Program your {SUCCESS}

Local leadership values coding

My Technological Initiative, Girls-Do-Code, is directly linked to the vision the leader of Dubai HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashed Al Maktoum. UAE is my home-country and I am proud of this vision set by the leader of Dubai and my contribution to the same.

Girls-Do-Code has been welcomed by my community, my school, my family and internationally.

I am proud to be creating an impact even if one student at a time, but one life inspired at a time satisfies me.

As a student who keeps on top of her academics and as a singer who participates in competitions globally, I still love technology and enjoy giving back to those around me anyway I can.

Here I have attached proof of my work which is accepted locally and internationally and impact it has had.

I first got introduced to the work and the mission of Her highness Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak when I was 11 years old at Jumeriah College. I was nominated for my work for the prestigious Sheikha Fatima Award at my school and was the youngest candidate to reach the final round.

I was inspired by her philosophy and happy that my initiative supports her vision for women in education.

Girls Do Code GDC

www.girlsdocode.net

Program your {SUCCESS}

My Objective	To excite and educate girls for the field of technology!
My Idea	The world needs more women technologists and **Girls Do Code** (GDC) aims to help achieve this very objective by inspiring young girls to further develop their interest in computer coding. A GO-TO place for free resources, advice for girls to learn basics and advanced coding that will get them excited and prove that Girls Do Code!
What inspired me?	1. Sheikh Mohammed's quote in 2018: "Coding is the Language of the future" 2. Finding friends who are girls as crazy about technology as me was a challenge and during covid I used my time to learn from online tools 3. I read that women in technology used to be 41% in 1980s but it is now only 26% ☹
My Initiative	I have created GDC with 4 main pillars to reach out to not only girls who would be eager to learn. Shared the pillars in the next slide

©

Goals

Girls Do Code Initiative achieves many goals

Tech is Fun

My main goal is to get more girls interested in the field of technology and that technology is a lot of FUN!

Thinking skills

Coding helps develop a logical thinking ability. My aim is to help students develop a structured thinking approach which will also help them in other subjects such as maths.

Problem solving skills

Coding skills help develop problem solving abilities as students think, solve and create their codes. This ability is a life skill.

Helping Others

While ‘Girls Do Code’ aimed at getting more girls in technology, being part of ‘Code To Care’ as a volunteer gives students and opportunity to help others and be instrumental to their success

Pillars of Girls Do Code

GirlsDoCode ©

Leverage Online Platform

- **Free Online Classes** – created a 10 sessions curriculum for students for both Scratch and Python
  Taught more than 25 students across India, UK, UAE, KSA
- **Free Online Workshops** – 1 or 2 day sessions to introduce coding
- **Online Free tutorials** Scratch and Python on youtube (995 views) and on www.girlsdocode.net

Face to Face sessions

- **F2F classes** in my community and to other children (boys & girls) in UAE.
- **School classes:** Started an Extra Curricular Activity Class in my school. I spend my lunch time once a week to teach girls python or help clarify all their doubts and concerns
- **Train the trainer:** Created a course for student teachers to teach other students and create wider impact

Creating Interest

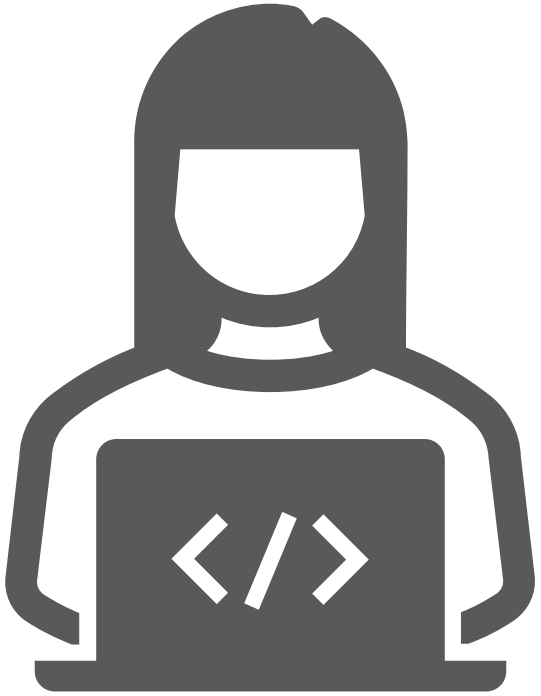
- **Instagram posts on:**
  -Female leaders in tech world
  -Tips & Tricks
  -Fun Tech Memes
- **Coding competitions:**
  -Organized **the 1st Inter-school coding competition** in Dubai
  -Getting students to participate in online coding competitions
  -Organized fun coding competitions
- **Innovation club @ School:** Created a competition for school, the website and other initiatives

Community Service

In 2020 during covid I started teaching at an NGO through zoom. At school I launched a volunteer group in 2022 to teach more students:

- **Code 2 Care**
  -Team of 5 volunteers teaching children at an NGO in India
  -Have taught 40+ students coding
  -**Awarded the prestigious Diana** Award for my initiative
  -Made it to final round of Hamdan Awards
  - Made it to final round of Global Youth Awards, UK

Target Audience- Where and How I will reach them?



Girls @ School	Girls at school from Year 7 to Year 10	-Classes during lunch -Innovation club -Focus on Python
Girls in wider community	Girls in my community, family & friends	Online or face to face classes on Scratch/Python/Wix/Animation
Underprivileged Children	Girls & Boys at an NGO in India focused on Education	-Dedicate Friday Afternoon for classes on Scratch/Python -Code to Care volunteer group for NGO
Social Media Followers	Wider Social Media participants	Fun and interesting posts to get people interested in technology

GirlsDoCode ©

My Idea, My Journey and My Achievement

2020

- I created 10 class curriculum
- I made Girlsdocode.net
- I started teaching scratch in my community and family during lockdown
- I started teaching at NGO in India from September ’20

2021

- I created Code to Care – volunteer group created
- I trained them with the train the trainer slides that I made
- Launched my Instagram channel

2022

- Introduced Python programing course
- Started ECA in School to teach other students

2023

- Recognized with the Diana Award for Code to Care initiative
- Added more volunteers to Code to Care
- Innovation club competition- Hackathon & website

2024 -25

- Organized the first Inter-School Coding competition for Girls- 69 students across 9 school participated

GirlsDoCode ©

Future Goals & Plans for GDC

I set out 6 main goals under 3 areas for my initiative to ensure that it is simple and achievable

Local Reach	1. To excite and educate girls globally either directly through my classes/tutorials or indirectly through my social media. To educate 100 students by 2027 (60 done so far) 2. To extend 'Girls Do Code' to at least 2 other schools and empower more students as trainers to teach girls at their schools.
Online Activation	3. To add free tutorials for atleast 1 more coding language on my website and youtube. 4. To create an annual coding competition amongst schools for girls in UAE and then the Region
Community Service	5. To reach out to more NGOs across the globe to offer 'Code To Core' so that we can increase our reach and help more children 6. To create a team of volunteers that will continue teaching the NGO students as part of Code to Care program even after I complete my school

Goals Plan

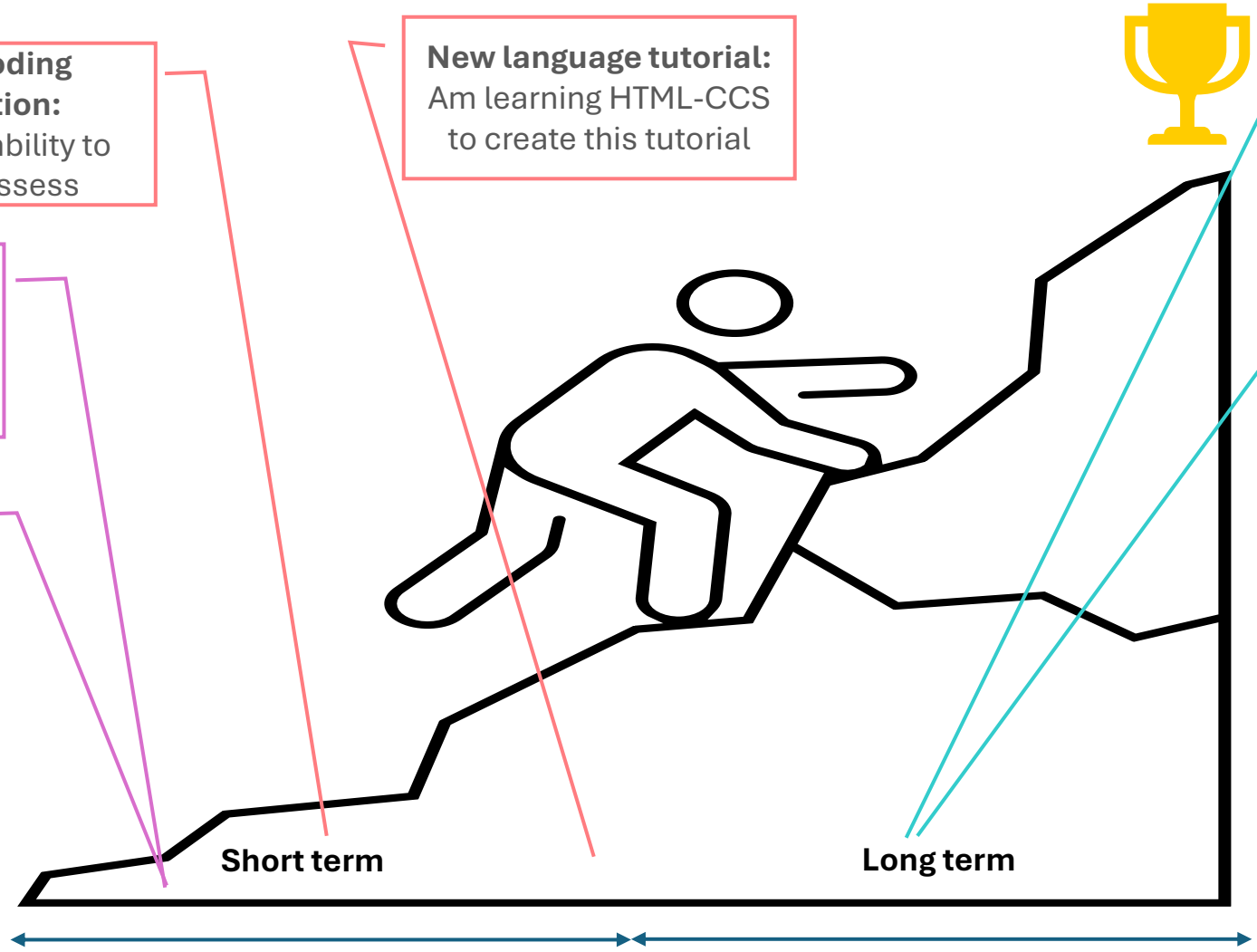
All 6 goals are different as they focus on not only on school students but also underprivileged students. In addition to this I want to ensure there are variety of activities with competitions and varying tutorials. The goals are also setting aims for short term and long-term impact

