



UNIVERSITY OF MYSORE

CENTRE FOR STUDY OF SOCIAL INCLUSION

Humanities Block, Manasagangothri, Mysuru - 570006

In Collaboration with

DEPARTMENT OF STUDIES IN ECONOMICS & COOPERATION

Humanities Block, Manasagangothri, Mysuru - 570006

Organizes

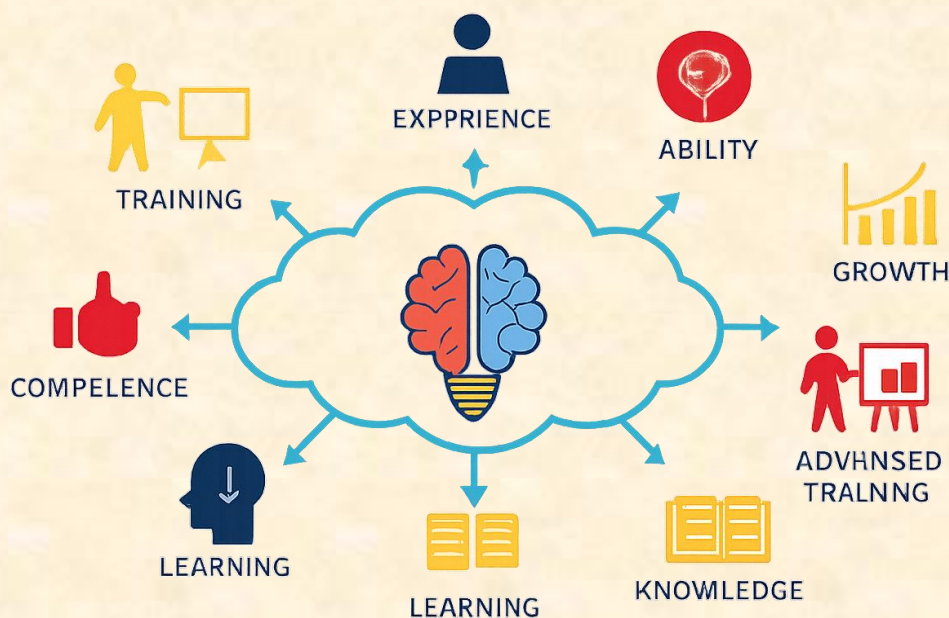
A Two-Day National Seminar on

Skill Development for Inclusive Growth: Policies and Strategies

26th and 27th, February, 2026

Venue:

Manasagangothri, University of Mysore, Mysuru - 570006



Funding Courtesy:



Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi

ABOUT THE SEMINAR

Skill development is essential for national development, as it enhances employability, improves labour productivity and fosters sustainable economic growth, particularly in the context of 21st-century economies and rapidly transforming societies. As countries now compete globally in knowledge economies, the need for a skilled workforce that is suitable, identifiable, and prepared for the market, i.e., relevant, high-quality, and marketable skills, is unprecedented. India, with a very young demographic profile and one of the world's biggest labour forces, views skill development not just as a policy necessity but also as a development necessity.

India's demographic structure can present both challenges and opportunities. It has a population where over 65 per cent is below the age of 35 to benefit from its demographic dividend. However, this benefit is based on whether educated youth have the employable skills that are sought after by aspiring industries and a modern civil society. Poor access to quality training, insufficient access to training, skill mismatches, and poorly structured pathways to recognise qualifications have created underemployment and unemployment, even for educated youth. The situation is much worse for socio-economically weaker sections of society, including but not limited to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities, Women and Persons with Disabilities.

In the past decade, the Government of India has taken various policy initiatives and institutional measures to resolve the issues. Among these were the National Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Policy (2015), Skill India Mission, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushal Yojana (DDU-GKY), and Jan Shiksha Sansthan (JSSs), all of which provided demand-oriented skill training, promoted entrepreneurship, and established partnerships between the public and private skill partners.

Although, there is still significant work to be done since there is evidence of continued issues. A major issue remains that there is a continued discrepancy between the skills supplied or offered and the skill needs of the labour market, which continues to result in poor employment outcomes for graduates of training programs. There were still the now familiar issues of fragmentation of training programs, lack of coordination between ministries and implementing agencies, encompassing regional disparities in terms of access to training, gender gaps and obstacles to the participation of marginalized communities in the inclusivity of these programs.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SEMINAR

We are currently facing the 4th Industrial Revolution, in which rapid changes in digital technologies and automation, artificial intelligence and the gig economy are quickly transforming the world of work. This means that there is a need for reskilling and upskilling in the current workforce and a need for a strategic shift to change the approach to skill development across sectors and regions. The importance of skill development is even recognized in the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which highlights access to vocational skills alongside mainstream education and also creates new challenges in terms of appreciably implementing this.

