



Cognizant Foundation

inspiring a  
future of  
possibilities

YEARBOOK 22/23



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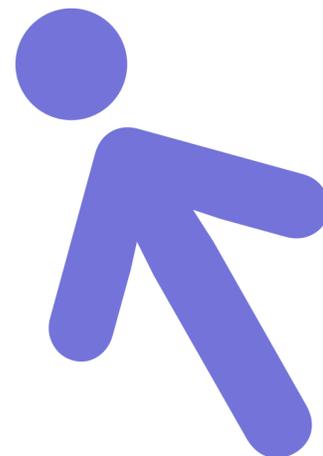
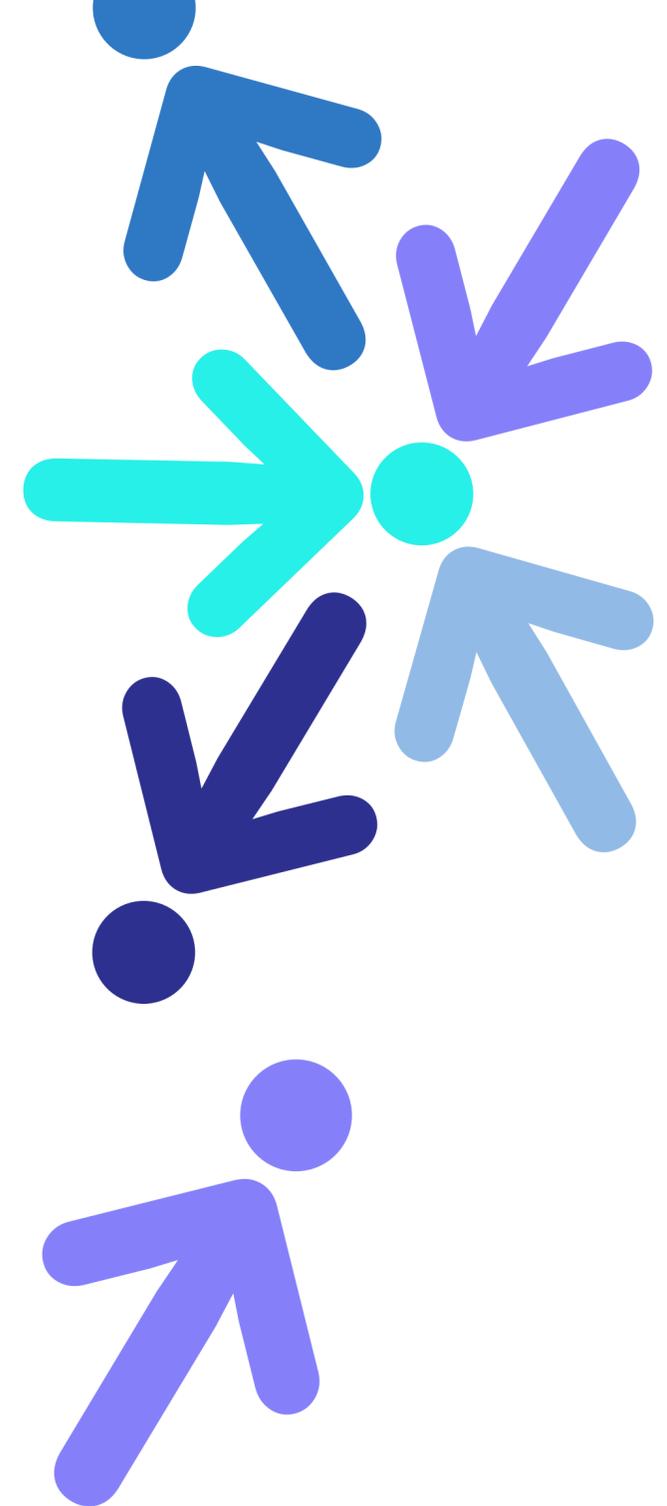
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Tech4All

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STEAM4All

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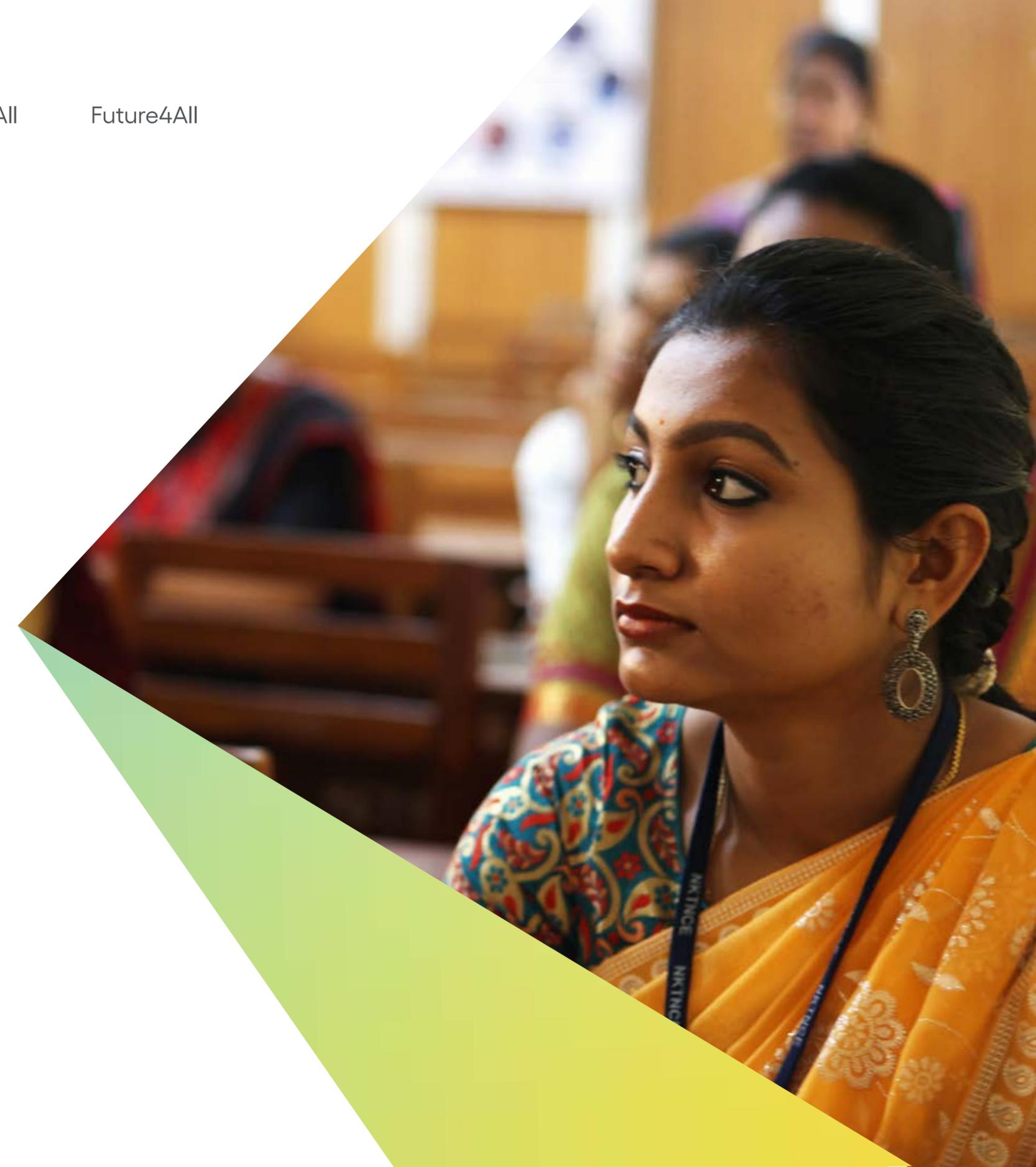
## At Cognizant Foundation India, we believe in creating a world that thrives on inclusion.

Our commitment is to ensure a better future for all by enabling participation and access to resources and opportunities for the marginalised sections of the society.

With inclusion, technology and collaboration at the heart of all that we do, our programmes are designed and implemented to empower persons with disabilities, children and women to lead a better quality of life.

Our objective is to enable equal access to quality health, foster sustainable livelihood, provide techno-centric skilling, facilitate access to higher learning and promote STEAM, digital and inclusive learning in schools. These interventions are aimed at inspiring a future of possibilities, where every individual can lead a life with dignity.

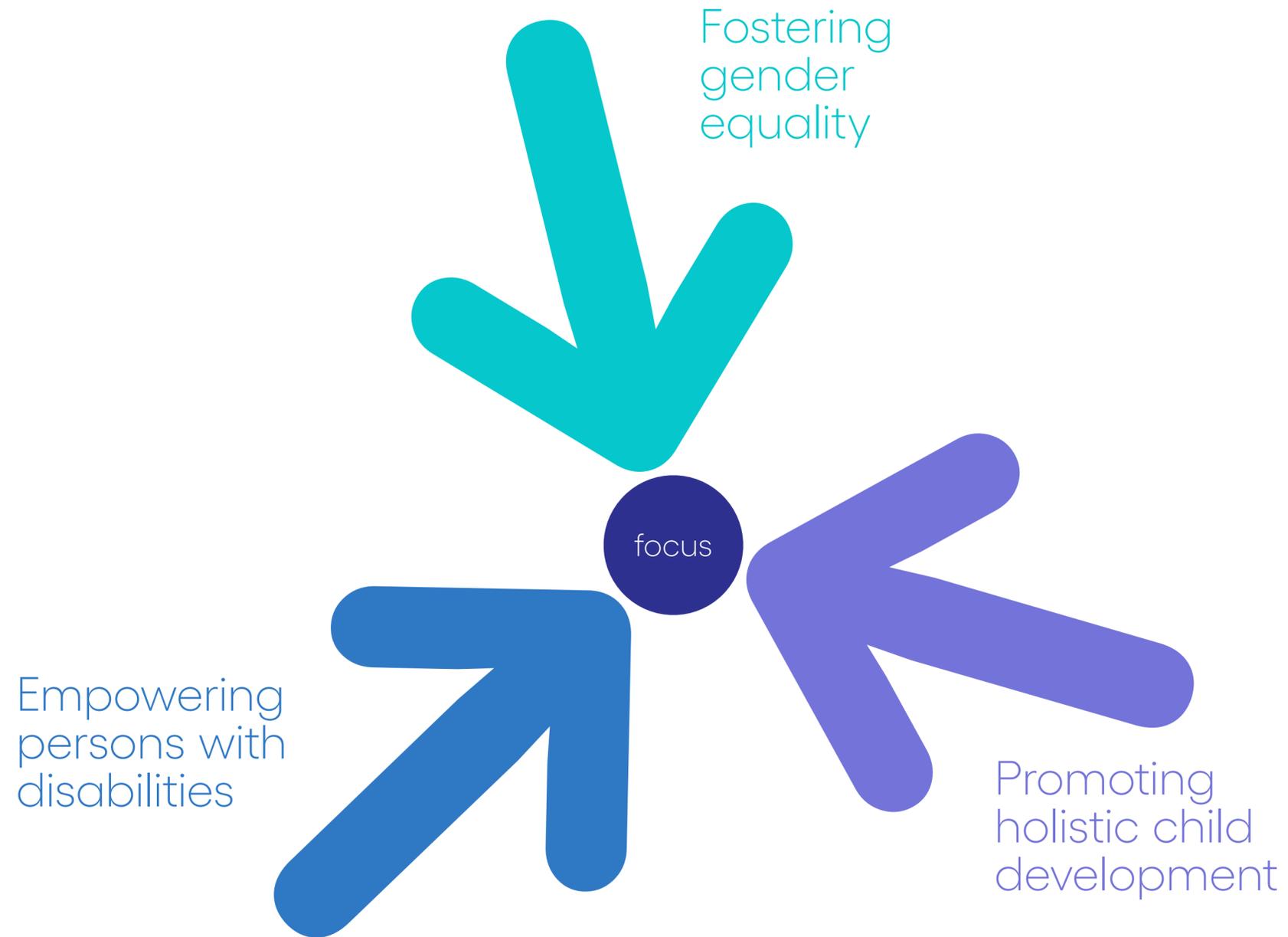
**Cognizant Foundation. Inspiring a future of possibilities.**



OUR TENETS AND FOCUS

# We leverage technology and collaboration

for greater impact and aim to promote a culture of inclusion. Our interventions are focused on empowering the lives of the marginalised, primarily persons with disabilities, children and women.



THEMES AND PROGRAMMES

# We are on a mission

to bring quality healthcare services within reach of the underserved and enable equal access to quality education so that every individual can make a sustainable livelihood, is empowered to fulfil their dreams and aspirations, and is enhanced with the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills to create a better future.

## Health4All

Enhancing accessibility to quality healthcare



**Sight4All**  
Enabling lives through timely eyecare



**Care4All**  
Advancing care for mother and child



**Support4All**  
Improving care for the underserved

## Future4All

Creating a better tomorrow through education and skilling



**Excellence4All**  
Nurturing aspirations through higher learning



**Tech4All**  
Inclusive growth, powered by technology.



**STEAM4All**  
Enabling 21<sup>st</sup> century learning

# Messages from the Board



“Cognizant Foundation’s commitment towards building a sustainable ecosystem at the intersection of inclusion, technology and collaboration remains unwavering”.