Annual Coding Competition: Develop my ability to organize, assess

New language tutorial: Am learning HTML-CCS to create this tutorial

Get 2 more schools enrolled onto 'Girls Do Code' (GDC): Reaching out to schools and also my head of year for support

Recruitment of more volunteers to teach to build a bigger task force: On Going



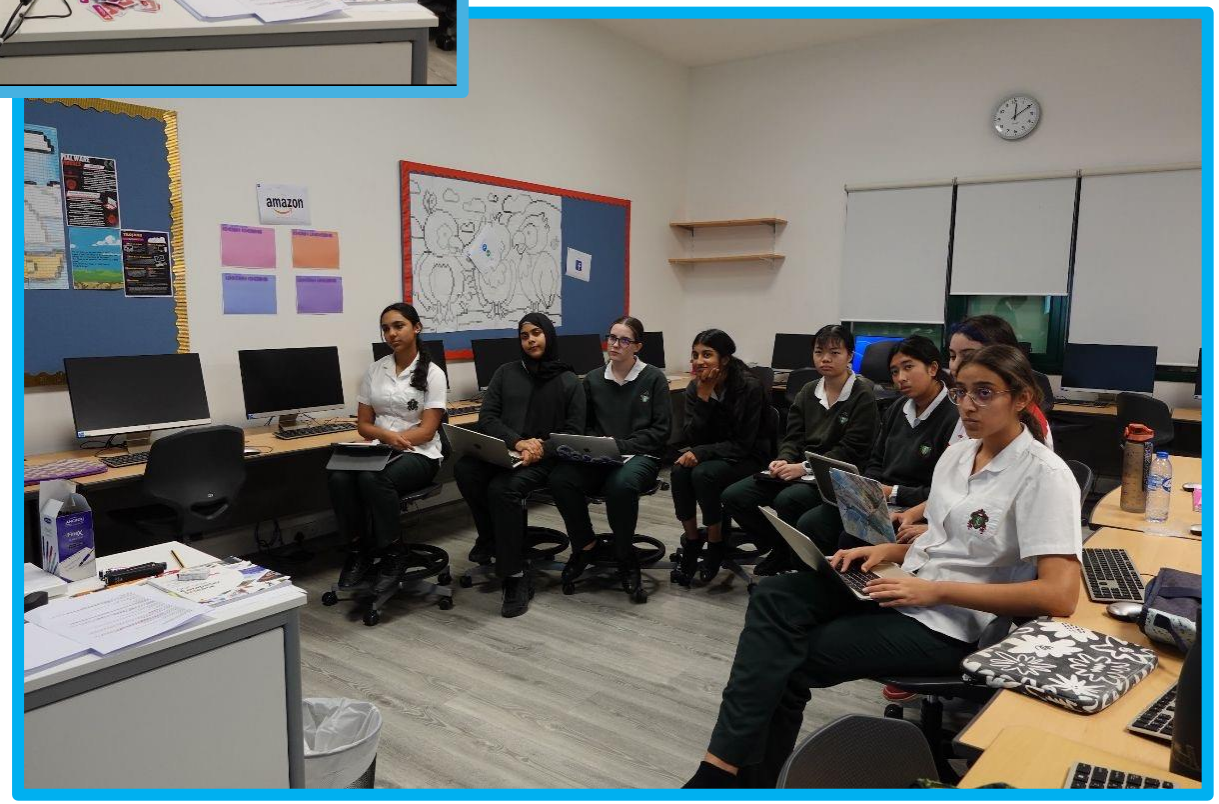
Enroll a new NGO to teach more students in need: trying to engage different NGOs

Create a team to carry on GDC once I leave school

Girls @ School

A python teaching session during lunch time

GirlsDoCode ©



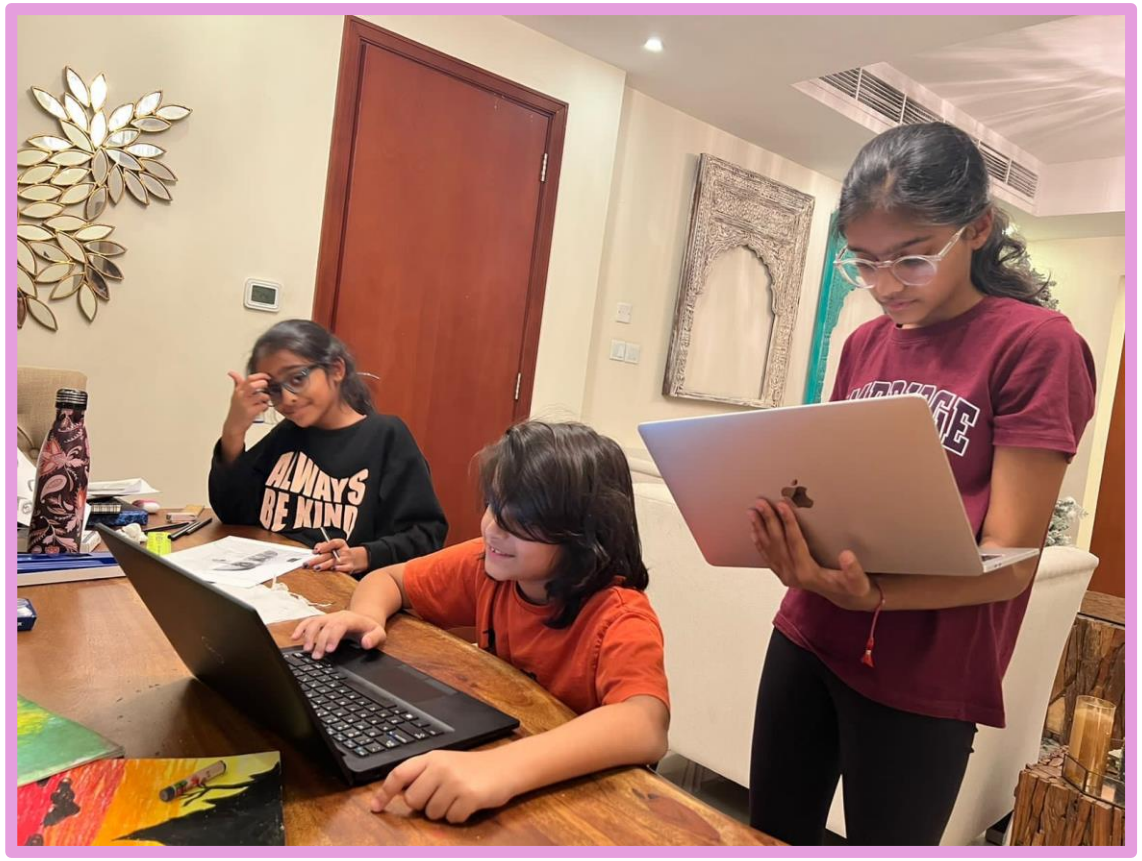
First Inter-School Coding Competition for Girls

