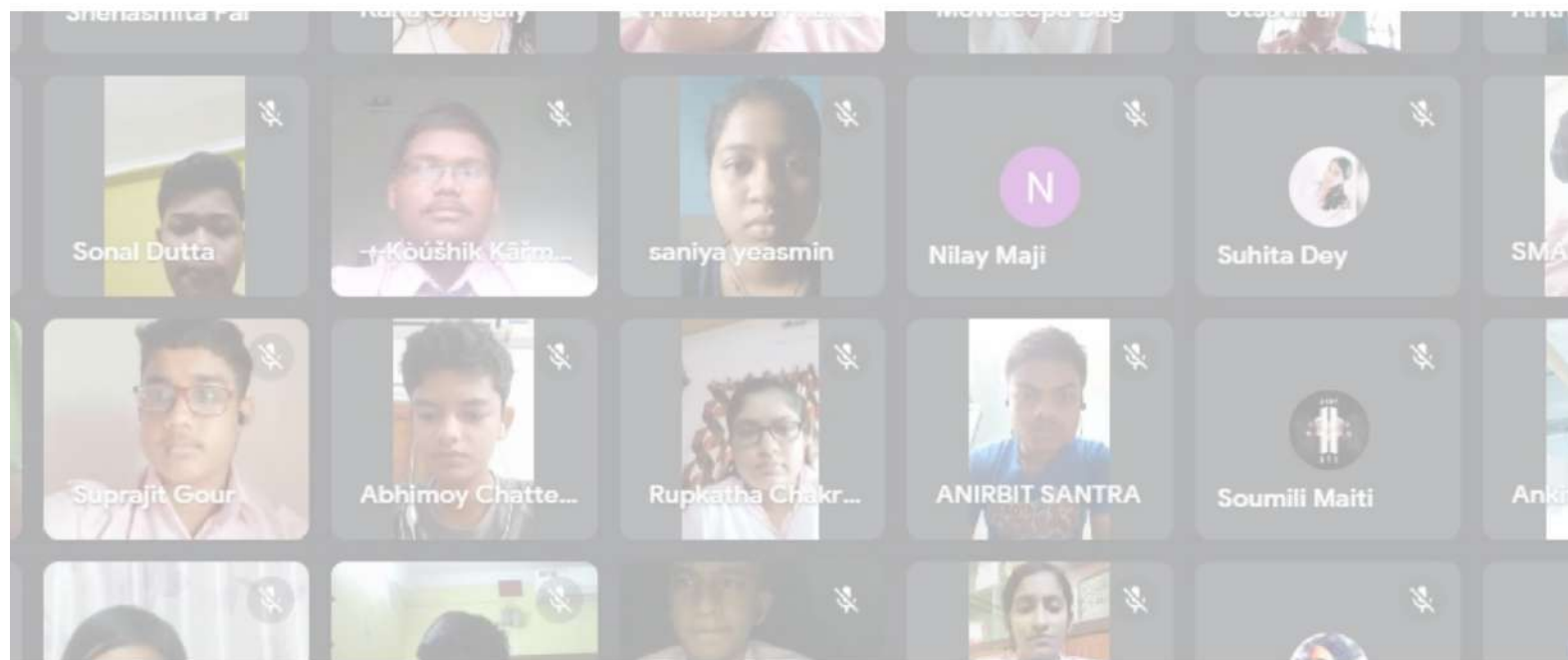
with special emphasis on *Kanyashree Girls*

Digital literacy refers to the ability to use digital tools and related technology efficiently, with a wide range of skills which covers various levels from basic usage of information gathering, daily online works to programming and advanced problem solving. Digital literacy is essential for having a strong footing in 21st century society. Speed and efficiency gets escalated with the use of computers.

The inclusion of Digital literacy in "traditional" literacy has become unavoidable in the era of mobile handheld devices like smart phones and tablets, computers etc

"The digital revolution is far more significant than the invention of writing or even of printing."

Douglas Engelbart

e-Sopan -The beginning

"eSopan"is an e-learning process initiated by our District Social Welfare Section, Kanyashree Unit to improve computer literacy among the students having "Tab" provided under Sarba Siksha Mission.

It is a short term course imparting basic computer knowledge of MS-Word, MS-Excel, Presentation Software and Internet access. In this initiative teachers from own institution plays the role of instructor.

