



Digital Skill Training Program Proposal

An initiative of the Atutu Learning Center

Atutu

Atutu (atutu.org) is an international nonprofit with operations spanning Myanmar, India and Mexico. We are a group of activists, storytellers, engineers, designers, students and social justice advocates passionate about community-driven social change for sustainable local development.

Atutu Learning Center

The Atutu Learning Center situated in the Mohnyin region of Kachin aims to address inequality of access to higher education by supporting youths' education and livelihoods. We've partnered with an all-girls dormitory at the Thiri Gon Wai monastery to provide educational resources for the girls who are preparing for the 10th Standard University Entrance exam. By providing opportunities for those historically underprivileged in Myanmar, the program aims to support an all-girls community through the university entrance process, and to provide alternative pathways in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) as well as entrepreneurship.

Current Situation

Myanmar government's restrictions on in-person teaching in response to the Covid-19 pandemic presents complex challenges for educators and students preparing for the 10th Standard University Entrance Exam approaching in March 2021. We're working to rapidly develop a comprehensive solution, by setting up computer labs with remote learning environments so that the girls can access teaching materials remotely. We're concurrently in discussions with Tekkatho Foundation (tekkatho.foundation) to potentially deploy portable devices pre-loaded with their digital library of educational materials which would enable students to continue self-study offline, with periodic video/audio calls with tutors and teachers.

Our team at the Atutu Learning Center in Kachin has already started a small pilot project to test out the success of the program. We have started providing computer training to a group of six students using three laptops. Building on the interest of the program from the pilot, we aim to make these lessons accessible to 30+ students.



Proposal

We are looking to get a **Digital Skills Training Program** set up with 20-30 computers along with a stipend for a local computer teacher in Kachin to help run the lab. The aim of the training center is to equip the students with digital skills to enable them to access the internet and digital resources to further their education. With the digital skills gained from the curriculum, the students will be able to rely on digital resources and digital communication to continue their studies during the pandemic and after. They will also be able to utilize the digital resources to further their careers.

Once this is set up at a central location (Mohnyin, Kachin), we are looking into building and delivering low cost personal computers. One of the Atutu initiatives has been researching and building low cost personal computers designed especially for educational purposes for the students who are off grid or are not able to access our Digital Skills Training Program. These machines will be built using low power components and entry level accessories.

The projected cost of running this initiative is presented in two parts. The initial startup cost is projected to be approximately K22,845,000 (\$16,922.22). This encompasses the cost of entry level computers for the Digital Skills Training Program as well as the low-cost personal computers for deployment. The ongoing cost of keeping the center running and supporting students is projected to be approximately K4,140,000 (\$3,066.67) per year.

We are looking to raise K26,985,000 (\$19,988.89) either in financial support or in-kind donations from organizations, businesses, and individuals.

Please see the following table for a detailed breakdown of the cost projections.



Estimated Cost Breakdown

Item	Unit Cost (MMK)	Quantity	Total Cost (MMK)	Unit Cost (USD)	Quantity	Total Cost (USD)
Computer Teacher Salary (monthly)	K75,000	12	K900,000	\$55.56	12	\$666.67
Transportation (Gas + Fees)	K50,000	12	K600,000	\$37.04	12	\$444.44
Electricity	K100,000	12	K1,200,000	\$74.07	12	\$888.89
Logistical Support (Personnel)	K120,000	12	K1,440,000	\$88.89	12	\$1,066.67
Entry Level Laptops	K600,000	25	K15,000,000	\$444.44	25	\$11,111.11
Raspberry Pi Model 4b	K71,000	30	K2,130,000	\$52.59	30	\$1,577.78
Keyboard + Mouse	K7,500	30	K225,000	\$5.56	30	\$166.67
Basic Tier Monitor	K180,000	30	K5,400,000	\$133.33	30	\$4,000.00
Cabling + Accessories	K3,000	30	K90,000	\$2.22	30	\$66.67
		Total	K26,985,000		Total	\$19,988.89

1. Please note that 1 USD is calculated as 1,350 MMK in this cost estimation.
2. The cost of the items below were confirmed locally.

Our Progress

We have found local donors and sponsors who have pledged to support the initiative. Throughout Kachin State and Myanmar, we have been gathering support to implement the proposed initiative. Individuals and businesses have been pledging donations or providing in-kind donations with respect to the Digital Skill Training Center.

We have a local teacher who can provide computer lessons at a discounted rate of K7,500 per month. We also have a local donor who agreed to sponsor the cost of electricity used by the program. Our primary partner, Thiri Gon Wai monastery, will be able to provide logistical support to the program as needed. We also have a few local donors who have agreed to sponsor the transportation cost of any equipment we need to receive or send.

Atutu will take responsibility for assembling and delivering materials for the educational personal computers in the second phase of the initiative. We are currently working to source the materials needed to deploy entry level Personal Computers.



That being said, **our primary and immediate need is to get the computer equipment on site, so that we can expand the current pilot to serve more students.** We estimate the cost of setting up a local computer lab with 25 computers would cost approximately K15,000,000 (\$11,111.11) based on the cost of entry level computers available for purchase in Kachin. So, we are looking for any donors who can provide in-kind donations or donate funds to purchase the equipment necessary.

Contact Information:

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to lhein@atutu.org, gmarimuthu@atutu.org, erichards@atutu.org, jchahal@atutu.org.