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NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL INNOVATION
Introduction –

We are at the point in time where we need a new world order where people of our nation think and take actions to solve various problems which impact our lives directly or indirectly. Issues like; Education, health, livelihood, agriculture and issues which we talk about and issues which we not notice in the crowd of national and local issues, personal and social issue, environmental and developmental issues at this moment. To cherish such culture and environment, we need to nurture people with social entrepreneurship mindsets, and need to provide what we can do collectively as a society. Pune International Centre (PIC) with association with Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS) and National Innovation Foundation (NIF) had organized 7th National Conference on Social Innovation on 17 November 2019.

This Year, we had received 100+ applications from 17 states and after the selection process by our Jury, we had 19 Innovators from 8 states, to present their innovations in the conference, in front of CSR representatives, incubators, Impact investors, other institutes and like-minded people.

Our innovators covered various issues and provided their solution in areas such as; transportation of vaccines/blood, water purification, agriculture, fast glaucoma test, waste food oil, organic farming of finger millets and making Ladoos for nutritional value, solar cooking stove, teaching science with science kit, early detection of specific type of cancer, comfortable crutches, community based law and order solution, providing first aid for fractures, agricultural livelihood, screening autism in early stages with the help of technology etc.
Pre-NCSI Meet –

The Pre – Conference meet was set up on 16th of November to help prepare the innovators with the help of our mentors to pitch their innovation in the main conference. Our meeting started with the talk by Prof. Satyajit Majumdar from TISS, Mumbai. His talk gave a brief overview of social entrepreneurship in India from Individual practice to policy to help us understand how social entrepreneurship can change the world around us. After this insightful academic perspective towards social entrepreneurship, the dais was graced by Mr. Pradeep Lokhande, (founder of Rural Relations) who spoke about his experiences as a social entrepreneur who spent his life in rural India working with people and knows their issues very well. He focused on the monetary aspects of the venture. He suggested that a social enterprise, along with other things should also be taking care of its profitability and other monetary aspects. After this, Cmde. Anand Khandekar, (ex-director Nvidia India and ex- Indian Navi); one of our juries joined us to interact with all the innovators. To give a brief overview of Social Enterprise Mentorship Programme, Mr. Anil Kulkarni; one of our mentors took charge of the meet. He also presented the success stories of our old mentees to set expectations of the participants and help them to understand the mentorship program and its structure. At the end of the session, our mentors helped each innovator to make their pitch ready with insightful individual feedback on their presentation.
7th National Conference on Social Innovation (2019) -

The 7th national conference on social innovation began with Anjani Mashelkar inclusive innovation award (AMIIA). This year, young engineers from Thiruvananthapuram-based Gen Robotic who have devised world’s first robotics scavengers called ‘Bandicoot’ to tackle the problem of manual scavenging in India, won the prize. This year we received huge number of applications and with the support of our jury and mentors, we had 19 innovators as finalist. All our finalist innovators come from Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Delhi, Karnataka, West Bengal, Andra Pradesh, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh. Amongst the finalists were two women social entrepreneurs from tribal category working in livelihood and educational setups to empower tribal women and children.

Rural Category -

Our first session began with seven rural category innovators chaired by Cmde. Anand Khandekar. We had founders/ CEO’s of three agricultural enterprises, three healthcare enterprises and one enterprise which works with vulnerable group presented their work with us. After their presentations, our guests from various CSR’s bodies, Incubators, Impact investors, Institutions and our PIC members gave votes to whichever innovator they thought to be the best in the category. On the basis of the vote counting, the final winner of this category was Mr. Parthapratim DasMahapatra from West Bengal who offers unique solution to measure the hemoglobin level with extremely high precision and accuracy and without interference from pathological conditions. The practice in medicine to measure the hemoglobin level is inaccurate and carries a risk of diseases like anemia and other infections. Mr. Partha’s device solves this problem and saves people from other diseases and blood loses while delivering high accuracy results.
Tribal Category –

The tribal session chaired by Mr. Pradeep Lokhande started with six innovators. In this session, we had two food based enterprises, two educational trusts, one educational science project and one enterprise which solved the problem of clean water in various tribal places. His unique solution offers clean water specifically in the disaster affected areas.

The winner in the tribal category was this very enterprise lead by Mr. Rajendra Prasad Moturu from Vishakhapatnam, Andra Pradesh. He offers multiple solutions for water purification in various locations using solar panels. He made multiple water purification machines which could be moved by using automobiles while changing its wheels for different geographical locations. It could be carried out by people to use in disaster stressed places. The best aspect of this product is people’s access to clean and drinkable water in the flood affected areas. After the floods lack of drinkable water is one of the major challenges before people. This enterprise aims to tackle this issue.
Urban Category -

The session started with our six innovators and chaired by Prof. Satyajit Majumdar. In the urban category, there were founder’s, co-founders and representative of three health enterprises, one agriculture based enterprise, one enterprise which solves the problem of ‘Law and Order’ with the help of community and one venture which offers the early screening for autism among children.

The winner in the urban category was Mr. Mayur U Shetty from Manipal, Karnataka who offers a critical solution in health sector for transportation of vaccine with his handy cooling device named “Sanjivani”. Around 25% of all the vaccines go to waste due to poor cold-chain management. These vaccines come from the manufacturers in high-end refrigerators with good power-backup until the state governments and hospitals. The wastage happens in the last mile of delivery when they leave the primary and sub-health centers. Mayur’s innovation ‘Sanjivani’ provides the cooling solution for the vaccines to travel to the last mile and reach to the last people in chain.
Networking Session -

All innovators brought their products with them to showcase in front of everyone in the ‘Tea and Networking Session’. Each Innovator had space to elaborate their ideas and solution with everyone for an hour where around 150+ people listened to their solutions and working model in details. A space was provided for our last year innovators who wanted to showcase their product again with new people who joined us this year.

Panel Discussion -

All innovators’ presentations and products were well appreciated by the people. To bring the light about the world of social entrepreneurship and the role of CSR for collaboration, we had a panel discussion on this matter. In the panel discussion, we had Dr. V. Premnath (Venture Centre), Mr. Anil Paranjape (Infuse Venture), Ms. Alka Talwar (Tata Chemicals), Mr. Sanjay Kanvinde (PIC moderator and mentor), and Ms. Priyanka Behera (RSB Transmission) as our panelist (from left to right). This discussion helps everyone to understand the strategical approach for collaboration with various CSR and their focus areas. The session was delighted with the insightful discussion with our each guest speakers.
NCSI 2019 in News –

The event was well received and appreciated by local as well as national media. Here are the glimpses of the media coverage that the event received.