As theCourse is free of cost it relieves students from financial burden. Students can participate in the class maintaining Covid-19 guidelines. A number of Institutions from 18 Blocks and 4 Sub-Divisions have already started eSopan programme.
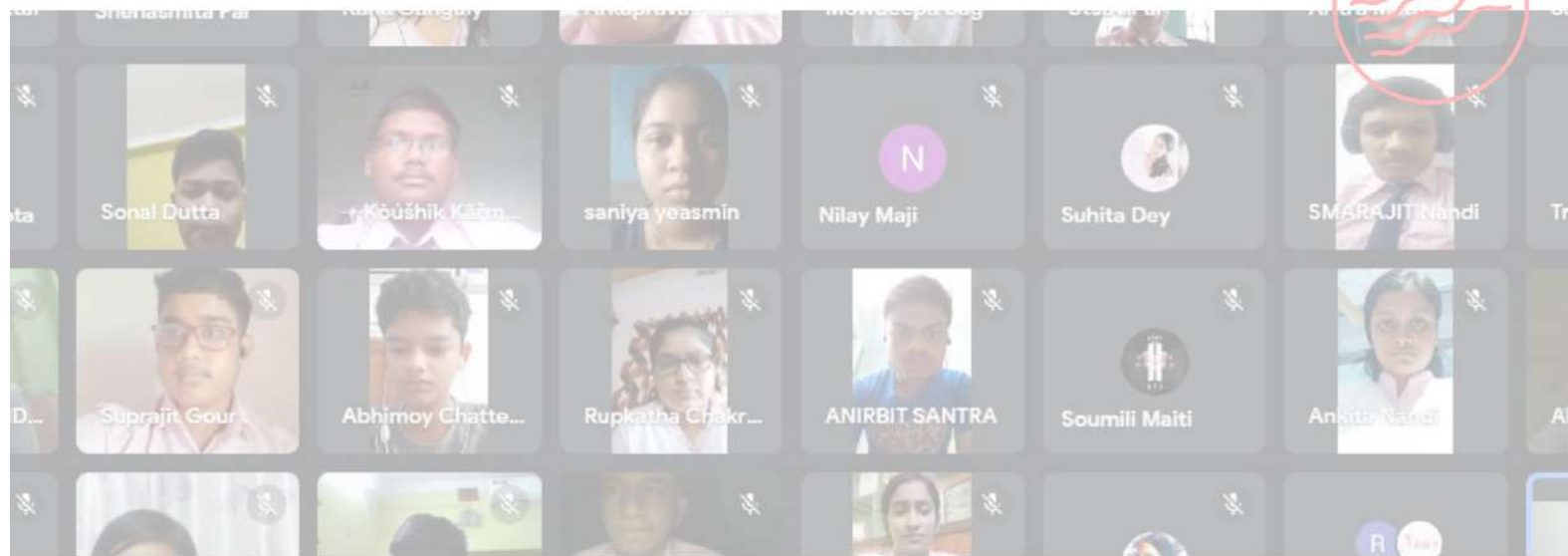
The main objective of this programme is to prepare participants to operate computer, accessing internet to send mail and retrieve emails, search information and online resources in the field of their education, research and trade and also to connect with their friends, family on social media.

Another part of this programme is associated with make familiar with modern computer management with the process of managing, monitoring and optimizing computer skill for better performance and/or any base operational requirement that also includes manual, automated administrative process in the operation of a computer.

Basically this course is offered to enhance the interest of the students in computer, so that after completion of this course students can able to show an awareness of what the major computer components are and how they act as system, another part is to appreciate the computers need instructions to operate and acquire simple programming skill, demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of using computers to solve problem related practical applications, to show a sense of control over computer and also to show positive attitude for adapting to and coping with a changing society with widespread utilization of computer.
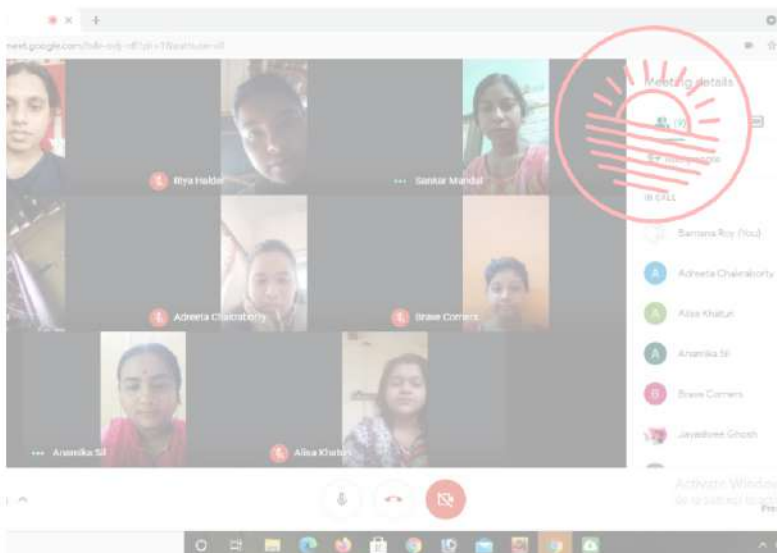
02   Digital literacy - The need of the hour

Digital literacy means empowering individuals the with art of living, learning and working in a digital society.

The digital literacy enables one to be safe in a digital environment, find, evaluate and apply information, use digital tools for creativity, collaborate at different levels and forums without the need for physical presence, awareness and management of Digital identity, understand social responsibility and showcase once achievement on the digital forum.

Through e-Sopan, we envisage to achieve: **Access to information**: access to internet and wide range of information becomes handy. **Able to create and access digital documents**: typing and editing of documents like letters to family , notices, projects etc.

