Pravartak Asha Rural Technology Centre (RTCs) aims to spread the knowledge of technology and the benefits that come from it to rural areas of Tamil Nadu. Technology affects almost every aspect of life in today’s world. Access to healthcare, paying for services, information about farming, and travelling using maps are all made easier with technology. However, access to quality technical education is sadly lacking in our villages since personal technical resources are expensive, and there is a dearth of technical skills in these villages to impart knowledge. RTCs aim to address this problem by providing high-quality education in technology for free to middle, high and higher secondary school students.

In addition to offering basic digital literacy and programming courses at partnering higher secondary schools, the RTCs will offer more advanced courses in web development, animation, programming hardware devices through sensors and controllers, etc. Through these courses, the students will learn to use new technologies without any fear and with confidence. They will also provide the children with a space where they can experience new technologies with instruction and guidance from teachers. It will develop their computational thinking and design thinking skills which will help them in all their other endeavours and provide them with an opportunity to express and enhance their creativity by involving them in interesting projects.

We are currently running 5 centres. Four of them are in villages of Thiruvallur district, and there is one in Kayathat in Thoothukudi District. These cater to about 2000 children in various higher secondary schools and about 400 children who come on a regular basis to the centres. We hope to start more in the coming months.