

Bytes of dreams and confidence

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Bangalore: In a swank IT company campus, IIT graduates tell underprivileged children how a computer works. Not that the children have never seen a computer but the techies from some of the premier technology institutes in the country are telling them to have a dream and how to go about pursuing it.

And it was done in style. For nearly three hours on Friday, 23 children were transported to a different world — the information technology world. From teaching them how to use the USB and how they could store their school textbooks on the computer to explaining how the memory chip works on a PC, the techies opened up a new world for the children.

As part of its Global Community Involvement Month - Dell's worldwide programme to sensitise its employees on community development, children were given a first-hand experience on IT revolution, that has swept India and Bangalore in specific.

The most interesting part was the unique way in which the team showed how video-conferencing works, which exposed the children to how



SPREADING KNOWLEDGE: Children learn how a computer works as part of Dell's Global Community Involvement Month

amazing technology works. If IT majors did video-conferencing between countries, the children did it by simply sitting on two different floors on the Dell campus.

The children from Parikrma Humanity Foundation were divided into two groups, while one

group was put on the fifth floor, the second group were seated on the fourth-floor. And they interacted, conducted a full-fledged quiz, had arguments over correct and wrong answers, little realising that they were sitting in the same building!

Dreams are dreams, no matter the economic status of a child.

When the 11-year olds were asked what they wanted to be when they grew up, every child had clearly drawn up their life's goals. From doctor to software engineer to teacher, their career was clearly cut-out.

And the man behind the initiative — Vivek Mansingh, country head, R&D Centre at Dell believes that the best gift that anyone can give a child is to dream. "Everytime I conduct this initiative - 'Give a child a dream', I send them back with a dream. Four years ago, when I

interacted with poor children, I realised that the less fortunate children must be given four things for them to take wings - a dream, confidence, direction and a role model," he told TOI.

And that's what Dell did.

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