

•• Help the Blind •• Foundation



PIONEER IN HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED



India is now home to the world's largest number of blind people. Of the 3.7 crore people across the globe who are blind, over 1.5 crore are from India.

Technology, and the expanding digital world, has made it possible for people with visual impairment to

cross the boundaries of confinement and enter the mainstream. A visually impaired person can perform jobs across all cluster of careers including marketing, human services, business management and administration, health science, law, agriculture, and more.

HTBF steps into this area by providing them financial assistance for their university education and also skill training (**E-MET**) in select colleges to make them employable. **E-MET** Program is presently conducted by 21 Trainers in Bangalore, Chennai, Coimbatore, Delhi, Indore, Pune and Varanasi for 400 plus students studying in 17 colleges in these cities. The goal is to

empower the visually impaired by placing them in productive jobs.

E-MET Program

(Education, Mobility, Employability Training Program)

The objective of this 2-year program is skill training at the college itself in:

- Computer
- English Communication
- Mobility
- Analytical ability
- Interpersonal relationship

Curriculum

<u>Building Aspiration & Awareness</u> (2-day workshop)	<u>Building Fundamentals</u> (1 st Year)	<u>Building Employability</u> (2 nd Year)
Role of technology	Basic Computer	Advance Computer
Assistive devices	Basic Employability	Advance Employability
Careers	Life skills	Life skills
Private sector jobs	Mobility	Mobility
Higher education	English	English

Life Skills

- Setting up expectations
- Daily Living Skill
- Window shopping
- Peer teaching

- Analytical skills
- Job Simulation
- Training on Roles & Responsibilities
- Company Visits

Mobility Training

- Guide Technique – Narrow Passage, Stairways, Doorways
- Pre-cane skills – upper body, lower body, listening sound
- Outdoor Techniques
- Travel – Road Cross, Bus, Landmarks.
- Exploring new places – train travel, trekking
- Advance Technology – Electronic cane, Shoe

Online EMET Training:-

Harnessing technology during the Covid19 pandemic, we started online classes thru phone as well as thru Google Meet on Communicative English, Computer and Employability courses and we planned to continue to provide on-line as well as on-site training to the students in the coming years. Our efforts attracted media interest and we are grateful to all of them.

Currently 625 students are trained in 11 cities across the country in 45 colleges and universities.

About Help The Blind Foundation

Help the Blind Foundation (HTBF) is a registered Charitable Trust, established at Chennai in 2005 and has been functioning since 2010.

Our **vision** is to successfully elevate the economic status of the visually impaired students in India, thereby improving their image in the eyes of the society.

Our **mission** is to achieve our vision by providing visually impaired students in India access to higher education and enabling them to get jobs in today's modern economy.

We, therefore, provide financial support to meet the cost of tuition fees and hostel fees for college bound visually impaired students pursuing graduate course from reputed colleges in integrated education system and also provide skill training (**E-MET**).

Since 2010, the year of inception, provided financial support to around 7250 students and around 2500 students have graduated under our sponsorship programme and 418 students under our skill development program. For the academic Year 2021-22, HTBF has awarded financial sponsorships for education to the tune of Rs.288 lakhs to 2887 students in more than 225 colleges covering 14 States.

The foundation is being managed by a team of 8 Trustees and supported by 40+ volunteers on a voluntary basis.

For more information:

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