As we move forward from the pandemic, Cognizant Foundation’s commitment towards building a sustainable ecosystem at the intersection of inclusion, technology and collaboration remains unwavering. This year, I am especially proud of the significant progress made in two areas core to our mission: increasing access to quality healthcare for the underserved and empowering diverse communities with digital skilling and STEM education to help create a better future.

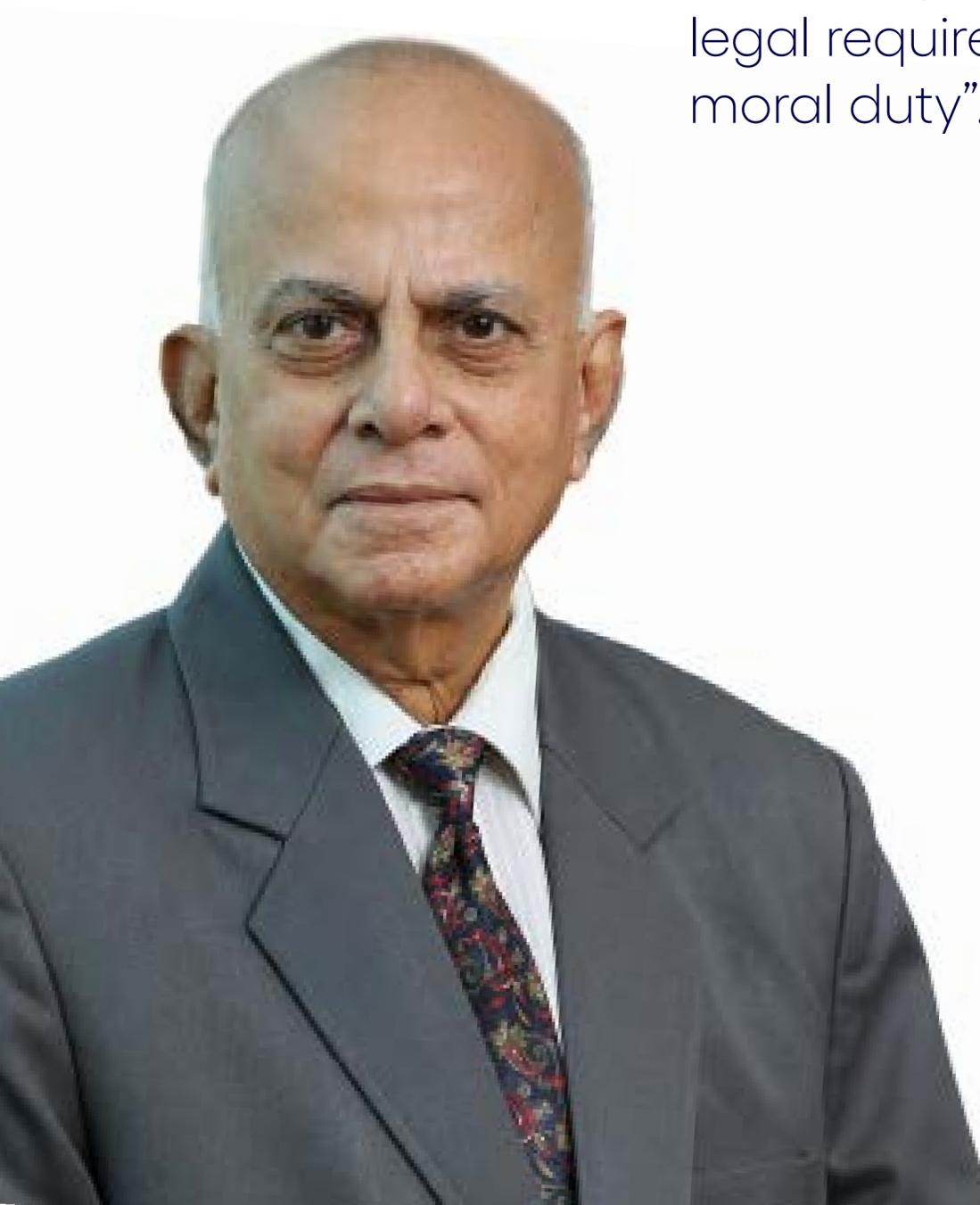
In healthcare, we continued our focus on preventing childhood blindness and improving access to maternal and child healthcare. We also expanded our support to persons with disabilities by providing comprehensive early intervention and rehabilitation services to children with special needs.

In the area of education and skilling, we launched the second phase of our flagship programme - Tech4All - which seeks to skill women and persons with disabilities for careers in technology and technology-enabled services. Blimey, the cloud-based learning platform launched in partnership with EnAble India, continues to make digital learning in multiple local languages accessible for the visually impaired. We also successfully piloted ‘Smart Vision Glasses’ a wearable device for the programme’s visually impaired scholars.

We are grateful to all our partners for their continued support in our mission to promote inclusion through programmes that improve lives of children, women and persons with disabilities from underserved communities. We look forward to multiplying the scale and reach of our interventions in the years to come.

**Rajesh Nambiar**

Chairman, Cognizant Foundation and Chairman & Managing Director, Cognizant India



“For the Cognizant Foundation, social responsibility is not a legal requirement to fulfil, it’s a moral duty”.

Promoting inclusivity in all its forms is the objective of Cognizant Foundation’s project identification and funding activities. An integral part of this effort is to commission Social Impact Studies of selected projects by independent agencies of credibility. It is a matter of gratification that such inquiries conducted in recent times have come out with highly positive results.

The investigators applied a package of tests like “Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Coherence, Sustainability, and Impact (REECSI)” with a specially designed scoring system. The projects evaluated ranged from the grant of scholarships for pursuing higher education to students hailing from poor households to “prevention of retinopathy of prematurity” and “pharmacotherapy for the mentally challenged”, each significant in its own way.

“The CF scholarship is a gift for my life” is how a student expressed her gratefulness. For the Cognizant Foundation, social responsibility is not a legal requirement to fulfil, it’s a moral duty.

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**N.R. Krishnan IAS (Retd.)**  
Director, Cognizant Foundation



“The Foundation is also working to widen its ‘disability focus’ to include children with special needs”.

In my message for the year 2019-20, I had expressed confidence “that the Foundation can both deepen and widen its impact footprint in the years to come”. I am happy to say now that this confidence had not been misplaced. In healthcare, Cognizant Foundation has taken up long-term projects in women and child health, meanwhile winning the award in the Healthcare (Small) category at the 8<sup>th</sup> CSR Impact Awards.

The Foundation is also working to widen its “disability focus” to include children with special needs. Cognizant Foundation’s project to provide “Smart Vision Glasses” for visually impaired scholars straddles the healthcare and education verticals. In the area of livelihood, the Tech4All programme entered its second phase of training involving 6100 women and 660 persons with disability in partnership with 6 additional NGOs.

That we are on the right track is confirmed by the findings of impact studies of the Foundation’s key projects. The strengthening of vendor due diligence through the use of the Cognizant system and of the project management office with additional human resources has contributed not a little to the overall high outcome levels. The Foundation’s staff and its NGO partners deserve a sustained round of applause.

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**K. Balaji**  
Director, Cognizant Foundation



“By ensuring that our initiatives reach the underrepresented and underserved populations and promoting diversity in the technology industry, we are paving the way for a more inclusive society”.

I want to express my appreciation and admiration for the incredible work that the Cognizant Foundation continues to do in the field of education, healthcare, and livelihood with a focus on technology and philanthropy. Cognizant Foundation’s commitment to leveraging technology for positive social impact is truly commendable. Through its initiatives and programmes, Cognizant Foundation has consistently demonstrated a deep understanding of the power of technology to drive innovation and create meaningful change in communities around the world.

The Foundation’s focus on education, healthcare, and skilling is crucial in addressing some of the most pressing challenges of our time. By investing in educational and skilling opportunities, we are empowering individuals to develop the skills needed to thrive in the digital age. Our efforts in healthcare are improving access to quality care and enhancing the overall well-being of communities.

I am particularly inspired by our commitment to inclusivity and diversity. By ensuring that our initiatives reach the underrepresented and underserved populations and promoting diversity in the technology industry, we are paving the way for a more inclusive society.

Thank you, Cognizant Foundation, for your unwavering dedication, innovation, and compassion. Your contributions are making the world a better place, and I look forward to witnessing the continued success of the Cognizant Foundation. I am proud to be a part of this great organisation.

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**Dr. Nandini Rangaswamy**  
Director, Cognizant Foundation



“Through its unwavering commitment to social responsibility, the Foundation has made a profound impact on numerous lives and communities”.

I am happy to see the remarkable work accomplished by Cognizant Foundation in the past year 2022-23. Through its unwavering commitment to social responsibility, the Foundation has made a profound impact on numerous lives and communities.

Cognizant Foundation has been at the forefront of healthcare initiatives, focusing on providing affordable and accessible healthcare to marginalised communities. By partnering with local healthcare organisations, the Foundation has facilitated medical camps, health awareness campaigns, and the establishment of healthcare facilities in remote areas. The “preventing avoidable blindness” programme has been pathbreaking.

In the realm of education, Cognizant Foundation has continued to promote access to quality education for underprivileged and persons with disabilities. By supporting various initiatives, such as tech-based infrastructure development, tech skills training, and digital literacy programmes, the Foundation has empowered many young minds with the tools they need to succeed. The Foundation has been a catalyst for social empowerment, particularly through its initiatives promoting gender equality and livelihood development focused on persons with disabilities.

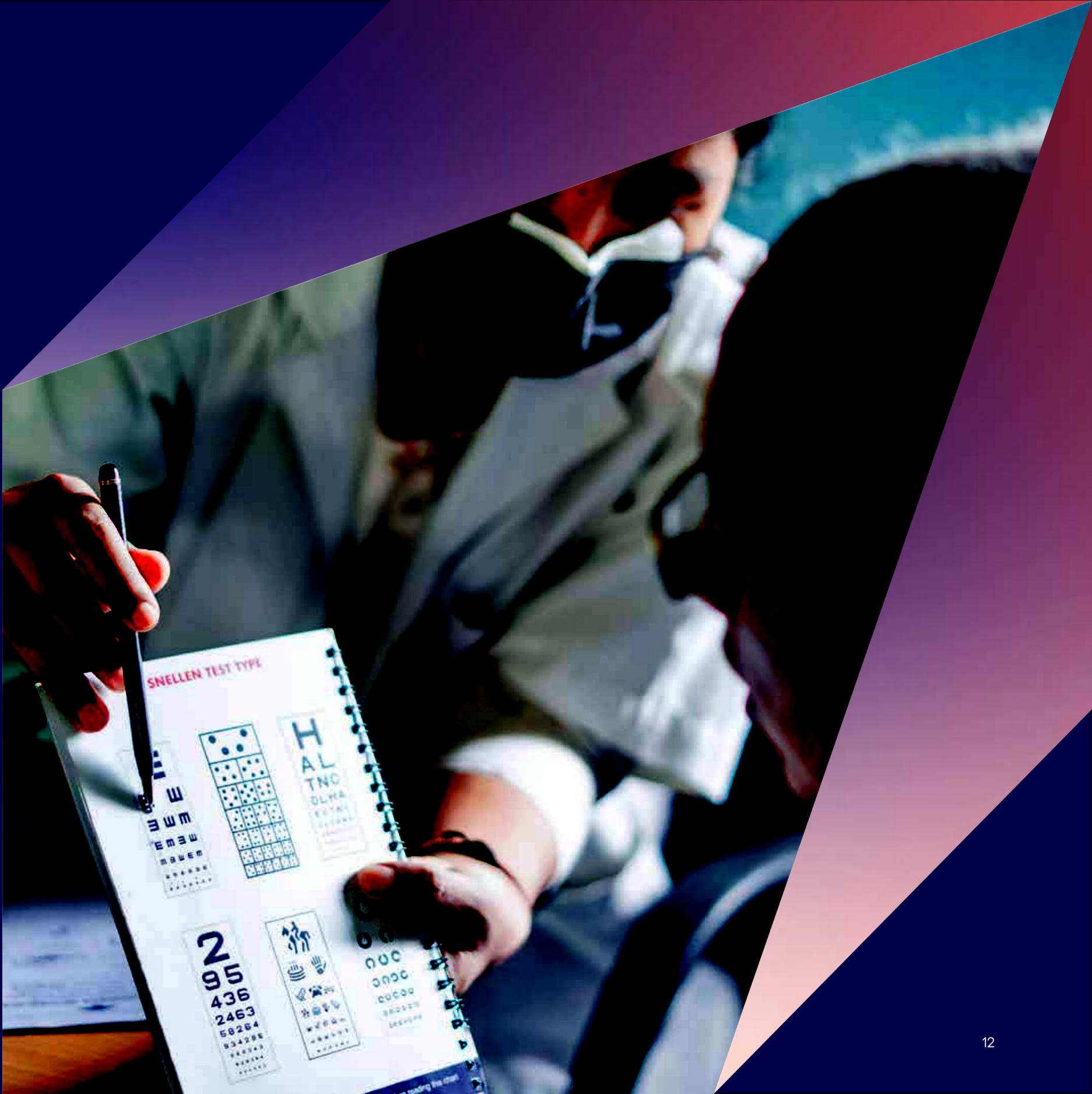
Cognizant Foundation’s work in 2022-23 has been inspiring. Through its holistic approach and collaborative partnerships, it has created lasting change in the lives of its beneficiaries. I am very happy to be a part of Cognizant Foundation and will continue to support and celebrate the Foundation’s efforts in building a brighter and more inclusive future.

