

# IT firm adopts 3 civic schools

More than 1,000 poor schoolchildren will benefit from the move by Gateway Technolabs



**BRIDGING THE GAP:** Gateway Technolabs also organised a computer workshop for parents of its employees on Sunday

DHWANI PATHAK AND JYOTI JHA

More than 1,000 poor schoolchildren can now look forward to better education and amenities, thanks to an Ahmedabad-based IT company. The firm, Gateway Technolabs Pvt Ltd, has 'adopted' three schools run by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC).

The move is part of the company's corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives. "We have adopted the schools because we want to support students who don't get many opportunities," the managing director of Gateway Technolabs, Niraj Gemavat, told *Mirror*.

Two of the schools adopted by the company — one of the leading IT firms in Gujarat — are located in Nava Wadaj. The third is situated in Ellisbridge. Recently, the company distributed notebooks and other stationery among students of classes I to VII.

Gemavat said that the company's support to the three civic schools would not be limited to only stationery. "In the next phase, we plan to improve the schools' infrastructure and provide healthy food to their students. We also plan to provide books to the schools' libraries," he said.

Gateway Technolabs, Gemavat said, would adopt more schools in future and also provide them financial aid. On why the company chose to support civic



The company had recently distributed notebooks and other stationery among students of classes I to VII in municipal schools

schools, he said: "We support several children hailing from poor families. Adopting civic schools is one of the best ways to reach out to more such children," he said.

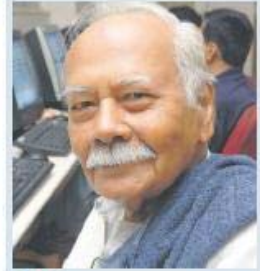
Meanwhile, in another interesting initiative, the company organised a computer workshop for parents of its employees on Sunday. "We want to bridge the technological divide between our employees and their parents," Gateway's HR head, Chandrakant Shukla, said.

The vice-president of company's corporate affairs, Sandeep Kulka-

mi, said that members part of the firm's top-level management conducted Sunday's workshop. "We have the necessary infrastructure to increase computer literacy (among the elderly)," he said.

The mother of an employee of Gateway Technolabs said that the workshop was quite informative.

"I used a computer for the first time today (Sunday)," Bhanumati Shukla, 60, said. "It's amazing how much work a person can do by using a small device such as a mouse."



"I am keen to learn more computer programs. No computers were around when I was young. Today, technology is a lot more accessible"

—Yashwant Mehta, writer and parent of an employee

Shukla said that she wanted to learn to use computer applications like paint and word. Yashwant Mehta (72), whose son works at the company, said that he, too, was keen to learn more computer programs.

"No computers were around when I was young. Today, technology is a lot more accessible," Mehta said.

His 68-year-old wife, Devi, said that she had learnt how to view her granddaughter's pictures online.