

# Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship

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## Message from the Dean

### International and Alumni Relations

Social entrepreneurship continues to be of great interest to foreign Universities and organizations, as evidenced by the many joint Conferences and Workshops around the theme. Recently, Nanyang Technical University (NTU), Singapore has expressed interest in a Winter School on "Social Innovation & Entrepreneurship" to be conducted on campus by CSIE. The syllabus includes classroom lectures, case studies as well as field trips. Topics to be covered include: Overview of social enterprises & entrepreneurship; Creativity & Innovation; Business plan writing; Fundamentals of product development; and Management issues in social enterprises. We expect participants from more than 10 Universities around the world for this Winter School. IIT Madras students will be attending as well. This is an indicator of the groundswell of interest in this area, one that CSIE is uniquely positioned to tap.

An important linkage that has been recently established is with RuTAG (Rural Technology Action Group), where CSIE will function as a partner to facilitate large-scale implementation of technologies developed. The first joint project undertaken in this respect is "Dissemination of Technology-Upgraded Weaving Machines among Mat-Weaver Communities". This has been approved in June 2016, and will serve as a test case to validate CSIE's role in this relationship.

At the behest of the Governing Council, CSIE has embarked on a process of developing a vision and business plan for next 2 years. Scaling of activities and, correspondingly, team size is a key item for consideration. Impact assessment of current activities of CSIE will be an important input into these deliberations.

As always, the involvement of IIT Madras faculty and students is crucial to CSIE's growth and development. I urge all interested in this sector to contact CSIE project staff, and explore avenues for working together. Thank you.



**Prof. R. Nagarajan**

Dean, International and Alumni Relations

## Field Trip to The Rain Centre - SE club

The Social Entrepreneurship club organized a field trip to the Rain Centre at Santhome on 3rd April 2016. Around 20 students participated in the visit. The Rain Centre is a non-profit Organization that is mainly aimed at spreading awareness about the need, relevance, importance and benefits of rain water harvesting. The students got a chance to see working models and the different methods that are employed to harvest rain water.



*Group photo of students at the Rain Centre*

## UKISEEN Conference



*Participants during one of the sessions of UKISEEN Conference*

As part of the Social Enterprise Education Programme, an initiative of the British Council, CSIE and University of Southampton jointly conducted an international conference, UK India Social Entrepreneurship in Education Network, to promote collaboration and best practice in social entrepreneurship teaching between UK and Indian universities. Faculties and students from all over India and UK attended the conference, held from 15-16 April 2016 at IIT Madras Research Park. A field visit to Kuthambakkam village was also conducted as part of the conference.

Mr. Richard Everitt, Director of Education & Society, British Council was the chief guest during the inaugural session. Please visit [www.ukiseen.org](http://www.ukiseen.org) for more details of the conference.

## Summer Camp for School Students

CSIE conducted a 3-day Summer Camp for School Students on 'Social Innovation through Technology' from 18-20 May 2016 at IIT Madras. The focus of the programme was to create awareness on the role of technology and entrepreneurship to solve socially relevant issues among schools students. 115 students attended the camp. Various faculty from IIT-M gave talks on Innovation, Social Issues, Challenges & Opportunities in Social Entrepreneurship, Science & Technology and Nurturing Creativity. The students were given hands on training in the mechanical workshop. Finally, Certificates of Participation were distributed to students by Prof. R. Nagarajan, Dean, International and Alumni Relations, IIT Madras.



*Prof. John Bosco Lourdusamy giving a lecture during the Summer camp*

## Capacity Building Program for FPOs

CSIE conducted Capacity Building Program for Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) from 20 - 21 May 2016 at IIT Madras. The objective of the workshop was to give the participants a theoretical understanding of the management, perspectives on market development, governance, financial issues and other legal and insurance related issues.



*Group photo of the participants from various FPOs*

## Meetings

### SEEP Meeting

As part of the Social Enterprise Education Program (SEEP), British Council called for a review plus knowledge sharing meeting for all the members of the SEEP on 14 April 2016 at IIT Madras. Mr. Richard Everitt, Director of Education & Society, British Council, chaired the meeting. All the members including CSIE shared the progress of their respective projects.

