

## Women benefit from Implementation of Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services Gender and ICT Strategy

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Since August 2015, the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services (DTPS) has been hosting symposiums in various provinces to promote its Gender and ICT Strategy. One of the drivers for change is its offering of Digital Literacy programmes to women to afford them opportunities to leverage the use of ICT skills to seek gainful employment and formulate entrepreneurship thinking in their approach to employment.

Three workshops were hosted for women living in or in surrounding areas within Central Johannesburg, Bronkhorstspuit and Sunnyside (Tshwane). This newsletter item describes the training at Bronkhorstspuit where twenty-nine women from the Mali Martins Polokegong Centre attended training at the Nan Hua Buddhist Academy.



Nan Hua Buddhist Temple graciously allowed the DTPS use of their academy for the duration of the workshop

The Mali Martins Polokegong Centre is a community-based, non-profit organisation which focuses on providing care, support and community development services for abused women and children in the community. There is a 24 hour intake, with short-term shelter and meals for 25 abused women and children for a period of 3 to 6 months. In addition to support groups, a small crèche is available for women with little children and older children are integrated into the primary and secondary schools in the area. Economic empowerment programmes such as vegetable gardens, medical services as well as links to legal resources are provided.

SchoolNet's, Ms Omashani Naidoo facilitated the Intel® Learn Easy Steps Digital Literacy course which is part of the She Will Connect global initiative. The Easy Steps course covers initial confidence in the use of ICT and ensures that all participants learn and practice a multitude of basic skills. The course covers skills from holding a mouse (where needed) to managing budgets.



The Intel® Learn Easy Steps course covers the following:

**Module 1:** *Introducing Computers and Operating Systems*, includes the operating system and how to perform simple computer related tasks

**Module 2:** *Introducing Internet and Email* includes Internet searching and how to create, send and reply to emails

**Module 3:** *Introducing Word Processing* includes creating documents useful in daily life

**Module 4:** *Introducing Spreadsheets* includes the effective use of spreadsheets for manipulating data in daily life.

**Module 5:** *Introducing Multimedia* Includes creating presentations and sharing information with others.



“Thank you for the training to the ladies which was held last week. They were excited, interested and grateful for the opportunity. As an organisation we would like to thank you for empowering the women. It is an honour to have people like you who think of us. Thank you.” *Rudo Mahusa* (Mali Martins Manager).

This group of women remain positive despite their circumstance and continue their dreams of being and doing more for themselves, their children and their community. SchoolNet was honoured to have helped these women grow their pool of skills.

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