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**N.K. Ranganath**

Director, Cognizant Foundation

# Operational highlights





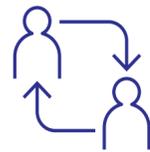
## 2022/23 at a glance



4,10,961 lives reached



Implemented 104 projects



57 NGO partners



Focused engagement in 9 States

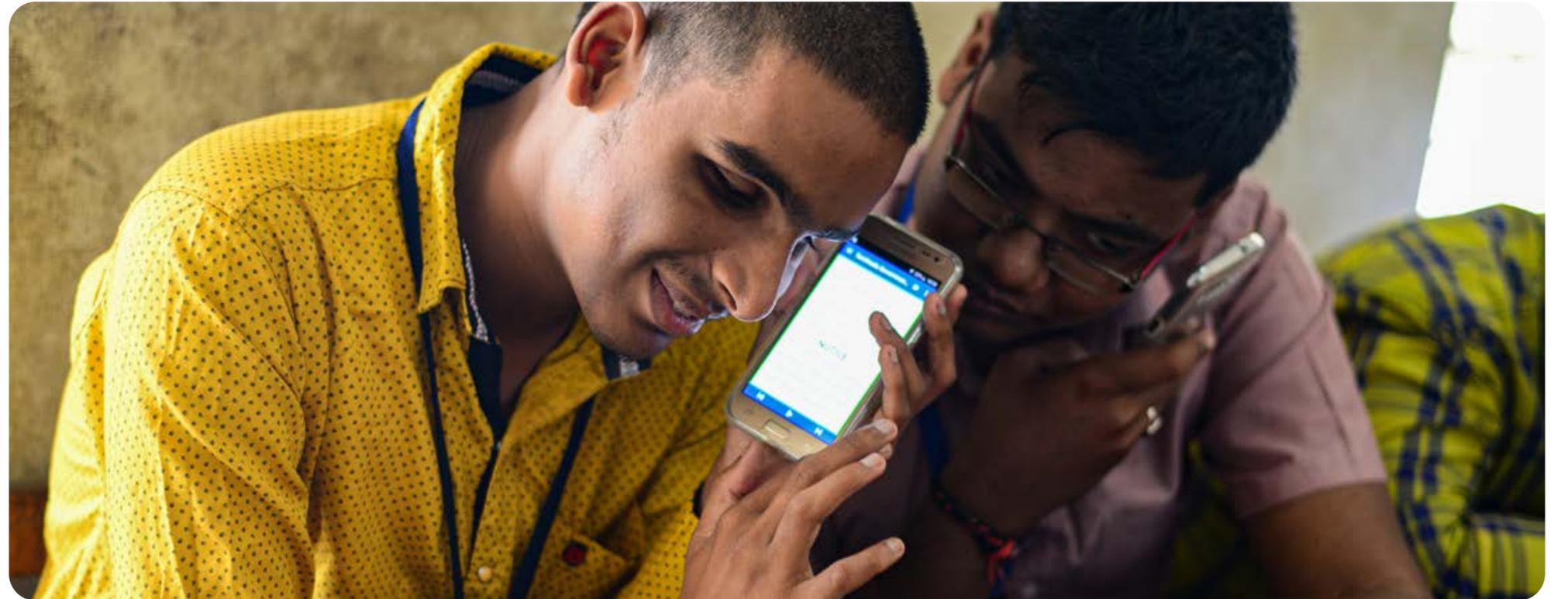


Winner of 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> CSR Impact Awards

# 19<sup>♂</sup> years of empowering change

for the most marginalised and disadvantaged communities in India. The year under review saw Cognizant Foundation make key advances under “Health4All” whilst also expanding its focus to support persons with disabilities. The “Future4All” programme leverages technology to promote inclusion with a key focus on making learning accessible as well as providing skill-based education to women, persons with disabilities and children with special needs.

 [Read more](#)



## IMPACT IN THE LAST 5 YEARS

### Healthcare

**8,24,000+** lives impacted by bringing quality healthcare within reach

### Education

**5,86,800+** lives impacted by enabling access and facilitating inclusion for quality education

### Skilling

**9,700+** lives empowered by enabling underserved persons with skill-training programmes

**FROM THE CEO'S DESK**

**“What brings us the most joy is hearing how our work has profoundly impacted the lives of our beneficiaries”.**

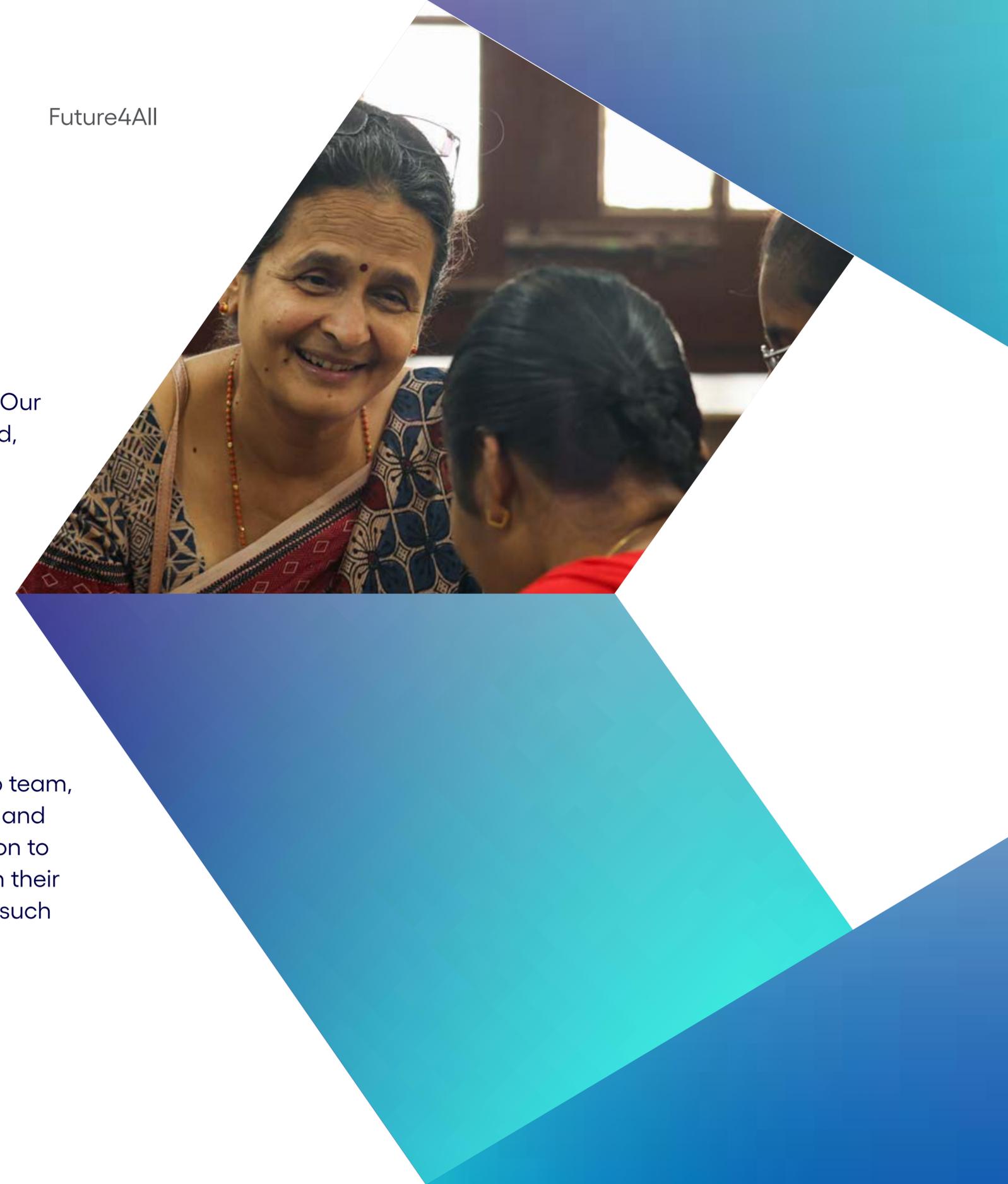
Being recognized for our healthcare project for the second year in a row is truly an honour. Our women and child health project in Maharashtra received the prestigious CSR Impact award, which validates our belief in consistent efforts and a collaborative approach for sustained positive impact on the community.

What brings us the most joy is hearing how our work has profoundly impacted the lives of our beneficiaries. We take pride in our initiatives, which include medical interventions to prevent disability, promoting women's and children's health, and promoting gender equality and inclusion through education and skilling, as they are consistently empowering communities. Our work has received positive feedback from various agencies, which is a testament to its impact on the field.

We owe our success to our Cognizant Foundation Board of Directors, Cognizant leadership team, volunteers, and dedicated NGO partners. They enable us to approach our work holistically and create long-lasting change in the lives of our beneficiaries. I want to express my appreciation to my team for their incredible work. They demonstrate their commitment to inclusion through their razor-sharp focus on project selection and flawless execution. I feel blessed to be a part of such an amazing team, and together we strive to make the world a better place for all.

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**Rajashree Natarajan**  
CEO, Cognizant Foundation



# Health4All

Enhancing accessibility  
to quality healthcare



# Health4All overview

Enhancing accessibility to quality healthcare

Cognizant Foundation promotes societal inclusion by bringing quality healthcare within reach of the underserved. By partnering with credible not-for-profit organisations, the Foundation supports timely eye care and promotes maternal and child health among the underserved. The Foundation has also expanded its focus to a third area aimed at providing comprehensive early intervention and rehabilitation services to children with special needs.

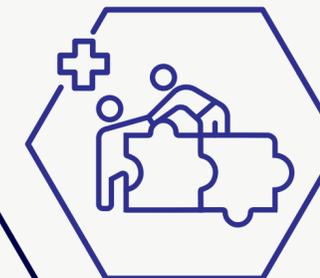
## IMPACT IN NUMBERS



## PROGRAMMES UNDER HEALTH4ALL

### Sight4All

Enabling lives through timely eye care



**Support4All**  
Improving care for the underserved

### Care4All

Advancing care for mother and child







# Sight4All

Enabling lives through timely eyecare

Blindness and vision impairment are major public health problems in India. The Foundation’s flagship programme “Sight4All” focuses on arresting the spread of preventable blindness with the objective to make timely, quality eye care services accessible and affordable to underserved communities, especially among infants and children.

PROGRAMME

## Preventing childhood blindness

PROJECTS

School and community eye screenings

Screening for and treatment of ROP

PROGRAMME

## Increasing access to quality eye care

PROJECTS

Setting up and running of Vision Centres

Providing state-of-the-art ophthalmic equipment



**2,65,493** lives impacted in 2022/23



**Partners:** CBM India Trust, Dr. Shroff’s Charity Eye Hospital, LEpra Society, Lions Club of Jamalpur Welfare Trust, L.V. Prasad Eye Institute, Mission for Vision, Operation Eyesight India, Sassoon Hospitals, Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Medical Trust, Sri Sankaradeva Nethralaya and Sundarban Social Development Centre



**Locations:** Assam, Karnataka, Maharashtra, NCR, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and West Bengal



## Preventing childhood blindness

Childhood blindness is being recognized as an issue in need of immediate intervention in India. Vision impairment in children can severely impact educational outcomes, contribute to low self-esteem and future socio-economic potential. Since early detection and treatment of eye conditions is critical, the Foundation has partnered with various organisations and specialist hospitals to provide comprehensive eye health treatment to children from underserved communities.



WINNER

Healthcare (Large) category in the 7<sup>th</sup> CSR Impact Awards

### PROJECTS

School and community eye screenings

Screening for and treatment of ROP



**1,42,264** lives impacted in 2022/23



**Partners:** Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital, H.V. Desai Eye Hospital, L.V. Prasad Eye Institute and Mission for Vision



**Locations:** Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, National Capital Region, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and West Bengal

Preventing childhood blindness

School and community eye screenings

Screening for and treatment of ROP

Increasing access to quality eye care

Setting up and running of Vision Centres

Providing state-of-the-art ophthalmic equipment

## School and community eye screenings

Cognizant Foundation partnered with various organisations to screen children for refractive errors and other eye conditions while at school or right at their doorsteps. The programme provided prescription eyewear to children who needed it and referred those requiring surgeries to the base hospital where treatment was provided for free or at subsidised rates. Periodic check-ups were done to monitor the efficacy of the interventions and counselling support was provided as needed.

