



# DIGITAL SKILLING FOR LIVELIHOOD, EMPLOYABILITY, & ENTREPRENEURSHIP (DSLEE) FOR YOUTHS OF TEA TRIBE & ADIVASI COMMUNITY (TTAC) IN ASSAM

*Enabling Youths and young women to have gainful skills to improve chances of their employment for enhancing their livelihoods and entrepreneurship*

**A BRIEF REPORT**

DECEMBER 2023

# 1. INTRODUCTION & CONTEXT

The Tea Tribe & Adivasi (TTAC) community residing in the Tea Gardens in Assam has one of the lowest social and economic indicators. The COVID-19 pandemic affected the community worst with tea production and supply affected, wages became irregular. With no steady, sustainable, affordable access to the internet, digital resources, opportunities and welfare announcements, the community are further excluded and now faces challenges for response, recovery and resilience. With the current focus on shifting all information, and services digitally and online, the community needs major access and digital inclusion support and mainstreaming.

Given the gardens' remoteness and the terrain's specificity, the Tea Tribe and Adivasis of the Tea Garden regions are facing one of the lowest access and digital coverage. Further, due to the high cost of setting up infrastructure for internet services, the tea garden and surrounding regions are low-interest areas for the telecom and internet service providers. Due to adverse social and economic conditions of the community, even community network solutions is difficult due to cost and sustainability.

Add to this, the widespread lack of digital literacy, and digital skills for navigating the digital world for opportunities, jobs, employability, and entrepreneurship. According to a field study, 79% of the people in the 6 tea districts of Assam need access to digital skills and training. Tinsukia, a tea district, is the lowest-performing district regarding training under PMDISHA. The need of the hour is to digitally equip the younger generations with knowledge and access to create a cadre of digitally skilled youths who can be change-makers in the community and role models for others.

## 2.THE SKILLS TRAINING FOR THE TEA TRIBE & ADIVASI YOUTHS IN ASSAM

This pilot project is a short-term computer skilling and upskilling courses to be run in collaboration with National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Govt. of India to provide entrepreneurship and employment opportunities to the youths of Tea Tribe & Adivasi Community in Assam, *covering Dibrugarh, Tinsukia and Jorhat Districts in this phase.*

### ***2.1. The Objectives***

- i) To provision digital inclusion for digital equity;
- ii) To provision practical based digital skills to enhance livelihood, employability and entrepreneurship;

### ***2.2. The Population & Geography***

The digital skilling programme is aimed at the youths from the Tea Tribe & Adivasi Community in Assam. This includes youths who are undergraduates and between Class VIII to XII th passed.

#### ***The beneficiary youths for the training includes:***

- i. 1500 youths covering the districts of Dibrugarh, Tinsukia and Jorhat.
- ii. It is expected that more than 20 % of the skilled youths will be women.

### ***2.3. The Methodology***

- Engage the stakeholders of the Tea Tribe & Adivasi Community that the proposed agencies are working with in the proposed districts to identify, mobilise the potential youths for the skill training.

- Identify and select the youths, mobilise them and register for the skills training in NIELIT centres in the proposed district.
- Timely review, monitoring of the training of the youths with NIELIT towards successful completion.
- Feedback process of the training with the youths.
- Facilitation of linking the skilled youths towards job, employability and entrepreneurship.

#### ***2.4. The Outputs and Outcome***

##### **Outputs:**

- i. Mobilise, identify, engage, enrol 1500 Tea Tribe & Adivasi Youths (from VIII to XII th standard pass) in Assam in various digital and related skilling, to be certified by NIELIT.
- ii. These 1500 youths trained in basics of web technologies & programming concepts; basics of electrification and solar power technologies; computer applications and accounting and publishing, computer application and networking.

##### **Outcome**

- i. The skilled youths to have new skills for job, livelihood, employability and entrepreneurship and participate in the digital sectors effectively.
- ii. The skilling programme leading to digital inclusion and empowerment of the youths from the community.

#### ***2.5. Duration***

The duration of the skilling programme will be July – December 2023.

The training courses duration ranges from 36 hours to 400 hours (according to the nature of the courses) and spans across 6 – 60 days.

## 3.STAKEHOLDERS

The project engaged relevant stakeholders from the Tea Tribe & Adivasi Community (TTAC) including Office of the District Chairmen of the Tea Tribe Welfare Department; All Assam Tea Tribes Students Association; ACMS, ABITA, ATPA and others.

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