

Press Release

**JMI's Department of Adult and Continuing Education & Extension celebrates
International Literacy Day**

New Delhi, September 9, 2025

8th September marks the global observance of International Literacy Day. Jamia Millia Islamia too celebrated this day with fervor when the Department of Adult and Continuing Education Extension (DACEE) joined the International Program organised by the ASEM LLL Hub Regional Centre for South Asia titled **Achieving Digital Literacy...Will access solve the problem?** from 02:00-03:00 PM Indian Standard Time on ZOOM. Prof. (Dr.) Shikha Kapur, Professor and Former Head an expert on literacy and extension from the DACEE joined the discussions from Jamia Millia Islamia, India. The other International experts included Dr. Jan Schiller, Professor, Helmut Schmidt University/ University of the Federal Armed Forces, Hamburg, Germany. Dr. Shalini Singh, South Asia Coordinator, ASEM LLL Hub and founder director of Forum for Lifelong Learning at Copenhagen, Denmark led the discussions regarding issues of digital literacy faced by low-middle income countries like India and high-income countries like Germany.

Based on her work undertaken in slums around Jamia and analysis of government's programs, Prof. Shikha Kapur elaborated how access continues to pose a major challenge for digital literacy in India, especially for females, ruralites and the underprivileged sections of the society. She based the arguments on research and field activities conducted in the last more than three decades in adult education and extension by her. And that imparting basic literacy could be the way out for overcoming double marginalisation and digital divide in India.

Dr. Shiller, who is based in Hamburg, on the other hand shared data from his recent projects on Digitalisation and argued that while Germany and several other countries in Europe have managed to resolve most issues of access. However, the challenge largely remains in terms of the digital divide in the quality of knowledge and skills which are being imparted to the population. Further, he also emphasised how several digitalisation processes in various parts of daily life are not user-friendly enough, and this pushes several users outside the mainstream of development process.

Dr. Shalini shared her experiences from Denmark highlighting the growing Matthew Effect where the elderly population is being marginalised due to the pace of growth of digitalisation and lack of support for the low skilled while the high-skilled benefit from a

growing Matthew Effect. Referring to her research on resource mobilisation for the education of adults it was found that those who had access to digital technology used it for reel-culture and other social media engagement rather than literacy.

Several Academics, Practitioners, Research Scholars and Students from across the globe and JMI participated and discussed that irrespective of several policies, programs and initiatives that use enormous resources in India, the outcomes remain limited in terms of achieving literacy and the standard of what is considered as literacy in India remains poor. The Coordinator of ASEM Lifelong Learning Hub Regional Centre of South Asia, highlighted that ASEM is an intergovernmental body that includes 51 countries from Europe and Asia, European Union and ASEAN, and the ASEM Lifelong Learning Hubs role to promote lifelong learning. Its South Asia Centre focusses on the region.

The program ended with a message from the Honourable ASEM LLL Hub Chair, Prof. Séamus O' Tuama from the University of Cork, Ireland about including everyone and making use of our thumb, as on digital devices to support others in learning.

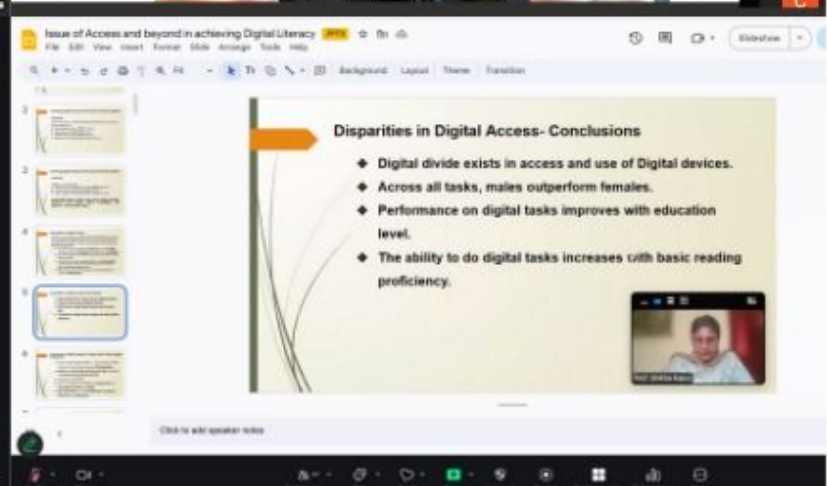
Prof. Saima Saeed
Chief Public Relations Officer