National Newspapers –

19 innovators awarded for ‘unique, off-beat’ solutions

The awards were presented to provide a platform for innovators from across the country, involved in designing unique, off-beat solutions to everyday social and developmental problems. The conference recognised the work of 19 such innovators from across India, among whom were 160 entries, which have been catered to problems in fields, including agriculture, waste management, sanitation, health, disability and education. Among other award recipients included Parthapratim Dasmahatapatra of Zeolithic Health Tech Pvt Ltd from West Bengal in the rural category. Dasmahatapatra has invented a non-invasive, non-contact and portable device for haemoglobin estimation, blood pressure measurement and oxygen saturation level in humans. The device can measure haemoglobin without drawing blood and can be used by semi-skilled people as well.

GenRobotic Innovations engineers feted for inventing first robotic scavenger

PUNE: Young engineers from Thane based GenRobotic Innovations, who have devised the world’s first robotic scavenger, called ‘Sandcropriate’ to tackle the problem of manual scavenging in India were felicitated with its Akshai Maheshkar included Innovation Award. This award was given at the 7th National Conference on Social Innovation (NCSI) held by Pune International Centre (PIC) on Sunday at Yashada, Baner. The event was organised by PIC in association with Tata Institute for Social Sciences (TISS) and National Innovation Foundation (NIF). The three engineers, GenRobotic CEO Vineet Govindaraj, GenRobotic Director Rishik and Geetha Reddy CTO Wadil, NP were presented the award by PIC President Ragunan Maheshkar and PIC Vice-President Vinay Kulkarni.

Speaking at the conference, Govindaraj said, “There are more than three million manual scavengers in India, which are classified manually. Due to this, about 75,000 people die every year in India and 90 per cent suffer from diseases. Since the cleaning of manholes requires human level of flexibility, we employed humanCallable services like intelligence, data and flexibility and replaced them with technology. This hands-free, using its robotic arm, can perform as safely as humans.”

The robot has been already deployed in six states in India and the scavengers will be employed to operate the robots. Emphasis scientists like Jayant Raikar, Vijay Bhakar and Govind Swaroop along with PIC Honorary Director Prashant Gharat were present at the event.

NCSI 2019 in News –

The event was well received and appreciated by local as well as national media. Here are the glimpses of the media coverage that the event received.
राजस्थान नवीन न्यूज़: मार्च 17, 2023

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राजस्थान नवीन न्यूज़: मार्च 17, 2023
MR. ADEPU SRINIVAS

LOCATION: DELHI
SECTOR: DISABILITY
ORGANISATION: FLEXOMOTIV

PROBLEM:
Crutches are used by people with a loss of strength in one leg (fracture, amputation, etc.). The traditional crutch usage is a painful experience as the shocks of movement is not damped well. The rubber tips are designed only for smooth surfaces and slip under wet, sandy and uneven conditions leading to a risk of injury. On such surfaces, the tip has a life of 2 months maximum. Furthermore, the motion requires considerable effort and energy to move. All this put together, the user is limited in the distance he can cover before he experiences pain or tiredness and also restricted in his day to day activities. The shocks on the body can cause nerve damage and paralysis, and given that most of India’s disabled are in the youth category when physiological growth is high, these side effects lead to permanent deformation and lower productivity in life.

SOLUTION:
Our product which we call Flexmo Crutch replaces the polymer tip by two flexures (a flexible metal sheet) in a foot like design that works like a leaf spring. These flexures absorb the shock when the person tries to put his weight forward on the crutch. The deflection of the flexures also causes the body to move very little against the gravity and later while the person tries to lift the crutch for the next step, the stored energy is released leading to the easier lifting of crutches. The design additionally increases grip on rough terrains such as sand, pebbles and wet surfaces by having a flatter rubber grip and 3 point independent contact points which conforms to any unevenness in the surface. Foot like design can stand on its own and therefore the user does not have to keep holding on to the crutches while sitting down. The result for a user is that he/she can move on any surface without slipping with lesser pain and effort. Usability of the product is quite high and does not interfere with daily activities. Ultimately the quality of the life of disabled is changed from survive to thrive. The product is just launched and gaining traction.

GOALS:
Develop portfolio of Assistive tech (locomotor)
Develop premium product line and export to developing countries
Start Service product for disabled care and social development
Set up a manufacturing plant
AWARDS:

1. Start-up Oasis (Award for Best Social Impact Entrepreneur) 2017
2. IRD IITD Project Grant, 2017
3. Janhit Jagran Award 2017
4. Pfizer Innovation Award, 2018
5. I2S Rural Desi Startup award 2nd runner up, 2018
6. Korea Kstartup Challenge- Top 80 Teams among 1500 global teams invited to come to Korea with support of 10000 USD for Incubation in Korea
7. BIRAC Bio Technology Ignition Grantee.
MR. MANISH PUNGLIYA

LOCATION: Pune, Maharashtra
ORGANISATION: AyuGen Biosciences Pvt Ltd
WEBSITE: www.ayugen.com
FACEBOOK: Ayugen biosciences
SECTOR: Women Health and Safety

PROBLEM:
Our product (test) target women from age group of 25 and above. As we know cervical cancer is the second most common cancer affecting women in India. This is the only cancer whose cause is now known and proven preventive measure are available. Still daily over 180 women die of cervical cancer in India. All the women of the age 30 years and above are the direct beneficiaries of this test.

SOLUTION:
Our test is a screening test that help in identifying women at-risk of cervical cancer (even before they get cancer). The test has a very high negative predictive value (99.9%) and is twice more accurate than currently available methods (pap smear or VIA). Moreover, If negative it is required to be done once in 5 to 10 years. Currently we received samples from across India using logistic services of the commercial logistic company. We process about 500 samples a month.

