



Webinar on Academic & Professional Pathways

Date: 19th July 2025, Saturday

Organised By

**Odisha School Education Programme Authority (OSEPA)
Bhubaneswar**

In Collaboration with

UNICEF Odisha

Technical Partner

IDENTITY Foundation Trust



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FOUNDATION

About the Collaboration:

Odisha School Education Programme Authority (OSPEA), Department of School & Mass Education, Govt. of Odisha, in collaboration with UNICEF Odisha and its technical partners, organise career guidance webinars for students across secondary schools. These sessions aim to empower young minds to make informed and confident career choices. The initiative aims to strengthen the school-to-work and higher education transition through structured career awareness and guidance.

About the Webinar:

Following this practice, the first webinar of the 2025-2026 Academic Session was organised by the Odisha School Education Programme Authority (OSPEA), Odisha on 19th July 2025, Saturday at 10:30 am on the topic of “**Academic & Professional Pathways**” at the OSEPA Rushikulya conference hall. The webinar was attended by the faculties and students of grade 9 & 10 along with the officials from OSEPA. The Joint Director of OSEPA Ms. Sushmita Sahu (OES) gave the welcome note by welcoming the resource person, moderator, students, and faculties for joining the webinar after the summer vacation. Following her welcome speech, the State Project Director Ms. Ananya Das (IAS) addressed the teachers, students and other attendees encouraging their mindful participation.

About the Resource Person:

Mr. Jasobant Narayan Singhlal, renowned career coach and motivational speaker with over 18 years' experience joined the webinar as the resource person to address the audience. With extensive experience in implementing career guidance initiatives and life skills programs, Mr. Singhlal has been actively working with government bodies and development partners to bridge the gap between education and employability.

Welcome Note by the Resource Person:

Mr. Jasobant Narayan Singhlal warmly welcomed all attendees, including students, teachers, and officials from the Odisha School Education Programme Authority (OSEPA). He highlighted that this career awareness webinar marks the third edition of the series, which has been consistently conducted over the past three years. Despite being a continued initiative, this edition brings **new insights and discussions** to the table. He encouraged active participation from students and faculty throughout the session by responding to questions and sharing queries. Each session will feature different expert resource persons who will share valuable information on diverse career paths, aiming to build **comprehensive career awareness** among the youth. He urged everyone to stay engaged and make the most of these learning opportunities.

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Odisha School Education Programme Authority
Government of Odisha

UNICEF
for every child

ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL PATHWAYS

Organized by **OSEPA**

MR. JASOBANT NARAYAN SINGHLAL
Master Career Coach,
Motivational Speaker

SATURDAY
19th July 2025

WEBINAR
10:30am-11:30am

Youtube Live on
Odisha Career Guidance
Channel

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Time to take Decisions:

Mr. Jasobant Narayan Singhlal shared a personal reflection on his own journey, highlighting the challenges he faced in choosing a career path due to the limited access to information and guidance during his time. In contrast, he emphasised that today's generation has the advantage of information readily available at their fingertips, making it more important to make informed and timely career decisions. Citing that the average age of an entrepreneur in India is 26, he noted the growing trend of young individuals transforming their ideas into enterprises through various government-supported programs and by opting for an entrepreneurial journey. He urged students, especially those in Grade 10, to take bold and proactive steps toward shaping their careers. He further stressed the need for today's youth to equip themselves with market-relevant skills such as communication, artificial intelligence, information technology, finance, and management, which are essential for thriving in a rapidly evolving professional landscape.



Current scenario of students:

In today's competitive world, many students progress through their academic journey without having a clear vision of their career goals. This lack of direction often leads to confusion, where students spend considerable time and energy experimenting with various career options without a structured plan. As a result, they may end up choosing paths that do not align with their interests or strengths, leading to dissatisfaction and lost opportunities.

One of the common patterns observed is students spending an entire year or more preparing for multiple entrance exams without understanding their true interests or the scope of those careers. Such trial-and-error approaches not only delay professional growth but also affect their confidence and motivation. It is therefore crucial for every student to have access to proper career guidance early on, enabling them to make informed decisions about their future. With clarity and a well-defined career plan, students can utilise their time effectively and move confidently toward their goals.



Designing your Career Path:

During the discussion, students shared their diverse career aspirations, including becoming doctors, engineers, civil servants, teachers, lecturers, investment bankers, textile engineer and more. In response, the Resource Person (RP) emphasised that while envisioning a successful career is easy, staying committed and consistently working towards it can be challenging, especially in today's highly competitive world. This intense competition often leads students to abandon their aspirational goals midway. The RP further advised that rather than

stepping back in the face of challenges, students should take a pause to **re-evaluate their career choices**. They should ask themselves meaningful questions such as: **“Who am I?”**, **“What am I currently doing?”**, **“What are my true strengths?”**, and **“Where can I truly excel?”**. Reflecting on these questions can guide them to realign their goals, gain clarity about their future, and pursue career paths that match their abilities, interests, and potential for long-term success.

Building Language Proficiency for Career Growth:

Communication skills—especially the ability to speak fluently in English while maintaining strong command over one’s mother tongue(s)—are invaluable assets in today’s competitive world. Developing these skills early in one’s career journey significantly enhances both academic and professional growth.

