Workshop Report: TAGS Ideathon – Tech Ambassadorship for Community Empowerment

Date: 9th May 2025
Time: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Venue: Lendi Institute of Engineering and Technology, Vizianagaram
Duration: 3 hours
Resource Person: Dr. B. Spoorthi, Assistant Professor (Grade I), Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, NIT Warangal

Lendi Institute of Engineering and Technology organized a dynamic and interactive workshop titled **TAGS Ideathon: Tech Ambassadorship for Community Empowerment** on 9th May 2025. The event was specially designed to equip engineering students, particularly those from rural backgrounds, with the awareness and tools to responsibly harness technology and AI for the betterment of their communities.

The session began with a warm welcome and introductory remarks by the Vice Principal, **Mr. Haribabu T**, who introduced the esteemed resource person, **Dr. B. Spoorthi**. Following the inauguration, Dr. Spoorthi initiated the workshop with engaging **ice-breaking activities**, setting an open and reflective tone for the session.

The first activity invited participants to close their eyes for 30 seconds and focus on the surrounding sounds, drawing attention to the difference between hearing and actively listening. In the second activity, students creatively introduced themselves using alliterative adjectives (e.g., "Smart Suresh"), making the session both fun and memorable.

In another powerful demonstration, five volunteers were asked to follow simple instructions with their eyes closed. Although they were allowed to ask questions, none did—resulting in varied outcomes. This exercise effectively highlighted the **importance of inquiry and communication** in the learning process.

Following these activities, the students were divided into groups of five. Each group was provided with **charts and sticky notes** and asked to identify **five real-world problems** from their surroundings. After listing the issues, each team selected one key problem to focus on, identified a **technological tool** that could help address it, and collaboratively developed **solution ideas**.

The workshop culminated with the students recording and uploading **short videos** showcasing their proposed solutions—integrating their learning with practical communication skills and digital tools.

This workshop was a part of a broader initiative to cultivate **tech ambassadors** who can bridge the gap between technological innovation and community needs. The feedback from the participants was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing newfound confidence in using technology meaningfully and creatively.