The step of change is unprecedented and resulting in advanced roles being replaced, even as new roles are being created that demand a hybrid of digital, cognitive, and socio-emotional skills. This situation permits a new approach to skill development which will be future-facing in an approach that is industry relevant, regionally contextual, and its access and equity considerations. Educational institutions, industries, and government agencies, need to share a collaborative learning space so we can create flexible learning systems which connect theoretical and professional experience. Furthermore, NEP 2020 refers to vocational training from the outset, the need for credit-based modular learning and employability as recognized global practices but we are better positioned for effective implementation via strong teacher training, redesigned curricula, strengthened infrastructure, and quality and standards monitoring. We need to ensure equitable

access to skill development opportunities considering the rural-urban differences as well as socio-economic barriers. This will help all citizens participate equitably in the current digital economy.

In this context, the Centre for the Study of Social Inclusion, University of Mysore, Mysuru, in collaboration with DOS in Economics and Cooperation, University of Mysore, Mysuru, to organizing a two-day National Seminar on “Skill Development for Inclusive Growth: Policies and Strategies” on 26th and 27th, February 2026. The seminar aims to convene a diverse range of academicians, policymakers, practitioners, industry leaders, and civil society organizations to reflect on the current state of skill development in India, assess its socio-economic impacts, and conceptualize new ways to make skilling more inclusive, equitable, and effective in the Indian context.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SEMINAR:

1. To examine the present situation of skill development programming and its outcomes in promoting employability.
2. To analyze policy responses at the national and state levels that foster inclusive skill development.
3. To identify the barriers and challenges that marginalized groups face in accessing skill development and employment.
4. To establish discussions between academia, government, and industry towards an inclusive and sustainable development ecosystem.
5. To suggest innovative practices to ensure that demand and skills match.

The Main Theme: Enhancing Skills for Employability: Policy and Practice

Sub Themes:

1. Policy Frameworks and Institutional Mechanisms
 - National and state skill development policies
 - Public-private partnerships in skill training
 - UGC, NSDC, MSDE and other agency roles
2. Social Inclusion and Skill Development
 - Skill training of SC/ST, OBC, Minorities, Women, and Persons with Disabilities
 - Community-based and NGO initiatives
 - Spatial inequality in access to skill training
3. Education and Vocational Integration
 - Skill development in the school and higher education curriculum
 - Role of ITIs, Polytechnics, Jan Shikshan Sansthan
 - NEP 2020 and integrated vocational education
4. Self-employment and Entrepreneurship
 - Skilling for entrepreneurship
 - Startup ecosystem and support systems
 - Rural entrepreneurship
5. Industry, Innovation and Technology
 - The Future skills/digital literacy
 - Skill development for the gig economy and platform work
 - Automation, AI and new technologies in employment
6. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Impact Assessment
 - Measuring outcomes from the skill development program
 - Feedback mechanisms and continuous improvement/adoption
 - Best practices in program design and implementation
7. Other relatable issues.

ABOUT UNIVERSITY OF MYSORE

The University of Mysore is a leading institution of its type and is a long-term symbol in the focus on excellence in higher education in India. It was founded by the then Maharaja of Mysore, His Highness Sri Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV, on July 27, 1916. The University of Mysore became the first University outside the sphere of the British administration in India, the sixth University in India as a whole, and the first ever University in Karnataka State. Beginning with just 2 departments in 1916, today it has grown to a strength of 58 postgraduate departments, 98 affiliated colleges, 49 recognised research centres and 38 outreach centres spread over different parts of the country and abroad. The university also offers graduate and postgraduate programs in an online mode. It has been accredited for the 3rd time by NAAC with a score of 3.47 points scale and a grade. Current science has ranked the University of Mysore as one of the top 20 universities in scientific and research activities.

