

**INAUGURATION OF
THEMATIC MASTERCLASS SERIES**

&

**OBSERVATION OF
WORLD YOUTH SKILLS DAY**

ON

“YOUTH EMPOWERMENT THROUGH AI AND DIGITAL SKILLS”

Date: 15/07/2025

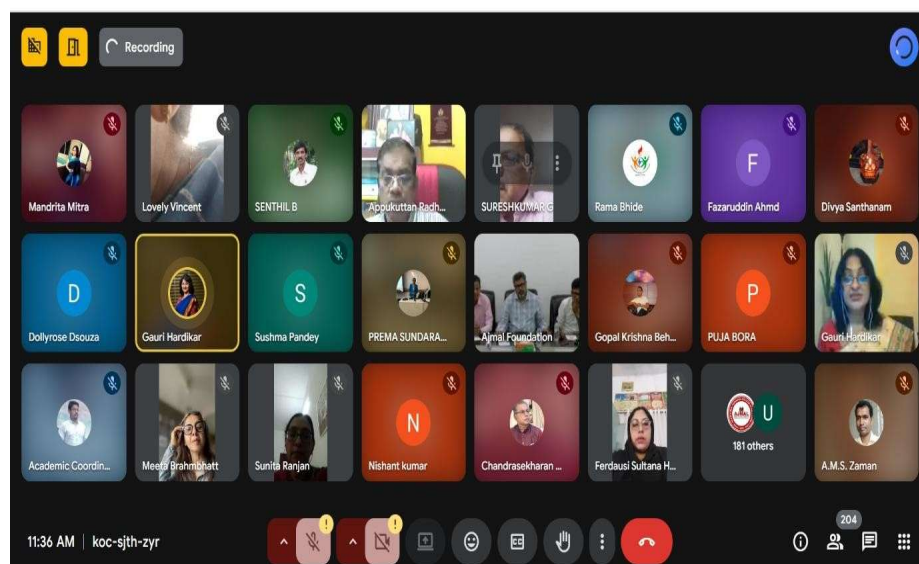
Time: 11:30 am to 12.30 pm

Online Platform: Google Meet

Jointly Organised by: Indian Association of Life Skills Education (IALSE), Chennai & Nazir Ajmal Memorial College of Education, Hojai

Event Report

The **Thematic Masterclass Series** is an initiative by Indian Association of Life Skills Education (IALSE), that aims to spark dialogue around critical issues and learn from experts in their respective fields. To commemorate World Youth Skills Day, the Indian Association of Life Skills Education (IALSE), Chennai organized the **Inaugural Masterclass** in collaboration with Nazir Ajmal Memorial College of Education, Hojai. The Masterclass was focused on the theme “YOUTH EMPOWERMENT THROUGH AI, DIGITAL SKILLS AND LIFE SKILLS” with specific emphasis on equipping youth with life skills, digital skills, and artificial intelligence (AI) for thriving in today’s world. The programme was attended by students, teachers, educators and experts, fostering a rich and thoughtful exchange of ideas and experiences.



The programme was anchored by Dr. Gauri Hardikar, Vice President, IALSE who gracefully conducted the proceedings.

The welcome address was delivered by Dr. MRH Azad, IQAC Coordinator, Nazir Ajmal Memorial College of Education, Hojai who emphasized the importance of skill-based education in today's competitive world.



Then followed the Presidential Address by Dr. A Radhakrishnan Nair, President, IALSE who spoke about the growing need for life skills and digital skills among youth. He highlighted how these skills build confidence, adaptability, responsibility and emotional strength, enabling young minds and students to navigate academic and personal challenges

more effectively. He also emphasized the importance of life skills in entrepreneurship and employment. He spoke about how life skills transformed a person's life. He added that the use of digital skills is not going to replace the work of humans, but it will refine our work and make it more fruitful. He spoke about four other skills those are important for every youth like communication skills, handling social media, data interpretation, analytical skills, critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

This was followed by the highlight of the event - the Inaugural Masterclass - delivered by Dr. K. Ellangovan, IAS (Retd.) Former Additional Chief Secretary and Managing Director, INKEL Ltd. who provided an in-depth exploration of the programme's central theme - Youth Empowerment through AI, Digital Skills & Life Skills. His Masterclass emphasized the practical application of these skill sets in real-world contexts and the urgent need to incorporate them into mainstream education. Dr. K. Ellangovan pointed out the following during his lecture –

- **Importance of Interpersonal Skills** - Interpersonal skills are now essential for success. Earlier, high IQ was considered the primary determinant of success; but now EQ and CQ are equally importance. Emotional Quotient (EQ) is the ability to manage emotions, teamwork, empathy, and collaboration. EQ leads to leadership and group success. Cultural Quotient (CQ) refers to cross-cultural sensitivity and inclusivity. Those having high CQ avoid discrimination and can integrate across social, cultural, and ethnic lines.

- **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** - AI is a double-edged tool that can either aid or mislead depending on use. It helps individuals learn faster by filtering and providing relevant information. AI is essential for understanding complex intersections such as law & finance, sociology & criminology, etc.
- **AI and Life Skills Integration** - AI complements life skills by identifying societal trends and patterns. Professional success will depend on combining academic knowledge, life skills like EQ, CQ (emotional and cultural intelligence), and AI proficiency.
- **Future of Jobs** Future jobs will demand cognitive abilities such as decision-making, problem-solving, and critical thinking. Trainers will have to prepare youth with life skills, digital skills, and AI skills.



Dr. Ellangovan concluded by stating that academic excellence alone is no longer sufficient. Success depends on a well-balanced integration of life skills, digital literacy, and artificial intelligence.

During the Q&A session, a participant enquired if we can connect inclusion with cultural skills. Dr. K. Ellangovan answered that cultural intelligence has a direct connection with inclusion. It involves including everyone, embracing and respecting diverse cultures. It also embodies learning each other's cultures and seeking information and cross-cultural understanding.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Gauri Hardikar, Vice President, IALSE, who expressed gratitude to all the speakers and participants for the valuable inputs and cherished the significance of such a platform for the development of youth.

The Masterclass successfully advanced awareness of the interconnection between life skills, emerging technologies, and digital literacy - including AI. The discussions served as a strategic compass for educators and learners, emphasizing the need to cultivate capabilities that respond to the challenges of an increasingly complex global environment.



Report prepared by:

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