In an interesting conversation with a World Bank representative regarding “Building Skills of the Future”, we discussed what could the World Bank do to support education in India. Three points seem pertinent to discuss here:

1. Building Life Skills in Students so they can learn to learn: If they learn to learn then they will be able to create value out of every situation they face. The world is changing so quickly that new types of skills are required every day. What hope do we have to teach skills of the future? But if we can teach them how to learn, they will adapt and learn based on the requirement. That is why life skills are critical. If our students develop confidence in their ability to learn, find answers, solve problems, use technology, and communicate effectively, then we would be equipping them well for the future.

2. Capacity Building of the EcoSystem: Government’s National Education Policy 2020 is a forward-looking policy that focuses on much-needed reforms in the education system of India. I believe there is a lot of effort by the government to communicate the features of the policy to educational institutions. I am sure the hope is that India’s educational institutes will now produce a different kind of student. However, if a teacher or a principal has never experienced a different kind of education themselves, if their own experience has been about clearing exams and rote learning, then how realistic is it to expect they will create a different kind of student?

3. Need for a Standardized Assessment at various levels: While this is meaningful, it is important that the assessment takes into account the diversity of students. To paraphrase a quote from Einstein, if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid. The standardized assessment must measure all kinds of skills and knowledge so that an artist or an engineer both feel valued at the end of it.

These are a few ideas that might act as catalysts toward a more equitable and quality-oriented education system in India. Surely India can benefit from all the support she can get from the World Bank.
It was 18 years ago that NIIT Foundation was set up by the promoters of NIIT Ltd with the mission to create a deep and demonstrable impact in underserved communities. True to its mission, various programs have been undertaken and successfully delivered to over 5.8 million beneficiaries. It has been a journey of learning, recalibrating, and inspiring students, facilitators, and the NF team. Reinvention – whether it be personal, organizational, or professional – is imperative to have continued growth and reach greater heights.

One of the ways is to ensure that we utilize our strengths, which helps to broaden our horizons. To facilitate this, NIIT Foundation shared the theme of the year as “Revealing the Rainbow”. The idea is to help individuals identify and sharpen skills that exist within themselves. We also hope that people let go of their inhibitions and display talents that they have been afraid to share so far.

Why is it essential for NF to help ‘Reveal the Rainbow’? The primary reason is that when we share our skillset and strengths with others, we collectively contribute to a journey of greatness. With an individual’s innate skills, he or she can make an enormous difference to the community and nation. However, we all have inhibitions and fears that prevent us from fully sharing with others and this is where we need to change.

NIIT Foundation has planned multiple sessions and workshops to bring to focus the identification of one’s strengths and weaknesses, how to work on the weaknesses, and how to utilize our strengths for the betterment of ourselves and our families.

We encourage you to think about the talents that you have within yourself. How would you polish them and what is the best way you can utilize them to contribute to society? Are there skills that you believe we need more of? If so, do write to us and let us know.
Huawei recognizes that access to a high-quality education, including digital skills, is a fundamental right for all individuals. Through technology, we aim to bring learning resources to those who need them most, thus empowering them to unlock their full potential. In line with India’s national vision of Digital India, we remain dedicated to supporting social and community welfare in the country.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the NIIT Foundation for their continued support in our efforts to bridge the digital divide in India. As part of our global outreach, Huawei India is proud to partner and run the Huawei DigiBus initiative, that provides digital education to underprivileged communities in the Indian subcontinent. This endeavor leverages advanced technologies such as 5G Communications, Immersive & Virtual Collaboration, Content Management, Security, and Edge AI to provide seamless world-class education facilities to rural areas.

Our partnership with the NIIT Foundation is an ongoing commitment to support the country’s last mile digital connectivity, ensuring vital services are accessible to all. We take pride in our collaboration and will continue to explore innovative ways to connect people and make a positive impact on the world. Looking forward, we are confident that our long-term vision and commitment to these initiatives will benefit communities in India and beyond.

