Like everyone else, we at NIIT Foundation have been doing our best to navigate the new normal. We have become better at conducting our operations online and remotely, using social media to do online mobilization, and deliver training programs using digital tools and online learning management system.

While we recognize our comfort with technology, we understand this is not true of many others in the NGO sector. Therefore, NIIT Foundation has been working with our partners to explore where we can create value by sharing our knowhow, experience, and skills.

We noticed that not all of our funders were comfortable moving their programs to online delivery. We had many projects that were at a stand-still because our funding partners were unsure and wanted to wait and watch. We reached out to each of the funders and helped build their confidence in online learning effectiveness. As a result many of our programs have re-started in the new model. Our hope is that along with our projects, funders have moved ahead with online delivery of projects with their other NGOs.

In addition, many large NGOs who have traditionally worked through deep one-on-one interaction with the beneficiaries in the field, were looking for guidance on how to handle the new normal, with social distancing, lockdown, and travel restrictions. NIIT Foundation is offering consultation to these NGOs to help them with their digitization strategy, supporting them in redesigning their existing content for online delivery, and conducting train-the-trainer programs to help the NGO teams navigate and embrace the changed way of program delivery.

On our part we are learning best practices in field operations from these NGOs and we are the richer for it.

“I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things.”
- Mother Teresa
The year 2020 has been a stressful year for all. The COVID-19 virus brought with it several complex challenges, affecting the lives of different communities and sections in ways that very few anticipated. Almost everyone has been dealing with some form of struggle. Suicide rates are on a rise. In general, the one thing that has been adversely affected is our Mental Health and there is a growing sense of isolation.

The lockdown led to severe hardships, with the loss of livelihoods and schools/colleges shutting abruptly. Online classes or work from home is not an option for many. Given the situation, our young population living in these communities, do need a place to vent, a safe place to be and share their thoughts with others. Taking care of our beneficiaries and their families mental well-being is of utmost and equal importance as much as is their education and careers. A much deeper dialogue around Mental Health needs to take place in our communities and for this we all need to come together. It is our duty to assure them that they are not alone.

NIIT Foundation has always focused on the all-around development of our students. The pandemic has taught us that if we all come together, we can continue in our resolve to make a deep impact in communities. During the lockdown, center teams reached out to each student. Our volunteers and teams have been conducting online counseling and motivational sessions for students.

By participating in the Daan Utsav campaign 2020, we gave an opportunity for individuals to come forward and share their time and skills with beneficiaries. We are providing online training support to our partner NGOs. All of this cannot be done without our funders. Many of our funders are on board. They have given us room for innovation and adaptation. We at NIIT Foundation are putting together various strategies that will enable us to do old things, a new way.

Now more than ever, is the time to halt and take care of oneself. It is also the time to take care of each other and those around us. It is the time to look out for our communities. To be a listening ear for someone and to spread happiness and love, is the need of the hour.
STMicroelectronics Foundation (STF) India is a non-profit organization. ST Foundation’s key program ‘Digital Unify’ aims at spreading the benefits of digital technology to those who have no knowledge of how to use a personal computer or access the internet.

Under this initiative, STF has partnered with NIIT Foundation to train students from four locations including Bhangel, Dhankaur, Gurugram and Begumpur in Dehli NCR. The NF Skill centers at these locations are offering a Certificate Course Informatics and Computer Basics. The course was designed by ST volunteers at their corporate head office at the initial stage. It has been adapted thereafter. It is a 20-hour course, where students are introduced to a computer and learn about social media and information security. The beneficiaries in the program are 14 years and above, in school or completed school or college. The program also reaches out to students who have dropped out of school. The duration of this course has been designed keeping the profile of students in mind.

STF believes in digital democracy. The intention of Digital Unify Program is to not only teach computers but also to provide employability skills that will open doors to every student’s future. In a majority of participants who have undergone this course, one can see key competency skills and the ability to use a computer effectively. One can also notice a high level of motivation, while striving towards a bright future for themselves.

