Digital Skills for Decent Jobs

South Asia Regional Symposium on ICT for Education 2018
Science, Technology & Innovation: Opportunities & challenges

Robots

Internet of Things

Artificial intelligence

United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)

Big data analytics

Cloud computing
Youth employment: A challenge of both quality & quantity jobs

71 million youth are unemployed and 160.6 million are employed but live in poverty
The skills mismatch

Most young people don’t possess the skills needed to work in the digital economy
Employers are looking for:

- Advanced Digital Skills
- Basic Digital Skills
- Digital Entrepreneurship Skills
- Soft Skills
How to address the Digital Skills Mismatch? An integrated approach ...

Skills Development
Creation of jobs for youth
Enabling environment for young entrepreneurs

Demand
Supply
... with a strong focus on gender equality

- 26% of professional computing occupations held by women
- 18% Computer Science bachelor’s degrees recipients are women
Our solutions must cover multiple contexts and work with multiple partners!
1. At the policy level

Embedding digital skills development strategies within national, regional and global priorities
2. In schools

School Curricula

Introducing coding & computational thinking

https://gmo.gil/Fzwe99

Teacher Training
3. Outside formal education: Coding bootcamps

3- to 6-month intensive and demand-driven digital skills training – often working with employers to secure job placement
3. Outside formal education: Training beyond coding

- Computer graphics and design
- Networking and system administration
- Software and mobile app development
- Internet marketing
4. At the workplace

- Quality apprenticeships
- Incentives and training for staff to continuously develop their digital skills
- Soft skills development on-the-job
“The profession of programmer attracted me because of the opportunity to create something different, something new ... I took it just as a nice bonus ... Now I work with a great team, creating applications for a variety of mobile devices”
Success relies on

(i) Skills sets that address the needs of the labour demand

Involving governments and private sector in:

- Identifying and anticipating skills needs
- Actively engaging in training delivery
- Assessing results of digital skills training initiatives
Success relies on
(ii) Leveraging technology to enhance youth digital skills

- Online trainings
- Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)
- Promotion of Open Education Resources
- Free and Open Source Software (FOSS)
Investing in digital skills for young people pays off!

Benefits for young people
• Behaviours and attitudes
• Employment and earnings
• Business performance
• Engagement in society
• Individual resilience
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Benefits for society

- Active business environment
- Boost the digital economy
- Peace and resilience
- Equip 5 million youth with job-ready digital skills by 2030
- Foster digital jobs for youth
- Promote an enabling environment for youth entrepreneurship in the digital economy
USING SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION TO FACILITATE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

THANK YOU // www.decentjobsforyouth.org

#DECENTJOBSFORYOUTH
Sri Lanka was as one of five countries of the ‘Connect a School, Connect a Community’ ITU initiative. 

**Outcome:** The project benefited over 8500 students in 33 schools located in areas of low ICT development, including a focus on Digital Inclusion of children with special needs.

**Narrow the Digital Divide between rural and urban areas and provide Digital Opportunities to the communities**

**Teachers training** for skill development

**Public-Private-Peoples’ Partnership (4P) implementation model** engaging ITU, TRCSL, Ministry of Education, UNHCR, ICTA, SLT, Mobitel, Dialog Axiata, Metropolitan Computers, Daisy Lanka Foundation, principal, teachers, parents and students, local NGO’s