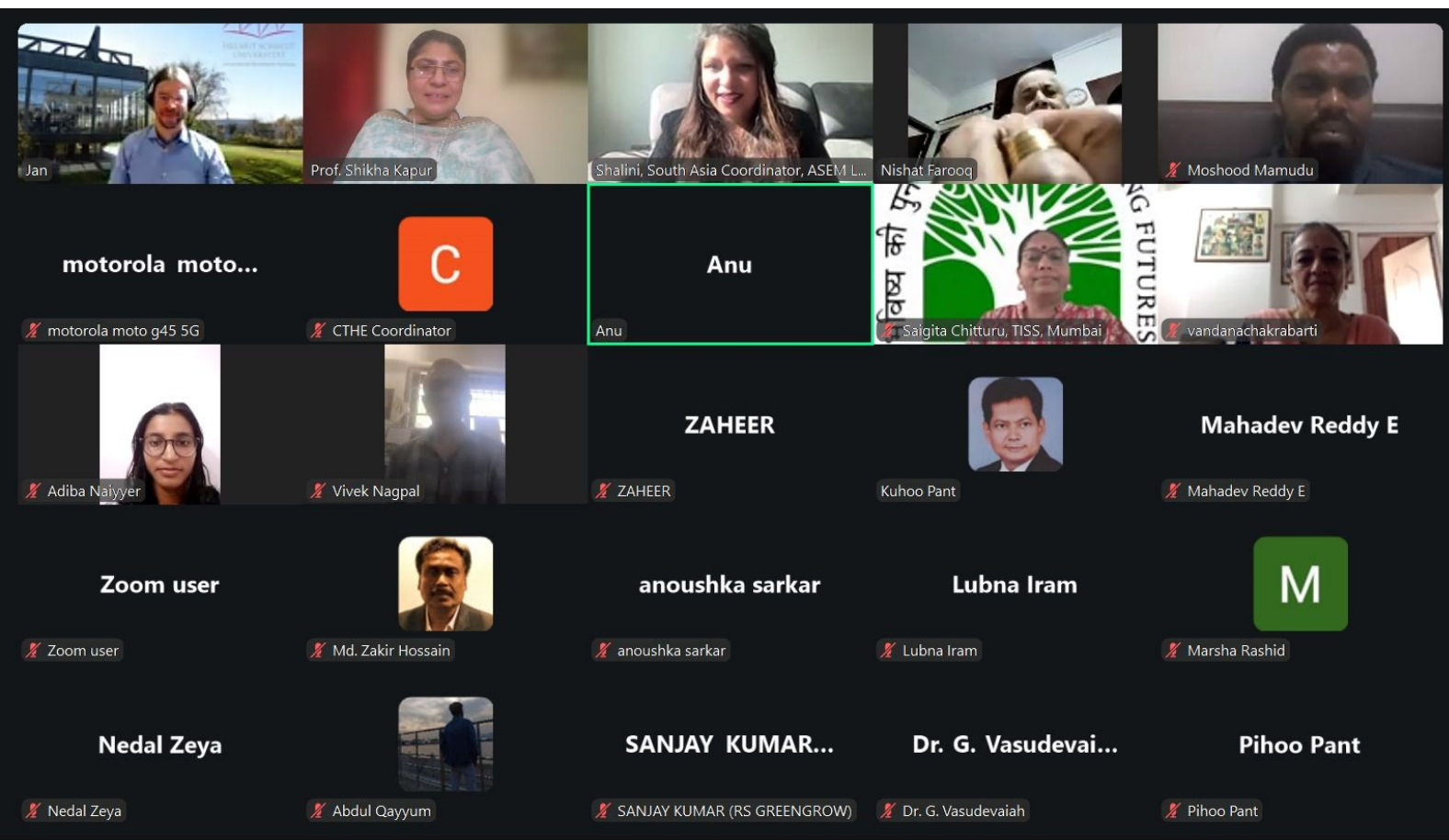


Table 1: Student Digital Competence Assessment and Usage Practices at HSU Hamburg from the DigiTakS* research project

Variable	Min	Max	M	SD	Mdn	n	r*	p**
Self-Assessed Competence ¹	2.99	5.00	3.99	0.59	4.00	240	-	-
Device Ownership and Usage ²	2	8	3.94	1.72	4.00	239	0.32	< 0.01
Study Application Usage Frequency ³	1	5	3.62	0.71	3.59	240	0.17	< 0.01
Leisure Application Usage Frequency ³	1	5	3.59	0.57	3.57	240	0.13	< 0.05
Study Usage vs Leisure Usage	-	-	-	-	-	240	0.53	< 0.01

* Pearson's Correlation Coefficient
 ** Significance (p-value)
¹ mean score, of 27 competence items. Scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 5 = strongly agree.
² of eight given device types.
³ mean score, of ten given application types. Scale: 1 = once a month, 2 = once a week, 3 = several times a week, 4 = once daily, 5 = more than once daily.