9 Schools
69 girls participated

Girls in wider community

Online sessions through zoom and Face to Face

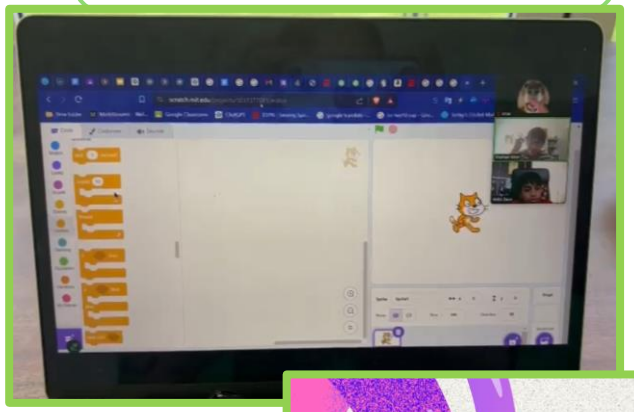
GirlsDoCode ©

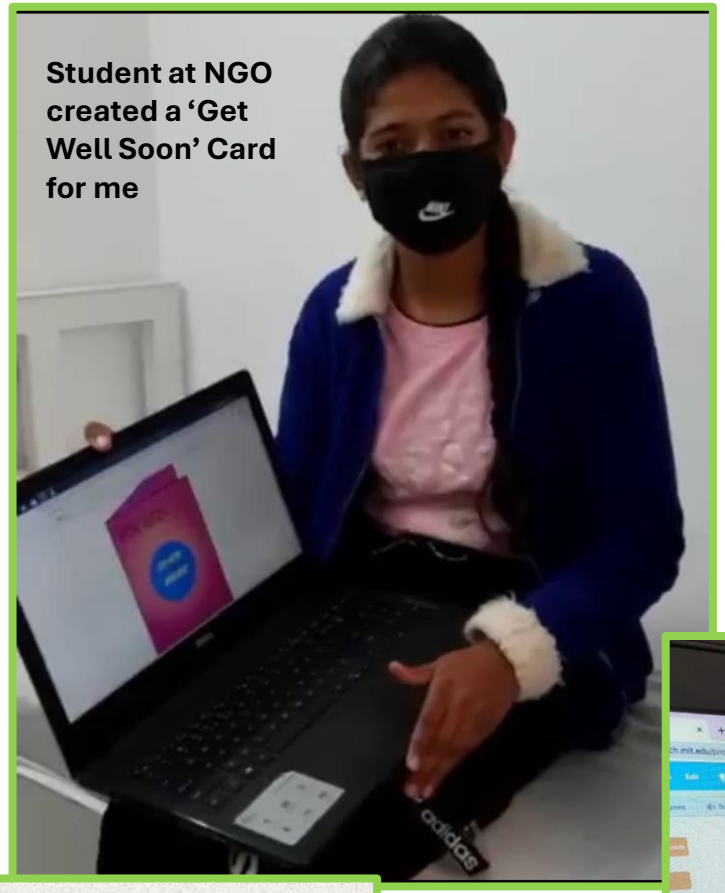


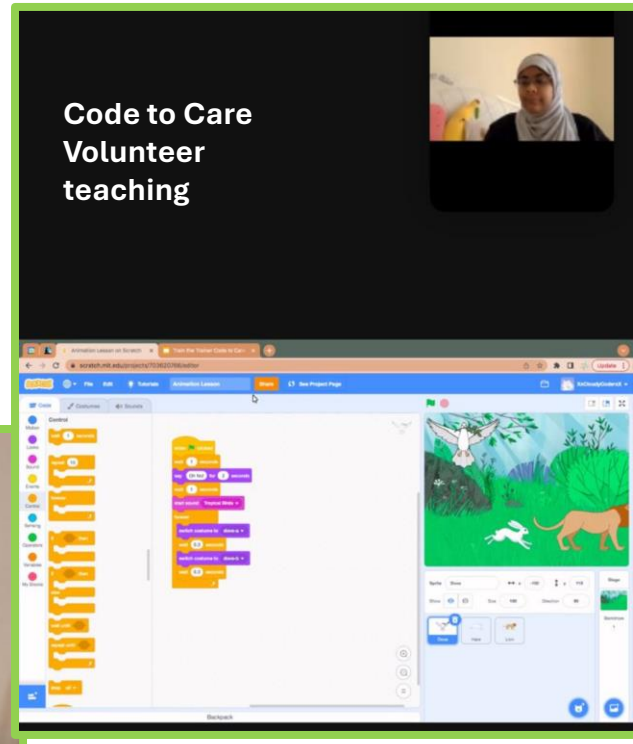
Underprivileged Children

Girls & Boys at an NGO in India focused on Education

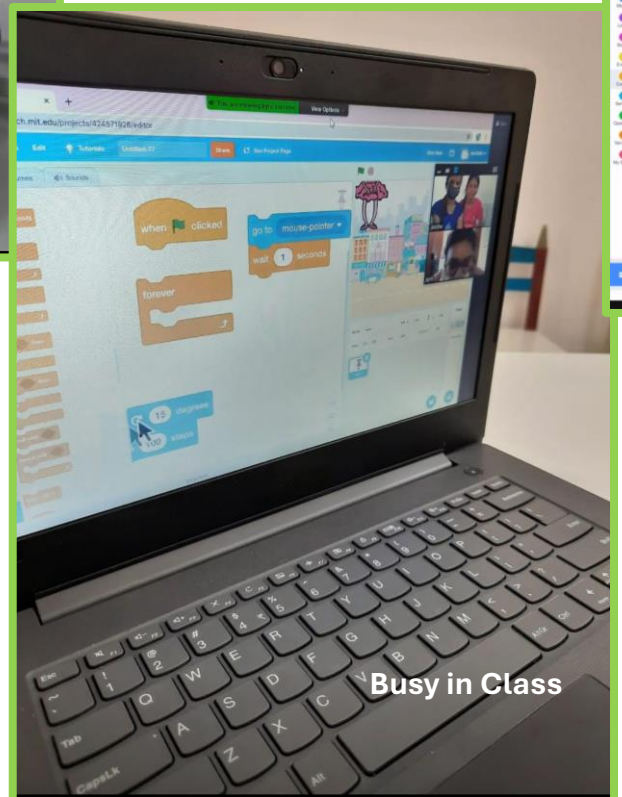
GirlsDoCode ©



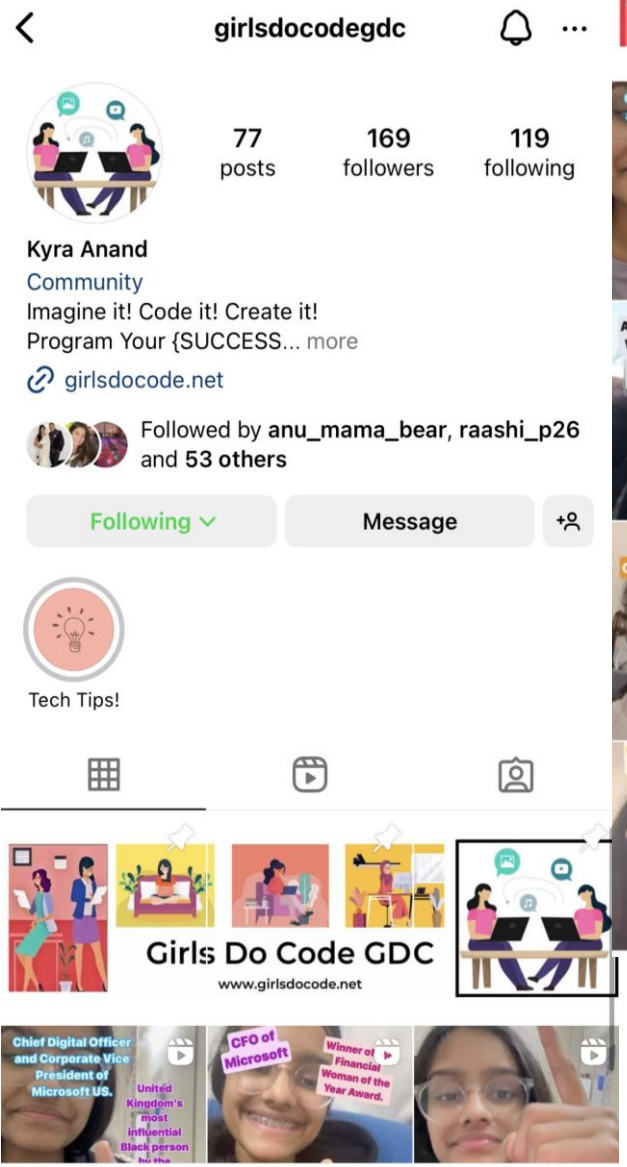


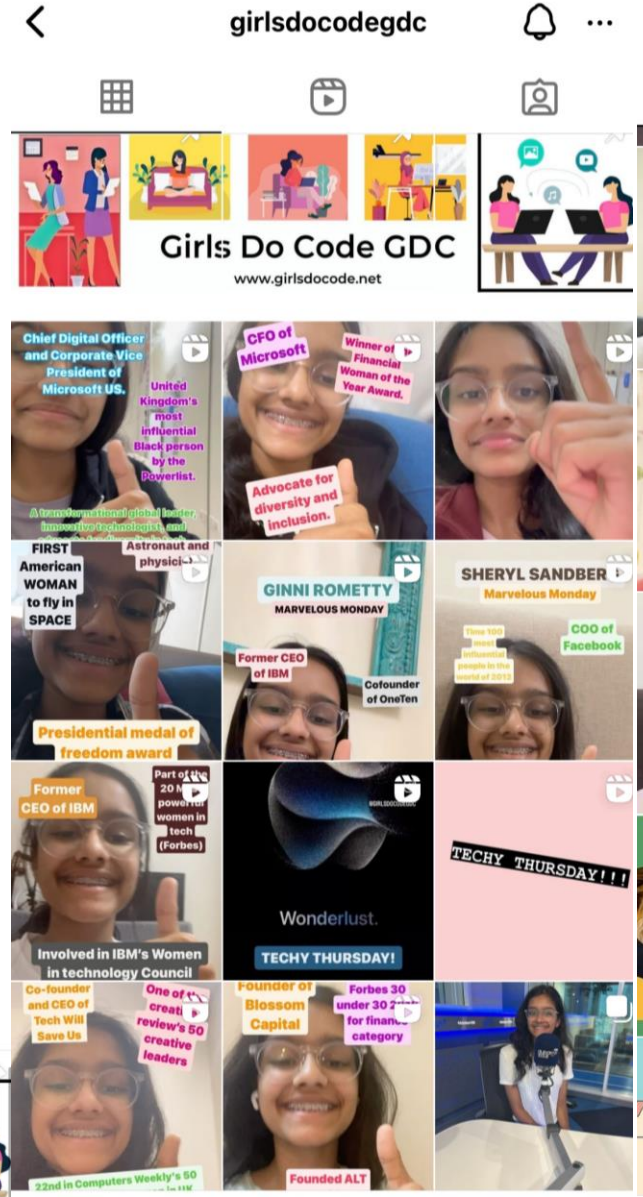


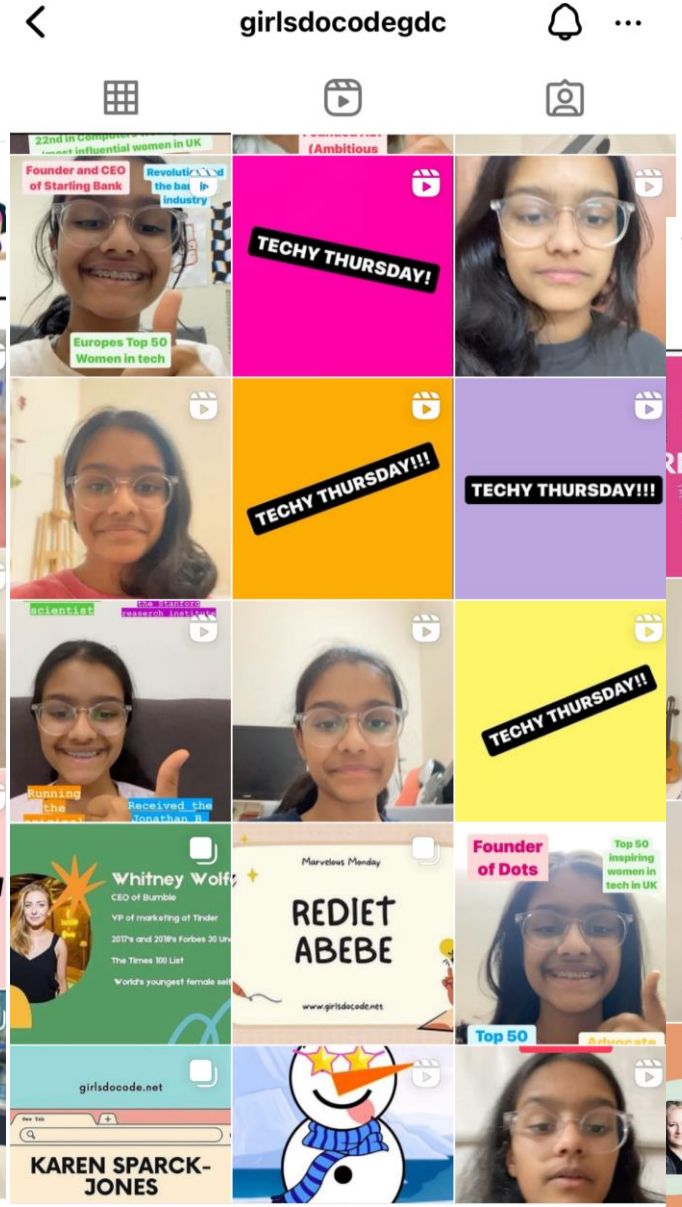
Certificate for NGO children on completion. Makes them proud of themselves.