SCALABILITY AND IMPACT:
We want to screen at least 5 lakh women in three years and bring down the incidence of CaCx significantly. Our data over 15000 women shows variable incidences of presence of virus that causes cervical cancer - be it urban rural or tribal. We have done multiple projects with NGOs and CSRs for the rural and tribal populations.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION:
Our company received prestigious ASSOCHAM award at the hand of Health Minister in 2018 as Outstanding Cervical Cancer Diagnostic Laboratory in India. Our lab is NABL accredited since 2013.
MR. SANDAL KOTAWALA

ORGANISATION: Alfaleus Technology Private Limited
LOCATION: Jaipur, Rajasthan
WEBSITE: www.alfaleus.com
FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/alfaleus/
SECTOR: Healthcare

PROBLEM:
Glaucoma is the second leading cause of blindness in the world affecting 60 million people worldwide. In most of the cases it goes undiagnosed until the advanced stages. This leads to irreversible vision loss and results in blindness. Currently, fundus photography (Photograph of the retina), HFA and tonometry (eye pressure) are used to test for Glaucoma. However, these cannot be used in rural populations and even if the devices are available as they require trained staff to operate them. Furthermore, devices like HFA are not only bulky but also expensive. This increases the cost per test and makes it unaffordable for rural population and people at the base of the pyramid. Additionally, for fundus photography and tonometry even if their results are indicative of Glaucoma, they are not sufficient and they merely check the structure of the eye. Therefore, in order to check the function of eye visual field perimeters are required that are portable, easy to use and affordable.

SOLUTION:
We at Alfaleus have designed and developed a portable visual field perimeter that can be operated via a smartphone to perform an eye examination for Glaucoma. Unlike traditional devices, that are bulky and cumbersome, our device is a portable head mount device based on a VR headset and can be easily operated via a smartphone. It is ten times cheaper, hundred times more portable and infinitely more comfortable for the patient. The proposed device has a unique design and an AI based algorithm that enables a quick screening. The Device development took 2 years and several device iterations to reach a mature point that we are at now. It has been clinically validated by Johns Hopkins School of Medicine (Baltimore, USA) and Aravind Eye Hospital in a collaborative study. This device can be used in health camps, home-based clinics and in remote and rural areas that would otherwise be left with no other alternatives to test for Glaucoma due to the lack of portability and high costs of the current testing standards.

The intended primary beneficiaries of our product are the people at the base of the pyramid, rural populations, people living in remote areas and those individuals for whom the current testing standards are proving too expensive. Our device will enable doctors to offer tests for diseases like Glaucoma at a far cheaper price and in remote locations thereby making screenings for Glaucoma accessible to people at the base of the pyramid and rural populations who previously would not have been able to access it.
GOALS:

Our goals for the next three years are to improve and optimize the product design for manufacture, improve product awareness in the market and increase device sales.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION:

1. Top Indian Startup at Academia Industry Training in association with Swissnex (Switzerland)
2. First place at Glaucoma Society of India Conference for our concept video
3. Winner of TiE Smasher Award
4. Second Best Innovation at AIOC(All India Ophthalmologic Conference)
5. Medical Budding Innovations Award.
MR. PRAMOD BHURJI

ORGANISATION: Fudokame Pvt. Ltd
LOCATION: Pune, Maharashtra
SOCIAL MEDIA: https://www.linkedin.com/in/pramod-bhurji-86079686/

PROBLEM:
Recent study published by ASSOCHAM-MRS India and it says that “Despite India being world largest producer of milk and second largest producer of fruits and vegetables, about 40– 50 % of the total production valued of USD 440 billion ends up wasted”. 40-50 % wastage is huge a problem. There are various reasons such as low shelf life of produce (a leading cause for farmers to sell the produce at available price), mishandling, losses during loading and unloading of produce and transportation losses. Since horticulture produces are seasonal it creates gap between demand and supply. These huge losses of produce in food supply chain directly affect our farmers, financially as well as socially.

SOLUTION:
We have developed multipurpose hybrid solar-biomass dryer for farmers which is cost effective, 50 % less opex and capex as compare to available industrial dryers (solar convective dryer, heat pump dryer and electric dryer) and user friendly in its capacity and class. The components used in dryer are used from mass manufacturing engineering segments and integrated for delivering desired process parameters. This approach has not only reduced the capital cost but has also improved its serviceability. The unique features include maximize mass transfer for hot air, use of thermal storage maximize thermal efficiency of system, provide flexibility for integration with solar thermal system, use of simple air distribution, humidity-based discharge control and heat recovery from humid air at the discharge.

We are acting as an aggregator and this technological solution is enabler to reduce wastage of fruits and vegetables in supply chain and provide safety-net to farmers against low prices of agro-produce.

GOALS:
1. To customize dryer based on usability, need of farmers and standardize drying protocols
2. Second goal is to install minimum 20 such dryer units in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh in next 3 years
3. Hire good nutritionist and food marketing expert to make new and innovative healthy products (snacks category) from dehydrated fruits and vegetables.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION:
1. Young Social Entrepreneur (YSE) Fellow –at Singapore International Foundation (SIF), Singapore.
2. ‘Best Research Project’ – Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) Mumbai
MR. JASVEER SINGH

ORGANISATION: SENSE IT OUT INTELLIGENT SOLUTIONS PVT LTD
LOCATION: Pune, Maharashtra
SECTOR: Agriculture
WEBSITE: www.senseitout.com
SOCIAL MEDIA:
https://twitter.com/senseitout
http://instagram.com/senseitout

PROBLEM:

Existing farm practices:

1. Irregular watering: Watering once in 7-15 days leaves farms with sometimes flood & sometimes
   drought-like conditions, leading to reduced yield.
2. Water Wastage: The irrigation beyond soil saturates with maximum water holding capacity, all is a
   waste. Daily, at least 1 lakh litres of water is wasted per acre of farm.

Problem:

1. Drip Irrigation & Timer-based Automation: Decision making is based on farmer’s intervention. Thus,
   water wastage & irregular irrigation both exist in these solutions.
2. Sensor-based Automation: Reliable solutions are unaffordable & Affordable solutions are unreliable.
   Irregular electricity availability affects the system operations.

Majorly the product is designed to cater to farmers of the developing economy predominantly the
small & mid-size farmers.

SOLUTION:

SICCA (Sensor–based Intelligent Crop Centric Automation):

It is an IoT based irrigation management system which controls the pumps & valves on a drip irrigated field
based on the requirement of the crops in the farm. This crop-centric system saves 60–80% of water as it takes
intelligent decisions based on the soil moisture availability at white-root zone of the crop even if the white
root zone varies at different crop stages. It also caters to the irregular electricity availability problem at the
farm as the system can predict the next irrigation requirement with the help of an intelligent sensor to
measure rate of soil evapotranspiration.

