

Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship

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Message from the Dean

International and Alumni Affairs

Dear Readers,

CSIE is acquiring new dimensions on a continuing basis. An intense self-scrutiny has revealed that CSIE's core strength lies in providing capacity-building services to budding social entrepreneurs. With its in-house staff, and with the large network that it can draw upon, CSIE is uniquely positioned to provide knowledge and capability in the social sector for start-ups that want to engage in that arena. While many entrepreneurs in the IITM ecosystem possess considerable technical expertise and even business acumen as a result of working with alumni mentors, they have little first-hand exposure to the social marketplace, and are, as a result, often at a disadvantage. CSIE can fill this gap, and discussions are ongoing with campus incubators regarding how best this can be accomplished.

In a similar vein, RuTAG (Rural Technology Action Group), sponsored by the PMO, has long had the mission of developing appropriate technology and commercializing it. While the technology development part has been proceeding at full pace, the commercialization aspect has been lagging to some extent, and CSIE may be just the right partner to assist in that regard. RuTAG and CSIE are now in conversation regarding formalization of this relationship.

The SE (Social Entrepreneurship) Club, since its recent inception, has been actively involved with many Events on campus, and can potentially serve as the nucleus for student engagement with CSIE. The modalities for this are being worked on. The upsurge in interest among our students in social entrepreneurship augurs well for the future of CSIE. Many national & international organizations and Universities have also expressed interest in partnering with CSIE, and these EoIs will be followed-up with great care and consideration. Outreach has been CSIE's hallmark so far, and "inreach" is a recent, and very welcome development.



Prof. R. Nagarajan

Dean, International and Alumni Relations

New Team Member



Gangaram Sandeep Kumar

Project Associate

IITM Alumnus

Profile:

Sandeep is a 2015 alumnus with a major in mechanical engineering. He is passionate about social change and joined CSIE to explore opportunities in social entrepreneurship. At CSIE, his role is to disseminate CSIE and its activities within IIT Madras and to promote social entrepreneurship among students and faculty.

Idea Spark 2015- Grand Finale

CSIE conducted “Idea Spark 2015” grand finale on 28th January 2016 at IIT Madras. 27 teams from 9 engineering colleges in Tamil Nadu including IIT-M participated. These teams presented their ideas before a panel of jury comprising of faculty from IIT Madras and social entrepreneurs and the best 3 ideas were selected for cash awards of Rs. 1,75,000/- . James Rajanayagam from CSIE distributed the certificates of participation.



James Rajanayagam from CSIE handing over the prize to the winners of Idea-Spark 2015

One Day Entrepreneurship Awareness Camp



Prof. LS Ganesh delivering his talk on 'Social entrepreneurship'

CSIE along with Rajiv Gandhi National Institute for Youth Development (RGNIYD) conducted a 1-day Entrepreneurship Awareness Camp at RGNIYD campus on 29th January 2016. About 143 students from various colleges participated.

Prof. LS Ganesh from Department of Management Studies, IIT Madras delivered his talk on ‘Social Entrepreneurship’. James Rajanayagam from CSIE and Sridhar Lakshmanan, Co-founder, EcoLogin participated in a panel discussion.

Interactive session at RGNIYD

CSIE along with Rajiv Gandhi National Institute for Youth Development (RGNIYD) conducted an interactive session with students on “Opportunities in Social Entrepreneurship” at RGNIYD campus on 11th January 2016. James Rajanayagam presented opportunities in Social Entrepreneurship. Vidhiya Saravanan and K. Vijayalakshmi talked about the role of Social Entrepreneurship Club.



Interactive session with students at RGNIYD

National conference, TISS Mumbai

In partnership with CSIE, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS Mumbai) conducted a National Conference on “Methodological Issues in Social Entrepreneurship” from 28th – 30th January 2016. Prof. LS Ganesh from Department of Management Studies delivered his expert lecture on ‘The Morphology of CSR’ on 28th Jan. Vidhiya Saravanan from CSIE presented a paper on ‘Methods of Impact Measurements’. Tryphena Duddley, Darisa Rohith and Dilip Chakravarthy, students of IIT-Madras, attended the conference.



Prof. Sathyajit Majumdar moderating a session at the conference.

