



Press Release

For Immediate Release: 18<sup>th</sup> April 2013

## Overcoming barriers to Technology and Language

Go-Woman! Alliance CIC - GOAL\_Saltley was designated a UK Online Specialist In-Work centre in 2011. Since then GOAL\_Saltley has been working tirelessly with women from the community, introducing computers and promoting benefits of getting online.

Currently the centre runs number of sessions in the community, supporting women to gain confidence through developing language and practical computer skills.

Yasmin Akhtar, project manager at the group, said "Our work over the last year has been to support women in the community to develop computer skills; for them to realise the endless possibilities computers can offer and how it can help to broaden their horizon, in learning, employment and self-employment.

Our learners come with limited literacy skills which makes delivering computer skills, specifically skills to get online, a greater challenge, therefore our focus for the next year will be to support these learners to get back to basics and develop basic computer skills.

To this end, to support and help learners in their journey, GOAL\_Saltley has introduced new software to support those learners whose first language is not English."

The software developed by The Asian-e Foundation in 2003, chaired by Yasmin Akhtar, produced in conjunction with what was once known as 'Learning and Skills Council' a CD which allows individuals to learn basic computer skills in their home languages including, Urdu, Punjabi, Gujarati and Bengali.

"We hope using this software which allows learners to learn computer skills in their home languages supported by English, will help to remove barriers to learning and allow learners to access IT skills and see the true potential of technology. We at GOAL can then work with them to develop future learning and see true progression."

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Notes to editor

For further information about GOAL\_Saltley, please contact Yasmin Akhtar on 0121 327 2997 or log on to [www.gwacic.com](http://www.gwacic.com)