 [Read more](#)



“I never thought that I’d be able to give her proper treatment. We are so lucky to have been part of this programme”.

 [Read more](#)



“I was worried that my niece might have to drop out since we couldn’t afford proper care for her”.

 [Read more](#)



**1,40,317** lives impacted in 2022/23



**Partners:** Dr. Shroff’s Charity Eye Hospital and Mission for Vision



**Locations:** Maharashtra, National Capital Region, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal



Preventing childhood blindness

School and community eye screenings

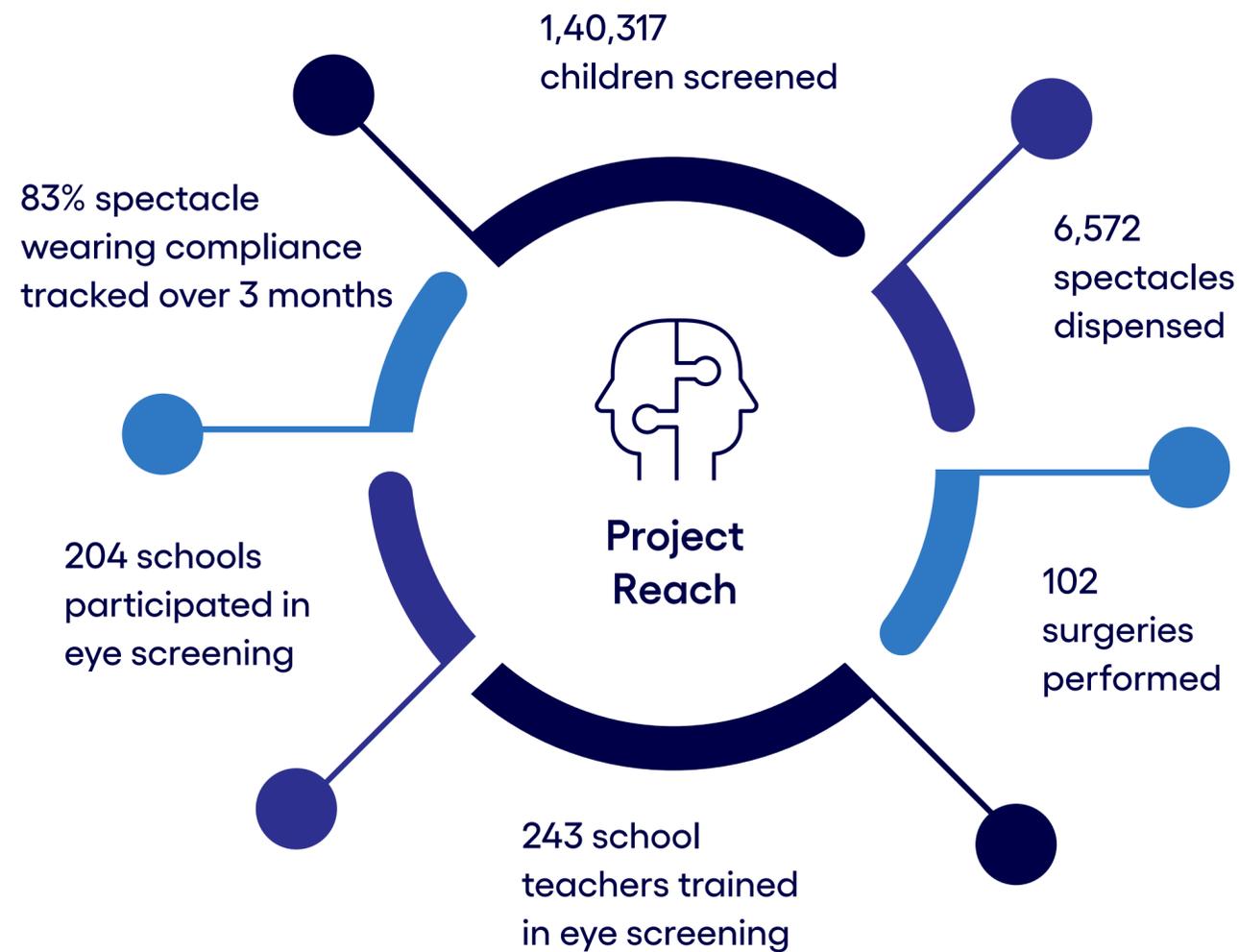
Screening for and treatment of ROP

Increasing access to quality eye care

Setting up and running of Vision Centres

Providing state-of-the-art ophthalmic equipment

## Impact in numbers



### Partners

Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital

Sankara Nethralaya

Siliguri Greater Lions Eye Hospital

Mission for Vision and Sankara Eye Hospital



### Locations

Jahangirpuri, North-West Delhi

Thiruvallur district, Tamil Nadu

Jalpaiguri, Kalimpong and Cooch Behar, West Bengal

Rajgad district, Maharashtra



Preventing childhood blindness

School and community eye screenings

Screening for and treatment of ROP

Increasing access to quality eye care

Setting up and running of Vision Centres

Providing state-of-the-art ophthalmic equipment

## Screening for and treatment of ROP

Cognizant Foundation has partnered with not-for-profit organisations and specialist eye hospitals to screen for and treat Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP), a condition that exclusively affects preterm babies. ROP usually occurs within 2 to 4 weeks after birth. Left untreated, ROP can lead to irreversible blindness or lifelong vision impairment. The Foundation enables partner hospitals in the identification of ROP in babies and administering relevant treatment.

 [Read more](#)



**WINNER**

**Best poster award for real time screening of ROP in World ROP Congress, Dubai, September 2022. Poster presentation by L.V. Prasad Eye Institute.**



“I cannot imagine what I would have done and whose door I would have knocked on to save my child’s life and sight”.

 [Read more](#)



**1947** lives impacted in 2022/23



**Partners:** H.V. Desai Eye Hospital, L.V. Prasad Eye Institute and Mission for Vision



**Locations:** Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana and Maharashtra

Preventing childhood blindness

School and community eye screenings

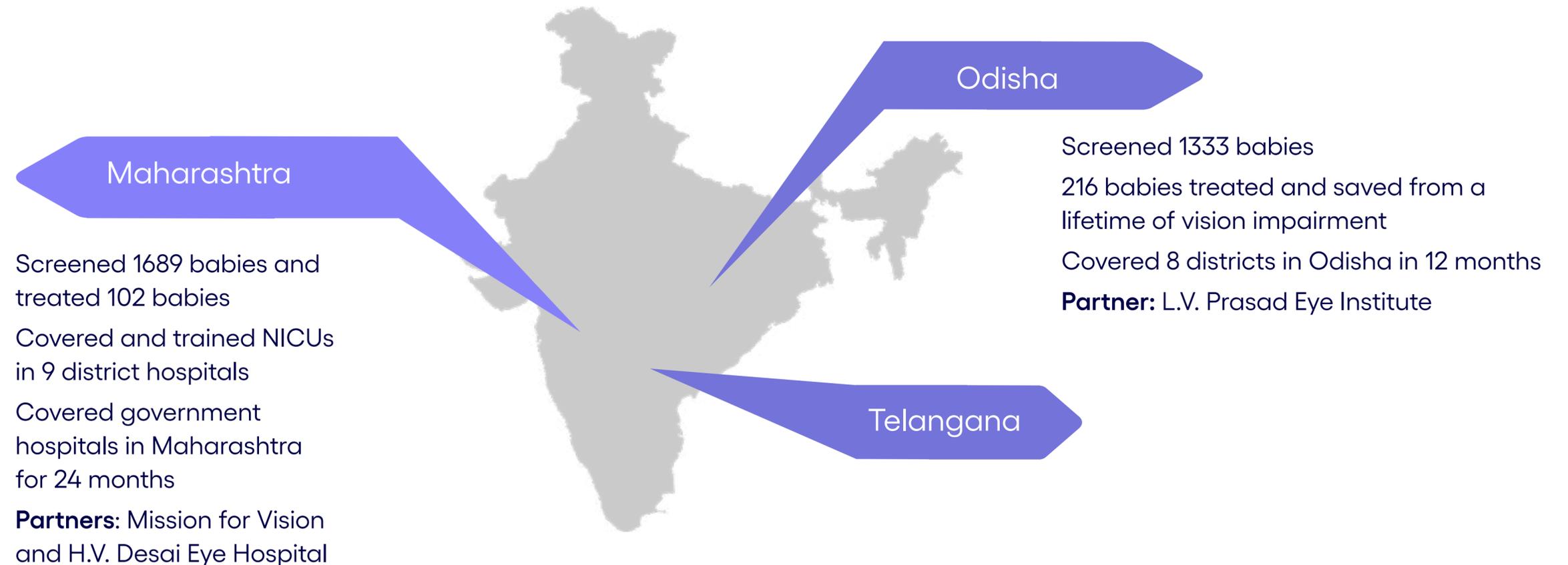
Screening for and treatment of ROP

Increasing access to quality eye care

Setting up and running of Vision Centres

Providing state-of-the-art ophthalmic equipment

## Impact in numbers



### FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Cover 15 districts in Odisha in 13.5 months
- Screen 2400 preterm babies in Odisha
- Implement ROP screening and treatment in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh

### FEATURES

- Real-time ROP tele-screening initiative with L.V. Prasad Eye Institute
- Treatments via laser, injections or surgeries
- Trained government doctors and paediatric health personnel in screening for and treatment of ROP





## Increasing access to quality eye care

Cognizant Foundation has made significant inroads into making quality eye health services accessible to underserved sections of society. Vision Centres have been set up across the country to facilitate access for the prevention, identification, and treatment of eye related illnesses. Apart from this, the Foundation also supports reputed eye hospitals through grants to procure advanced medical equipment and technology to benefit the underserved through high-quality treatment facilities.

### PROJECTS

Setting up and running of Vision Centres

Providing state-of-the-art ophthalmic equipment



**1,23,229** lives impacted in 2022/23



**Partners:** CBM India Trust, LEPRO Society, Lions Club of Jamalpur Welfare Trust, Mission for Vision, Operation Eyesight, Sassoon Hospitals, Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Medical Trust (Sankara Eye Hospital), Sri Sankaradeva Nethralaya and Sundarban Social Development Centre



**Locations:** Assam, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and West Bengal

Preventing childhood blindness

School and community eye screenings

Screening for and treatment of ROP

Increasing access to quality eye care

Setting up and running of Vision Centres

Providing state-of-the-art ophthalmic equipment

## Setting up and running of Vision Centres

Lack of access is a major barrier for the poor rural communities to avail eye care services and Vision Centres have proved successful in overcoming this challenge. For Cognizant Foundation, a key focus has been on using tele-ophthalmology via Vision Centres to ensure safe and continuous delivery of quality eye care to the underserved.

### PROJECTS

5 centres in Assam in partnership with Mission for Vision

 [Read more](#)

5 centres in Assam, Maharashtra and West Bengal in partnership with Operation Eyesight India

 [Read more](#)



“It is not just my vision that you all have restored but my dignity as well”.

 [Read more](#)



**32,037** lives impacted in 2022/23



**Partners:** Mission for Vision and Operation Eyesight India



**Locations:** Assam, Maharashtra and West Bengal

**Bokakhat Vision Centre, Assam, India  
was established in partnership with  
Chandraprabha Eye Hospital through  
support from Cognizant Foundation and  
Operation Eyesight Universal!**



**Inaugurated on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan  
2023**



Preventing childhood blindness

School and community eye screenings

Screening for and treatment of ROP

Increasing access to quality eye care

Setting up and running of Vision Centres

Providing state-of-the-art ophthalmic equipment

## Tele-ophthalmology assistance system

Chronic eye conditions, post-surgical eye conditions and acute conditions like infections require frequent visits to the doctor and maintenance to prevent vision loss and surgical complications. The prohibitive costs towards travel and lost wages result in an economic burden. Cognizant Foundation is addressing this challenge through a health-tech innovation project in partnership with L.V. Prasad Eye Institute.

 [Read more](#)



**Partner:** L.V. Prasad Eye Institute



**Locations:** Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Telangana

Preventing childhood blindness

School and community eye screenings

Screening for and treatment of ROP

Increasing access to quality eye care

Setting up and running of Vision Centres

Providing state-of-the-art ophthalmic equipment

## Providing state-of-the-art ophthalmic equipment

Ophthalmic equipment is an essential eye health intervention tool required at primary, secondary and tertiary eye care centres for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of eye conditions. Cognizant Foundation enables partner hospitals to procure advanced medical equipment, thereby helping in addressing the issue of access to affordable and quality medical infrastructure for marginalised sections of society.