Annual change makers day, IIT Madras



Shri. Joseph Thomas interacting with the participants

UnLtd Tamil Nadu conducted “Annual Change Makers Day” on 5th February 2016 at IIT Madras. James Rajanayagam talked about the role of CSIE in promoting social entrepreneurship. Prof. Sujatha Srinivasan, Department of Mechanical Engineering, gave a talk on ‘Social Entrepreneurship Scopes and Opportunities in Technology’ and Joseph Thomas, VP Development office participated in Expert Clinic on ‘Corporate Communication’.

3-Day Entrepreneurship Awareness Camp

Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship conducted a 3-day Entrepreneurship Awareness Camp from 10th to 12th March 2016 at IIT Madras under the aegis of NSTEDB, Department of Science & Technology, Government of India. Various sessions were conducted on themes such as technology for entrepreneurship, innovation and creativity, role of incubators and IP management. Faculty from IIT Madras such as Prof. Sathyanarayan Seshadri handled the sessions and entrepreneurs shared their experiences on various aspects such as fundraising, HR and marketing. Arul Dev from People First talked about the role of creativity in fostering entrepreneurship. Jaya Umadikar from Rural Technology Business Incubator talked about the role of incubators. There was also an industrial visit on the final day and students were taken to few companies located at IITM Research Park.



Group Photo of the participants of the camp with the CSIE Team at IITM Research Park

Other Events

NABARD-RAG Meeting

CSIE was invited to the second Regional Advisory Group meeting (RAG) of NABARD on 14th March 2016 at their regional office, Chennai. The objective of the meeting was to deliberate on the issues of farmers and rural economy.

VIT University, Chennai

Sandeep Kumar and Vidhiya Saravanan from CSIE attended the one day workshop on Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship at VIT University, Chennai on 16th March 2016. The one day international workshop on Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship provided value added information on innovation & Social Entrepreneurship for beginners and people who are already working on solving a social problem. It was an opportunity for the participants to learn from the experts who are working in the field of Social Enterprise, Technology and Entrepreneurship

Interactive Panel Session, WTC Mumbai

James Rajanayagam from CSIE attended the Interactive Panel Session on "Sustainability through Social Entrepreneurship" on March 17, 2016 at WTC Mumbai. The objective of this panel discussion was to create awareness amongst the industries, stakeholders and the government on various challenges faced by them, their positive impact on the society, acknowledging their contribution and bringing them on a platform to share their success stories.

Interactive Panel Session, Bengaluru

James Rajanayagam was invited to the panel session on "Role of Universities in developing Changemakers" on 13th Jan 2016 at St. Joseph's College, Bengaluru as part of the annual Youth Changemaker Week, organized by Ashoka Innovators for the Public.

UK British Council review meeting

Dr. Guru Gujral and JayaSingh Solomon from UK British Council visited CSIE on 11th February 2016 to review the progress about the recently awarded Social Enterprise Education programme (SEEP) initiative.

Visitors

- ◆ Prof. John Tharakan, Associate Professor, Chemical Engineering (at Howard University, US) who is currently on sabbatical as Fulbright-Nehru Senior Scholar at the Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kochi, visited CSIE on 6th January 2016 to discuss about possible collaborations in conducting workshop on Engineering Ethics and impact assessment
- ◆ Dr. Zach Zacharia, Associate Professor of Supply Chain Management from LeHigh University, US visited CSIE on 19th January 2016 to discuss about internship opportunities for LeHigh students
- ◆ Ms. Meera Goel, Principal Consultant, Ma Foi Connecting Dots visited CSIE on 7th March 2016, to understand about CSIE activities and explore feasible collaborative projects.
- ◆ Other visitors such as Mr. Rahul Mehta, of Mehta family foundation, Prof. Sridhar Thayur, Prof. of Operations Management at Carnegie Mellon University and a delegation from University of Southampton, which included Prof. Pathik Pathak, Director, Social Impact Lab, Faculty Director of Social Entrepreneurship, UK visited CSIE on 6th Jan, 16th Feb and 10th Mar 2016 respectively to understand more about the entrepreneurship ecosystem at IIT Madras.

Social Facets of IITM - Faculty Profile

ANIL PRABHAKAR



DESIGNATION:

Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT Madras.

CORE RESEARCH AREA:

Photonics, Assistive Technologies

SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION:

In 2015, Prof. Prabhakar incubated Enability Foundation for Rehabilitation, a Sec 8 company, aiming to deliver indigenous assistive technologies to low resource settings. The company was co-founded with Mr. Pradeep T, Dr. Namita Jacob and Mr. S. Sankar as Directors.

