



# SKILLS ONLINE SRI LANKA

*Employed for the Unemployed*



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Uplifted Lives and  
Livelihoods of Citizens

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## National Library of Sri Lanka Commonwealth of Learning - Coursera

In mid 2020, the National Library of Sri Lanka (NLSL) formed a partnership with Commonwealth of Learning (COL) - Coursera Workforce Recovery Initiative (CWRI) with the aim of helping job-seekers in Sri Lanka to gain upskill and reskill to enter into the job market as well as reinforce job related skills to regain employment. COL-CWRI offered learners unlimited and free access to 5,000 courses designed to skill and reskill them. In June 2020, the NLSL implemented the programme under the topical theme ‘Skills Online Sri Lanka Programme (SOSLP) - Employed for the Unemployed’.

SOSLP also collaborated jointly with diverse local organizations such as Vocational Training Institute, public libraries, educational institutions, and employers.

NLSL with its partners extensively promoted the initiative and attracted unemployed people, especially youths, women and the differently-abled people across the country.



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NLSL successfully completed the programme in March 2021, producing more than 4,300 learners who earned 21,343 certificates from world renowned universities and institutes. Remarkably, the adoption rate of the programme has been high as 89.8%. This was made possible as a result of awareness sessions conducted at various locations country wide along with virtual sessions and helpdesk activities including close coaching and mentorship.

NLSL and the Colombo Public Library provided their ICT facilities including Wifi to the needy learners to access learning platform and complete the courses.

The SOSLP resulted in positive outcomes. It has helped unemployed to find jobs, secure jobs and improve livelihood. A wide range of courses that can tap requirements as well as the potential of learners have enabled the employed people to hone their skills - for career advancement through promotions.

Some of the skilled learners have set up small-business, created avenues for self-employment to sustain their livelihood. Some have even become entrepreneurs.

Nearly half of the learners enrolled into the programme were females - means the SOSLP has also immensely contributed towards gender equality, thereby strengthen the female participation in the workforce.

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## Half of the Learners Enrolled Were Females

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As a result, COL extended its support to NLSL for another 3 years from April 2021 to March 2024 through its 'Skills for Work' initiative.

*4300+ Learners Earned 21,340+ Certificates!*