English, being widely used in corporate and global environments, often becomes a key to unlocking diverse opportunities. However, students from vernacular-medium backgrounds frequently face a lack of confidence due to a fear of speaking in English. This hesitation can hinder their ability to express ideas clearly and limit their access to broader opportunities.



To overcome this challenge, students are encouraged to start small—by engaging in simple English conversations with friends, participating in discussions, and reading storybooks, newspapers, or magazines.

With consistent practice, students can gradually improve their fluency and self-confidence, thereby preparing themselves to thrive in an increasingly globalized job market where effective communication is a key differentiator.



Financial Constraints should not be a challenge!

While discussing students' aspirations; whether to pursue immediate employment or higher education; the Resource Person (RP) highlighted that each individual follows a unique path shaped by their interests, goals, and circumstances. For those inclined toward entering the workforce directly after school, the RP recommended preparing for competitive exams and enrolling in skill-based training programs aligned with market needs.

Conversely, students with a passion for further academic exploration were encouraged to pursue higher studies to deepen their subject knowledge and broaden their future prospects. Addressing the common concern of financial limitations, the RP firmly stated that financial barriers should not deter ambition. He emphasized the availability of scholarships and financial aid for meritorious students and advised exploring such opportunities.

For students unable to continue their education immediately due to financial or personal reasons, the RP suggested taking up a job to gain experience and stability, and then returning to academics later. He urged all students to make well-informed decisions that align with their interests, strengths, and long-term career vision, reinforcing the importance of commitment and clarity for sustainable growth.

Identify a Mentor:

A mentor plays a vital role in shaping a student's career journey, offering guidance, support, and clarity in decision-making. Every student should seek a mentor whether it's a teacher, friend, or professional—someone who provides unbiased advice based on an honest assessment of their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges. A mentor helps navigate confusion, explore options, and make informed career choices. The Resource Person (RP) strongly encouraged students to utilise the Odisha Career Guidance website: Ama Bruti, where they can access expert mentoring and career counselling, helping them align their aspirations with the right opportunities and pathways for success.



Re-introducing the Odisha Career Guidance Website:

During the webinar, the Resource Person, in collaboration with officials from the Odisha School Education Programme Authority (OSEPA), engaged participants, both students and faculty in a reflective discussion about their usage of the Odisha Career Guidance Website. Upon inquiry, it was revealed that only 50% of attendees had actively begun referring to the website to explore suitable career pathways. Acknowledging this, the Resource Person took the opportunity to reintroduce the Odisha Career Guidance website; accessible at www.odishacareerguidance.com and underscored its significance as a comprehensive tool for career exploration.

He elaborated on the extensive resources available on the website, encouraging both students and institutions to regularly download and utilise various career collaterals, including activity posters, Ama Bruti booklets, career calendars, interactive worksheets, and personality development activity books. He also highlighted that there is a **Career Guidance YouTube channel** updated with 60+ videos on different career path-ways for the reference of the students as well. These resources, he emphasised, are instrumental in enhancing career awareness and guiding students toward informed decision-making.



Further reinforcing this message, the Resource Person urged all attendees to actively engage with the materials, advising them to regularly practice the

activities and utilize the website's query and feedback features for any doubts or suggestions. To facilitate more personalised guidance, the Resource Person also introduced a dedicated email support channel info.careerguidance2024@gmail.com inviting participants to write in with their career-related concerns. He assured that every query would be addressed within 24 to 48 hours, fostering a responsive and supportive ecosystem. In response, numerous students and faculty members committed to leveraging this email support, acknowledging its value in resolving individual doubts and gaining clarity on career prospects.

Additionally, the Resource Person made a significant appeal to all participating institutions to prominently display the website's resources and the support email ID on their school and college notice boards. This, he emphasised, would serve as a constant visual reminder, fostering a culture of career readiness and awareness among students. The initiative was well-received, reflecting a collective commitment to empowering the students with the right tools for their future.



Right Approach to Career Planning:

The Resource Person also introduced a structured approach to career planning begins with Understanding Self, which is the foundation of making informed career choices. It involves introspection to recognise one's interests, values, personality traits, and aspirations. Self-awareness enables individuals to choose careers aligned with their inner motivations, ensuring satisfaction and long-term growth.

Equally vital are the Career Defining Factors, which include personal interests, skills, market demand, financial goals, and family expectations. A balanced consideration of these factors helps in filtering viable career options that are both fulfilling and sustainable.

The next crucial step is Awareness of Different Career Options. In today's evolving world, opportunities extend beyond traditional careers. Exploring various industries, emerging job roles, vocational pathways, and entrepreneurship options allows individuals to make diversified and informed choices.



Goal Setting plays a pivotal role in career planning. Setting SMART goals—Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound helps create a clear roadmap toward a chosen career path.

Whether aiming for higher studies, skill development, or competitive exams, goal clarity drives focused efforts.

Lastly, the Analysis of Strengths and Weaknesses is essential for personal growth. Understanding one’s strengths helps leverage them effectively, while recognizing weaknesses provides an opportunity for improvement through targeted learning or skill-building.