Huawei CSR India was keen to undertake an initiative to improve digital literacy across the country, in support of the Prime Minister’s vision of a Digital India. Huawei CSR India chose to partner with NIIT Foundation as their implementation and training partner because they hold comprehensive experience and expertise in implementing digital literacy and skilling courses across the country.

They decided that a Digital Bus would be the best mode of delivery to reach remote and underserved communities.

The 5G-enabled, solar-powered Digital Bus is a mobile classroom equipped with 16 computers, internet, video, conferencing facilities, e-course software, printing facilities, and trainers. The chosen courses aim to improve digital literacy, empower women with technology, and help the youth be more at par with education in urban while exposing them to opportunities available in IT and ITES fields. The first Digital Bus was flagged off on 16th January 2023. In total, 4 buses will run to serve areas of Delhi-NCR, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan to positively impact the lives of over 1,50,000 men, women, and youth.

Together, NIIT Foundation and Huawei India look forward to bringing a change in people’s digital literacy and encouraging employability amongst youth. There is hope that through sessions and Life Skill modules, we can help bring about a cultural change that will be helpful to girls, and women to attain more freedom, independence, and rights.

Mr. Harsh Khurana
Chief - Regulatory, Corporate Affairs & Communication Department, Huawei Telecommunication, India

DigiBus inaugurated by Hon’ble Dr. Bhagwat Karad, Union Minister of State for Finance, Government of India
A young transgender woman, Kaki (Deepanshu Sharma), found acceptance with her family but not with society. She faced a lot of bullying and harassment in school, the scars which she carries to date, leaving her underconfident and in a shell. Her family of 7 faced severe financial hardships because the sole bread earner, her father, was a factory labourer. Kaki had to drop out of school after 8th standard as they couldn't afford further education for her. She still wished to support her family and began singing devotional songs at Jagratas. Kaki also freelanced as a makeup artist to make ends meet.

Unfortunately, though she was good at her work, she would lose out on clients because her communication skills were not up to the mark. Many preferred to communicate in English which Kaki was not comfortable with. She realized she needed to skill herself if she wanted to have a successful career as a makeup artist. However, whenever she thought of joining a course, her childhood trauma of bullying came back to haunt her and she abandoned thoughts of taking up any course. Her fellow LGBTQIA+ friends shared information about the NIIT Foundation and Connecting Dreams Foundation's special batch for members of their community. Hesitantly, Kaki enrolled in the course.

Initially, she felt shy and awkward. However, as the course progressed, she began opening up and felt confident in her own abilities. Kaki learnt how to speak and communicate well in English, enabling her to pick up more freelance makeup assignments. She also learnt how to use MS Office to design flyers, maintain records, send emailers, draft letters to share, and use the internet to find new makeup techniques and dance videos. She also is actively involved in improving the lives of fellow LGBTQIA+ members and encourages them to take up the course to improve their employability chances.

Kaki is happily pursuing her passions and is earning well from them. Her communication skills and professionalism sets her apart. She expressed her heartfelt gratitude to both - NIIT Foundation and Connecting Dreams Foundation for equipping her with skills to have a brighter future!
I am a student of the PGDM course, from NDIM, and as part of my corporate social responsibility course, I decided to volunteer with NIIT Foundation, Civil Lines. Mr. Anwar (Centre Head) helped me understand the various NF programs being conducted and the awareness raised about them through mobilization and door-to-door campaigns. I was keen to be a part of these campaigns to reach out to beneficiaries and interact with them.

NIIT Foundation is working towards two sustainable development goals – Quality Education and Skill Development/Technical Know How. They focus on bridging the digital divide by offering free-of-cost digital literacy courses to the underserved. Their attention to detail and their remarkable ability to connect with beneficiaries have a big impact on the lives of those they serve. The team at Civil Lines worked tirelessly to ensure the efforts focused on making a positive impact. Their professionalism and commitment to the mission are truly inspiring and it was a pleasure working alongside them. I would highly recommend students consider volunteering with NIIT Foundation to understand various aspects that go into ensuring equal educational development for all in a structured manner.