**91,192** lives impacted in 2022/23



**Partners:** CBM India Trust, LEpra Society, Lions Club of Jamalpur Welfare Trust, Mission for Vision, Sassoon Hospitals, Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Medical Trust (Sankara Eye Hospital), Sri Sankaradeva Nethralaya and Sundarban Social Development Centre



**Locations:** Assam, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal

Preventing childhood blindness

School and community eye screenings

Screening for and treatment of ROP

Increasing access to quality eye care

Setting up and running of Vision Centres

Providing state-of-the-art ophthalmic equipment

### Equipment grant support

[Read more](#)

**Aim**  
Reach 1500 patients annually

**Partner**  
Mission for Vision and Sankara Eye Hospital (Bengaluru)

**Equipment support**  
3nethra neo ROP screening equipment

**Aim**  
Reach 2400 patients annually

**Partner**  
Mission for Vision and Sankara Eye Hospital (Shivamogga)

**Equipment support**  
Leica microscope to perform critical vitreoretinal surgeries

**Aim**  
Reach 2500 patients annually

**Partner**  
CBM India Trust and St. John's Medical College Hospital (Karnataka)

**Equipment support**  
Phaco machine, tonometer, direct ophthalmoscope and lensometer

**Aim**  
Reach 6000 patients annually

**Partner**  
Mission for Vision and Sundarban Social Development Centre (West Bengal)

**Equipment support**  
Biometry and slit lamp

**Aim**  
Reach 5000 patients annually

**Partner**  
Sankara Eye Hospital (Coimbatore)

**Equipment support**  
Medical equipment for myopia wellness clinic

**Aim**  
Reach 14000 patients annually

**Partner**  
Mission for Vision and Siliguri Greater Lions Eye Hospital (West Bengal)

**Equipment support**  
Slit lamp, horizontal autoclave, operating microscope, specular microscope and ophthalmic refraction chair unit





# Care4All

## Advancing care for mother and child

Lives of millions of women and children can be saved by improving access to quality healthcare. In 2022-23, Cognizant Foundation continued to work towards enhancing maternal and childcare through community-based interventions that leverage technology and the human touch.

### PROGRAMMES

Leveraging technology for newborn post-discharge care

Enabling safe health of mother and child

Enhancing maternal and child health in urban slums

Capacity building to transform labour and delivery care

Free automated voice calls on preventive healthcare

Strengthening paediatric care and infrastructure



79,566 lives impacted in 2022/23



**Partners:** Aishwarya Trust, ARMANN, Committed Communities Development Trust, CRI Charitable Trust, EKAM Foundation, Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Matri Bhavan, People to People Health Foundation, Rotary Club of Madras East and Round Table India



**Locations:** Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal

Leveraging technology for newborn post-discharge care

Enabling safe health of mother and child

Enhancing maternal and child health in urban slums

Capacity building to transform labour and delivery care

Free automated voice calls on preventive healthcare

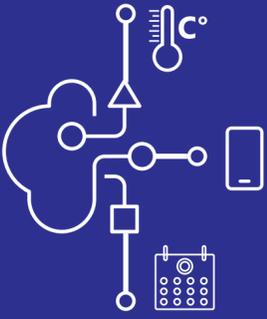
Strengthening paediatric care and infrastructure

# Leveraging technology for newborn post-discharge care

Cognizant Foundation partnered with IIT Madras for rolling out a technology-based solution for post-discharge temperature monitoring of newborns who had been admitted in NICU. This is because preterm babies are at a greater risk of developing various health problems and require regular follow-up care to avert postnatal complications. The 3-year project would be an end-to-end intervention involving hospitals, mothers and newborns through wireless monitoring devices and a connectivity platform.

 [Read more](#)

Temperature monitoring of newborns



Personalised app based solutions

Periodic post-discharge care of at-risk infants



“This project has helped parents take care of their babies with much more awareness and confidence”.

 [Read more](#)



**2799** babies enrolled in 2022/23

**2854** village health nurses trained



**Partners:** Chengalpattu Medical College and Hospital, IIT Madras, Institute of Child Health Chennai, Institute of Obstetrics & Gynaecology Chennai, JIPMER Puducherry and Saveetha Medical College Hospital Chennai



**Locations:** Puducherry and Tamil Nadu

Leveraging technology for newborn post-discharge care

Enabling access to safe health of mother and child

Enhancing maternal and child health in urban slums

Capacity building to transform labour and delivery care

Free automated voice calls on preventive healthcare

Strengthening paediatric care and infrastructure

# Enabling access to safe health of mother and child

“Project Suraksha” raises awareness on the importance of antenatal and postnatal care and improves access to information. It enables continued medical care, immunisation and micro-nutrient supplements to high-risk pregnant women and lactating mothers throughout the entirety of their pregnancy and to children between 0-2 years of age.

 [Read more](#)



WINNER

Healthcare (Small) category at the 8<sup>th</sup> CSR Impact Awards

**Aim in**



**5 years.** 

Reach 94,000 antenatal and postnatal care mothers

Reach 12,700 high-risk women and children



“It is because of your help and support that we have our child with us safe and healthy”.

 [Read more](#)



**19,681** lives impacted in 2022/23

**3,271** high-risk women & children supported



**Partner:** Committed Communities Development Trust



**Locations:** Bhiwandi and Malegaon, Maharashtra

Leveraging technology for newborn post-discharge care

Enabling access to safe health of mother and child

Enhancing maternal and child health in urban slums

Capacity building to transform labour and delivery care

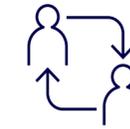
Free automated voice calls on preventive healthcare

Strengthening paediatric care and infrastructure

## Enhancing maternal and child health in urban slums

“Project SAMARTH” was launched with an aim to improve maternal and child health in urban slum areas in Kolkata. The initiative will contribute towards the government’s efforts on reducing maternal and infant mortality. It will improve access to maternal, newborn, child health and nutrition (MNCHN) services of the government among women and children, improve community and key influencer knowledge and health seeking behaviour, and build capacity of the health and nutrition care providers for strengthening MNCHN skills.

[Read more](#)



**Partner:** People to People Health Foundation



**Location:** Basanti slum, Kolkata



Leveraging technology for newborn post-discharge care

Enabling access to safe health of mother and child

Enhancing maternal and child health in urban slums

Capacity building to transform labour and delivery care

Free automated voice calls on preventive healthcare

Strengthening paediatric care and infrastructure

# Capacity building to transform labour and delivery care

Cognizant Foundation has partnered with EKAM Foundation to initiate a project to improve care around delivery in the labour room and maternity operation theatre and early initiation and exclusive breastfeeding practised by new mothers at the hospital.

 [Read more](#)

## Aim



Reach 6000 high-risk pregnant women and 7,500 high-risk children.



**638** lives impacted in 2022/23



**Partner:** EKAM Foundation



**Location:** Thiruvallur district, Tamil Nadu

Leveraging technology for newborn post-discharge care

Enabling access to safe health of mother and child

Enhancing maternal and child health in urban slums

Capacity building to transform labour and delivery care

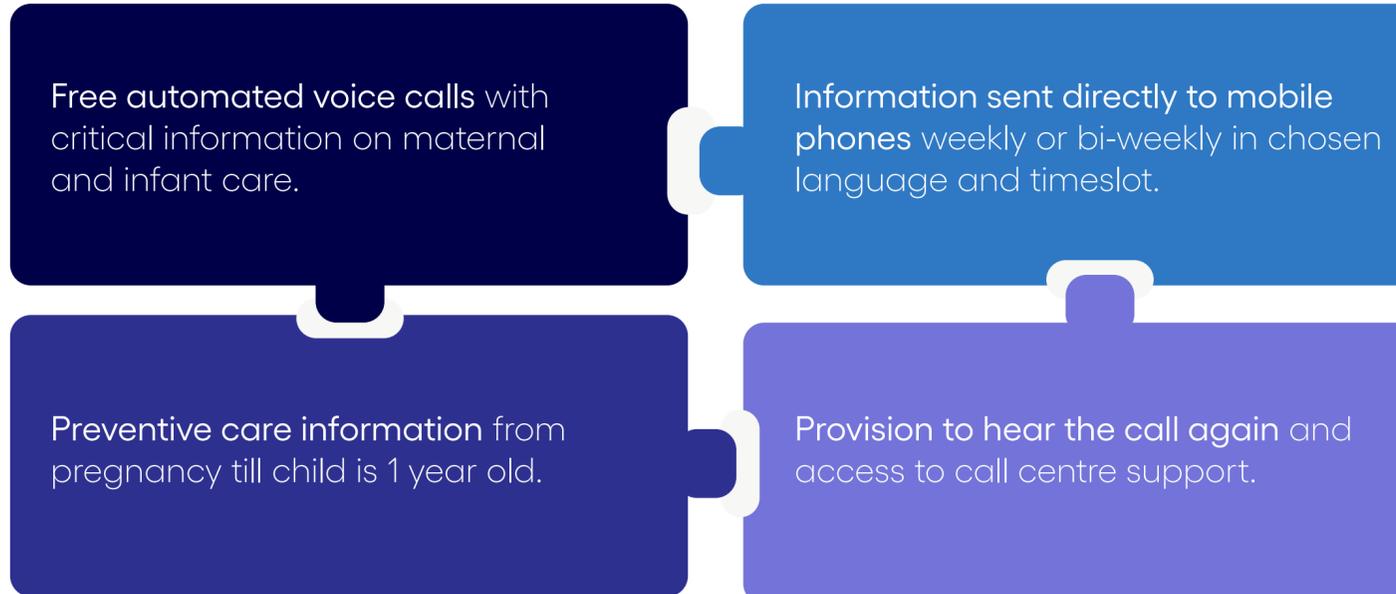
Free automated voice calls on preventive healthcare

Strengthening paediatric care and infrastructure

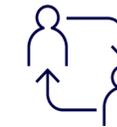
# Free automated voice calls on preventive healthcare

Lack of access to critical preventive care information is a key gap leading to poor maternal and child health outcomes. Providing critical healthcare information creates awareness regarding the need for regular care, risk factors and complications and develops agencies to demand healthcare. However, overcrowded health facilities overlook this critical need for counselling. The mMitra programme bridges the gap using the principles of behaviour change communication and by leveraging high telecom penetration to create a cost-effective, accessible and replicable model.

## FEATURES



**31,960** lives impacted in 2022/23



**Partner:** ARMMAN



**Locations:** Mumbai Metropolitan Region and Pune, Maharashtra

Leveraging technology for newborn post-discharge care

Enabling access to safe health of mother and child

Enhancing maternal and child health in urban slums

Capacity building to transform labour and delivery care

Free automated voice calls on preventive healthcare

Strengthening paediatric care and infrastructure

## Strengthening paediatric care and infrastructure

Partner: **Rotary Club of Madras East**

Setting up a paediatric pulmonology department at Kanchi Kamakoti Childs Trust Hospital, Chennai

**3000** infants would benefit every year

[Read more](#)

Partner: **Aishwarya Trust**

Screening for congenital heart diseases in children in Tamil Nadu

**7500** infants would benefit every year

[Read more](#)

Partner: **Round Table India**

Strengthening neonatal and paediatric intensive care unit of the Kilpauk Medical College & Hospital, Chennai

**8460** infants would benefit every year

[Read more](#)

Partner: **EKAM Foundation**

Strengthening Special Newborn Care Units of 7 government hospitals in Tamil Nadu

**10800** infants would benefit every year

[Read more](#)







# Support4All

Improving care for the underserved

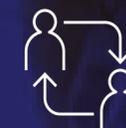
According to the WHO, an estimated 1.3 billion people - or 16% of the global population - are experiencing a significant disability. Persons with disabilities have poorer health and experience more limitations in everyday functioning than others. Disability inclusion is critical to achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and by enabling equitable access to health, persons with disabilities can lead a life of dignity. In 2022-23, Cognizant Foundation initiated a pilot project of providing comprehensive early intervention and early education programmes for socio-economically challenged children with special needs.

## PROGRAMME

Early intervention for special-needs children



**249** children with special needs impacted in 2022/23



**Partner:** The Association of People with Disability



**Location:** Karnataka

Early intervention for special-needs children

# Early intervention for special-needs children

Children with developmental delays can enjoy a happy childhood and bloom into self-reliant and dignified members of society when provided with appropriate rehabilitation services and a supportive ecosystem at the right time. Cognizant Foundation is supporting a comprehensive early intervention programme for children with special needs to help in building the foundation for physical, cognitive, language, social and emotional growth through proven and tested rehabilitation strategies.

 [Read more](#)

## Aim



**Offer rehabilitation service to 1000 children with special needs in one year.**



“We are happy with our son’s progress and development. He is able to eat solid food and is even responsive to our calls”.

 [Read more](#)



“I wish all children who need similar care are blessed with the opportunity and support that my child has received”.

 [Read more](#)



**249** children with special needs impacted in 2022/23



**Partner:** The Association of People with Disability



**Location:** Karnataka

# Special project

## Supporting patients with chronic kidney disease

Cognizant Foundation is enabling TANKER Foundation in providing support for patients with Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD). The support is primarily extended to marginalised and Hepatitis B and C positive/negative patients who are unable to get quality CKD treatment due to the lack of quality, affordable care in both government and private hospitals.

[Read more](#)

### EQUIPMENT AND MEDICINE SUPPORT

Dialysis machines and accessories for TANKER, Vellore.

Free erythropoietin and iron sucrose injections.