Adopting this structured approach, combining self-awareness, informed choices, and actionable goals—empowers individuals to navigate the complex career landscape with confidence. This process not only minimizes trial and error but also leads to career satisfaction, growth, and resilience in a competitive job market.



Factors should you keep in mind while choosing your Career (LIFE):

Ability/Aptitude: Our aptitude reflects natural strengths whether in numerical, linguistic, etc. Aligning your career with your core abilities ensures better performance, confidence, and long-term success.

Personality: Our personality traits, whether you are an introvert, extrovert, analytical thinker, or creative mind; greatly influence career satisfaction. For example, extroverts may thrive in sales or public relations, while introverts might prefer research, analytics, or technical roles.

Quiet – Introvert	Staying alone mostly or speaking to limited people only
Strong-resilient-calm	Ability to recover and fightback from failure or challenges in less time
Easy going-impulsive	Spontaneous, action without thought or analysis
Practical- realistic	Aware of the realities of life, planning
Tough- competitive	Strong desire to win or be the best at something
Social- extrovert	Good at expressing self, Comfortable in many situations
Sensitive – anxious - nervous	Become more emotional during a failure or stressful situation
Focused – organized	Detail- oriented, efficient, organizing skills
Imaginative-experimental	Accepts changes and keeps trying new things
Generous- Cooperative	Helpful, kind

Interest: Genuine interest drives motivation. A career aligned with what excites you ensures enthusiasm, resilience, and fulfilment. Ignoring interests may lead to dissatisfaction, burnout, or lack of growth.

Dynamic Careers: Some industries are dynamic, constantly evolving with trends—like technology, digital marketing, and finance. They require continuous learning and adaptability. Dynamic careers suit those who enjoy change, innovation, and fast-paced environments.



Stable/Static Careers: Stable careers—such as teaching, government services, or law—offer predictable roles, job security, and steady growth. These are ideal for individuals who prefer consistency and lower risk.

Long-Term Education: Careers like medicine, research, and law demand extensive education and specialization. They suit those willing to invest years in academics for deep expertise and higher rewards.

Short-Term Education: Vocational courses, certifications in digital marketing, graphic design, IT support, or finance enable individuals to enter the workforce quickly with specialized, job-ready skills.

Diverse Career options:

Science		Commerce
Mathematics Branch	Biology Specific	Management & Finance
Engineering (Degree)	Allied Medical	Actuarial Science
Diploma / Polytechnic	Medical	Chartered Accountant
Pure science & Research Scientist	Pure science & Research Scientist	Company Secretary
Architecture	Para Medical	Cost Management Accountant
Astronomy	Biotechnology	Chartered Financial Analyst
NDA	Agriculture	Certified Financial Planner
Commercial Pilot	Forensic Science	Banker
Merchant Navy		Stock Broker
Neutral/Vocational Careers		
Law	Design	Hospitality Management
Aviation	Travel & Tourism	Hospital Management
Journalism & Mass Communication	Event Management	Sports Management
Cinematography	ITES (BPO)	Career Counsellor
Teacher & Professor	Trainer & Coach	



Conclusion:

The webinar served as an insightful platform for students and educators to explore various dimensions of career readiness and personal growth. Through engaging discussions and expert guidance, participants gained a deeper understanding of difference between academic and professional pathways, importance of early career planning, clarity of different career paths, guidance on choosing right career path by analysing the Aptitude, Personality and Interest were also shared to empower students in navigating their career paths confidently. Students were encouraged to stay informed, committed, and open to continuous learning. The session concluded with a strong message that success is a journey shaped by clarity of vision, perseverance, and timely action. The participants were motivated to use platforms like the Odisha Career Guidance Website to stay engaged and plan wisely for their futures.

YouTube Engagement Analytics:

Total views during YouTube Live	12,900
Average view duration	14:09 minute
Peak concurrent viewers	3100

Attendees Details:

Districts	No. of Schools	No. of Attendees for Class IX	No. of Attendees for Class X
Angul	57	3662	3306
Balasore	49	2930	2651
Bargarh	13	544	616
Bhadrak	37	2344	2098
Bolangir	10	647	557
Boudh	17	1064	1319
Cuttack	105	5260	4461
Deogarh	31	1088	1086
Dhenkanal	84	4978	4264
Gajapati	2	103	72
Ganjam	25	1690	1537
Jagatsinghpur	35	1755	1634
Jajpur	42	2205	1995
Kalahandi	26	1217	1249
Kandhamal	7	320	401
Kendrapara	22	1077	857
Keonjhar	27	1306	1218
Khurda	55	3951	3329
Koraput	59	2849	2807
Malkangiri	20	1106	1137
Mayurbhanj	70	3330	3095
Nabarangapur	18	1503	1683
Nayagarh	24	1496	1433
Nuapada	7	478	393
Puri	8	442	394
Rayagada	47	1929	1823
Sambalpur	15	633	656
Sonepur	16	694	670
Sundargarh	24	1186	1354
TOTAL	952	51,787	48,095

Photos:

