



CITY & GUILDS  
CENTRE FOR SKILLS  
DEVELOPMENT

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Name of project	Hole-in-the-wall
Location	India (and Uganda)
Organisation leading the project	Hole-in-the-wall Education Ltd

### Project purpose

Hole-in-the-wall is an Indian initiative that provides underprivileged children and their communities' freely available access to computer learning centres. The computers are housed in self contained robust units that are designed with ease of use in mind.

### Project approach

Hole-in-the-wall is the brainchild of Dr. Sugata Mitra, Chief Scientist at NIIT (National Institute of Information Technology). Dr Mitra developed the project in response to his hypothesis that unsupervised learning utilising computers could greatly aid in the education of impoverished children in India.

The learning centres consist of a standard desktop computer that is loaded with software to teach the children Hindi or their native dialect, mathematics and general learning. The computers are enclosed in sealed units made from high impact plastics that can withstand adverse weather conditions. They are constructed to be tamper-proof which deters the possible theft of components.

The first learning station was tested in a slum in Kalkaji, New Delhi, in 1999. In 2001, after successful trials, the Government of Delhi set up 30 further stations in a resettlement colony. Currently, over one hundred centres are in operation across rural India, and Hole-in-the-wall is expanding operations into Cambodia and Uganda.

### Key benefits and impact

- The ability to provide remote and underprivileged communities access to previously unavailable ICT resources
- Children are becoming literate and gaining ICT skills
- Over one hundred computers are available across India

For more information, please visit <http://www.hole-in-the-wall.com/>