**836** lives impacted in 2022/23



**Partner:** Tamilnad Kidney Research (TANKER) Foundation



**Location:** Tamil Nadu

# Future4All

Creating a better tomorrow  
through education and skilling

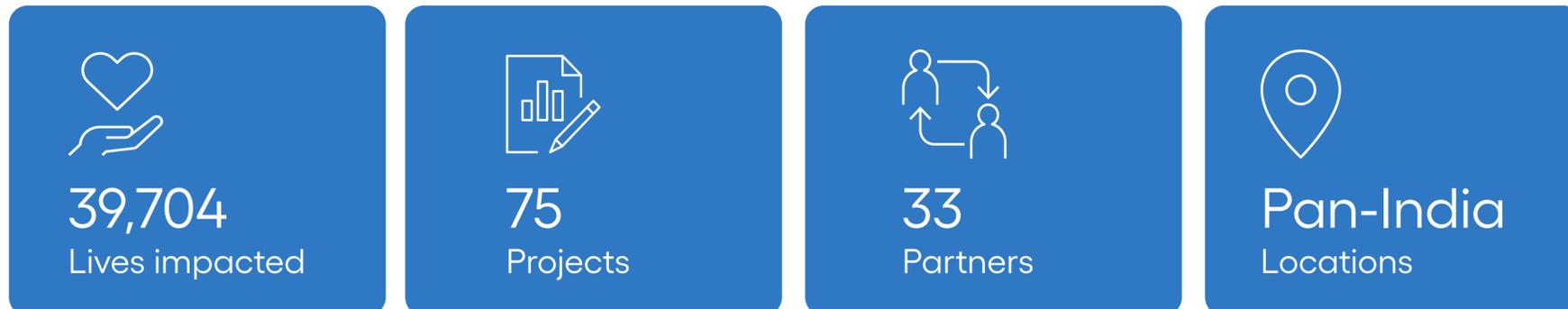


# Future4All overview

## Creating a better tomorrow through education and skilling

Future4All is focused on strengthening access to quality education, facilitating inclusion in classrooms, ensuring meaningful livelihoods, and supporting beneficiaries in acquiring knowledge that is relevant in the modern world. In 2022/23, the Foundation continued to partner with organisations to accelerate access to higher education through scholarships, empower underserved sections through STEAM based education, provide tech-based skilling programmes for women and persons with disabilities, and support educators in enhancing digital literacy with the aim of creating a better future for all.

### IMPACT IN NUMBERS



### PROGRAMMES UNDER FUTURE4ALL

#### Excellence4All

Nurturing aspirations through higher learning



#### STEAM4All

Enabling 21<sup>st</sup> century learning

#### Tech4All

Inclusive growth, powered by technology







# Excellence4All

## Nurturing aspirations through higher learning

Access to higher education is a crucial factor in promoting social mobility, economic growth, and overall development in any country. As financial constraint is one of the key barriers hindering a student from pursuing higher education, Cognizant Foundation has institutionalised scholarship programmes in NAAC-accredited colleges catering to underserved youth and visually impaired students. In its commitment to promote inclusion in higher education, the Foundation has added skill-based components and has been leveraging digital technologies to support learning and facilitate meaningful ways of inclusion of people with disabilities.

### SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMMES

Graduate study in STEAM

Empowering visually impaired students

Graduate study in special education

Postgraduate study in social sciences

Promoting excellence



1376 scholars supported in 2022/23



**Partners:** Alagappa University, Andhra University, Avinashilingam University for Women, Buddy4Study India Foundation, Central University of Rajasthan, Chennai Mathematical Institute, Christel House India, Cognizant Outreach, College of Social Work, Nirmala Niketan, Dr. MGR Institute of Special Education and Research, Foundation for Excellence, Help the Blind Foundation, Madras School of Social Work, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities, N. K. Thirumalachariar National College of Education for Women, Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Research Institute, Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam, Stella Maris College, Swadha Foundation, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Tezpur University, University of Kashmir



**Locations:** Pan-India

Graduate study in STEAM

Empowering visually impaired students

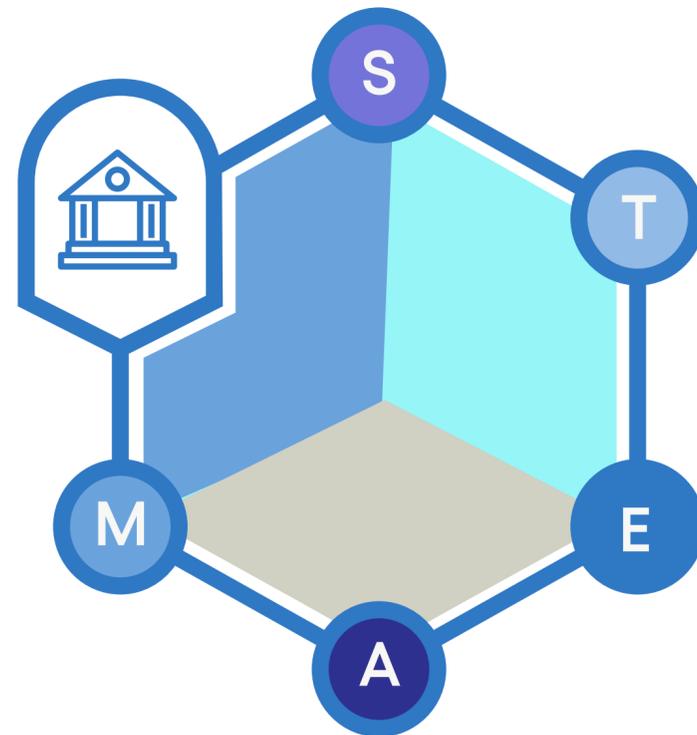
Graduate study in special education

Postgraduate study in social sciences

Promoting excellence

# Graduate study in STEAM

Cognizant Foundation supports graduate study in the fields of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. Implemented directly and through partners, the programme continues to support its merit-cum-means scholarship for graduate study in engineering whilst also providing mentorship and employability skills. The Foundation also offers support to deserving students to pursue undergraduate courses in arts and sciences to cater for a growing demand in the market.



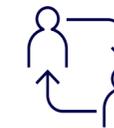
“By providing the scholarship, you have allowed me to focus on the most important aspect of college - learning”.

[Read more](#)



**626** scholars supported in 2022/23

**480** engineering scholars supported since inception



**Partners:** Buddy4Study India Foundation, Christel House India, Cognizant Outreach, Foundation for Excellence India Trust and Swadha Foundation



**Location:** Pan-India



SILENCE

Graduate study in STEAM

Empowering visually impaired students

Graduate study in special education

Postgraduate study in social sciences

Promoting excellence

## Empowering visually impaired students

To strengthen the number of graduates and career prospects amongst persons with visual impairment, Cognizant Foundation has instituted a scholarship programme and expanded it to include Education Mobility and Employability Training (EMET). The EMET has helped the visually impaired students in building a sense of independence and mobility, imparted digital skills for them to continue their learning, and supported them in employment prospects.

Since the onset of COVID-19 pandemic, the Foundation has been supporting the scholars with laptops to help pursue online education and build digital skills vital in landing well-paying jobs.

 [Read more](#)



**615** scholars supported in 2022-23

**1213** scholars supported since inception



**Partner:** Help the Blind Foundation



**Location:** Pan-India

Graduate study in STEAM

Empowering visually impaired students

Graduate study in special education

Postgraduate study in social sciences

Promoting excellence

## Smart Vision Glasses

Piloted in 2022/23 by Cognizant Foundation, Smart Vision Glasses are an innovative wearable device designed for the visually impaired. This project exemplifies the power of innovation and its capacity to promote inclusivity and empower the visually impaired community.

### Aim



**Increase independence and dignity of visually impaired individuals.**



### FEATURES

- Lightweight
- User-friendly
- Seamless interaction
- High-resolution camera
- Advanced sensors
- Built-in speaker
- Powered by Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning



Graduate study in STEAM

Empowering visually impaired students

Graduate study in special education

Postgraduate study in social sciences

Promoting excellence

# Graduate study in special education

To develop special educators, Cognizant Foundation has implemented a scholarship programme to support students pursuing B.Ed. Special Education in institutions approved by Rehabilitation Council of India that have an outstanding NAAC rating and a good reputation in the field of special education.



“The scholarship came as an immense help at a challenging time for me. It really helped me focus and put all my efforts into studying for my degree”.

 [Read more](#)



“(The scholarship) is an invaluable opportunity that has allowed me to pursue my educational goals and aspirations with determination and enthusiasm”.

 [Read more](#)



**196** scholars supported since inception



**Partners:** Alagappa University, Andhra University, Avinashilingam University for Women, Dr. MGR Institute of Special Education and Research, National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities, N.K. Thirumalachariar National College of Education for Women, Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Research Institute, Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam



**Location:** Pan-India

Graduate study in STEAM

Empowering visually impaired students

Graduate study in special education

Postgraduate study in social sciences

Promoting excellence

# Postgraduate study in social sciences

To realise progressive societal and developmental measures, India needs professionals with the right skill set to stir desired changes. Recognizing this need, the Foundation started providing scholarships to deserving students pursuing post graduate study in social sciences and development studies.



“As someone who aspires to work with children and their education, this scholarship has motivated me to work harder towards achieving my goals”.

 [Read more](#)



“Thank you for the opportunities and support you have provided to us and to so many other students. We will do our best to honour your trust in us” .

 [Read more](#)



**305** scholars supported since inception



**Partners:** Central University of Rajasthan, College of Social Work, Nirmala Niketan, Madras School of Social Work, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, Stella Maris College, Swadha Foundation, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Tezpur University, University of Kashmir



**Location:** Pan-India

Graduate study in STEAM

Empowering visually impaired students

Graduate study in special education

Postgraduate study in social sciences

Promoting excellence

## Promoting excellence

Very few higher educational institutions in India provide computation science learning blended with problem-based learning - a key requisite in the software industry - and Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI) is one of them. To encourage bright students in such an environment, Cognizant Foundation constituted the “scholarship for promoting excellence” in Computer Science. The programme supports 10 students at the institute and its ambit was extended in 2022/23 to other postgraduate streams like M.Sc. Mathematics and M.Sc. Data Sciences.



“The scholarship not only provided the financial means to pursue my interest in theoretical computer science but also instilled in me a tremendous sense of confidence and independence”.

 [Read more](#)



**40** scholars supported since inception



**Partner:** Chennai Mathematical Institute



**Location:** Pan-India





# Tech4All

## Inclusive growth, powered by technology

Tech4All aims to convert the demand for IT-trained professionals into employment opportunities for persons with disabilities and women from economically weaker sections of society. In 2022/23, Cognizant Foundation launched phase 2 of the Tech4All programme and continued to partner with institutions and NGOs to provide skills training and vocational educational programmes. These include honing their technical, life and trade-based skills, along with digital literacy, language, and employability for better opportunities.

### PROGRAMMES

Skilling for employability

Vocational technical education



3513 lives impacted in 2022/23



**Partners:** Anudip Foundation, Association for Non-traditional Employment for Women, Association of People with Disability, Centum Foundation, Cheshire Disability Trust, Dr. Reddy’s Foundation, Dr. Shroff’s Charity Eye Hospital, Hyderabad Eye Institute, ICT Academy of Tamil Nadu, Lok Bharti Education Society, Magic Bus India Foundation, Nettur Technical Training Foundation, New Resolution India, Pratham Education Foundation, Sarthak Educational Trust, Swami Dayananda Saraswati Educational Society



**Locations:** Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, NCR, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, West Bengal



## Skilling for employability

The new skilling for employability initiatives under the Tech4All programme aim to leverage advances in technology to make skilling efficient and improve the lives of the beneficiaries. Training is provided through a hybrid model which combines traditional classroom learning with self-paced online learning modules from MOOC platforms.

Cognizant Foundation has partnered with credible skill-training providers and organisations in identifying, training, and supporting job placements for tech-related roles. We also continued to support other strategic programmes for skills training in other sectors for people from underserved communities.



“This course has encouraged and motivated me to learn new things and improve myself by 1% every day”.

 [Read more](#)



“I really couldn’t afford computer courses provided by multiple institutes, and that’s when this training came as a godsend”.

 [Read more](#)



**2153** candidates trained in 2022/23



**Partners:** Anudip Foundation, Association for Non-traditional Employment for Women, Association of People with Disability, Centum Foundation, Cheshire Disability Trust, Dr. Reddy’s Foundation, ICT Academy of Tamil Nadu, Lok Bharti Education Society, Magic Bus India Foundation, New Resolution India



**Locations:** Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, NCR, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, West Bengal

## Tech4All: Phase-wise impact

770 PwDs and 1383 women trained in 2022/23 with efforts being made to achieve at least 60% placement.



### TECH4ALL PHASE 1

Successfully trained  
601 PwDs and 75 women

5 states  
3 partners

### TECH4ALL PHASE 2

Aim: To train 6100  
women and 660 PwDs

7 states  
9 partners



## Other skilling programmes

Cognizant Foundation also supports skills training in non-technical roles. These include training in home nursing, general duty assistant as well as in the service sector such as tourism, hospitality, and retail. These skills training programmes also include training in basic digital literacy, language, employability, and life skills training.

