The Deshpande Educational Trust, in collaboration with the National Skill Development Corporation and the Department of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood, Government of Karnataka, hosted its first ever Kaushal Dialogue, on 4 February, 2018 at India’s largest skill development center in Hubballi.

The conference witnessed close to 400 national and international delegates, 20 well acclaimed speakers (from National Skill Development Corporation, Government of Karnataka, training partners, industries and education technology startups), and 1500+ youth from local rural regions (DET students, and participants from rural regions of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Maharashtra).

The conference also comprised of 40 exhibitions and stalls inducted by the training partners, skill councils and industrialists, out of which 15 stalls were inducted by the sector skill councils to help the youth explore various career options in the field of telecommunications, automobiles, aerospace and aviation, instrumentation automation, tourism, transport, gems and jewelry industry, and the like. This also gave the participants a glimpse into the world of Skill India.

Kaushal Dialogue 2018 Highlights

- Keynote Panels: 4
- Speakers: 20
- Placement Partner Representatives: 50
- Delegates: 400+
- Footfall for Kaushal Dialogue: 2500+
- Stalls and Exhibits: 37
- Roundtables: 2
  - Roundtable with 200 Alumni
  - Roundtable with 50 Placement Partners
The day-long conference kick-started with a creative presentation by the fellows of Deshpande Educational Trust (DET) who showcased the transformation in their lives after they enrolled in different programs offered by DET, through a mime. The alumni and students of DET gave a quick insight into their lives post their journey at DET.

It was followed by the Lamp Lighting ceremony and an inaugural speech by Naveen Jha, CEO, Deshpande Foundation on setting the context for Kaushal Dialogue, 2018.

The eminent panelists for the day enlightened the youth on the power of a skilled nation and laid out a roadmap on how we could create a greater ecosystem and think big by empowering more youth in the times to come.
This panel witnessed speakers talking on the general perspective of Skill India and why we should look forward to skilling a large number of people. They further explained why India needs skills, which can sustain well. Speakers also highlighted on how we can use our resources through scalable, sustainable skill development initiatives to make India a developed country.

Eminent panelists enlightened the youth on the power of a skilled nation and laid out a roadmap on how we could create a greater ecosystem and think big by empowering more youth in the times to come.
Forget other sectors, skill development sector itself can consume so many people. This can be a long-lasting career where they're building themselves as well as other people.

Skill development is not something we read, it’s continuous learning. Qualification and education are important, but if you don’t know how to communicate, delegate and express, then it’s of no use.

When we look at skill development in New Brunswick, we have a number of programs similar to India. We look at essential skills, experiential learning, hands-on training, language training, and soft skills training.

We should tell our children about soft skills, communication skills, and broadening their horizon because that’s where the future of India lies. Unless we do, no amount of skilling or training will help.

The future is going to be in the service sector. Through skill gap analysis, it is found that the manufacturing sector will probably not grow as much as the service sector because a lot of automation is happening.

In a nutshell, the magic masala is we try and instill a set of values where individuals take ownership for the work they do. Besides skills, they are taught to take charge and take responsibility.

There is a huge gap between what employers seek and what our current formal education system offers. We need to bridge this gap and have a framework of skilling, which is internationally accepted.
In this panel, the panelists assessed how e-learning platforms could be the possible way forward to enable youth from rural India to up-skill themselves, so that they are exposed to greater employment opportunities in the times ahead.

The panel drew upon their rich leadership experience, providing global perspectives and local learning in this niche space.
On the theme of opportunities and what we can achieve with technology, there are 3 key pillars where ed-tech can play a role – access, affordability and effectiveness.

We believe in giving students a lot of exposure. We connect them with industries to apply their knowledge and give solutions at the age of 11, 20 and so on.

When you think about online platforms, you have to think about the goals of the institution and the program. Our program provides access to education, and is a revenue stream.

One of the things we’ve been trying to do strategically for online courses is try to make our materials as modular and generic as possible so that we can repurpose them.
The panelists assessed how the skill-specific initiatives by different organizations contribute to the overall skilling initiatives. They also discussed what needs to be done to scale these initiatives and make them sustainable, in order to meet the growing needs of a thriving market economy.