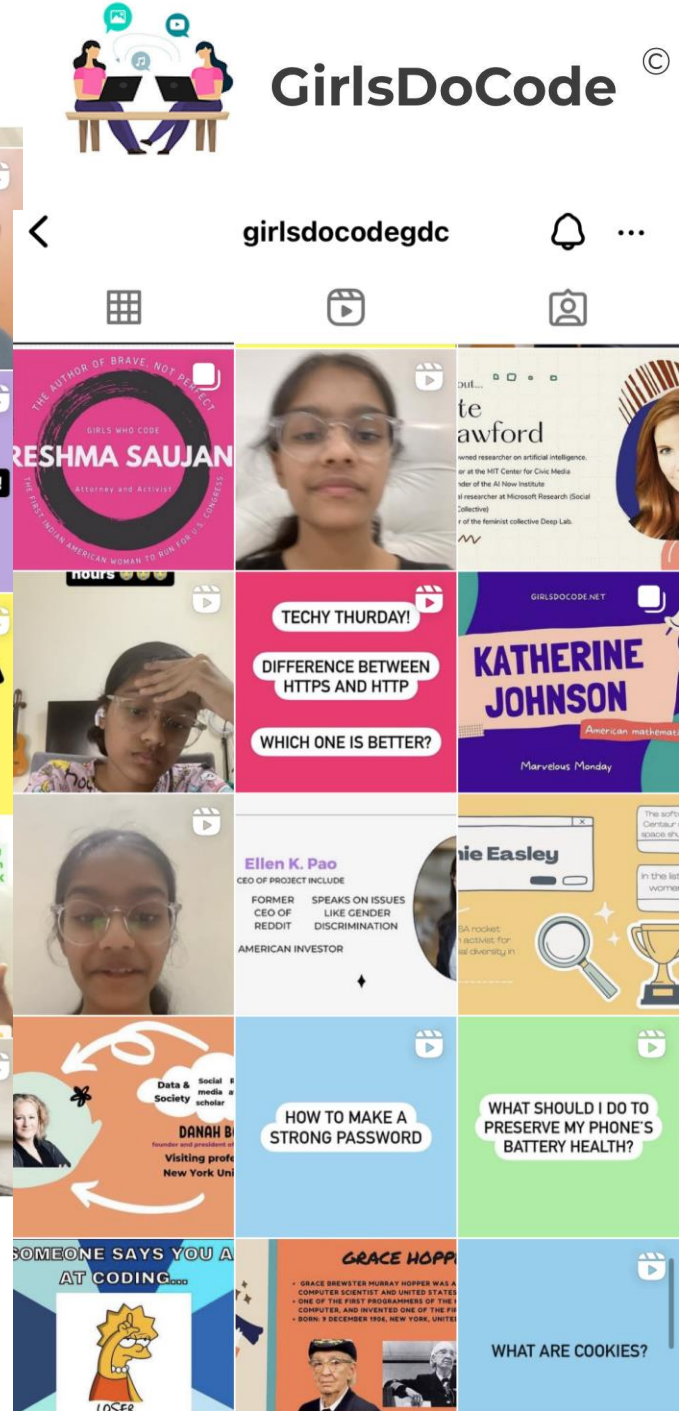


Social Media Followers

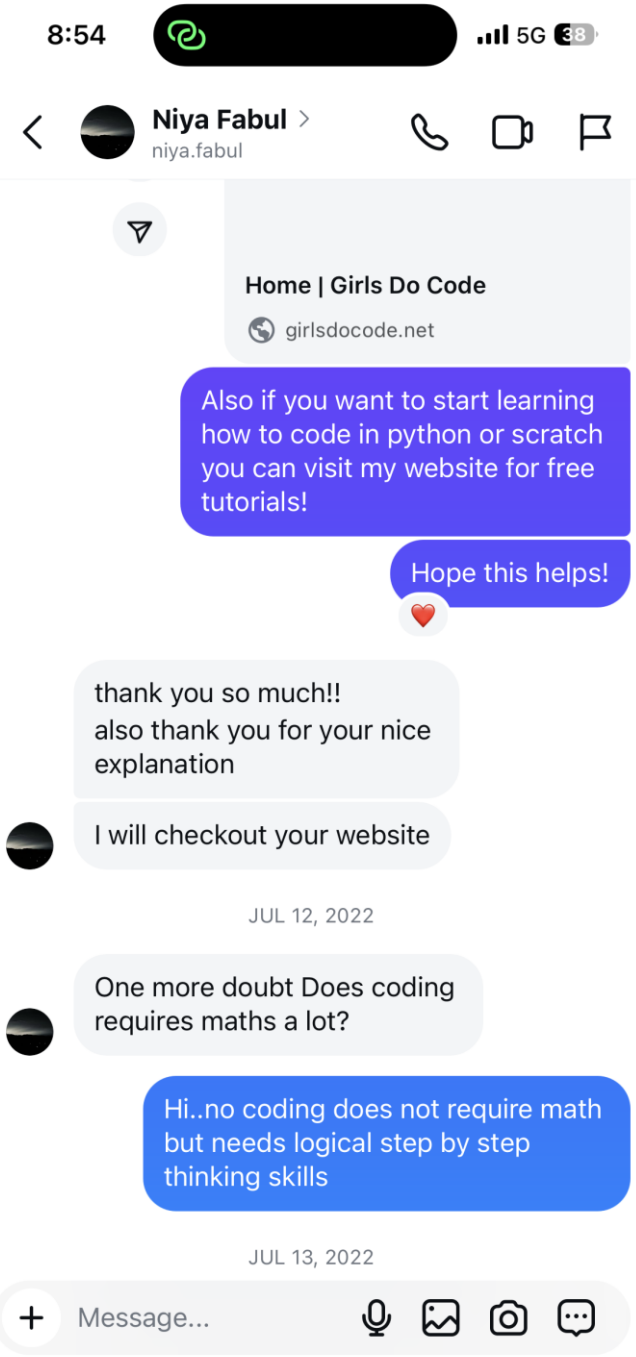


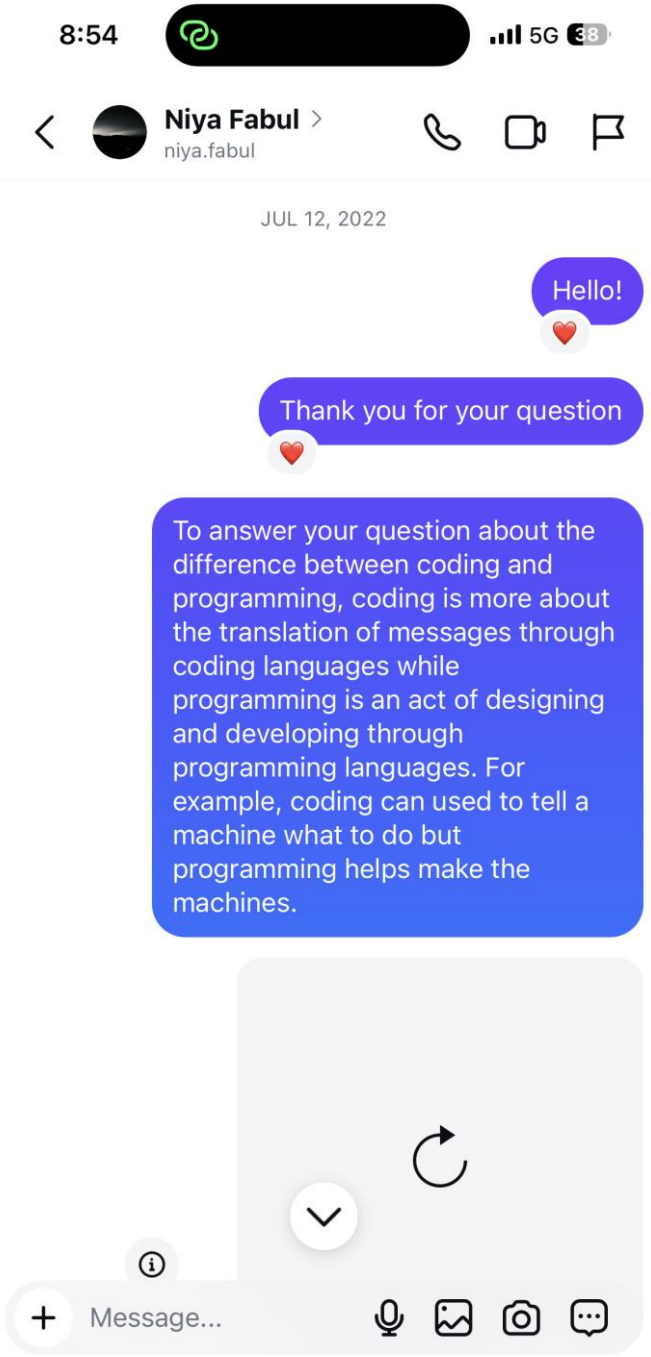






Social Media Followers Answering queries like these





GirlsDoCode ©

Competitions

Competition at the NGO I teach:

Whichever student was willing to participate were given a chance to make a Diwali Animation. Winners of the competition in the photo attached

The winners of the competition were so excited to win.

Recognition for my Initiative

I was awarded the prestigious Diana Awards for my work with Code To Care and Girls Do Code.

