



REPORT

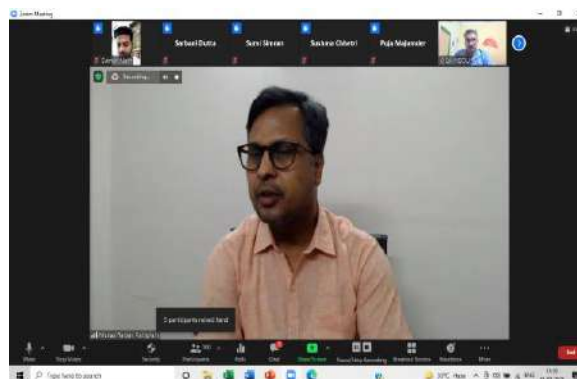
In 2014, the United Nations General Assembly declared 15 July as World Youth Skills Day, to celebrate the strategic importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship. Since then, World Youth Skills Day events have provided a unique opportunity for dialogue between young people, vocational education and training (VET) institutions, industries, policymakers and development partners. World Youth Skills Day 2021 was observed in a challenging context, with the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in the widespread disruption of the VET sector. While vaccination rollouts offer some hope, VET still has a long road to recovery, especially in those countries which continue to be overwhelmed by the spread of the disease. Youth skills development will face a range of unfamiliar problems emerging from a crisis where training has been disrupted in an unprecedented manner on a virtually universal scale.

Young people aged 15-24 are particularly exposed to the socio-economic consequences of the pandemic. School and workplace closures are leading to learning and training losses. Major life-cycle transitions are made difficult if not impossible, including graduation from general education or VET at secondary or tertiary level and labour market insertion. VET has a key role to play in fostering the resilience of young people. It is crucial for all stakeholders to ensure the continuity of skills development and to introduce training programmes to bridge skills gaps. Solutions need to be reimagined in a way that considers not only the realities of the present, but also the full range of possibilities for the future.

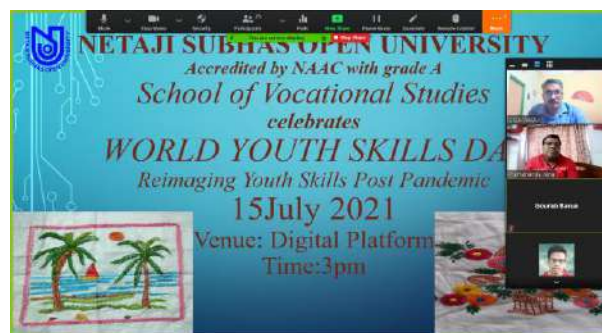


The theme of the World Youth Skills Day for 2021 was ‘Reimagining Youth Skills Post-Pandemic’, which aims to the resilience and creativity of the youth. As per declaration of UN, the thrust areas are technical and vocational skills development, specifically regarding access to affordable quality VET; the acquisition of technical and vocational skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship; the elimination of gender disparity and ensuring access for the vulnerable.

In view of this the School of Vocational Studies, Netaji Subhas Open University celebrated the World Youth Skills Day: Reimagining Youth Skills Post Pandemic on 15th July 2021 on digital platform. The invited speakers were Dr. Manas Ranjan Panigrahi, Sr. Education Officer, Commonwealth Educational Centre for Asia, New Delhi and CA Mrityunjoy Acharjee Vice-President, Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd. 100 participants attended the virtual programme.



Professor Anirban Ghosh, Director (i/c), School of Vocational Studies in his welcome address mentioned that the university conducts a good number of vocational and educational training programmes through its study centres across the state. Professor Ghosh deliberated on the importance of VET in present day context specially in the pandemic situation. Knowledge and skills will be the key to success. He also discussed the new skills set required to make the youth relevant to the job market. In the context of pandemic, the industries are changing, the job market is also rapidly changed. So the job aspirants should also change themselves for the changing job market. The upskilling or reskilling is urgently required for the new normal. In new normal, some new skills set will be emerged for the sector like health care, para medical, automobile, electric car, digital marketing etc.



Dr. Manas Ranjan Panigrahi specially mentioned the role of digital platform in imparting VET in this pandemic situation. He explained how the e-content is developed for skills courses. Through skills training one may create job as well generate revenue for his livelihood. He pointed out that CEMCA supports various HEIs to promote VET at specific region through project mode. NSOU also worked with CEMCA under three year project titled “ Increase access to VET and Capacity building for teachers.

CA & CMA Mreityunjoy Acharjee mentioned in his address that computer literacy is a must in this situation where almost all activities are done through digital platform. Digital marketing and IT & ITEs will dominate the job market. The job relating GST, income tax filing, stock market may give good earning which can be carried out from home through a computing device and internet connection.

Dr. Premananda Jana, Regional Director, Kalyani RC, NSOU proposed formal vote of thanks and summarized the entire programme mentioning that the students must acquire some add on

value added skills set with their graduation programme so that they may become employable at the time of graduation.

Programme Schedule

- 3.00pm: Welcome Address by Professor Anirban Ghosh, Director (I/c), School of Vocational Studies, Netaji Subhas Open University
- 3.15pm: Special Lecture by Dr. Manas R. Panigrahi, Sr. Programme Officer, Commonwealth Educational Centre for Asia, New Delhi
- 3.30pm: Keynote Address by CA & CMA Mrityunjoy Acharjee, Vice-President (Finance & Accounts), Balmer & Lawrie & Co. Ltd.
- 4.00pm: Q & A
- 4.15pm: Vote of thanks by Dr. Premanda Jana, Regional Director, Kalyani Regional Centre, Netaji Subhas Open University

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89419330600?pwd=NIQ3NGdiOUlMNm93RlNBa2VkN2Z2dz09>

Meeting ID: 894 1933 0600

Passcode: nsou123

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