Prerana Langa mentioned there are resources, which need to be utilized very effectively for social impact.
Considering we are a social development arm, we also see where we can get free reachout. We happily take advantage of YES bank, our ATMs and customer databases to reach out.

Whatever you do, get your certificate nationally recognized and set the platform, so that everybody can do it. Education is very important.

We have created a panel, which represents academicians like principals, parents, and community leaders who primarily help mobilize students and create awareness on what the program is and the kind of work the panel does.
The panelists in this session assessed how different entities (government and non-governmental organizations and private agencies) envision upskilling the youth from rural India, so that such youth are exposed to greater employment opportunities in the times ahead.

The panelists helped the audience to understand the critical role played by different sectors that they were representing (ed-tech, non-profit and for-profit organizations) in fostering skill development and employment opportunities in India.
Skill development is where you make change happen. Everything here is done by a skilled person, and done by academic scholars. That’s the kind of power of skilling we need to believe in.

Innovation doesn’t happen in the boardroom or the sales office; it happens where the product is being produced for the customer. Having a skill is a tremendous opportunity to get involved in innovation.

In India, skill overpowers qualifications when hiring individuals for a job role. But to take up an opportunity abroad, qualifications certainly matter.

It’s not about Artificial Intelligence. It’s about Intelligence Augmentation. You need to upskill yourself with more interesting ways of doing technology. Technology is going to completely revolutionize everything.
Placement Partners

This session was inclusive of identifying the skill sets that may face the threat of extinction in the next ten years, examining the skill sets that are expected to gain popularity in the times to come, and assessing the skill development programs that need to be worked on to cater to the needs of the youth.

Alumni

This session focused on how the skill programs in DET benefited the alumni, what are the career opportunities skilling institutes like DET should focus on, what are the various ways in which the alumni seek to contribute towards the society going forward, and what kind of skill development and growth opportunities should be made available to the next generation of youth.
Glimpses from Kaushal Dialogue 2018
The Kaushal Dialogue is a unique initiative organized by Deshpande Educational Trust. It is a wonderful venue to meet and interact with the young minds at DET. I am amazed by their confidence and the skillsets they have developed. It gives a very positive feeling. I believe only collaborations can help us adequately skill the target audience.

Ghanashyam
Hasso Plattner Institute

It gives me great pleasure to be here at the Kaushal Dialogue. It’s very interesting to speak to the youth and see their potential. This is a wonderful initiative taken up by Deshpande Educational Trust to skill the youth and make them employable.

Prerana Langa
Yes Foundation

I am encouraged to see the courage in the youth here at the Deshpande Educational Trust. Transforming the youth into human capital is a big challenge in South Asia and standardization of skills and knowledge play a major role in this. I am happy to see that the Foundation has understood the importance of that and is taking wonderful skill development initiatives.

Dr. Mokhlesur Rahman
World Bank

Thank you for giving me the chance to be a part of this amazing and cheerful event. It was a pleasure to listen to great Indian leaders like Nandan Nilekani, Kishore Biyani and Dr. Desh Deshpande himself. Each panel at Kaushal Dialogue teaches us a lot. I look forward to collaborating with the Foundation and other NGOs who have been present here to create an ecosystem of change; This is the core agenda that DHFL drives through its CSR.

Siddhi Lad
DHFL

My first impression about Deshpande Educational Trust is that it’s altogether a different world. The initiatives taken by the teachers and volunteers here are commendable. These many variations in skill development programs are something I have not seen anywhere.

Piyush Agrawal
Superprofs

The work being done here in Deshpande Educational Trust is exemplary. It’s really heartening to see the confidence in the youth here who are being skilled on the things that are not just technical but also on soft skills according to their cognitive and non-cognitive abilities. I look forward to working with the Foundation very closely to see how we can take this to another part of the country.

Srinivas Purohit
Vijayalakshmi Group of Companies
KAUSHAL
DIALOGUE 2018

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