I have been teaching at the NGO since 2010 to more than 40 students. Letter of recommendations from Harmony House attached

- News paper coverage
- Radio interview

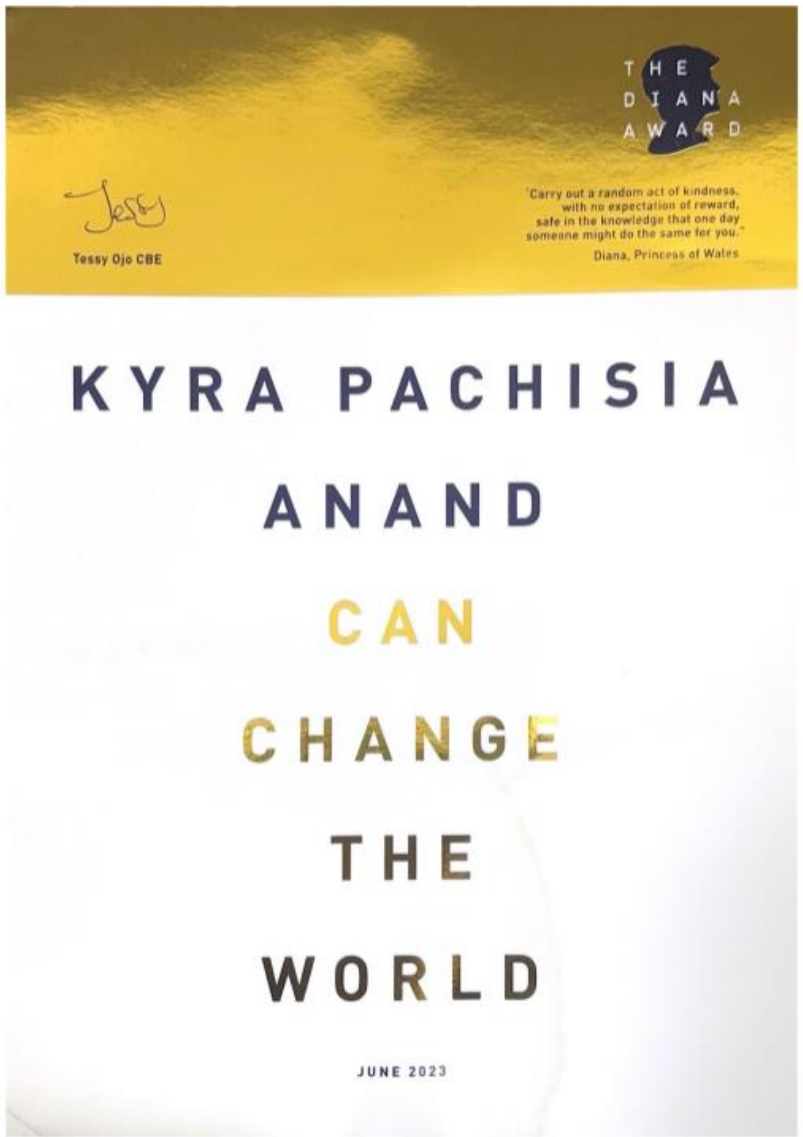
Diana Award

THE DIANA AWARD

"YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE THE WORLD"

2023
DIANA AWARD
RECIPIENT

#2023DianaAwards



GirlsDoCode ©

NGO
Harmony House recommendation

=

HARMONY HOUSE

Registered Office: Shop No. – 128, Hog Market, Rajendra Place, New Delhi – 110008
Admin and Work Place: House# 109, Sector 17A, Gurgaon
Phone: 0124-4017616/15

Letter of Volunteering

This letter acknowledges and commends Kyra for her exceptional volunteer work at Harmony House, a daycare shelter for underprivileged children, where she taught coding to girls. Kyra's dedication and innovative teaching methods have significantly contributed to our mission of providing quality education and skills development to children in need.

Her coding lessons have empowered our students with valuable technical skills, inspiring confidence and opening new opportunities for their future. Kyra's work aligns with Harmony House's philosophy of using education as a tool to break the cycle of poverty and foster a love for learning.

We are deeply grateful for Kyra's time and effort, which have made a lasting positive impact on our students.

Warm Regards,

School
Letter of recommendation from Head of year

JUMEIRAH COLLEGE

12 June 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

Kyra Anand, a Year 10 student at Jumeirah College exemplifies our core values in every aspect of her life. Kyra's dedication to making a meaningful difference is evident in her numerous contributions both within and beyond our college community.

Kyra's commitment to humanitarian causes was prominently displayed when she organised events to provide donations to those affected by the Turkey and Syria earthquake in February 2023. Her leadership and organisational skills ensured the success of these events. Furthermore, Kyra co-coordinated a local beach clean-up through an environmental initiative she created with her younger sister. This initiative raised awareness about the importance of environmental conservation.

Kyra has represented Jumeirah College in various cultural and artistic endeavors. She performed at the WSO charity concert and participated in the Young Musician of the Gulf competition in Bahrain, showcasing her musical talents and dedication. Additionally, she played a crucial role as assistant director and performer in our school production of "Grease," where her leadership and creative abilities were evident.

Kyra has shown remarkable initiative and vision. She founded the "Code to Care" initiative, which aims to inspire and educate girls in the field of technology. Through this program, Kyra has successfully taught 40 children worldwide, offering tutorials, classes, and workshops. Her efforts in promoting technology education and gender equality in this field are truly commendable.

Kyra's achievements have been recognised through various accolades. She was nominated as a GEMS Global Ambassador and served as a keynote speaker at EduZummit on the topic of 'Sustainability' in September 2023, highlighting her role as a young leader and advocate for change.

GEMS EDUCATION
PO Box 74856
Dubai, United Arab Emirates
T +971 (0)4 395 5524 | F +971 (0) 395 4586
LinkedIn.com/company/gems-education
@GEMS_ME
gemseducation.com

JUMEIRAH COLLEGE

Kyra's excellence has been consistently acknowledged through awards and commendations at Jumeirah College. She received the Head of Year Award in Year 8 and the Principal's Award in Year 9. She has also been the recipient of the Principal's Commendation letter in both Year 8 and Year 9, highlighting her consistent academic and extracurricular excellence.

Kyra is an exceptional student whose contributions to Jumeirah College and the broader community are outstanding. Her dedication, leadership, and drive to make a positive impact make her an exemplary applicant.

John Woolcock

Head of Year 10.

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GEMS EDUCATION
PO Box 74856
Dubai, United Arab Emirates
T +971 (0)4 395 5524 | F +971 (0) 395 4586
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School

Letter of recommendation from Head of Computer Science, ICT & Robotics (Expert): Mr.Dela Cruz

JUMEIRAH COLLEGE

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to highly recommend Kyra, a distinguished member of our Innovation Team's technology solutions division, for her exemplary contributions in developing innovative solutions for school-related issues. Kyra has consistently demonstrated a unique blend of creativity, technical expertise, and a strong commitment to enhancing the educational experience for students.

One of Kyra's most notable projects has been her work on digital literacy solutions aimed at younger students. Recognising the growing importance of digital skills in today's world, Kyra developed a comprehensive program designed to foster digital literacy among students joining Jumeirah College in Year 7 next year. Her initiative included interactive learning modules using video tutorials that will make learning both fun and effective.

Kyra's approach to digital literacy is particularly commendable. She understands the diverse needs of young learners and tailors her solutions to be age-appropriate and accessible. Her digital literacy program not only improves students' technical skills but also empowers them to navigate the digital world safely and responsibly.

In addition to her technical prowess, Kyra is an exceptional team player. She collaborates effectively with her teachers and peers, shares her knowledge generously, and always steps up to tackle challenging problems. Her ability to think outside the box and develop innovative solutions has been an invaluable asset to our team.

Kyra's dedication to improving education through technology is evident in every project she undertakes. A good example of this is the extracurricular activity she leads, "Girls Do Code," where she teaches young girls how to program solutions using Python.

Her work has not only enhanced digital literacy and programming skills but has also inspired other initiatives aimed at integrating technology into the classroom in meaningful ways. She has a natural ability to identify problems and create solutions that are both practical and innovative.

I have no doubt that Kyra will continue to excel and make significant contributions to her community. Her passion for technology and education, coupled with her exceptional skills and collaborative spirit, make her an outstanding student, who deserves to be considered for this award.

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JUMEIRAH COLLEGE

PO Box 74856, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
+971 (0)4 395 5524 / 395 4950 +971 (0)4 395 4586
gemsjc.com
gemseducation.com
linkedin.com/company/gems-education
@GEMS_ME

Please feel free to contact me if you need any further information.

Sincerely,

JUMEIRAH COLLEGE

Mr. Genesco Dela Cruz
Head of ICT, Computer Science & Robotics
Innovation Coordinator

Dubai - U.A.E.
JUMEIRAH COLLEGE

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PO Box 74856, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
+971 (0)4 395 5524 / 395 4950 +971 (0)4 395 4586
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School Shortlist for the prestigious Sheikha Fatima Award at Jumeirah College

JUMEIRAH COLLEGE

3 November 2021

Kyra Anand
8F1

Dear Kyra

Thank you for submitting your application for the **Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak Award for Excellence 2021.**

On this occasion you have not been successful; however, your application was of an impressive standard and consequently secured you a place on the short-list. By reaching the interview stage you are evidently placed amongst an elite group of female students at the College and we were delighted to be able to explore more of your successes, attributes, motivations and ambitious future plans.

With only one award, it is inevitable that most candidates will be disappointed by the outcome but please be assured that it was a significant challenge for the interview panel to reach a decision due to the high calibre of young ladies we are privileged to work with at the College.

We are very proud of all that you have achieved and of your significant and positive contributions to date. We hope that you are further encouraged through this process to embrace all opportunities to shape our world and continue to be such a fantastic role model to your peers and our community.

For students in Year 12, we wish you all the best in your careers beyond Jumeirah College and trust that you take with you the principles of the Sheikha Fatima Award into all facets of our future challenges and adventures. For students in Year 7-12, you do have further opportunities to apply for this award again next year, and indeed we would encourage you to do this. You will be offered the opportunity to seek face to face feedback on your application from a member of the panel following the announcement. I urge you to seek this feedback; through which you can learn what separated your application from that of the successful winner, to add further strength to your application for next year.

Through the process this year and last, the panel noted that the most significant factors in the selection process where; what actions have been taken to address environmental concerns (as opposed to things you would plan to do) how much personal initiative has been taken to make a difference to the environment (beyond opportunities presented by the College); what impact are your actions having on addressing issues of major concern for H.H Sheikha Fatima, such as environmental and social responsibility and women's educations, rights and voices. We hope to see as many of you as possible applying again next year and demonstrating the impact of the feedback you have built on from this year.