### GC Meeting

The Governing Council meeting was held on 10 June 2016 to deliberate upon the progress of CSIE during the last quarter. The GC gave suggestions for the sustainability and growth of CSIE.

### PARFI

CSIE had a meeting with the members of PARFI (Pan IIT Alumni Reach for India) to explore collaborations.

## Pre-Incubation Support

CSIE provides mentoring support to students who have ideas to solve social issues.

Currently CSIE is providing mentoring support to:

- 1) Involve, a project in Education sector and
- 2) Pikkolo, a project in Waste Management.

## Invitations

- James and Joseph Thomas were invited to judge Round 1 entries at the DBS - NUS Social Venture Challenge Asia 2016.

## Social Facets of IITM - Faculty Profile

**MAHESH V PANCHANGULA**

### DESIGNATION:

Professor, Department of Applied Mechanics, IIT Madras.

### CORE RESEARCH AREA:

Thermo Fluid Sciences, Wetting and Surface tension, Liquid Fuel Atomization and Combustion

### SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION:

Prof. Mahesh Panchagnula has always been enthusiastic about social innovation and entrepreneurship. He has been actively guiding and mentoring socially relevant projects and helping them create a positive impact.

- Prof. Mahesh Panchagnula, along with Prof. Ashwin Mahalingam and Prof. Prathap Haridoss initiated Nirmaan, a pre-incubator to support students with entrepreneurial interests by providing them a risk-free environment to develop their ideas and shielding them from financial pressures through seed funding.
- Prof. Mahesh Panchagnula is one of the members of the Governing Council for CSIE. He has been an active mentor for the center for the past 4 years.
- Prof. Mahesh Panchagnula is part of the Research Science Initiative – Chennai (RSIC), a summer programme organized by the PSBB Group, in association with IIT-M and few other institutes. The main objective of the programme is to inspire high-school students to pursue research and also to reorient their approach towards science.

### FUTURE PLANS:

Career Guidance and Planning program. This program is intended for post-secondary school students to gain an understanding of career planning as well as be an information resource on various career options.

### CONTACT DETAILS:

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## Social Facets of IITM - Student Profile

**DIVANSHU KUMAR**

Divanshu Kumar, who has just finished his 2nd year in Mechanical Engineering at IIT Madras, has been working in the education sector to improve the methods of learning for school students. He founded Involve, a physical platform which focuses on peer learning as a major source of learning, along with focus on purpose based content and hands-on activities. He formed a team comprising of Samyak Jain, Prateek Bhindwar from IIT Madras and Awnish Raj. Involve is officially supported by CSIE and CSIE has been a constant guiding source in developing Involve's pilot project.



**Mission:** To provide quality learning and make the students self-dependent through developing motivation and purpose to learn. Student seniors if properly mentored and trained, can successfully teach their juniors with the help of purpose-based interactive content. Principle of "Learn. Teach. Impact." so that the same child can be a learner and teacher both, which may eliminate the need for financially inclined education institutions, in the long run. Low students-teacher ratio helps Involve focus on students individually to develop self-directional learning which would imbibe in their thought process.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

- ◆ Designed a financially economic model to provide quality education through Peer Learning.
- ◆ Developed interactive content including hands on activities for Maths, Science and English which allows students find a purpose and answers why a particular topic should be learnt.
- ◆ Successfully partnered with ASN Senior Secondary School, East Delhi for the pilot project from 10 May to 17 June, 2016, which has 40+ students as learners and 10 students as teachers. Through this project, Involve have successfully helped students and parents change their viewpoint about studies.

### FUTURE PLANS:

- ◆ To integrate technology in the Involve's learning model such as concept games.
- ◆ To collaborate with more schools on a yearly basis.
- ◆ To develop 4-6 month impactful programs which maps the school volunteers who may be interested in teaching their juniors during vacations.

**CONTACT DETAILS:** DIVANSHU KUMAR - Founder, Involve

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## Upcoming Events

1. **Entrepreneurship Awareness Camp from 27-29 July 2016**
2. **Capacity Building Program for FPOs in August 2016**
3. **Faculty Development Program in September 2016**
4. **Launch of IdeaSpark 2016 in August 2016**



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