The system is capable of collecting data about soil Moisture, soil temperature, atmospheric temperature,
humidity, sunlight, number of hours the pump is on and current water consumption of the farm.
GOALS:

File patent for Soil Evapotranspiration sensor

Next 1 year: 40 paid pilots on different crops & locations across 3 districts of Maharashtra

2nd Year: Sales commercially launch on 1st October 2020. Thereon launch in each of the three districts of Maharashtra every quarter.

3rd Year: Launch product in Punjab - one district at a time every quarter in addition to launching in a new district of Maharashtra every quarter.

By the end of Year 3, expect to have sales of about 2500 products.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION:

1. Grant Awardee – DBT’s Biotechnology Ignition Grant (BIG) by BIRAC - Mar. ’19
2. Grant Awardee – DST’s Nidhi Prayas grant by NCL Venture Center - Aug. ’17
3. Top-50 – Smart Fifty Startups to Transform India by IIM Calcutta Innovation Part & NDTV - Mar. ’18
4. 1st Runner-up – IoT Hackathon – IBM Watson Cognitive IoT Build Hackathon May ’17
DR. ABHAY SHENDYE

ORGANISATION: Swasti agro & bio-products pvt ltd, Pune
LOCATION: Pune, Maharashtra
WEBSITE: www.swastiagro.com
SOCIAL MEDIA: Facebook, Twitter
SECTOR: Agriculture

PROBLEM:
1. Bio gas plant (3 cubic m) is provided to marginal farmers on subsidy. This generates nearly about 3000 liter per month which cannot be utilized by farmer himself on his farm.
2. The solid and liquid in bio gas slurry cannot be separated easily. Therefore transportation, pumping becomes an issue.
3. Farmers across India face 3 soil deficiencies namely micro nutrients, beneficial microorganism and organic matter for which no single product is available.

SOLUTION:
1. We have developed analysis method for determination of quality of slurry. District milk cooperative (DCS) buys the slurry as per quality and they rate between 0.75 to 2 Rs per liter which is processed at the center using our technology. Slurry, otherwise a waste, is utilized giving additional income to farmers.
2. We have developed a novel technique to separate solid and liquid without using any power and any external chemicals and the inputs use for this process are either micro nutrients or beneficial bacteria. (Patent No- 201821042739 Nov 14, 2018)
3. Using solids and liquid separated from slurry we have developed variety of farm input products which will provide micro nutrients, beneficial microorganism and organic matter in each single product. 100 of farmers have used these products in their field successfully for 5 years. Analytical data shows that the micro nutrient added in this product are absorbed at 5 to 1500 times more efficiently, thus reducing the cost of cultivation, and burden of chemicals on the environment

GOALS:
1. We are working right now with National Dairy Development Board at Mujakuva Dairy cooperative where already 40 Biogas plants have been installed, and 150 more under installation. NDDB has invested in manufacturing plants for these products which can handle 10 metric ton of slurry per day.
2. NDDB has formed women co-operatives and they install biogas plant in the name of women. Passbooks are generated and the payment of slurry goes directly into their accounts. This will
automatically encourage woman empowerment. It is a dream to transfer the slurry processing units to women co-operatives.

3. 1000 such biogas plants have been installed by NDDB with 50% Subsidy at 30 different dairy cooperative societies across India. All these dairy cooperatives have been sensitized about our technology.

4. In next 3 years NDDB will facilitate implementation of our technology at these 30 and any other interested DCS. Thus, we will reach 3 to 5 lakhs farmers in 3 years of time with quality products.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION:

1. BIRAC BIG Grant Nov 2014: About 100,000 USD (To provide complete PoC of the product for “Building disease resistance in plants”)
2. Villgro: Unconventional March 2015: 1,000 USD (Recognition of Unconventional Execution)
3. KPMC2015: Best Technical Presentation among BIRAC BIG innovators: Certificate and USD 1,000. (Recognition of scientific Proof of concept developed)
4. Vodafone: Mobile For Good India 2015: (Use of mobile for Agriculture extension)
5. ET Power of Ideas: Feb 2016. About 10,000 USD (Execution: Innovative Startup)
6. AFI Forum: Winner Silicon Valley Challenge (Innovation related to impact on Indian Agriculture)
7. Listed on Asia for good DBS website as one of the top 120 ventures from Asia for implementation of socially relevant innovation. www.asiaforgood.com/ (implementation of impactful social innovation)
8. Digital India Award from Times Group 2016: Agriculture (Use of digitization in Agriculture)
9. Millennium Alliance (round 3): First ranking in Agriculture April 2016, About 100,000 USD. (Innovative technology with implementation for impact on BoP population)
10. IIGP: Gold medal, Cash Prize USD 1,500. Training from Stanford Business School Team. (Innovative Biotechnology of national and international significance)
11. Won Global Innovation Challenge at Sankalp Forum 2016. (Technology that can impact 3 billion beneficiaries across glob with ecological as well as economic objectives.
12. USAID sponsored as IVLP Guest to visit GES2016 at San Francisco. (Recognition of Innovation and Leadership)
13. Time India Award 2017 (shortlist among top 3) as “Sustainability Pioneer Startup Award”
14. National Agripreneurs Award 2017 by Entrepreneur’s Association of India.
15. IRIGP 2018: Rwandan Govt selected Swasti Technology as one desired by Rwanda
16. Millennium Alliance (Round 4) for globalization 2018: Taking Swasti Technology to East Africa (Rwanda)
MR. PARTHAPRATIM DASMAHAPATRA

ORGANISATION: EZERX HEALTH TECH PRIVATE LIMITED
LOCATION: Kolkata, West Bengal
WEBSITE: http://www.ezerx.co.in/welcome
SOCIAL MEDIA: https://www.facebook.com/ezerxhealth/?ref=settings
SECTOR: Healthcare

PROBLEM:
Hemoglobin measurement is usually dependent on the services of a well-equipped clinical laboratory. The current gold standard, automated hematology analyzers, uses blood samples for precisely estimating hemoglobin concentration in a laboratory setting. Although this method is effective, it has several drawbacks. Require a high level of technical skills to interpret and at least one drop of blood. Invasive blood sampling is stressful and painful for the patients and results in blood loss, which may induce anemia in infants and infection at the sampling site. In addition, the accuracy of the results is heavily dependent on the skills of the operators. Moreover, haematology analyzers are expensive, and the cost per sample is significantly high compared with older manual techniques. To date, the lack of a portable, easily operable, inexpensive, and accurate device has hindered the widespread adaptation of anemia screening in public health programs. Most anemic women live in low-resource areas, where the cost-effective and accurate diagnosis of anemia is unavailable. Although these devices address many problems encountered in older noninvasive devices, they have their own limitations, such as low precision and accuracy. The accuracy and sensitivity of all noninvasive devices vary across races (specifically, skin colour) because of the variation of melanin concentration in skin tissues. Moreover, they are not highly efficient and reliable as they frequently produce erroneous results because of the limitations associated with direct access to the blood or blood vessels and change in tissue morphology, shape, and blood content in the targeted area.