Success is not winning every time, but learning from feedback and growing to be the best version of ourselves. We look forward to seeing what you will achieve in the coming months.

Yours faithfully,

Marc Morris
Principal

Dubai - U.A.E.
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PO Box 74856
Dubai, United Arab Emirates
T +971 (0)4 395 5524 | F +971 (0) 395 4586

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TOP SCHOOL AWARDS

GirlsDoCode ©

Local Media

Newspaper: National Newspaper: [Dubai teenager wins Diana Award for helping girls to learn coding | The National (thenationalnews.com)]

The National

The National UAE

Dubai teenager wins Diana Award for helping girls to learn coding

Kyra Anand is one of 20 to win prestigious award established in memory of Princess Diana

Kyra Anand, right, learnt coding by watching YouTube videos. Photo: Cherry Pachisia

Ali Al Shouk
06 July, 2023

A Dubai teenager who has inspired girls in the UAE and India to learn coding has been honoured with the prestigious Diana Award.

Kyra Anand, 13, was one of 20 pupils in the UAE who were honoured for their outstanding social and humanitarian contributions in their daily life to create and sustain positive change.

The Diana Award, established in memory of Princess Diana, celebrates young individuals who go above and beyond in their efforts to create positive change in their communities.

This honour is bestowed upon young people who embody Princess Diana's values of

This honour is bestowed upon young people who embody Princess Diana's values of compassion, kindness and service to others.

Kyra, an Indian pupil at Jumeirah College, was 10 when she learnt Scratch and Python coding languages by watching videos on YouTube.

She started the initiative Girls Do Code to teach girls coding languages locally, which has grown to educating pupils in India through a non-government organisation.

"I have a passion for technology and gained knowledge of coding during Covid-19 lockdown. I wanted to teach and help people about coding languages," Kyra told *The National*.

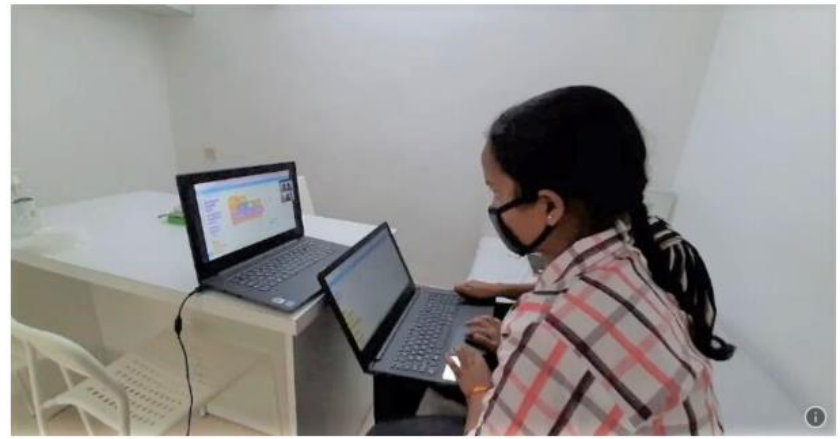
"I started teaching girls in the UAE and then at an NGO in India. I believe that coding is a life skill which develops logical, structured thinking that can help everyone."

Recognising the digital divide faced by students in India, especially in underprivileged communities, Kyra decided to take matters into her own hands with help from Harmony House, a charitable organisation for street children in India.

"I noticed the lack of resources and opportunities for young students to learn coding in India and decided to make a difference," she added.

Her mother told her about Harmony House, which helps underprivileged children, and she dedicated part of her time with Girls Do Code to teach them coding.

"Despite the physical distance between the UAE and India, I used the power of technology to teach coding to students in India via Zoom," Kyra said.



With the support of her family, school and the organisation, Kyra set up regular coding classes every Friday for pupils in India.

She has taught 29 pupils and created an offshoot project – Code to Care – that encourages more people to get involved and teach coding to others.

"I encouraged my friends to teach coding and now I have other volunteers working with me in teaching others," Kyra said.

Kyra was nominated by Harmony House for the Diana Award.

"I'm honoured to carry this award. It will motivate me to work even harder to pursue my cause. I'm planning to study computer science in college," Kyra said.

Other winners of the Diana Award include Himakshi Shastri, 16, who was recognised for her social action and humanitarian efforts.

Newspaper: Khaleej Times: [Dubai student recognised with Diana Award for empowering girls through coding education - News | Khaleej Times]

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Diana Award for empowering girls through coding education

Narrating her story, Kyra said that she observed that not many girls around her shared the same passion, which is when she decided to try and spread the love

by Nandini Sircar

Follow us on

A Dubai student who has served as an inspiration for girls in both the UAE and India to pursue coding, has been honoured with the esteemed Diana Award.

Kyra Anand, a 13-year-old student, was recognised along with 19 other pupils in the UAE for her exceptional humanitarian contributions to the society.

Speaking to Khaleej Times, Kyra, who was elated on having won the award, remained oblivious for a long time about her nomination. In India, a non-government organisation recognised her outstanding contributions to society as she taught children there coding, resulting in her nomination.

"I was nominated for this award by Harmony House. I have a huge passion for technology."

Advertisement

Narrating the backstory, Kyra said that she observed that not many girls around her shared the same passion. That's when she felt that she should try and spread her love for technology among her friends and society.

"I realised it was only them, but it was almost all the girls in my grade in school that really weren't interested in technology, and I was shocked because I love technology so much,"

She launched Girls Do Code (GDC) as an endeavour to provide coding education to girls in her community while even teaching relatives.

Over time, this initiative expanded its reach and she collaborated with organisations to educate the underprivileged and street children in India.

"I thought why not share this passion with a lot more girls and maybe help them gain interest? So, then I started teaching my community, taught my cousin and then my mother told me about an organisation called Harmony House in India. They didn't have a computer programme, so I thought I should teach them."

Bridging the distance between India and the UAE, using technology, Kyra started taking classes "through Zoom" while she taught her community in-person.

She starts with the computer language Scratch that helps build a logical thinking process, and then moves to Python.

"I have taught around 36 children today including Code to Care volunteers who are the volunteers in my school who want to help GDC."

Despite Covid-19 being a source of distress, it also presented opportunities, particularly for analytical minds like Kyra.

Currently, she is working on an inventive project that involves the development of a system capable of identifying whether someone is wearing a mask or not using their webcam.

"It will take your webcam and detect if you're wearing a mask or not. So, it will indicate if your mask is on your chin and will tell you how to wear it properly," she adds.

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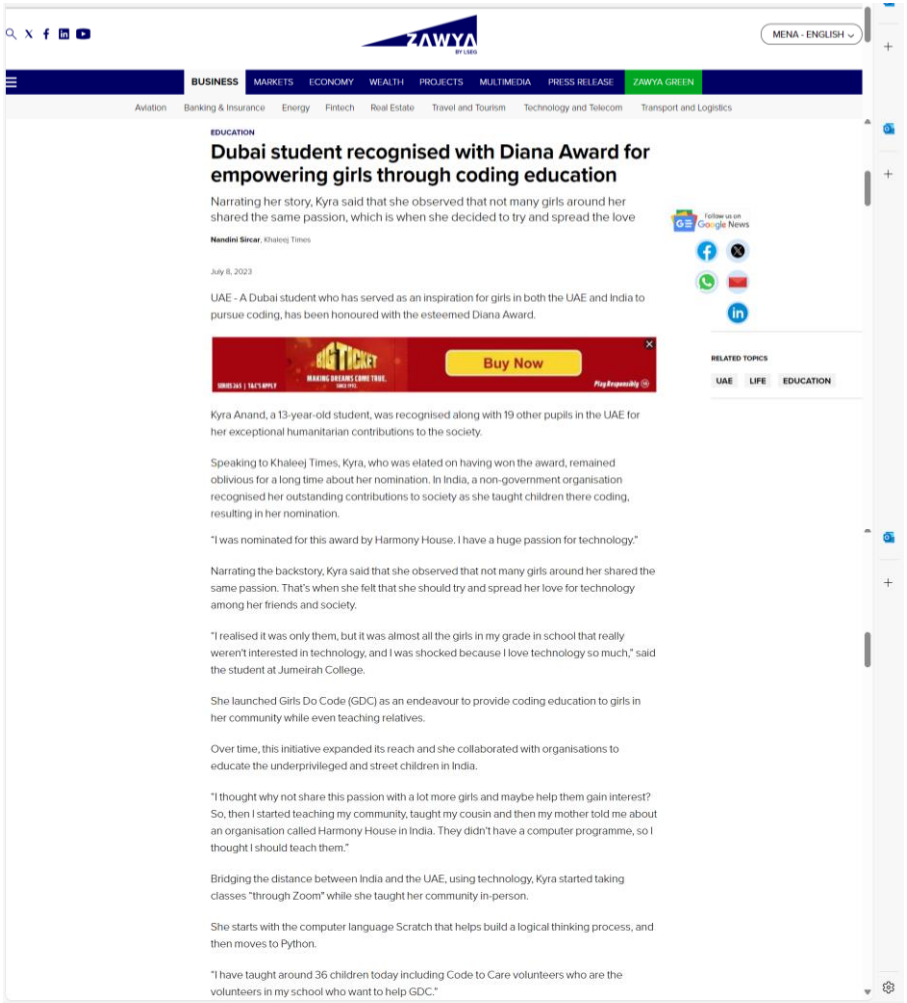
Zawya : [Dubai student recognised with Diana Award for empowering girls through coding education (zawya.com)]



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EDUCATION

Dubai student recognised with Diana Award for empowering girls through coding education

Narrating her story, Kyra said that she observed that not many girls around her shared the same passion, which is when she decided to try and spread the love

Nandini Sircar, Khaleej Times

July 8, 2023

UAE - A Dubai student who has served as an inspiration for girls in both the UAE and India to pursue coding, has been honoured with the esteemed Diana Award.

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Kyra Anand, a 13-year-old student, was recognised along with 19 other pupils in the UAE for her exceptional humanitarian contributions to the society.

Speaking to Khaleej Times, Kyra, who was elated on having won the award, remained oblivious for a long time about her nomination. In India, a non-government organisation recognised her outstanding contributions to society as she taught children there coding, resulting in her nomination.

"I was nominated for this award by Harmony House. I have a huge passion for technology."

Narrating the backstory, Kyra said that she observed that not many girls around her shared the same passion. That's when she felt that she should try and spread her love for technology among her friends and society.

