

What is e-learning?

It is the live inter-active teaching from the comfort of your home to the children of Thenur through web based video chat facilities like Skype, Yahoo Messenger, Net Meeting

How does this online class work ?

At Thenur, we have a closed class-room set-up that has a Digital Projector connected to a PC, along with a Web camera, Mic and Speaker system. The class-room mimics like a small video conference room with a 35 mm screen projection of the PC display.

The PC is connected to a high speed broad band. Through this, we connect with you through web based video chat facilities. Assuming, you have a web camera, mic and head-set, our children will have video chat with you with both ends being able to see and hear.

Now, live and inter-active classes or for that matter any inter-action can happen between you and the children as good as if you are person conversing.

What do I have to teach?

We have children from the age group of 8 years to 17 years coming for these classes. We also have some Under-grad students too. Normally, children of 8 – 11 years are clubbed together, 12 – 14, 15-17 years together. These children come to the e-learning center after their school hours.

There is a scope to teach the children anything – from specific school subjects like English, Hindi, Maths, Science, Social Sciences or General knowledge, Astronomy, Computers or Crafts, Painting, Drama. We are even exploring Music.

You could either create your own teaching content or we could work together to come up with a content that you could deliver.

The children here have very little scope for good knowledge exposure and delivery. So, any teaching effort with a children friendly mindset, even only for short cycles will have a positive impact.

What is the timing and duration?

The children come to the e-learning center after their school hours. During week-days this is between 4:30 to 6:30 PM. On Saturday and Sunday, between 8:30 AM – 6:30 PM.

The classes can be between 30 minutes to 1 ½ hour duration.

What set-up do I need to have?

1. A decently good PC/lap-top configuration – say a minimum of P4 based.
2. A web camera, preferably 1.3 M pixel and above
3. A head set and a mic
4. A broadband connection with a net speed more than 256 kbps. You may check your internet speed by going to this site: <http://www.speedtest.net/>
5. Having a White board is an additional feature - If you intend to use traditional teaching techniques by writing to a board.

Do I have to buy any software for this set-up?

No, all soft-wares are free downloads – like Skype, Yahoo Messenger, Paint, Dim Dim

I do not have broad band connection/ I have a dial-up connection. Can I still take the classes?

No, the most important element for this set-up is high speed broad band connection. We insist a net speed of more than 256 kbps, preferably 512 kbps. Only, at this speed, the classes can create a seam less audio/video inter-action.

If you are in Chennai and can travel to T. Nagar, we have set-up a teaching room where you can walk in and connect to the Thenur children. You may need to fit into certain time slots though as there are already volunteers taking classes.