SOLUTION:
To overcome the aforementioned limitations and to realize several crucial functions missing in the current noninvasive devices, we applied a spectroscopic method and addressed many unavoidable requirements that are missing in the previous noninvasive devices. A noninvasive, noncontact, and portable device for hemoglobin estimation, bilirubin measurement and oxygen saturation level at point-of-care in human subjects. Our innovation is based on the measurement of the spectroscopic signal emanating from the vascular bed of the bulbar conjunctiva. As the conjunctiva in all humans is transparent and has white sclera as background, the accuracy and sensitivity of the proposed device are independent of the skin colour of the subjects. The easy access to the conjunctiva and its high vascular visibility ensures that the proposed device has high accuracy and sensitivity.
The proposed device collects the spectroscopic signal of the blood from the human conjunctiva. We choose the conjunctiva of human eyes as the target organ to estimate the hemoglobin concentration as it is easily accessible, hosts well-oxygenated blood containing a high-density vascular bed and has high vascular visibility with a white background in all human subjects. The non-contact nature of our method ensures no change in tissue morphology, shape, or blood content in the target area. These advantages ensure that the proposed device can measure hemoglobin concentration with high accuracy and precision and without any interference from the other pathological conditions in subjects from all races.

GOALS:

In the current state, we had connected with more than 15 large hospitals, one central government initiative, 2 state government and 10 corporates to showcase our product and showcasing our credibility to do large scale data validation by using their own patient database.

Our primary customers are central and state government, private hospitals and nursing homes, pathology, doctors, micro finance organization, cooperatives, NGO, CSR partner, Primary healthcare providers, school, women college, old age home, etc.

Our revenue model is very lucrative and consistent. Will sell our product in 50,000 rupees with every month subscription charges to use existing data and reports. Also will provide analytics and so many value added service in future.

By next 3 years we would like to further develop the said product to make it more handy & user friendly and shorten its size further. Apart from that we would like to sell simultaneously rapidly through various channels & earn revenue as much as possible towards create shareholder value.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION:

1. Tata Social Challenge 2018
2. Worlds top 51 impactful startup
3. Indian Oil Startup fund
4. PRAYAS Grant
5. INVENT Grant
6. BIG Grant
Tribal Innovators’ Profile

Natiya Vashanthakumar

Organisation: BAIF Development Research Foundation
Location: Jawhar, Palghar, Maharashtra
Contact No.: 9738185386
https://www.linkedin.com/in/natiya-vashanthakumar/

Problem

Their model works to address three major issues of the jawhar block region: 1. Lack of a dignified source of livelihood in the area. 2. Child malnutrition. 3. Lack of a fair price for agricultural produce. Their model works to create localised solutions for local problems using the local resources by the local community members themselves.

Solution

The local agricultural produce of the region, finger millets are processed at the community level and made into nutritious ladoos by a group of Adivasi women - Khushi Nagli Snack Making Women’s Group which are then (a) sold to organic companies and consumers in the nearby cities (b) provided to the children of the village Anganwadis and primary schools as a healthy and nutritious snack under CSR and other govt. schemes created to address child malnutrition. In addition to the ladoos, other value-added millet products like Sprouted millet flour are also sold. The women of the Snack Making Group work in the comfort of a common house in the village that has been dedicated exclusively for this purpose. Owning and managing the enterprise necessitates frequent visits to the bank, post office and other utility centres which has in turn resulted in a multifold increase in the life skills and thereby the confidence and self-worth of the women. This product serves the role of a localised nutritive supplement to treat under nutrition and anaemia among children/adolescents (highly prevalent in most villages of Jawhar) as well as a healthy snacking. Therefore, the direct beneficiaries of their intervention are women groups, the indirect beneficiaries are children, urban consumers, farmers, local grocers, etc.

Requirement

Scalability and Impact

At present the women have sold over 620 kgs of ladoos amounting to Rs. 1,65,000 since the inception of the
activity. The group has a production capacity of 120 kgs per week

In the next couple of months, the women plan to set up a simple yet elaborate millet processing unit at the village level. With just a few machineries like a huller, oven, etc. the women will be able to increase their product range and thereby cater to a larger market. They also plan to sell their products directly in the market under an exclusive brand name.

Awards and Recognition
None
PRATAP GAIKWAD

Organisation: Swa. Sawarkar Educational Trust
Location: Dahanu, Maharashtra
ContactNo.: 9822026712
Online Presence: Sawarkaredutrust.org

Problem

All are children of BPL tribal workers working in brick kilns, construction works or as landless farmers, bonded labour etc, are first generation learners who have to be retained into the mainstream of school education. By applying innovative methods of pedagogy, Swa. Sawarkar Educational Trust make them feel like home which prevents migration with their parents for work thereby preventing child labour and minimising the school dropout rate. Thus, aims to solve the problem of school drop outs, child labour, child malnourishment, unemployment, alcoholism and bad environment, etc.

Solution

Swa. Sawarkar Educational Trust provides basic primary and secondary school education to the children of BPL tribal community, majority of which are warlis, are all first generation learners. They provide school education free of cost without charging any tuition fees, food charges, fees for school material like books bags etc, they ask only for small contributions from the beneficiaries Rs100-200. Innovative methods of education include home like surroundings, excellent resources in the school, plastic free zone, prayogatun vidnyan, a model school for STEM in science activities and experiments at school level, drawing and arts, outdoor activities like farming, tailoring, tribal games, tribal dance, trekking, excursions, balmitra melava, raan bhaji utsav, etc. This helped a lot for retaining students in the mainstream of education. Majority of their students are children of landless, deprived, bonded labourers and majority of teachers are tribals. Since it’s a Nisarg shaala they make use of sustainable solutions like solar, biogas, vermiculture, rainwater harvesting, organic farming etc.