"I realised it was only them, but it was almost all the girls in my grade in school that really weren't interested in technology, and I was shocked because I love technology so much," said the student at Jumeirah College.

She launched Girls Do Code (GDC) as an endeavour to provide coding education to girls in her community while even teaching relatives.

Over time, this initiative expanded its reach and she collaborated with organisations to educate the underprivileged and street children in India.

"I thought why not share this passion with a lot more girls and maybe help them gain interest? So, then I started teaching my community, taught my cousin and then my mother told me about an organisation called Harmony House in India. They didn't have a computer programme, so I thought I should teach them."

Bridging the distance between India and the UAE, using technology, Kyra started taking classes "through Zoom" while she taught her community in-person.

She starts with the computer language Scratch that helps build a logical thinking process, and then moves to Python.

"I have taught around 36 children today including Code to Care volunteers who are the volunteers in my school who want to help GDC."

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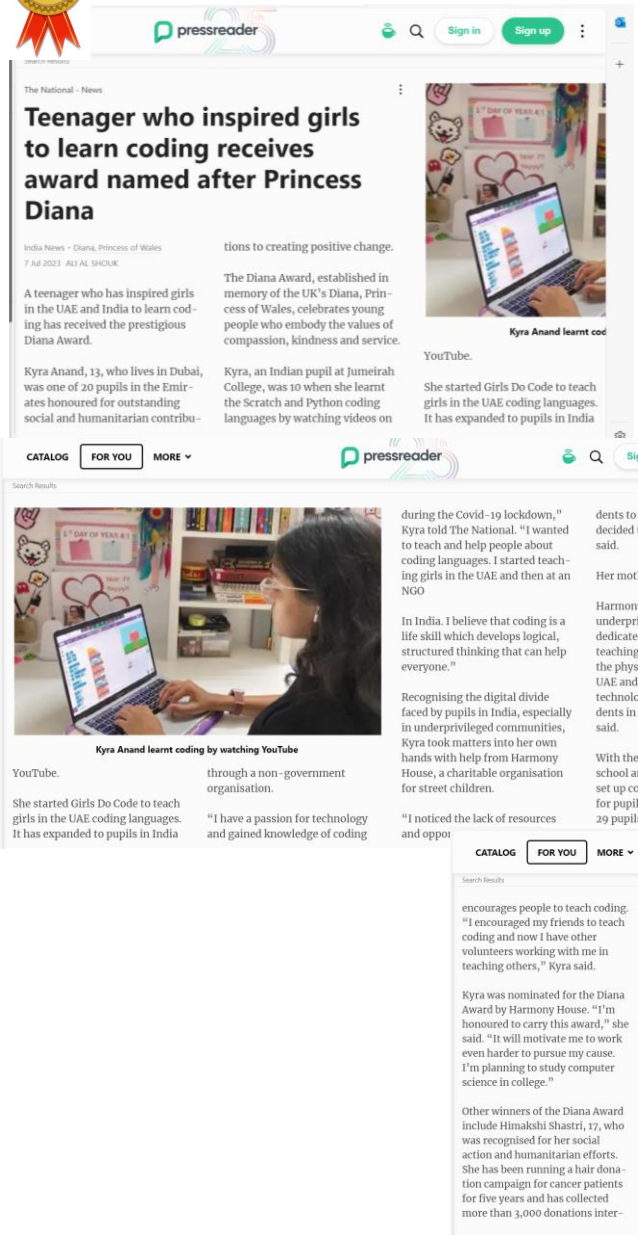

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The National - News

Teenager who inspired girls to learn coding receives award named after Princess Diana

India News - Diana, Princess of Wales

7 Jul 2023 · ALI AL SHOUK

A teenager who has inspired girls in the UAE and India to learn coding has received the prestigious Diana Award.

Kyra Anand, 13, who lives in Dubai, was one of 20 pupils in the Emirates honoured for outstanding social and humanitarian contributions to creating positive change.

The Diana Award, established in memory of the UK's Diana, Princess of Wales, celebrates young people who embody the values of compassion, kindness and service.

Kyra, an Indian pupil at Jumeirah College, was 10 when she learnt the Scratch and Python coding languages by watching videos on YouTube.

Kyra Anand learnt cod

She started Girls Do Code to teach girls in the UAE coding languages. It has expanded to pupils in India through a non-government organisation.

"I have a passion for technology and gained knowledge of coding during the Covid-19 lockdown," Kyra told The National. "I wanted to teach and help people about coding languages. I started teaching girls in the UAE and then at an NGO

In India. I believe that coding is a life skill which develops logical, structured thinking that can help everyone."

Recognising the digital divide faced by pupils in India, especially in underprivileged communities, Kyra took matters into her own hands with help from Harmony House, a charitable organisation for street children.

"I noticed the lack of resources and opportunities students in India and decided to make a difference," she said.

Her mother told her about Harmony House, which helps underprivileged children, and she dedicated part of her time to teaching them coding. "Despite the physical distance between the UAE and India, I used the power of technology to teach coding to students in India via Zoom," Kyra said.

With the support of her family, her school and the organisation, Kyra set up coding classes every Friday for pupils in India. She has taught 29 pupils and created an offshoot

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Kyra Anand learnt coding by watching YouTube

encourages people to teach coding. "I encouraged my friends to teach coding and now I have other volunteers working with me in teaching others," Kyra said.

Kyra was nominated for the Diana Award by Harmony House. "I'm honoured to carry this award," she said. "It will motivate me to work even harder to pursue my cause. I'm planning to study computer science in college."

Other winners of the Diana Award include Himakshi Shastri, 17, who was recognised for her social action and humanitarian efforts. She has been running a hair donation campaign for cancer patients for five years and has collected more than 3,000 donations internationally. Himakshi is also a climate activist and has launched a sustainable stationery start-up, Sustainery Co.

Shreyas Krishna, 14, a pupil at Delhi Private School, Sharjah, also won a Diana Award.

He established the IgniteYoungMinds initiative in 2019 to enhance the quality of education for hundreds of underprivileged children in India. Shreyas designed an online platform to provide free educational books.

Global Indian : Coder Kyra Anand is breaking the computer barrier for many girls (globalindian.com)

GLOBAL INDIAN EXCLUSIVE, INDIAN CHANGEMAKER

Changing the future: Coder Kyra Anand is breaking the computer barrier for many girls

WRITTEN BY: TEAM GI YOUTH

(January 20, 2024) For countless years, girls have often found themselves on the sidelines when it comes to the field of software development. Whether due to societal expectations, limited opportunities, or outdated stereotypes, a barrier has existed, keeping many young girls from exploring this industry. However, a remarkable 13-year-old is reshaping the narrative. Kyra Anand, a young coder based in Dubai, founded the 'Girls Do Code' initiative at the tender age of 10. Amidst the COVID-19 lockdowns, Kyra adeptly learned Scratch and Python online. Recognizing the glaring underrepresentation of women in the tech industry, this young coder established the initiative with the aim of inspiring more girls to explore coding and technology.

Global Indian : Coder Kyra Anand is breaking the computer barrier for many girls (globalindian.com)

"I created 'Girls Do Code' as I really love coding myself, and I am passionate about getting more women into coding. I truly believe that girls are capable of doing anything. While I was learning a few coding languages from my father, I noticed that several of the girls in my class – though curious – didn't know where to learn these languages. So, I established a platform where everyone can learn the nuances of these languages from," shared the young coder, who is also a Diana Award winner.

Starting young

Born and brought up in the United Arab Emirates, Kyra was always fascinated by coding languages, and all the cool things one can create after learning them – an interest she shares with her father. However, during the pandemic, while she was learning these languages from her father, Kyra noted a lack of similar passion for technology among the girls around her. It was this realisation that prompted her to take the initiative in spreading her love for technology among her friends and in society at large.

"I realised it was only them, but it was almost all the girls in my grade in school that really weren't interested in technology, and I was shocked because I love technology so much," said the coder, who is currently a student at the Jumeirah College. After a bit of survey, where she connected with girls her age in Dubai and India, the youngster proposed the idea of establishing a teaching platform to her father, who was more than happy to assist her in the endeavour.

"My father really supported me through this journey. I knew a bit of coding, however, putting it all together was still a bit of a task for me. He helped me figure out a lot of things, and I am very grateful for that. At that time, I was also teaching a few of my cousins, and my sole mission was to launch Girls Do Code as a project to provide coding education to girls in my community," the coder shared, who enthusiastically approached her teachers to organise coding sessions during lunch breaks at school and after school hours.

A young visionary

With time, however, Girls Do Code became bigger. The initiative broadened its outreach, and Kyra collaborated with organisations – in Dubai and India – to provide education to underprivileged and street children. "I thought why not share this passion with a lot more girls and maybe help them gain interest? So, then I started teaching my community, taught my cousin, and then my mother told me about an organisation called Harmony House in India. They didn't have a computer programme, so I thought I should teach them," the coder expressed.

Connecting India and the UAE through technology, Kyra began conducting classes via Zoom while teaching her local community face-to-face. The coder starts by teaching young girls Scratch, a computer language that helps develop logical thinking skills, and then progresses to Python. "I have taught around 36 children today including Code to Care volunteers who are the volunteers in my school who want to help GDC," the *Global Indian* said.

Kyra believes that coding is an essential life skill that nurtures logical and structured thinking, benefiting everyone. Her impact goes beyond coding, as seen in her 'G.I.V.E. initiative,' where she raises funds for charities and organises community activities throughout the year. Talking about what is keeping her busy these days, the young coder said, "Currently, I am working on an inventive project that involves developing a system capable of identifying whether someone is wearing a mask or not using their webcam."

- Follow Kyra Anand on Instagram
- Follow Girls Do Code on their website

Radio: Dubai Eye: 103.8

Dubai eye interviewed me for my work with Girls Do Code and the Diana Award. I am very happy to get this opportunity to talk more about girls in technology and coding.

Global Youth Award

GYA GLOBAL YOUTH AWARDS

LEGACY PROJECT
Bringing Communities Together

29th July 2024
REF: Kyra Anand

Dear sir/madam

I am delighted to confirm that Kyra Anand was selected as a one of five finalists in the Educational Leadership Category of our annual Global Youth awards in 2023.

This international youth award now receives nominations from 83 different countries with a very high calibre of nominees. Whilst Kyra was not selected as a winner on this occasion I can say that her nomination was exceptional and we are delighted that she will be entering again for 2024.