ABOUT THE CENTRE

The Tenth Plan recognises that marginalisation, exclusion, persecution of people on account of social, religious, caste and gender adversely affect developmental outcomes. The State is committed to instituting a National Charter to ensure social justice to deprived communities like the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other backward castes and minorities. With this background, the Centre for the Study of Social Inclusion has been functioning in the University of Mysore (Karnataka) since 2008 to conduct research and programs on the issue of social exclusion, which has both hypothetical as well as policy importance. The Centre has been engaged in pioneering research, seminars, and outreach programmes focusing on issues of social exclusion, discrimination, Women, Dalits, backward classes, and minorities. The recognition of Centre research activities at the national level is evident from the fact that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, has recognised Centre as a **“Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Tribal Studies.”**

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

The Department was established in the year 1916 with under graduate course in Economics. The post-graduate course was started in 1921, and the department was shifted to Manasagangothri Campus in 1960. University of Mysore Department of Studies in Economics and Co-operation, Eminent Economists like Dr N.S. Subba Rao, Dr V.L. D'Souza, Dr M.H.Gopal, Dr G.T. Hutchappa, Dr A.P. Srinivasamurthy, Dr S.M.Verraraghavachar and Dr M. Madaiah enabled the Department to attain the national and international stature. Distinguished Nobel Laureates Prof. J.R.Hicks, Prof. Kenneth J. Arrow visited the department. Economists Dr D.M. Nanjundappa, Dr K. Venkatagirigowda, Dr G.T. Thimmaiah, Dr K.S. Nanjundaih and Mr S. Rangachar of the World Bank, Dr V.K.R.V. Rao, Dr Raja Chellaiah, Prof. Cynthia Wyatt, Dr Rangarajan, and Prof. Panchamukhi are some of the distinguished visitors in the last few decades. The Department holds the distinction of having Dr M. Madaiah, Prof. S. Indumati, Prof. Manjappa D. Hosamani and Prof. B.K. Tulasimala serve as Vice Chancellor of the University of Mysore, Davanagere University, Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University, and Sri Akka Mahadevi Women's University, respectively, making the department proud and bringing it laurels. The department offers M.A. in Economics, M.A.in Cooperative Management and PhD in both Economics and Co-operation with coursework of one semester.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Papers are invited on any of the sub-themes of the Seminar. Contributions may take the form of a paper.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACT AND FULL PAPER

- The abstract (500 words) and full paper (10 to 12 Pages) should be submitted by email to **csseipsdig2026@gmail.com**. A Peer Review Committee will short-list the selected papers. Selected full papers will be double blind refereed by the peer experts for their selection for publication in the edited volume (with ISBN).
- The papers should be submitted in soft copy (in MS Word, Times New Roman, A-4 size with one-and-a-half line spacing and one-inch margin all around and a maximum of 10 to 12 pages). Papers without a soft copy will not be accepted.
- The research papers shall be preferably in the standard research format, spelling out the need for the study, objectives of the study, hypothesis, if any, methodology, techniques of data analysis, findings/ results, conclusion, references and statistical tables, in that order.

ACCOMMODATION DETAILS:

For Two days, moderate lodging and boarding facilities will be provided (outstation paper presenter) in the university guesthouse on a twin share basis on a first-come, first served basis.

REGISTRATION DETAILS:

Faculty, Academicians and Professionals : Rs. 300/-
Research Scholars : Rs. 200/-
Students (PG) : Rs. 100/-

IMPORTANT DATES:

Last date for submission of abstract : 25.01.2026
Submission of Full Paper : 05.02.2026
Seminar Dates : 26th and 27th, February, 2026

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE	
<u>Chief Patron</u> Prof. N.K Lokanath Hon'ble Vice Chancellor University of Mysore, Mysuru	<u>Patron</u> Smt. M.K Savitha K.A.S Registrar University of Mysore, Mysuru
<u>Seminar Convener</u> Dr. Siddaraju V.G Director (I/c) & Associate Professor Centre for Study of Social Inclusion, University of Mysore, Mysuru Mob: 9480771681 Email: drsiddarajuv@gmail.com csseipsdig2026@gmail.com	Dr. Navitha Thimmaiah Professor and Chairperson DOS in Economics & Cooperation University of Mysore, Mysuru
	Dr. Nanjunda D.C Associate Professor Centre for Study of Social Inclusion, University of Mysore, Mysuru
Dr.Mahesha M Professor DOS in Economics & Cooperation University of Mysore, Mysuru	Dr.Dinesha M.V Professor DOS in Economics & Cooperation University of Mysore, Mysuru