Requirement

Financial

Scalability and Impact

Majority of their ex-students have opted for higher education or are employment. They have impacted over 400 Plus students from 50 villages of radius of 60 kms.

Their goal is to enhance the quality of school education by using different innovative solutions, create
employable skills in students, encourage them for seeking more knowledge and to impart education in such a way that the students become sensitive to the needs of their fellow brothers and sisters and act accordingly so as to enhance their quality of living thereby creating a metamorphosis and further a more sustainable and humane society.

Awards and Recognition
None
Problem

Millions of people are not accessible to safe drinking water due to poverty, inadequate knowledge, lack of technology transfer between two systems – urban and rural, culture, lifestyle issues and climate changes, conflicts and disasters. They aim to provide safe and pure drinking water using renewable resources.

They have designed and made a new technology that delivers safe and pure water in low cost from natural resources.

Solution

CLEVINNO made a product – BLUTOMER – 3stage Instant Water Bottle Purifier, which is a universal water bottle purifier that fits every bottle in the market from cool drink bottles to children sipper bottles, flip cap water bottles, mugs and many more. They also developed a SOLAR WATER PURIFIER, a drinking water system which is easy to carry to any place/water source and collect purified water from it. The basic design provides 600-700 liters of purified water per daylight (6AM-6PM) without external power source. They developed RAINWATER HARVESTING + SOLAR WATER PURIFIER this model uses natural resources round the year.

During the rainy season, it collects rain water at the top and purifies it by using UV chamber and add minerals to it. During summer, connect it a water source and collect purified water (RO+UV+UF+ Activated Carbon) by using solar energy. These two models are very helpful for rural India where accessibility of safe drinking water is very less. Their another product, specially designed for refugee camps, flood, protection forces to make safe drinking water from waste water. ALL-TERRAIN WATER PURIFIER is the ultimate in water purification where it provides a safe drinking water from any water source instantly from the available water source during floods, earthquakes, war and for refugees. It is easy to carry on backpack, bike or boat. It can provide 50 liters purified water per hour from the available water source (mountain waters to water wells) by using solar energy.

Till the date they are mostly concentrated on Research and development only. Now they are also getting orders from some of the tribal/rural schools for solar water purifier. They will provide it soon.
Requirement

Scalability and Impact

CLEVINNO (clever innovations) had given 2000 units of blutomer products upto now. In the coming future they aim to provide safe drinking water at any place and in any situation through innovative systems they have developed. Their systems can also be implemented at cities like slum areas, municipal schools, government areas. Whereas “All Terrain Water Purifier” is most helpful during disaster management situations like floods, earthquakes, wars. So they aim to provide safe water immediately to the refugee camps.

Awards and Recognition

SRISTI-GYTI APPRECIATION AWARD (MLM) for his PhD work
DR. SUREKHA BHALERAO

Organisation: Smile Wellness Foundation  
Location: Pune, Maharashtra  
Contact No.: 9822491607  
Online Presence: www.smilewellnessfoundation.org

Problem

Smile Wellness Foundation solves the problem of school drop outs in Secondary School Education IX and X Std. through practical and demonstrations of Science experiments for building a strong foundation. The beneficiaries are the students in underprivileged schools and / or orphanages from STD V to VIII and the elder and needy students who have science background; are trained to train younger students. By demonstrating experiments they earn while learning.

Solution

Smile Wellness Foundation for practical teachings designed a Science Kits Mysteries 1 and Mysteries 2. These kits have a Novel design which offers a laboratory platform once KIT is opened. Students can perform their experiments one by one easily. They have put the effort to use the Best Quality material and that too keeping in the mind ecofriendly aspect of it. Each KIT includes 10 Experiments with different principles. Students can perform these experiments independently following the guidelines provided with the Kit.

They also educate students who are in orphanages or who have come from the low income background through Art of Science Mysteries project. They conduct one day workshop, which involves demonstrations as well as practical experiments. They have incorporated the experiments based on the topics covered from V standard to VIII standard in the academic curriculum. By attending this workshop students get an opportunity for strengthening their basics.

They train elder students for training younger students so that they can reach out to more number of students. Elder student not just get to earn while learning but also develop skill of educating, performing communicating. This experience train them for future endeavors. This project is a Win-Win proposal for everyone.
Requirement

Scalability and Impact

Currently they have finalized 3 NGOs who work for Children. They take this One Day Science Workshop once every month in one NGO. There are about 400 Students in total. They also aim to develop Mysteries (Science Kits) 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 Kits, which consist of New Science Experiments and to Train Elder Students and reach out to 600 more Students.

Awards and Recognition

Special Award for this Innovative Effort through MLA through KARAM
Late Dr. Krushnaji Shripat Mhaskar

Organisation: The Bombay Mothers and Children Welfare Society
Location: Mumbai, Maharashtra
ContactNo.: 23085794
Online presence: www.thebmcws.com

Problem
India has a population of 1.2 billion out of which 70% live in rural areas. Government has built schools in remote areas but not many children attended due to few teachers, bad infrastructure and lack of teaching aids. The Bombay Mothers and Children Welfare Society (BMCWS) wanted to do something for the rural children as Education is the most powerful instrument for reducing poverty and inequality. We wanted to change the concept from "monotonous education" to "participatory education". Our beneficiaries include students, teachers and parents.

Solution
In October 2012, BMCWS introduced the pilot project 'E-Learning' in Rajgurunagar which was low cost and innovative. These digital classrooms projected an animated curriculum which helped teachers to explain subjects better. Due to the audio visual impact the students concentrated and understood subjects better. They introduced Nutritional support program whereby snacks are offered to 950 kids to increase their BMI. They also conduct vocational courses like computer classes, nurse training, beauty, tailoring, arts and crafts etc. in order to bring a social change in the lives of those coming from poor economic backgrounds. BMCWS supports education in rural schools by improving infrastructure and providing little children with school kits, bicycles and libraries to boost them during their schooling days. The current zero dropout rate among the rural students have resulted in a remarkable positive behavior pattern reducing the urban-rural divide.

Requirement
Unspecified

Scalability and Impact
BMCWS has so far installed E-Learning program in 267 tribal schools impacting more than 20,000 student beneficiaries, teachers & parents.

Besides some school could not afford to pay electricity bills so BMCWS installed 231 solar panels in schools. They have created 11 playgrounds in tribal schools with play equipment.