“STMicroelectronics Foundation India is in partnership with NIIT Foundation since Dec 2018. This partnership has provided training to around 1500+ trainees under our Digital Unify Program Initiative. Basic ICB program is being provided for trainees at different project sites of NIIT Foundation in Delhi NCR region. To reach this amazing result, we thank the trainers and our partner NIIT Foundation for their dedicated support, cooperation and commitment to reach our objective, which is to bridge the digital divide. Keep the spirit high and I am sure that together we will touch and benefit the lives of more people in the community and society with quality.”

Kamal Deep Jain
Country Manager
STMicroelectronics Foundation, India
Sheetal Soni is a student of the Customer Relationship Management Course as a part of NULM at NIIT Foundation in Chhindwara, MP. She lives with her husband, who works for a private firm, her mother-in-law and her child. Sheetal has studied till class 12, after which she had to give up on her studies due to financial constraints at home. She began stitching to provide for the education of her siblings. After Sheetal got married, she continued to stitch and provide for her family.

When she was encouraged to come to NIIT Foundation, she felt unsure because of her shyness and reserved nature. In addition, she had never worked with computers before. Initially, Sheetal would not interact with anyone, just quietly did what was asked of her. During the Change maker sessions, she got an opportunity to open up and express her hopes and fears. As she developed new skills with support from the faculty and her peers, she slowly gained confidence and let go of her inhibitions.

During Cisco examinations, Sheetal came forward to volunteer as a proctor. It was a reflection of her confidence that she performed in a street play in front of NULM authorities. The play was on Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

Sheetal has a kind heart. The Change maker sessions encouraged her to further develop her helping nature. During the pandemic, Sheetal has been stitching masks and distributing it in communities free of cost. Sheetal doesn’t feel that she has to compromise anymore. She has put her own self as her priority and even goes out of her way to help others. She looks forward to pursuing a job and earning very soon.
Daan Utsav, originally referred to as Joy of Giving, is a week long campaign celebrated every year in the month of October. It is India's biggest festival of giving during which people come together and perform acts of kindness by giving their time, money, material in interesting ways to any cause/s of their choice. NIIT Foundation participated in this with full spirit this year. We decided to keep the campaign on for a month from the 2nd to the 31st of October 2020. This was to encourage maximum participation, provide opportunities for a long-term engagement and thereby create a lasting campaign.

Throughout the campaign, inspiring testimonials and stories of our volunteers, corporate partners and students were shared on social media pages to encourage people to join in the spirit. Under this initiative, NIIT Foundation invited individuals and corporate partners to support our programs and thereby our beneficiaries. It was a great opportunity for people to take out time and support those in need. A total of 161 volunteers including corporate and individuals, came forward for this campaign and completed 640 volunteer hours. NIIT Foundation also received 18 pledges. We would like to thank all those who participated, supported and celebrated the Joy of Giving with us.

Amdocs employees celebrated Daan Utsav 2020 - Joy of Giving month with the students of NIIT Foundation. Amdocs employee volunteers together have spent an impressive 630 hours and have positively impacted 240 students from across our centers. At a time like this, volunteers taking out time and sharing their skills has been very inspiring and highly appreciative. Gratitude to all the Amdocs employees for joining NIIT Foundation at Daan Utsav 2020.

“Giving is not just about making a donation, it is about making a difference”
- Kathy Calvin
“I was introduced to NIIT Foundation by a friend who has herself conducted some sessions for students. There is an appalling gap between the needs of the particular industry and the skills being imparted to children. My passion to bridge this gap arises with many years of interacting with students in Class XII/Graduation and at the Post Graduation level. With decades of experience in mentoring students from all walks of life, basically from the employability perspective, I find my association with NIIT Foundation very satisfying. Wishing this initiative all the best and would be happy to continue this association till it achieves the desired outcome.”