Enability focuses on delivering solutions that enhance the capacity of a person with disability, by providing access to education, communication, employment, daily living and recreation. We focus on

1. Reaching the underprivileged and the disadvantaged sections of the society where accessibility can make a difference in the lives and livelihoods,
2. Creating awareness through trainings and workshops,
3. Deploying technology solutions that match the needs of the end user,
4. Encouraging collaborations within and beyond the company to customize products
5. Establishing user feedback mechanisms,
6. Embracing the concept of universal design and inclusion – education and employment for all.

PRODUCTS:

- ◆ ‘ADITI’ – a non-contact switch that makes computers accessible to individuals with cerebral palsy. It was recently awarded an Indian patent.
- ◆ ‘KAVI’ – an embedded communication system for children with speech disabilities, running picture to speech (KAVI-PTS), English word and sentence construction (Hope) and Tamil syllable based word constructions (Mozhi) which was developed in partnership with IIT Madras, Vidya Sagar, Chetana and Mindtree Foundation.

Social Facets of IITM - Faculty Profile

ANIL PRABHAKAR

PRODUCTS:

- ◆ ‘iGest’ – A gesture to communication wearable that enables base level communication for children with Cerebral palsy. iGest is also suitable as a compliance monitoring device for occupational therapy
- ◆ ‘vPlay’ – vPlay was conceptualized by students at IIT Madras as a gaming device for persons with disability. With 2 touch pads, connected wirelessly to a computer, it can also act as a selection tool for use with educational software.

Prof. Prabhakar is also a Founder-Trustee of Chetana Charitable Trust (chetana.org.in), to raise awareness on issues of social importance, with a particular focus on inclusive education.

Prof. Prabhakar encourages students to take up socially relevant projects. Prof. Prabhakar heads the Assistive Technology Laboratory in the Dept. of Electrical Engineering, that works on the design of embedded systems as assistive technologies. The laboratory is part of a broader inter-disciplinary umbrella, referred to as a Centre for Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology (create.iitm.ac.in). The Centre supports a Minor in Assistive Technologies for undergraduates at IIT Madras.

Prof. Prabhakar recently authored the chapter on Electronics for an Inclusive society for Technology Vision 2035 (<http://www.tifac.org.in/images/pdf/TV2035Final-180615.pdf>)

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Enability was the winner of “NASCOMM Social Innovation Forum Challenge 2015” and iGest received coverage as a model device under “CNN-IBN’s Networked India Challenge”. iGest has also been selected for the “Nina Saxena Excellence in Technology 2015 award”.

CONTACT DETAILS:

Dr. Anil Prabhakar, Professor, IIT Madras – anilpr@iitm.ac.in

Archana K. Prasad, Senior Manager, Enability Foundation for Rehabilitation – archana@enability.in

Social Facets of IITM - Student Profile

V DEEKSHITH VARA PRASAD

SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION:

V Deekshith Vara Prasad, who has finished his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering at IIT Madras, is currently in the process of developing his company named Air Ok Technologies with a 5-member team. Dr. S. M. Shiva Nagendra, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Madras and Prof. M P Maiya, Department of Mechanical Engineering IIT Madras are the other co-founders.



The mission of the company is to Design and develop cost-effective and efficient green technologies for ambient and indoor air quality management in small and medium scale industrial environment, urban built environment and waste management facilities. Air Ok functions as a catalyst – progressing energy innovation and technology, transforming India's economy and helping people to choose clean and efficient energy as part of their lives.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- ◆ Designed and developed low cost air purifier.
- ◆ Developed low cost air monitoring network
- ◆ Developed low cost environment monitoring Instruments
- ◆ Resolved tarnish problem in Doordharshan Kendra
- ◆ Ongoing study on Gummadipondi air pollution problems

FUTURE PLANS:

- ◆ Reduce environmental pollution and thus create a healthy environment
- ◆ To control bacteria contagious related diseases like asthma
- ◆ To conduct workshops in villages to give awareness about air pollution
- ◆ Donate low cost pollution monitoring equipments to the areas near by industries books are being used by AID India as part of their educational activities in rural schools of Tamil Nadu.

CONTACT DETAILS:

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Upcoming Events

1. **UK- INDIA SOCIAL ENTERPRISE EDUCATION CONFERENCE on 15th-16th April 2016**
2. **Capacity Building workshop for Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in May 2016**
3. **Summer Camp for school students on Social Innovation through Technology in May 2016**



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