A hands-on learning experience I will always cherish - Richa

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If you are a corporate and are looking for an organisation to implement your CSR vision in the area of skill development, education and employability, press on the button below for partnership details.

BE A DONOR
If you want to help make a deep impact in the communities we work in, you can support our programs and beneficiaries. To make a donation press on the Click Here icon below

BE A VOLUNTEER
If you have time, a passion to work for the underprivileged and a skill to share, you can be a NF Volunteer. Press on the Click Here icon below to volunteer at NF.

NIITians can also donate through Payroll:
Visit www.iNIITian.com -> My Data -> NIIT Giving in order to donate through payroll or to register yourself for volunteering.
NIIT Foundation invited to be on a Radio Talk Show

Mr. Vikram Kumar, Head of Partnerships & Communications received an opportunity to be part of Gurgaon Community Radio: Gurgaon Ki Awaaz - Aaj Ke Mehmana. He shared some fantastic information on the inner workings of NF as well as enlightened the audience about specific programs and initiatives that NF offers for various age groups for underserved communities. Some fascinating facts shared by Mr. Kumar about NF initiatives, programs, and projects were also covered in the program.

Industry Visit to Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Factory

25 NIIT Foundation students from CDC Ameenpur, a CSR Initiative of Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages, experienced an insightful industry visit to the HCCB industrial plant in Hyderabad. From understanding the product lifecycle to getting a global perspective and networking with different experts — this visit was the perfect combination of learning and doing! It was an incredible opportunity for our students to learn firsthand about the plant operations, maintenance, and manufacturing of their products.

Sr. officials from Cisco met our students from the LGBTQIA community

Ms. Marcella O'Shea, Corporate Affairs APJC Manager, Cisco, and Mr. Ishvinder Singh, India Lead-Skills & NetAcad, Cisco, visited the LGBTQIA students from Project Transformation and discussed their experiences studying with Cisco NetAcad. Students were felicitated with their certificates for completing their Cyber Security courses. Ms. O'Shea appreciated the strides the students were making towards becoming empowered through various upskilling.
Special Job fair for PwD students

NF's NReach team organized a job fair exclusively for persons with disabilities from the Family of Disabled. Top MNC companies, such as Amazon.com, Concentrix, and TaskUs were a part of the Job Fair. Over 45 students appeared for the interviews, out of them, 22 students were selected while some were shortlisted for further rounds of interviews.

Volunteers' visit from Indus Towers

Capt'n Jasmeet Chauhan (Head logistics and warehouse - Indus Towers) and Ms. Sakshi Goyal (Circle HR Head - Indus Towers) volunteered at the Digital Transformation Van (DTV) in New Delhi as a part of their Personal Social Responsibility (PSR) activity. Sixty girl students from the DTV were part of various activity sessions over the 3-day-long PSR. On the last day, 126 students were felicitated and provided with their certificates.

Job Fair at CDC Civil Lines

A placement drive was successfully conducted for students of NIIT Foundation's Career Development Center in Civil Lines. Out of the 59 students who were interviewed, 56 students were selected for multiple positions based on their skill sets. Companies like SMC Insurance Pvt Ltd and Mercury Insurance Pvt Ltd were a part of this job fair. The team of CDC Civil Lines were proud of the accomplishments and efforts of our students.
Cybersecurity workshop for women in a garment factory

A women-only Cybersecurity session was held for over 40 women in Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh, at JI Apparel - a Garment factory in Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh, under the Cyber Surakshit Program. The Cyber Suraksha program aims at equipping citizens with the knowledge to identify and respond to cyber threats from different ages, gender, and professions.