In the next 3 years, BMCWS would like to see every school in Rajgurunagar have excess to the E-Learning Program, have a solar panels installed in each and every village, encourage skilling courses in order to make the rural children self-reliant.
Awards and Recognition

- Spirit of Humanity Awards by Americares India Foundation
- Paper presentation on “Inclusive Livelihood Strategies: Women, Dalit & Tribal Communities” at Jaipur
- Best Poster presentation Award at the first National Conference on Rural Development and Livelihood at Jaipur
- Praj-Symbiosys Management MahaIntrapreneur Award in 2010
- Ganga Anesthesia Refresher Course 2015, Hall of Fame Award to Dr. Madhav Sathe
- Hutatma Rajguru Samaj Gaurav Puruskar 2014 to Dr. Madhav Sathe, Jt.Hon. Secretary
- IV International Conference on Ayurved for Dr. Madhav Sathe and visiting faculty at school of Social Entrepreneurs at Tata Institute of Social Sciences.
- Member of SANIM group (South Asia Network of Impact Masters) headed by TISS School of Social Entrepreneurs & Essex University, UK. Developing a curriculum to make Social Aspect inclusive in MBA Schools.
Problem

“Sustainable livelihood is a major challenge in rural India. The opportunities are mostly urban centered and demands a large population to migrate from their villages. This is most peculiar in areas where the climate change has adversely impacted the rainfall and hence the substantial decline in agro based livelihood.

Another aspect of this problem is the male dominance in all decisions made in a rural household. Although this trend is slowly changing in urban India, women in rural parts are still dominated by male counterparts. Women, in majority of cases, are confined to domestic chores and thus have minimal influence to shape the family. It is also widely recognized that men in villages spend their earnings on addictions & habits like alcohol, tobacco, etc and rarely focus on improving the living standard of their family.

In this context they have developed a solution that empowers women from rural/tribal areas to earn a sustainable income using their inherent skillset by baking healthy cookies for the urban market.”

Solution

Baked goods always has a demand and if its healthy, nutritionally superior, hand baked using the goodness of the cleanest source of energy i.e Sun and of course tastes awesome, the produce will fetch more value in Urban markets. Now, while there is a market in cities, there isn’t enough space for accessing solar energy. Contrary to this, women in tribal/rural regions are yearning for an opportunity to earn a respectable living and uplift their families. They have access to time, open space, willingness to work hard and are more open to work in groups.

So their idea is to use a solar oven that the women can set up in their own place, to bake cookies as per the training, package them and sell them in urban markets and thereby provide a decent revenue to the women. All the logistics from sourcing the raw ingredients, packaging material to marketing & selling the finished goods will be handled by the company. The women just needs to bake the cookies as per designed recipe and pack them for dispatch.

So, they worked with a solar oven manufacturer for past 3 years to design a simple portable solar micro bakery that can be deployed anywhere in the country and be used to earn a minimum of Rs. 300/day by baking cookies, cakes or breads. Having perfected the recipes, they’ve setup a small pilot in Jalna where 3
women have been trained to solar bake various cookies on a daily basis and then pack & dispatch the same to Pune, selling through exhibitions and farmers market. Following are the cookies that are being baked in the solar oven & sold regularly. None of these have refined flour, sugar or stabilizers:

- High protein chocolate oats cookies, rajgira cookies for fast, Ragi (finger millet) peanut butter cookies, Whole wheat ginger lemon cookies, Mutispice cookies.

**Requirement**

**Scaling Up**

**Scalability and Impact**

They have sold around 100 kg of cookies and have received an overwhelming response from the market. In next three years they aim to scale the project to 60 clusters impacting 1200 women, with a daily production of 4800 kg and an annual turnover of 43 crore indian rupees.

Beyond that they believe with the systems & processes in place and an established brand, the growth would be exponential.

**Awards and Recognition**

None
Urban Innovators’ Profile

Harish Mamtani

Organisation: Recordent Private Limited
Location: Hyderabad
Online Presence:
Website: www.yrreport.com
Facebook: @YrReport

Problem:

All cities in India are facing issue of high number of traffic violations and limited law enforcement (“LE”) resources to effectively monitor and enforce laws. Typical solution of adding more LE personnel or CCTVs is not feasible to cover the entire city as it is an expensive proposition. The beneficiaries will be the traffic police and the general public with improved traffic conditions.

Solution:

YrReport and KPMG are providing a turnkey solution to police departments to outsource the reporting to public - particularly the low skilled workers like auto drivers or security guards that are already on the roads and sitting idle for several hours a day. The reporters will earn a small fee for each useable report which can used to issue challans. YrReport app is a ready to implement the solution pan India. We are in the very early stages and presenting the solution to various cities. We had conducted a successful pilot in Vizag but due to government change the project is being reevaluated.

Scalability and Impact:

1. Technology solution:
   - Successful pilot in city working with auto-rickshaw driver to report traffic violations.
   - Due to change in government, the project is now being introduced to the new government.

2. Turnkey solution:
   - YrReport along with KPMG are presenting a turn-key solution to municipality to report traffic violations.

YrReport will provide the technology, KPMG will be the implementation partner to build the systems and process for the rural BPO.

Awards and Recognition:

N.A
Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a childhood neuro-developmental disorder. It is a condition related to brain development that causes impairments in three major areas – social interaction, communication, and imagination. Its global prevalence is estimated at 1 in 59 children as per Centres for Disease Control (CDC). The symptoms of Autism often surface from 18-36 months of age. Autism spectrum Disorder has a wide range of conditions, for a child with classic autism the symptoms are easily noticed and can be identified even by an untrained eye. But for a child with borderline autism, there lies a challenge.

It is a challenge for someone with little or no expertise to distinguish an autistic child amongst typically developing children. It is usually missed or mistaken as delayed developmental milestones or slow learners. This delay in identification causes the child to miss out on the golden period (3-5 years) of development and growth, which is crucial in maximizing the positive impact of Early Intervention and therapies as the brain is more adaptable at a younger age. Due to which professional help is obtained after the age of 6-7 years.

Our direct beneficiaries are the children (3-6 age group) but in a way, we are helping schools to identify the children at the right age. Right now we are targeting pre-school across Mumbai, Pune, and Nashik. In Nashik, we have piloted our platform with 6 mainstream schools.