Yours sincerely,

Tanith Harding

Tanith Harding, CEO, Legacy Project

Mobile: +44 7986 819 783

Email: tanith@legacyprojectglobal.com

Website: www.legacyprojectglobal.com

GirlsDoCode ©

NGO
Harmony House recommendation from Director of Education

HARMONY HOUSE

Registered Office: Shop No. – 128, Hog Market, Rajendra Place, New Delhi – 110008
Admin and Work Place: House# 109, Sector 17A, Gurgaon
Phone: 0124-4017616/15

Letter of Appreciation

Dear Kyra,

I am writing to extend my heartfelt appreciation for Kyra's remarkable dedication and contributions as a volunteer with Harmony House for the last 5 years. Kyra's journey with Harmony House, starting at the age of 10 and continuing through your teenage years, is truly inspiring.

Her commitment to teaching coding to underprivileged girls is a testament to her passion for making a positive impact in the lives of others. The skills and confidence she has imparted to the young girls are invaluable and will undoubtedly open up new opportunities for their futures.

Her growth over these years, both personally and as a mentor, has been impressive. She has developed strong leadership, empathy, and resilience, qualities that will serve her well in all her future endeavours. Balancing the volunteer work with her academic responsibilities and personal growth show her dedication.

We are incredibly proud of her and grateful for the positive impact she has made in our community. Her hard work, compassion, and commitment to helping others are truly commendable.

Keep up the excellent work, Kyra. We look forward to seeing all the great things she will achieve in the future.

Warm Regards,

Meenakshi Khanna

{Director of Educations}

GirlsDoCode ©

International Organization - Harmony House Student Recommendation

16 Years old

Anisha

What did you like about coding: I like that I can create animations, games and stories in it.

Did I help you get interested in coding: Kyra helped me get interested in coding by explaining every step of coding very clearly and made it easy to understand.

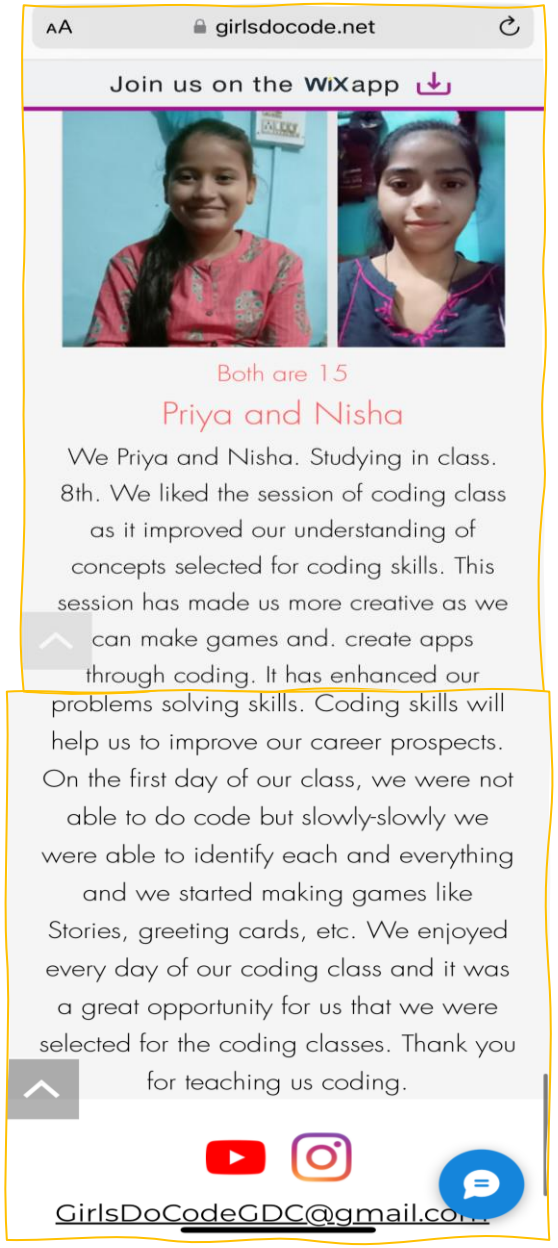
My first 2 students when I was 10 were amazing. They even created a video with scratch program that I had taught them wishing me well when I had covid.

16 Years old

Ankita

What did you like about coding: I like the animation, stories and all the interesting things that we have created.

Did I help you get interested in coding: Kyra helped me get interested in coding by taking online classes. She explained everything so nicely.



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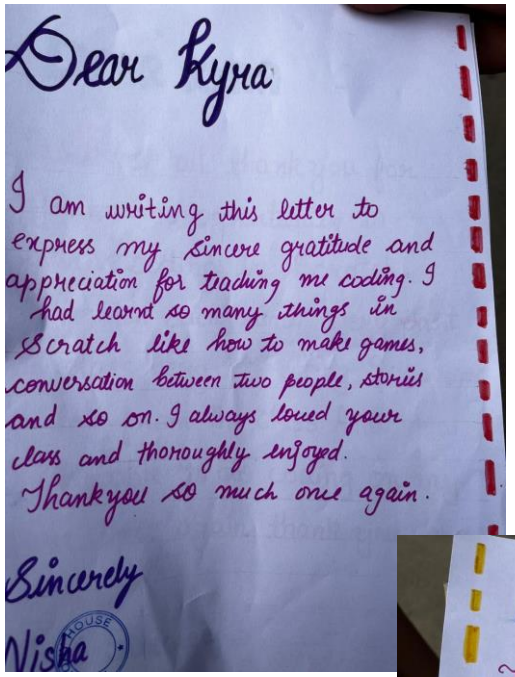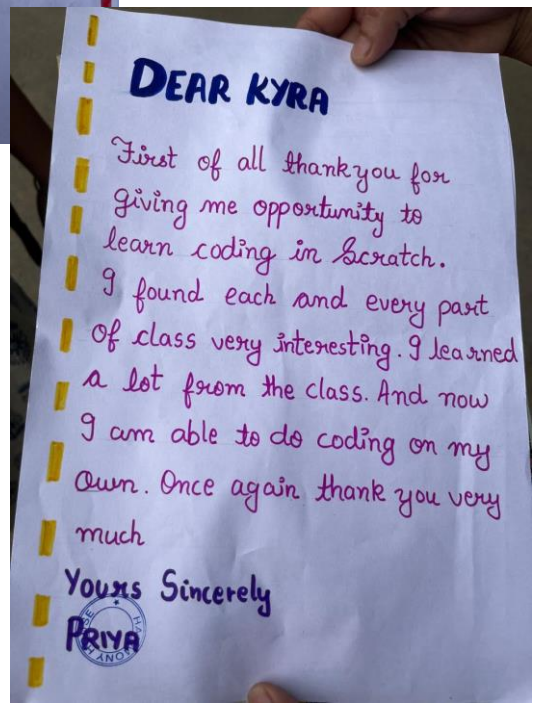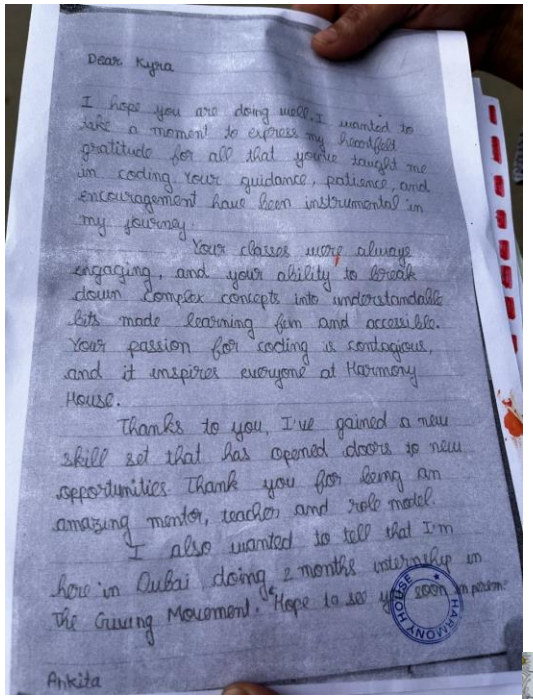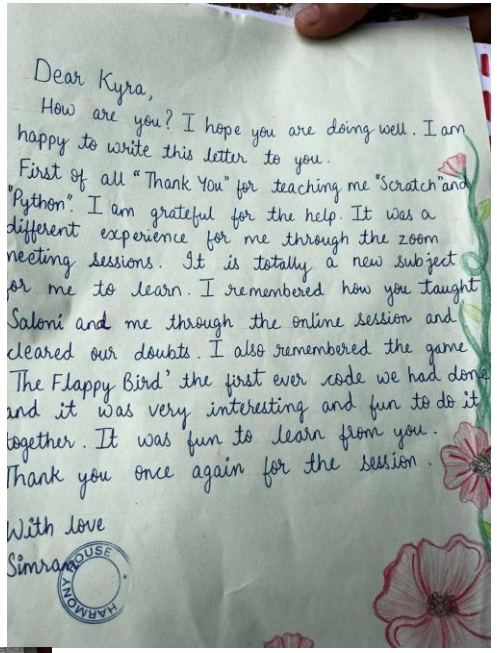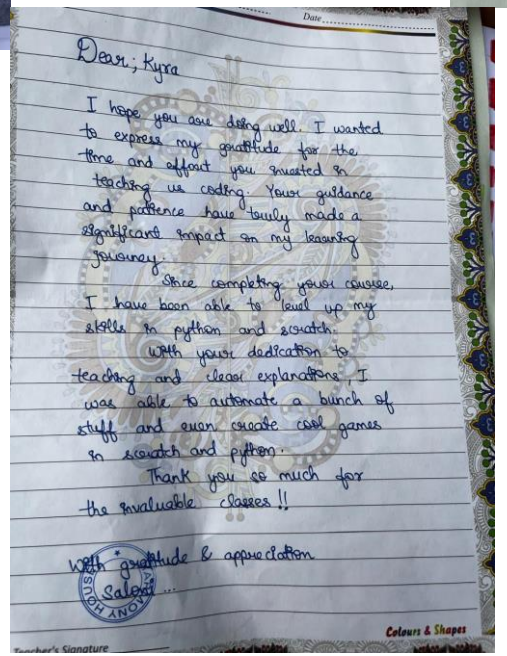
Harmony house students have written these and endorsed by Harmony house