Cisco and NIIT Foundation celebrate 1 Lakh enrollment in Cyber Suraksha Program

NF and Cisco celebrated the milestone event of completing the training of over 1 lakh individuals in cybersecurity under the Cyber Suraksha program to equip citizens with the knowledge to identify and respond to cyber threats. The event was attended by Sr. dignitaries from the Govt. security Council, Cisco, and NIIT Foundation. And it was telecast live to more than 5000 individuals over YouTube.

Career Guidance & placement session especially for Women

A career guidance and placement session was held to empower the girls of Saraswati Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Haryana. The session was held on 10th Feb 2023 in association with SAT Krishna Career Development Centre in Prithla, and over 100 girls were part of this interactive session. The key topics included understanding the insight and vision of digital empowerment, skill development, and employability.

Industry visit at Safe Express for NGO partner

NIIT Foundation's NReach Team organized an enriching and informative industrial visit for the students of our NGO partner, Navijyoti India Foundation. 40 students, completing the logistics course, visited the Safe Express office and processing unit, accompanied by 3 trainers. The Safe Express team shared valuable insight and real-world information about working in the logistics industry. The students understood the various job roles and prospects within the industry.
MEDIA COVERAGE

TSF Opens Computer & English Learning Centre at Gualki

JODA, (ITNB): With an objective to enhance and upgrade skills of local youths, Tata Steel Foundation (TSF), in partnership with NIIT Foundation, opened a Computer and English Learning Centre at Gualki under Joda Block of Keonjhar district on Monday. The centre was inaugurated by K Shreekanta Naik, Chairman, Joda Block in the presence of Dipak Behers, Chief, Kalanagar & Gandhnipada Project, Tata Steel; Bhidhuydhar Naik, Sarpanch, Gualki gram panchayat; Sanjay Sarada, Unit Lead, TSF, Kalanagar and locals. The centre will immensely benefit students and youths of nearby Gualki, Gandhnipada, Pandhalipili, Khordihati, Nigaon, Topadhi and Lodapada villages. The centre largely focuses on basic computer courses and foundational English courses to enhance the applied skills of students. The computer courses include a Certificate course on Basic IT, Advance IT and CyberSecurity.

Till date, 51 students have enrolled in these programmes offered by the centre. Expressing happiness on opening of the centre, Naik said, “I am really thankful to TSF for such an initiative which will not only help to upgrade skills of the local youths but also explore their employability.” Inclusive development and building a sustainable training-cum-counseling model for students of backward regions are key objectives of this intervention. TSF plans more such interventions in the days to come.

Commentary

By Editorial

This initiative by TSF is a commendable move towards the development of local youths. It not only enhances their skills but also prepares them for the job market. The centre will be a valuable resource for the community.

The centre's focus on basic computer and English skills is particularly important in today's digital age. It will enable students to stay competitive in the job market and open up opportunities for them.

In conclusion, this initiative by TSF is a step towards inclusive development and will have a positive impact on the local community.
સામૂહિક સદર્દાતની જણરિયેલી સ્વાસ્થ્ય સહાય મદદીની સ્વાસ્થ્ય સવિચારીઓ પર ચાલા અંદાજે એમ. એસ. એપલ સાયન્સ સોફ્ટવેર સુપ્રોફોનના માટે નવીનતાઓના સુધારો કરવા પર અંદાજે. આ સેંડરનીઓ પર ચાલા અંદાજે એમ. એસ. એપલ સાયન્સ સોફ્ટવેર સુપ્રોફોનના માટે નવીનતાઓના સુધારો કરવા પર અંદાજે.

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Over 189,539 students enrolled in skill programs
Over 15,681 students successfully placed in all projects
Over 164,115 beneficiaries became financially literate
Over 11,308 children benefitted through HiWEL Stations
60 New Centers set up (CDC & DLC)
Over 500 hours of volunteer effort to help students

We thank our existing partners for their continued support by granting new projects:
HCCB, Microsoft, Tata Steel Foundation, ST Microelectronics, CISCO, SONY Software, JM Financial Foundation, and ATC India

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