The goal of Our Board of Advisors is to enable NIIT Foundation to deliver maximum value to every stakeholder including students, parents, corporate partners, NGO partners and thereby deeply impact the larger community.
**Virtual Live Meet to Celebrate the Partnership with Cisco India**

NIIT Foundation hosted a virtual live meet to celebrate the partnership with Cisco India. The event showcased the positive impact that Cisco project is making on ground and highlighted the success stories of youth from Chhindwara, MP, who are benefitting from the project. It was encouraging to have Hon’ble Nakul Kamal Nath - MP, Chhindwara, Harish Krishnan - MD at Cisco Systems India and SAARC Co-Founder Public Affairs Forum of India, Murugan Vasudevan - Head South Asia & Social Innovation Group, Cisco along with other senior employees from Cisco at the event.

**Time Clock Workshop by Adobe India CSR**

Adobe India CSR in partnership with NIIT Foundation conducted an innovative online workshop on Time Clocks. The workshop was very informative, giving details about time measurement and time zones. The students were also engaged in a fun experiment where they made a sundial and a battery-operated CD clock.

**Online Parents Teachers Meet at Everest Foundation Centers**

An online Parents Teacher Meeting was conducted by NIIT Foundation for Everest Foundation Odisha centers.

Mr. Manish Singh and Ms. Aruna from Everest Foundation were the guests of honour at the event. Parents were encouraged to interact, share their viewpoint and put forward their queries to the trainers and organizers present at the meet.

**Financial Literacy and Digital Literacy Sessions for Asahi India Glass - AIS officials**

NIIT Foundation conducted a training for Asahi India Glass Ltd - AIS. The training program was on Financial and Digital Literacy. Both these topics have become even more important ever since the pandemic has affected the world. This session was conducted for AIS employees pan India.
**Guest Lecture on Mental Health and Self-Love**

A guest lecture was conducted by Mr Summon Patra, Co-Founder and CEO - One Life, on why 'Mental Health and Self-Love' should be the utmost priority for youngsters. Around 46 students from Odisha centers attended the session.

It was an insightful session where Mr. Patra emphasized about the functioning of the human mind, maintaining mental health during the pandemic, self-love and how performing out of one's comfort zone helps in growing and developing skills.

**Students Selected for An Internship Program at Cisco Ideathon 2020**

We congratulate our students who got selected at Cisco Ideathon 2020.

Cisco Ideathon is an opportunity for students with potential and creativity to be a part of Cisco’s technological innovations. Even during this global pandemic, students are being encouraged and have got this opportunity to work with Cisco as interns. It gives them a platform to grow personally and professionally.

**Certification Ceremony at NGO Partner - Vidya**

A certificate distribution ceremony was conducted by NIIT Foundation's NGO partner, VIDYA in South Bangalore for the students of Arekere Government School and Weavers Colony School.

The ceremony was conducted to certify the students who have completed the Active Basic IT (CCAB) course.

**Guest Lecture on Interviews and Placements**

A Guest Lecture was conducted for Digital Marketing and Web Development students of NIIT Foundation on the topic- Interviews and Placements. Over 150 students participated in this session from Pune, Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore and Hyderabad. The session was very informative and covered topics including online mock interviews, interview guidance, opportunities, market demand and many more skill sets that are required to succeed at a workplace.
An initiative of NIIT Foundation and Amity University
NIIT Foundation and Amity University with the support of Cisco Network Academy has launched Skill-A-Thon 2020. The campaign started on the 15th of October and ends on the 15th of December 2020.
This is a virtual campaign. It is an initiative that provides Cisco NetAcad Programs at no cost. The objective of this campaign is to help eligible students accelerate their careers in technology.
The program offers a range of Instructor-led and Self-led courses to choose from. As of end November 2020, 7950 NF students have enrolled in these NetAcad courses. To get details on the various courses and to read in detail about this campaign,
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