### Aim



Train 1500 PwDs and 820 women



“After a lot of struggles, I finally have a platform from which I can build a successful future for me and my family”.

 [Read more](#)



“I am so happy to know that there are people out there to help PwDs like me build a successful life and career”.

 [Read more](#)



**468** women and **689** PwDs trained in 2022/23



**Partners:** Association for Non-traditional Employment for Women, Pratham Education Foundation, Sarthak Educational Trust



**Location:** Karnataka, Maharashtra, NCR and Tamil Nadu

## Skills training programmes [Read more](#)

### TECHNICAL SKILLS

BPO voice and non-voice training

Banking and finance training

Fin-tech (TALLY) training

Artificial intelligence, data analytics, robotic process automation, cloud networking, CRM

ITeS and web design training

IT (Java/XML/Python) training

IT (AWS) training

IT (Java/Dot Net/Cloud Computing) training

IT – ITeS (Digital marketing and web design) training

Management skills training

### PARTNERS

Dr. Reddy’s Foundation

Cheshire Disability Trust

Association for Non-traditional Employment for Women

ICT Academy of Tamil Nadu

New Resolution India

Centum Foundation

Magic Bus India Foundation

Anudip Foundation for Social Welfare

Lok Bharti Education Society

Cheshire Disability Trust

### OTHER SKILLS

IT–ITeS, organised retail, and tourism & hospitality training

BPO, e-commerce, horticulture, and hospitality Training

General duty assistance training

Home nursing training

### PARTNERS

Sarthak Educational Trust

The Association of People with Disability

Pratham Education Foundation

Association for Non-traditional Employment for Women



## Vocational technical education

Vocational education plays a crucial role in developing a skilled workforce and driving economic growth in any country. In the case of India, there is a growing recognition of the importance of vocational education to address the country’s unemployment challenges and meet the demands of a rapidly changing job market.

As part of our inclusion initiatives, institutions are identified to improve access to vocational technical education among young women and persons with disabilities (PWDs) by supporting various trade based technical skilling programmes benchmarked with industry standards and approved by skill sector councils.

### PROJECTS

Building disabled technicians

Promoting women healthcare technicians



195 candidates trained in 2022/23



Partners: Dr. Shroff’s Charity Eye Hospital, L.V. Prasad Eye Institute, Nettur Technical Training Foundation



Locations: Karnataka, NCR, Odisha, Telangana



## Building disabled technicians

Since 2018, Cognizant Foundation has partnered with the Nettur Technical Training Foundation (NTTF) to support the skilling of PwD students from Karnataka in three batches. NTTF provides a two-year ITI programme in the trade of Electronics Mechanic, in association with National Council for Vocational Training, for disabled students from economically backward sections. The programme is extended, through support from Cognizant Foundation to skill 48 new PwD students from economically weaker sections of society to undergo the two-year ITI Programme in Electronic Mechanic trade.



“I never thought a student like me would get such a wonderful opportunity. Sometimes it all feels like a fairy tale”.

 [Read more](#)



**95** students trained in 2022/23



**Partner:** Nettur Technical Training Foundation



**Location:** Karnataka

Skilling for employability

Vocational technical education

## Promoting women healthcare technicians

Cognizant Foundation has partnered with specialist eye hospitals to train young women from underserved rural communities in vision technician courses with the aim to impart technical skills and ensure gainful employment.

In 2022/23, the Foundation extended its support to Dr. Shroff’s Charity Eye Hospital (SCEH) in facilitating 60 young women from economically weaker backgrounds in undergoing a two-year vision technician programme in allied ophthalmic paramedics. In partnership with L.V. Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI), the Foundation is supporting the training of vision technicians who will subsequently bridge the gap between accessibility and availability of eye care facilities.



Training provided to **110** vision technicians with SCEH and LVPEI since 2020



**Partners:** Dr. Shroff’s Charity Eye Hospital and L.V. Prasad Eye Institute



**Locations:** NCR, Odisha and Telangana





# STEAM4All

Enabling 21<sup>st</sup> century learning

Cognizant Foundation continued its efforts to drive digital-based STEAM learning and inclusive education in schools by partnering with reputed organisations to create programmes that focus on capacity building of teachers and school administrators, enhancing digital literacy for the underserved, creating accessible STEAM learning resources and leveraging technology to make education inclusive for special children.

## PROGRAMMES

Disability inclusive digital learning

Teacher development for inclusive schools

Resource centres for dyslexic children

Connected Learning and Research on Inclusive Education (CLear on IE)

Digital learning for migrant children

Digital Schools

Smart classrooms

Experiential science learning



**34,815** lives impacted in 2022/23



**Partners:** Agastya International Foundation, EnAble India, IT for Change, Madras Dyslexia Association, NIRMAAN Organisation, Society for Social Education and Research, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, The American India Foundation Trust, Vision Empower



**Locations:** Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, NCR, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Telangana

Disability inclusive digital learning

Teacher development for inclusive schools

Resource centres for dyslexic children

CLeaR on IE

Digital learning for migrant children

Digital Schools

Smart classrooms

Experiential science learning

# Disability inclusive digital learning

Cognizant Foundation has partnered with EnAble India and funded the redevelopment of the digital literacy self-learning platform called EYE (Educate Yourself Easily) aimed at supporting persons with vision impairment. The aim of the new cloud-enabled open platform called Blimey is to make it a learning platform of choice globally for persons with disability. All the content on the platform is being made available as open educational content.



**17,782** Blimey users registered in 2022/23



WINNER

Zero Project Award for innovation and selected among the top ten solutions for replication in other countries



Partner: EnAble India

## Aim



Reach over 60,000 persons with visual impairment over three years.



Location: Pan-India



Disability inclusive digital learning

Teacher development for inclusive schools

Resource centres for dyslexic children

CLearR on IE

Digital learning for migrant children

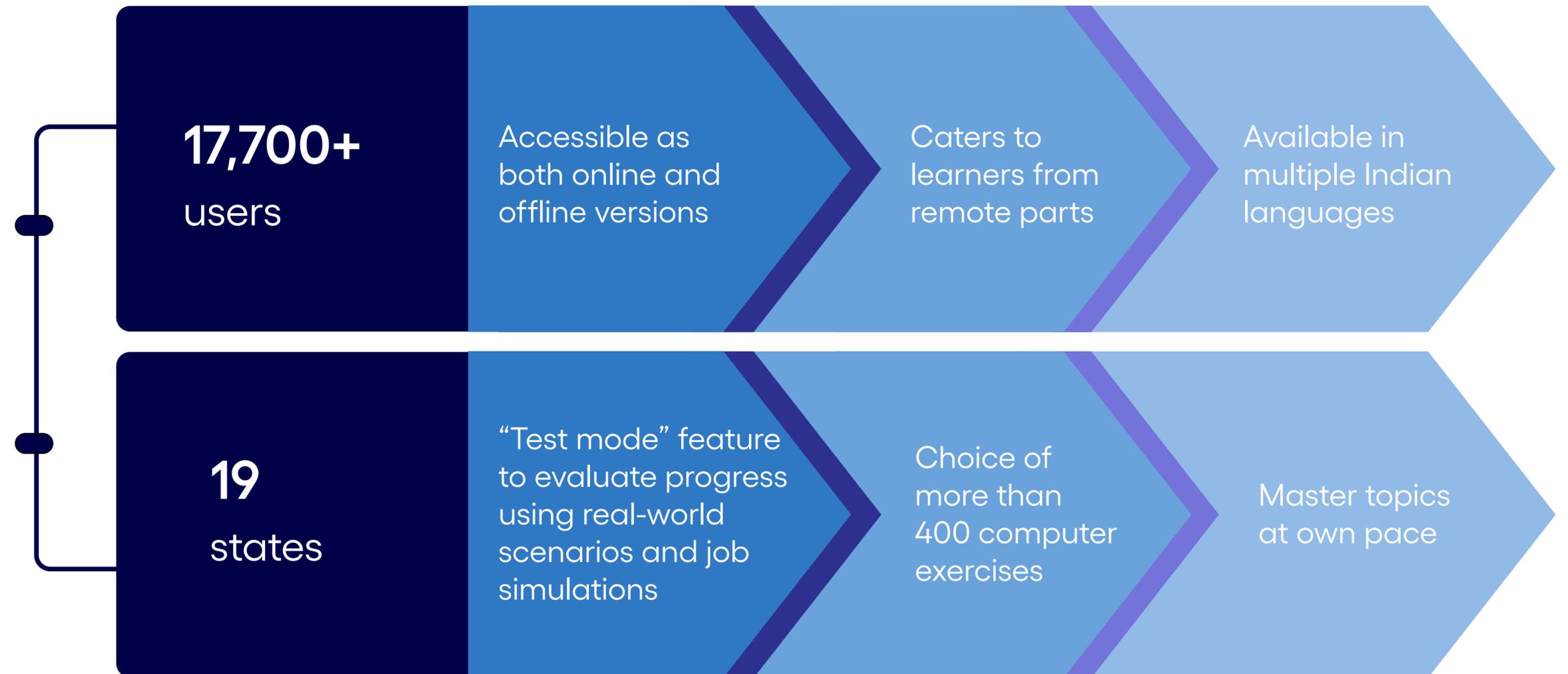
Digital Schools

Smart classrooms

Experiential science learning

## Blimey: A self-learning tool for digital empowerment

Blimey enables visually impaired users to learn computers independently (or with little help) and prepare for 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs using screen readers like NVDA, JAWS and magnifiers.



Disability inclusive digital learning

Teacher development for inclusive schools

Resource centres for dyslexic children

CLear on IE

Digital learning for migrant children

Digital Schools

Smart classrooms

Experiential science learning

# Teacher development for inclusive schools

An inclusive educational system is critical in promoting social integration, reducing discrimination, and improving learning outcomes for all children. To facilitate this, Cognizant Foundation worked with partners to promote programmes that leverage technology to focus on capacity building of teachers and school administrators, creating accessible STEM learning resources, and leveraging technology to make education inclusive for special children.

 [Read more](#)



“It was wonderful to witness a supportive classroom interaction at play, indicating the strengthening of an atmosphere of inclusion”.

 [Read more](#)



**3653** students impacted and **318** teachers trained in 2022/23



**Partners:** IT for Change and Vision Empower



**Locations:** Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu



Disability inclusive digital learning

Teacher development for inclusive schools

Resource centres for dyslexic children

CLear on IE

Digital learning for migrant children

Digital Schools

Smart classrooms

Experiential science learning

# Resource centres for dyslexic children

Cognizant Foundation collaborated with Madras Dyslexia Association to set up and manage resource rooms in six government-aided schools in Greater Chennai Corporation. The project monitors and handholds school management and trains special education teachers to ensure that children receive quality remediation. The teachers are also trained to provide strategies for reading, writing, spelling and mathematics within the classroom.



“I hope that (the project) grows in scale and helps a lot more kids who may otherwise be left behind”.

[Read more](#)



“The resource room is a place where we nurture the young minds to blossom into their full potential”.

[Read more](#)



**571** children impacted across **4** schools in 2022/23



**Partner:** Madras Dyslexia Association



**Location:** Tamil Nadu

Disability inclusive digital learning

Teacher development for inclusive schools

Resource centres for dyslexic children

CLearR on IE

Digital learning for migrant children

Digital Schools

Smart classrooms

Experiential science learning

# Connected Learning and Research on Inclusive Education (CLearR on IE)

Cognizant Foundation implemented the Connected Learning and Research on Inclusive Education (CLearR on IE) project in partnership with Centre for Education Innovation and Action Research (CEIAR) of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences. The purpose of the project was to ensure a more sustainable means of contributing to the human resource development of knowledge and practice of inclusive education, with a special focus on the education of children with disabilities.

Phase 2 of the project was extended to strengthen practitioners' capabilities to practice inclusion by offering courses developed and piloted as part of Phase 1.

 [Read more](#)

## Aim



**Reach over 1000 student teachers, practising teachers and teacher educators.**



**622** teachers and teacher educators trained in 2022/23

Created and launched **38** Inclusive Education Specialization and Certificate Courses (OERs)



**Partners:** Avinashilingam University, Centre for Education Innovation and Action Research of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences and National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities



**Locations:** Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu

Disability inclusive digital learning

Teacher development for inclusive schools

Resource centres for dyslexic children

CLear on IE

Digital learning for migrant children

Digital Schools

Smart classrooms

Experiential science learning

# Digital learning for migrant children

Cognizant Foundation partnered with the American India Foundation to implement the Digital Equalizer programme in 18 government schools in the Ganjam district of Odisha. The project provides digital literacy and technology-based education to underprivileged students from migrant communities as well as to the teachers and other students at these schools.

The key focus areas of the project are remedial learning, teacher training, technology-enabled classes, provision of digital content, educating parents of migrant children, capacity building of state-level coordinators and safe school initiatives. Launched amidst the COVID-19 crisis, the project demonstrates how a blended model integrating online and offline classes can support continuity of children’s learning.



“My parents are labourers, and I am the first person from my family to use technology. Thanks to this programme, concepts that were difficult for me have become much easier to understand”.