Solution:

Kidaura has built a game-based digital screening platform that can help to flag children with potential risk to autism and other related conditions in 3-6 years of age. The underlying framework with the help of technology such as Artificial Intelligence and Big Data assesses the child through a series of interactive age-appropriate activities which requires little or no expertise. Based on which it suggests whether the child has a potential risk of autism within 3-6 years of age.

In order to validate our idea, we conducted 2 pilots across 6 mainstream schools where we screened 919 pre-school children (3-6 age group) and also tested our platform with the identified set of 52 children across 5 special school and therapy centers.
During our pilot, out of 919 mainstream children we flagged 82 children (different than the other typically developing children) and out of 82 flagged children 40 of them underwent a quick assessment by an expert (Developmental Pediatrician). Out of these 40, 10 were confirmed by the expert that had a potential risk to autism and other related conditions such as learning issues, ADHD and sensory issues.

**Scalability and Impact:**

Pilots conducted with 52 children across 5 Therapy Centers and Special Schools, 900+ children across 6 Preschools. These results are confirmed by a Development Pediatrician. They are on a journey to create a positive impact on the enhancing lives of children with development conditions.

The year is 2021 and Slam Out Loud is a Sustainable social enterprise that has a skilled and committed team of people impacting individuals across at-risk spaces in 10 states of the country. The partnerships we engage in are win-win that enable and foster mutual growth. Our work together empowers individuals to achieve more, dream bigger and create their future.

**Awards and Recognitions:**

In the past 4 years, Slam Out Loud has raised resources (funds and material) from different sources including:

Online Crowdfunding - raising money through campaigns
Mr. Sushil Vaishnav

Organisation: ArisesEnterprise  
Location: Jaipur  
Online Presence:  
Website: www.usedcookingoil.in  
Linkedin: https://www.linkedin.com/in/sushil-vaishnav-73b0053

Problem:

We are converting waste cooking oil into biodisel. Currently this oil being used by street food vendors to feed us which causes dieses. Our efforts is to stop further circulation of this oil into society and make it safer.

Solution:

Conversion of UCO into Biodiesel, by using of available technologies i.e. Transesterification, Enzymatic process etc. We are currently collecting 60,000 ltr Oil monthly from the different restaurants.

Stability:

The operation was started in the month of November’18 with 10 states and 30 cities working leading to the catering of 300 outlets and 4 warehouses. This all is leading to collection of 100MT UCO and bringing a turnover of INR 10(Mn).

They will increase their collection upto 500 MT in 3 year’s which will save million life’s.

Awards and Recognition:

1. Top 20 start-up(out of 500 entries) ubder Ministry of agriculture program called Arise
Mr. Vikram Lele

Organisation: Promorphosis Pvt. Ltd.
Location: Pune
Online Presence:
Website: www.promorphosis.com
Linked in: https://www.linkedin.com/in/viklele/

Problem:

High prevalence worldwide and a high rate of complications like heart disease/attacks makes diabetes the ‘Gray Rhino’ of Public Health (i.e. highly probable, high impact yet neglected threat). 60% of diabetics die of cardiovascular events, mostly ‘silent’ heart attacks.

Solution:

Our innovative cloud-based Chronovisor Tele-HRV service (patent applied for) solved the cost, complexity, and accessibility barrier associated with HRV as a typical high-end lab test. Chronovisor Tele-HRV has made HRV test highly accessible, scalable and affordable. This non-invasive risk-free test can now be performed with minimal training by any health worker at the point-of-care anywhere on the globe.

Scalability:

Service commercially launched in early 2019. Active users/subscribers in Pune, Mumbai and Bengaluru. Operational break-even may be achieved in 18-24 months. Scale up the diagnostic service to serve diabetic patients across the country in urban and rural areas through their existing care providers.

Requirements:

1. Funds for scaling-up.
2. Strategic tie-ups with Pharma and Insurance Companies.
3. Inclusion in Government community healthcare programs like Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

Awards and Recognitions:

1. Finalist, Innovation Award, Medicall India, Chennai
2. Finalist at Grand Challenges Explorations of BIRAC (Consortium of Govt. of India and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation), New Delhi
3. Finalist, Anjani Mashelkar Inclusive Innovation Awards 2018, Pune
About Organisers

Pune International Centre

The Pune International Centre (PIC) is a think tank, established in 2011. Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar is the President and Dr. Vijay Kelkar is the Vice-President of PIC.

Since the launch of PIC, till date we have organized more than 100 quality programmes in the domains of Finance, Energy, Environment, National Security, Social Innovation, Governance and Art & Culture and we have generated policy papers on relevant and significant issues of our time. Over 350 individuals have joined PIC as members and 40 leading academic institutes are institutional members, including Azim Premji Foundation, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), India Habitat Centre (IHC) and National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) and Forum of Federation.

A key feature of PIC for the last 3 years have been the ‘National Conference on Social Innovation (NCSI)’ and the Pune Dialogue on National Security (PDNS), which are annual conferences, attended by eminent personalities, experts and stakeholders from all domains.

Tata Institute of Social Sciences

The Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) was established in 1936 as the Sir Dorabji Tata Graduate School of Social Work. In 1944, it was renamed as the Tata Institute of Social Sciences.

Since its inception, the Vision of the TISS has been to be an institution of excellence in higher education that continually responds to changing social realities through the development and application of knowledge, towards creating a people-centered, ecologically sustainable and just society that promotes and protects dignity, equality, social justice and human rights for all.

In pursuance of its vision and guiding principles, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences organises teaching programmes to facilitate the development of competent and committed professionals for practice, research and teaching; undertakes research; develops and disseminates knowledge; and reaches out to the larger community through extension, at the local, national, regional and international levels.

National Innovation Foundation

Drawing upon the Honey Bee Network (HBN) philosophy, the National Innovation Foundation (NIF) - India was set up in March 2000 with the assistance of Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. It is India’s national initiative to strengthen the grassroots technological innovations and outstanding traditional knowledge. Its mission is to help India become a creative and knowledge-based society by expanding policy and institutional space for grassroots technological innovators.

NIF scouts, supports and spawns grassroots innovations developed by individuals and local communities in any technological field, helping in human survival without any help from formal sector. NIF helps grassroots innovators and outstanding traditional knowledge holders get due recognition, respect and reward for their innovations. It also tries to ensure that such innovations spread widely through commercial and/or non-commercial channels, generating material or non-material incentives for them and others involved in the value chain.