



FUTURE.WAVE

Empowering Rural Futures

Executive Summary



- **The Sri Lanka Centre for Development Facilitation (SLCDF)** is a leading non-profit organisation focused on empowering communities and strengthening civil society in Sri Lanka focused on building the capacity at grassroots levels to promote sustainable development, participatory governance, and inclusive social and economic growth—particularly for women, youth, and vulnerable groups—while maintaining a strong emphasis on accountability and environmental sustainability.
- **Apex Ed** is a premium international higher education provider committed to transforming access to education through technology-driven solutions. With a mission to democratise knowledge and empower learners from all backgrounds, Apex Ed offers globally recognised academic and professional programmes—from diplomas to postgraduate degrees—delivered through flexible digital platforms. Through initiatives like Future Wave, Apex Ed reinforces its vision of education as a catalyst for empowerment, equity, and long-term societal impact.
- **Universal Mindfulness Village (UMV)** is an innovative non-profit foundation dedicated to cultivating mindfulness, emotional resilience, and holistic well-being across diverse communities and workplaces. By blending evidence-based contemplative practices with accessible digital learning, UMV equips individuals—from students and grassroots leaders to corporate executives—with practical tools for stress reduction, compassionate leadership, and sustainable lifestyle change.
- **Future Wave** is a transformative education initiative by Apex Ed in collaboration with SLCDF that empowers underprivileged communities through digital learning. Focused on building language, tech, and entrepreneurial skills, the project paves a path toward self-sufficiency, prosperity, and long-term sustainability.

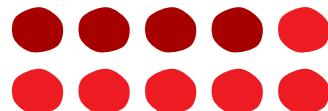


PREFACE AND STATISTICS

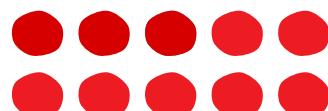
A Snapshot of Need

5.7
MILLION

37.1%



29.6%



BELOW THE POVERTY LINE

using World Bank's poverty line of US \$ 3.65 a day, 2017 PPP which is a bare minimum in every sense of that word (World Bank, 2023)

DIGITAL LITERACY

Only **37.1%** of rural residents are computer-literate (Department of Statistics, 2024)

FEMALE WORKFORCE UNTAPPED

Women's labour-force participation is only **29.6 %** and Young women (15-24) face an unemployment rate of **29.5 %** (Department of statistics, 2024)

Bridging the Gap

English + ICT skills alone deliver a wage premium of 20 - 30 %. World Bank analysis of labour-force data shows workers who report English and computer competence earn markedly more than peers with the same schooling but no skills.

TVET with digital content returns 17 % a year

01

02



“As World Bank (2017) notes, Digital & English skills add 20-30 % to rural economic productivity, yet only 38 % of rural Sri Lankans are computer-literate.

FUTURE.WAVE bridges that gap for the 80 % of citizens who live outside cities—turning connectivity into income.”



VISION AND MISSION



Mission & Vision



Mission

Empower underprivileged rural communities through language education, skills training, and entrepreneurship support, enabling self-sufficiency and breaking the cycle of poverty.



Vision

A future of self-sufficient, prosperous, and sustainable rural communities worldwide, where individuals have the tools to shape their own livelihoods.



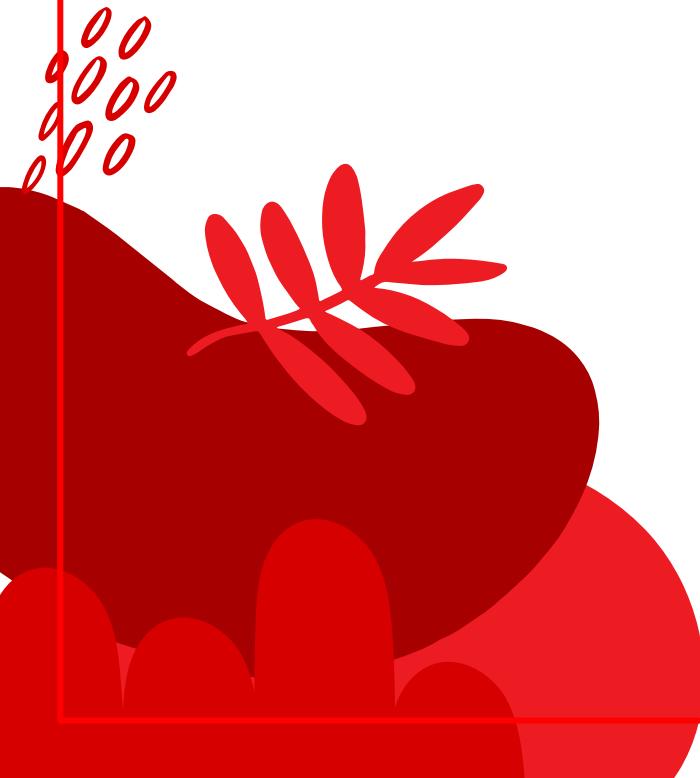


PROJECT PHASES



FUTURE.WAVE

3-Phase Model



Phase 1

Capacity building via language development, aiming to strengthen global readiness.



