



# Dattopant Thengadi Foundation

## **Concept note: World Youth Skills Day programme**

The importance of digital literacy is ever increasing as digitalisation is being considered as a solution to many problems of governance and service delivery. In the last few years India achieved a phenomenal advancement in digital infrastructure and use. Launched on 1st July, 2015, 'Digital India' has been one of the biggest success stories of New India. Driven by availability of cheap smartphones and cheaper data, the percentage of smartphone users above the age of 25 years has increased from 40 per cent in 2013 to 54 per cent in 2018. With a 35 per cent growth rate, Bihar and Odisha have the highest growth rate for new internet user addition in 2018. Government is also more than willing to further accelerate the pace and planning to provide fast and reliable internet is upto the village level. It is also focusing on digital literacy through Pradhan Mantri Grameen Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA), whose objective is to train 6 crore rural adults.

For the worker this digitalisation is an undiscovered treasure, practically, workers are going to be the biggest beneficiary and users of digital push. Digitalisation of schemes and services will remove intermediaries ensuring leakage-free delivery of the intended benefits. Similar pace towards digitalisation and is being seen in the labour market also. Covi-19 pushed the pace of digitalisation further, the rise of companies like urban clap etc. is expected to increase the importance of digital literacy and be able to work with platforms for occupations like plumber, hairdresser, mechanic etc. It will not be wrong to argue that digital literacy is as important as primary education was during the 1960s. Countries like South Korea and China who focused on primary education five decades ago later found themselves in a better position to reap the benefits of globalization and became global manufacturing hubs.

Keeping this context in mind, Dattopant Thengadi Foundation has decided to organise panel discussion on the topic “**Increasing importance of digital literacy in post-Covid world**” to celebrate World Youth Skills day. We would like to get different perspectives on three aspects of digitalisation and digital literacy: one, the government's push towards digitalisation; two, growing use of digital technology in the labour market, and; three, the importance of digital literacy for youth, especially in terms of education-work transition.

### **Tentative schedule and format**

**Date:** 15th July, 2021.

**Time:** 11:00 am to 01:00 pm

**Mode:** Mixed (speakers who can come to our studio, can join from there otherwise those comfortable at home they can join and deliver their lecture online), audience can join online only..

#### **Speakers:**

1. **Skills specialist** - preferably from ILO (MS. Sudeepta Bhadra)
2. **Academics** - Santosh Mehrotra
3. Representative of industry association (FICCI & CII)
4. Trade Union representative (HMS)
5. Government (IT industry/Skills Ministry)

**Moderator:** Sh. Virjesh Upadyay (tbc)

**Chairperson:** Sh. Saji Narayanan (tbc)

Each speaker will speak for around 15 minutes.