Shalini, South Asia Coordinator, ASEM L...



Prof. Shikha Kapur



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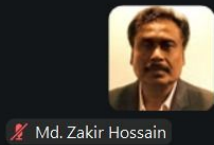
Nishat Farooq



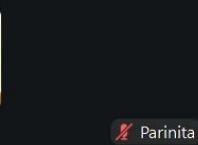
Moshood Mamudu



motorola moto g45 5G



Md. Zakir Hossain



Parinita



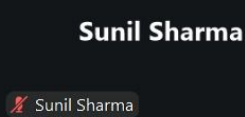
CTHE Coordinator



vandanachakrabarti



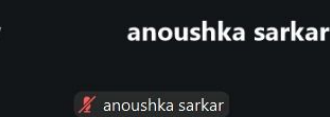
ILMA



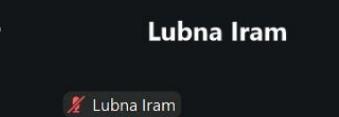
Sunil Sharma



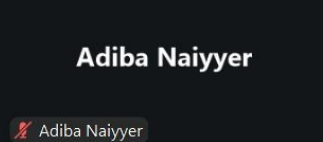
M. C. R. Reddy



anoushka sarkar



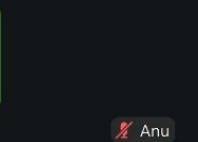
Lubna Iram



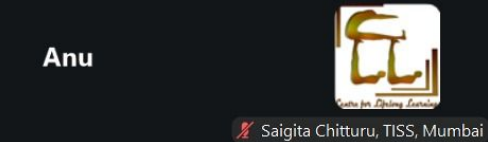
Adiba Naiyyer



Marsha Rashid



Anu



Saigita Chitturu, TISS, Mumbai



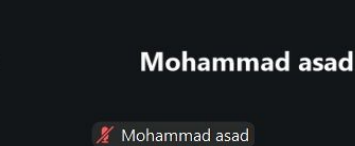
Jani Reddy



Akshita Mishra



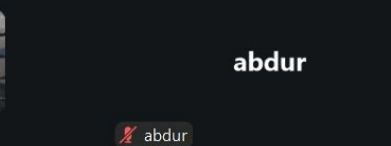
Nedal Zeya




Mohammad asad



Abdul Qayyum




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M. C. R. Reddy

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Prof. Shikha Kapur

Prof. Shikha Kapur




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motorola moto g45 5G

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Anu

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Sunil Sharma

Sunil Sharma




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
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
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
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
CTHE Coordinator

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vandanachakra...

vandanachakra...




anoushka sarkar

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Lubna Iram

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Adiba Naiyyer

Adiba Naiyyer




Marsha Rashid

Marsha Rashid




Saigita Chitturu, TISS, Mumbai

Saigita Chitturu, TISS, Mumbai




Jani Reddy

Jani Reddy



Nedal Zeya

Nedal Zeya



Abdul Qayyum

Abdul Qayyum

SANJAY KUMAR (RS GREENGROW)

SANJAY KUMAR (RS GREENGROW)

Jawaid

Jawaid

International Guest Lecture Series & Other A...

Yes mam

Prof Rajesh to Everyone 14:59

Wonderful

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CTHE Coordinator to Everyone 15:00

Thank you very much dear Shalini for organizing the fruitful discussion today as day like this, the Digital Day. it is really apt and constructive.

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Moshood Mamudu to Everyone 15:00

In Nigeria, access is not the biggest challenge; it's a symptom of deeper systemic issues. The real challenge is the complex interplay of basic literacy, a lack of physical infrastructure, affordability, and an inadequate education system. It's not just about providing a device, but building the entire ecosystem around it. Even teachers lack digital literacy.

Who can see your messages?

To: Everyone

Turn message here

Your version of Windows 11 has reached end of service. Click to download a newer version of Windows 11 to stay supported.

Achieving Digital Literacy...

WILL ACCESS SOLVE THE PROBLEM?



Join us for 2 critical interviews and discussion
based on data from India and Germany regarding

The Issues of Access and Beyond...
in Achieving Digital Literacy

8th September 2025

International Literacy Day Celebration!

10:30-11:30 AM CET/ 2:00-3:00 PM IST

Interviewees:

Prof. (Dr.) Shikha Kapur, Jamia Millia Islamia, Central University, New Delhi, India

Dr. Jan Schiller, Helmut Schmidt University of the Federal Armed Forces, Hamburg Germany

Interviewer: Dr. Shalini Singh, South Asia Coordinator, ASEM LLL Hub

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ZOOM LINK

Organised by ASEM LLL Hub Regional Centre for South Asia
For further details, please contact contactingshalinisingh@gmail.com