Phase 2

Selected participants receive further training in technology, entrepreneurship, and leadership.



Phase 3

Participants enter business incubators where they are supported in launching micro-businesses or cooperatives for income generation.





Phase 01 – Capacity Building



Objective: Improve communication and English language proficiency among participants as a gateway to wider opportunities.

- **Core Activities:** Interactive language classes, peer conversation clubs, and mentorship that build confidence in speaking, reading, and writing. Emphasis on practical usage (e.g. everyday dialogues, business communication).
- **Participant Benefits:** Greater access to education and employment prospects – According to Tricef.org, English proficiency alone can boost an individual's income by up to ~25%. Participants gain confidence to engage beyond their local community and pursue higher learning or jobs that were previously out of reach.
- **Key Outcome:** A solid language foundation that empowers learners to confidently navigate training in Phase 2 and connect with the broader economy.

Phase 02 - Skill Development

- **Objective:** Provide practical **job skills** and **vocational training** that prepare participants for real-world employment or entrepreneurship. Focus areas include digital literacy, financial and business literacy, entrepreneurship and other in-demand skills.
- **Core Activities:** Hands-on workshops, apprenticeships, and group projects. Participants learn by doing – e.g. coding classes, farming techniques, craft making – with guidance from trainers. Life skills (teamwork, communication, problem-solving) are integrated to develop well-rounded capability.
- **Participant Benefits:** Enhanced employability and **income-generating abilities**. Gaining new skills boosts self-confidence and independence – individuals become better able to **earn a living and support their families**. Many become role models in their communities, showing the value of education and training.
- **Key Outcome:** A skilled cohort ready to either enter the workforce or start their own ventures, having built a toolkit of marketable skills.

Phase 03 – Business Incubation



- **Objective:** Foster entrepreneurship by helping participants turn their skills and ideas into sustainable businesses. This phase nurtures small enterprises that can create local jobs and value.
- **Core Activities:** Incubator support including business plan development, marketing, mentorship, networking. Participants receive help securing micro-loans or seed funding, along with access to markets (e.g. connecting with buyers or cooperatives). Ongoing coaching is provided to navigate challenges in the early stages of business.
- **Participant Benefits:** Launch of micro-businesses or cooperatives that generate income and employment within the community. This not only provides personal livelihood but also sparks local economic growth – entrepreneurship is a powerful engine driving rural areas toward prosperity and sustainable development.
- **Key Outcome:** A new wave of community-based enterprises – from small farms and craft shops to service providers – leading to diversified incomes in the community. Graduates of Phase 3 emerge as **job creators** rather than job seekers, reinforcing a cycle of growth and opportunity.



Impact & Scalability



- **Community Impact:** Each graduated cohort of FUTURE.WAVE creates ripple effects in their villages. Families benefit from higher incomes and improved livelihoods, and local economies grow as new businesses emerge. For example, a participant with language and IT training can secure a higher-paying job, while another might start a small agro-business that employs neighbours. These outcomes contribute to **poverty reduction** and improved quality of life at the grassroots level.
- **Underprivileged Focus:** The program specifically targets rural youth and women in underserved areas – groups that often lack access to quality education and job opportunities. By empowering these participants, FUTURE.WAVE tackles inequality and rural poverty at its root. Empowered individuals become agents of change in their communities, promoting education and innovation for the next generation.



CORE VALUES AND MENTAL TOOLS

Core Values



Self-Sufficiency

FUTURE.WAVE equips participants to stand on their own feet—so they no longer rely on continual aid. Skills, confidence, and local resources combine to create lasting independence for families and communities.



Prosperity

By boosting earning power and seeding new enterprises, the programme raises household incomes and circulates money locally. Entire communities share the benefits



Sustainability

Every activity is designed for long-term impact: market-relevant skills, and community-led governance. Graduates keep learning and reinvesting, ensuring the progress continues without heavy external input.

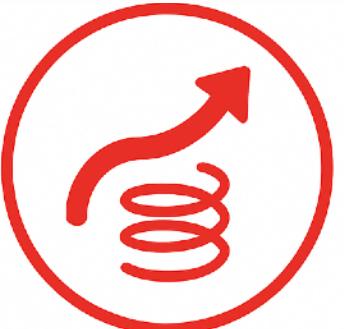


Mental Tools



Mindfulness

Cultivating present-moment awareness steadies learners during intensive upskilling, sharpens their attention to community needs, and supports balanced decision-making as ventures take shape.



Resilience

Building adaptive mind-sets equips participants to navigate resource constraints, rebound from setbacks, and iterate solutions ensuring their entrepreneurial projects—and their wider lives—can withstand inevitable challenges.



Contentment

Gratitude practices and celebration of small wins so beneficiaries feel fulfilled throughout the journey; this sense of inner satisfaction fuels motivation, reduces burnout, and inspires them to “pay it forward” once they achieve self-sufficiency.



Thank You!

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