Learning: Computer assisted learning is in vogue in present age of information technology including Distance learning. **Connect with people**: It helps us stay connected with people through mails, chat rooms and social media and collaborate at different levels thus enriching our lives.
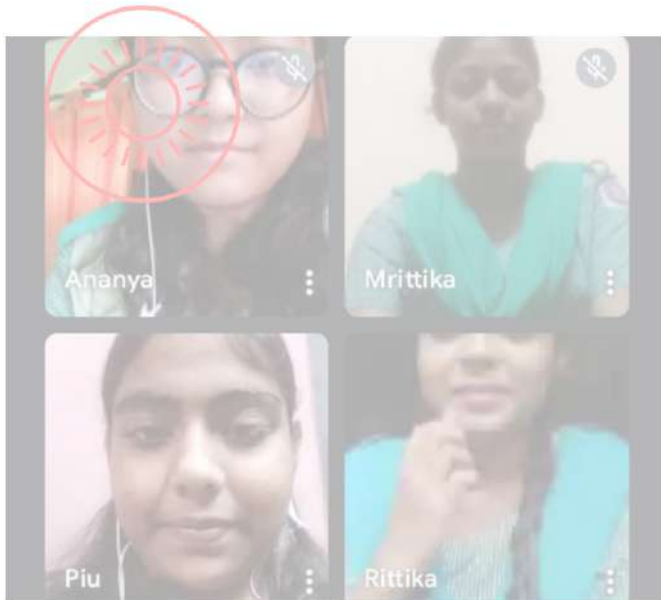
Employment and work from home: It provides a wide window for part time employment such as freelancing and work from home option sespecially in times of pandemic. **Online transactions**: It provides safe digital environment for hassle free transactions for banking, shopping, bookings and reservations and variety of applications.

> *"Computing is not about computers any more. It is about living."*
>
> **Nicholas Negroponte**

03   The process

04   The present & the future

The e-Sopan uses the digital platform and accessible internet through tablets towards imparting digital knowledge among the students.
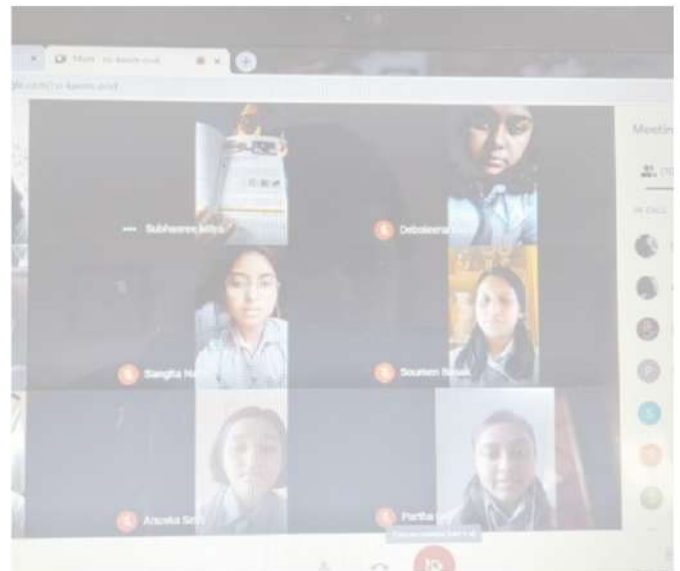
The project is a zero-cost initiative whereby the digital tool in the form of tablets given to students are being utilised to organise the e-Sopan digital literacy classes. The teachers are the local school teachers who are specialised in computer courses.

The fact that the digital tools are being used by students to access the classes enables the students to be comfortable in handing such devices and use the digital tool to their advantage.

Students who were earlier averse to use such tools, specially the ones from rural belt and lower income families have started to use it more frequently due to the availability of the resources.

More and more schools are being added in the e-Sopan ambit as we move towards inclusion of all schools in Hooghly District and imparting digital literacy among the students.

A total of 7451 students from 217 institutions of 18 blocks and 4 Subdivisions, have started the pilot phase of the programme. The impact assessment and student response has been phenomenal.

The next phase will involve starting of the e-Sopan digital literacy programme in all the schools of Hooghly District and bringing all the schools and students within the ambit of the programme.

The advanced phase will involve not only the basic digital literacy but also the safe digital financial literacy, safe digital identity and using the prospect of digital literacy in various career tools.

The advanced phase will also try to bring out Kanyashree e-Sopan students as Digital Kanyashree clubs for collaboration among the students to enrich themselves and be a support system for each other through the digital forum.

Other avenues to garner the immense potential of digital literacy is being looked into for betterment of the students specially Kanyashree students.

05   The testimonials - from Teachers and students

The testimonials of various teachers and students are provided in the following link

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1B-WuflXnnjJHTD_197djPeRdCA-2kthR?usp=sharing

The QR Scan is provided for ready accessibility.

06   Achieving SDG Goals

The programme achieves the following three SDG Goals

1. Goal 4 : Quality education

2. Goal 5 : Gender equality

3. Goal 10 : Reduced inequality