[Read more](#)



**18** schools reached

**2854** students, **56** teachers, and **180** SMC (School Management Committee) members impacted in 2022/23



**Partner:** The American India Foundation Trust



**Location:** Ganjam district in Odisha

Disability inclusive digital learning

Teacher development for inclusive schools

Resource centres for dyslexic children

CLear on IE

Digital learning for migrant children

Digital Schools

Smart classrooms

Experiential science learning

# Digital Schools

The Digital Schools project was initiated to enable school children to continue their education through online classes during school closure amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and to help in continued blended learning when the schools were reopened. Training programmes and summer camps were conducted under the initiative to enhance digital literacy for teachers and students. Support was extended for one more year to help beneficiaries who had received laptops and tabs as part of the project.



“I am very happy to get this tab from Cognizant Foundation and NIRMAAN”.

[Read more](#)



“All our students now have the passion to go out into the world and achieve their dreams”.

[Read more](#)



**1742** students impacted in 2022/23



**Partner:** NIRMAAN Organization



**Locations:** Karnataka, Maharashtra, NCR and Telangana



Disability inclusive digital learning

Teacher development for inclusive schools

Resource centres for dyslexic children

CLeaR on IE

Digital learning for migrant children

Digital Schools

Smart classrooms

Experiential science learning

# Smart classrooms

Cognizant Foundation had partnered with Madras School of Social Work in March 2021 to equip 5 classrooms with smart boards and accessories to convert them into smart classrooms. The installation of smart classrooms on the campus had enhanced the institution’s learning environment and improved the teaching-learning process.

The Foundation extended the support and set up an additional 10 smart classrooms on the campus in 2022/23. The project has provided a better learning experience for the students of various streams. The smart boards have also helped conduct programmes such as national and international guest lectures, community outreach and skills development workshops.



**15** smart classrooms set up since inception

**1098** students supported in 2022/23



**Partner:** Madras School of Social Work



**Location:** Tamil Nadu

A large digital screen displays a Google Slides presentation. The slide is titled "Learning Outcomes" and is divided into two columns: "Professional Learnings" and "Personal Learnings". The screen also shows a browser interface with multiple tabs, a taskbar at the bottom with various application icons, and system information like temperature and date. The screen is a NEOTOUCH model.

# Learning Outcomes

## Professional Learnings

- Recruiting Process
- HAY Job Evaluation
- Preparation of Job Description
- Employee Engagement
- Employee Career Development

## Personal Learnings

- Time Management
- Critical Thinking
- Problem Solving
- Work Ethics
- Openness to Learn

36°C  
Mostly cloudy

15:49  
27-06-2023

NEOTOUCH

Disability inclusive digital learning

Teacher development for inclusive schools

Resource centres for dyslexic children

CLear on IE

Digital learning for migrant children

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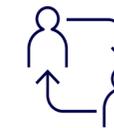
# Experiential science learning

Cognizant Foundation commissioned the setting up of a science centre and mobile science lab as part of its special focus in enabling access to quality STEM education for students in government schools. The programme aims to enable access to experiential science learning and to transform & stimulate critical thinking of schoolchildren and teachers.

The science centre acts as a hub for the visitors from the nearby schools to have access to the models and experiments. The mobile science lab acts as a spoke extending the reach of the science centre to students and teachers living in remote areas. Science fairs, teacher training sessions and young instructors training are also conducted as part of the programme.



**5939** students across **33** schools reached in 2022/23



**Partner:** Agastya International Foundation



**Locations:** Maharashtra and Telangana

Cognizant Foundation

inspiring a  
future of  
possibilities

YEARBOOK 22/23



# Appendix



# Appendix

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## Operational highlights

The year under review saw Cognizant Foundation enter its 19<sup>th</sup> year of empowering change for the most marginalised and disadvantaged communities in India. The Foundation works to build a sustainable ecosystem at the intersection of inclusion, technology and collaboration. Cognizant Foundation's initiatives are along the two thematic areas of "Health4All - enhancing accessibility to quality healthcare" and "Future4All - creating a better tomorrow through education and skilling".

The Foundation focuses on empowering persons with disabilities, promoting holistic child development and gender equality. In the last 18 years, the Foundation has successfully implemented over 590 projects, partnering with over 300 not-for-profit organisations, impacting the lives of millions of underprivileged individuals across India.

The year saw the Foundation making key advances in its two thematic areas. Under Health4All, the flagship programme Sight4All worked with a special focus to prevent childhood blindness and make quality and timely eye care services available to children and adults from underserved communities across the country. The Foundation, in partnership with Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital, initiated a novel door-to-door screening of children in the urban slums of Delhi in response to the COVID-19 pandemic enforced

school closures. These efforts led to door-to-door screening being recommended in a paper published on Ophthalmic Epidemiology as a new model to reach out to school-age children amidst a pandemic.

The Foundation expanded to several large-scale and long-term projects under the "Care4All" initiative that works to provide access to maternal and child healthcare with a special focus to prevent infant disability. "Project Suraksha", one of the initiatives that comes under this project, was selected as the winner in the 'Healthcare (Small)' category of the 8<sup>th</sup> CSR Impact Awards. This is the second such award for the Foundation whose "preventing childhood blindness" initiative had bagged the 'Healthcare (Large)' category award in the 7<sup>th</sup> CSR Impact Awards.

Cognizant Foundation also ventured to expand its third focus under Health4All on supporting people with disabilities by taking on a pilot project to provide comprehensive early intervention and rehabilitation services to children with special needs. It is looking to strengthen work under this focus in the upcoming years.

Under Future4All the Foundation focused on promoting inclusion and leveraging technology as an enabler.

Continues in next page.

## Operational highlights

The year witnessed the Foundation onboard 11,000+ users across 19 states on Blimey, a cloud-based learning platform, launched in December 2021 in partnership with EnAble India. Blimey aims to make digital learning accessible for the visually impaired in multiple local languages. It won the Zero Project award in the space of innovation and was also selected as one of the top ten solutions in the world to be replicated in other countries.

The year also saw the Foundation launch phase 2 of Tech4All, its flagship programme under Future4All. Tech4All seeks to skill women and persons with disabilities for careers in technology and technology-enabled services. In phase 2, projects are underway with 9 NGO partners across 7 states that aim to train over 6100 women and 660 persons with disabilities for gainful employment.

The Foundation supported trajectories of inclusion in higher education through scholarships for visually impaired students. The year saw Cognizant Foundation pilot 'Smart Vision Glasses' a wearable device for its visually impaired scholars. The glasses use Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) to enable the visually impaired to live a dignified and independent life. The Foundation has plans to expand the pilot to cover all its visually impaired scholars next year.

The Foundation continued to strengthen access to higher education for graduate study across social sciences and teacher education for children with special needs. It also successfully completed its pilot programmes in education for designing technology-enabled pedagogies for inclusive education with a focus on children with visual impairments and on teacher development for an inclusive school system. It plans to expand these pilots soon.

It will read: In the year under review, the Foundation implemented 104 projects in partnership with 57 not-for-profit organisations. The primary geographical focus was on 9 states—Assam, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, NCR, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and West Bengal—while some projects were pan-India, and others extended to states beyond these nine depending on the need.

We are grateful to Cognizant and our partners for their unstinting support in our mission to promote inclusion through programmes that improved the day-to-day lives of children, women and persons with disabilities from underserved communities. We look forward to multiplying the scale and reach of our interventions in the years to come.

## Sight4All School and community eye screenings

### Case story

“I never thought that I’d be able to give her proper treatment. We are so lucky to have been part of this programme”.

8-year-old Anagha\* was born with squint eyes. She had lost her father when she was just a year old, and since then it’s her mother who has solely been taking care of her and her elder sister. After her husband’s passing, Anagha’s mother started working as a domestic help to earn an income which was barely enough to cover the family’s day-to-day expenses.

Owing to her family’s dire economic situation, Anagha was unable to get any treatment for her squint eye. She had to face ridicule for it from her peers and neighbours, and over time, she stopped engaging in social activities altogether. It was during this tough time that a team from community workers arrived at her home as part of the door-to-door screening programme.

From a preliminary analysis, it was clear that Anagha’s squint was treatable. While the family was happy to hear

this news, their joy was tempered by the knowledge that they didn’t have the financial means to get the treatment. Their happiness was uncontainable when the team informed them that the treatment will be done free of cost at Dr. Shroff’s Charity Eye Hospital thanks to the support provided by Cognizant Foundation.

Within a few days, Anagha was taken to the base hospital where she underwent successful treatment. She is now slowly becoming part of the social world.

“It was very tough to see my daughter becoming reclusive. She didn’t even smile properly. I never thought that I’d be able to give her proper treatment. We are so lucky to have been part of this programme,” Anagha’s mother said as her eyes welled up with tears of joy.

\* Name changed to maintain privacy.

## Sight4All School and community eye screenings

### Case story

“I was worried that my niece might have to drop out since we couldn’t afford proper care for her. Thanks to this initiative, her eyes are slowly filling up with the light of hope”.

Located on the banks of the Teesta River, Teesta Bazar (a part of Kalimpong Village in West Bengal) is a quaint village with a population of just over 3000. Most of the village’s healthcare needs are taken care of by the local Primary Healthcare Centre which is so ill-equipped that people from the region often go to nearby Nepal for eye care services.

Megha\*, a student of class 10, stays with her uncle and aunt in this small, scenic village. Her uncle and aunt - who have two children of their own - had been facing considerable financial problems even before they had to take Megha in after the untimely passing of her parents. She had always suffered from sight-related problems which were left untreated, and as she grew older it became a huge barrier for her education and social life.

A free eye screening camp supported by the Cognizant Foundation was held at her school. During the examination, Megha was identified with severe visual impairment. Her right eye vision was 6/6 but her left eye vision was just counting

fingers (classified as ‘Poor’ by the WHO).

Her uncle was initially reluctant to send Megha for treatment since he had assumed that it would be prohibitively expensive. However, the team was able to convince him that she would get the best possible care and that the entire procedure will be done free of cost. Her uncle finally agreed and Megha was taken to the base hospital for surgery.

Megha underwent left eye cataract surgery at Siliguri Greater Lions Eye Hospital. Her post-operative vision the next day was 2/60 and it has gradually improved since.

“I was worried that my niece might have to drop out since we couldn’t afford proper care for her. Unlike many other kids, Megha enjoys going to school. Thanks to this initiative, her eyes are slowly filling up with the light of hope. I will always be thankful to Mission for Vision and Cognizant Foundation for this gift,” her uncle said after the surgery.

\* Name changed to maintain privacy.

## Sight4All School and community eye screenings

### Project in partnership with Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital

Cognizant Foundation partnered with Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital (SCEH) for the implementation of a paediatric community eye screening project for children residing in Jahangirpuri, North-West Delhi. Cognizant Foundation has provided financial support to SCEH to procure high-end modern equipment to upgrade the Vision Centre, recruit team, for operational functions, surgeries and spectacle distribution to eligible children in assigned areas to meet the programme objective and institutional mission. At the Vision Centre in Jahangirpuri, general all age walk-in is approximately 20 to 30 per day and most of the beneficiaries come for eye check-up and refraction error correction.

Cognizant Foundation and Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital commissioned a school screening programme in 2020 called "REACH" (Refractive Error Among Children) to address uncorrected refractive errors, the single largest cause of

visual impairment. The programme planned to implement the standardised "REACH" protocol, developed by Orbis, to provide comprehensive school eye health services to students from schools in North-West District, Delhi.

However, COVID-enforced school closure compelled the project to pivot to a community screening instead wherein the team went door-to-door to screen kids while taking necessary precautions. The project was executed using "PEEK", a smartphone app that helps community healthcare workers deliver eye care anywhere. The app can scan the eye to check for diseases as well as other problems. It works by looking at visual acuity, visual field, colour vision and contrast sensitivity. Using a smartphone replaces bulky traditional equipment which is expensive, fragile and often requires a continuous power source.

## Sight4All School and community eye screenings

### Project in partnership with Mission for Vision and Sankara Eye Hospital

Cognizant Foundation partnered with Mission for Vision to implement school screening projects in seven months. 4779 children were diagnosed with refractive error and were advised spectacles; 452 children were referred for surgery, out of which 20 children were enabled with surgery support. Cognizant Foundation and Mission for Vision noted that there was 5% refractive error prevalence on the project target areas. 243 school teachers were trained from 204 schools and

spectacle wearing compliance tracked at three months was found to be at 83%. Surgery uptake has been a challenge in this programme as parents were often found to be reluctant to get children operated. Follow up strategy is planned in the extension of the project to track spectacle compliance and uptake of surgery through continuous counselling to parents and by adopting new strategies to convince the parents.

## Sight4All Screening for and treatment of ROP

### Project in partnership with L.V. Prasad Eye Institute

Cognizant Foundation partnered with L.V. Prasad Eye Institute to implement a project to screen for and treat Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) in eight districts of Odisha between January and December 2022. The project screened 1333 babies against a target of 1200, and 216 babies were provided treatment and saved from a lifetime of vision impairment. The observations in this project showed that out of every 100 babies screened for ROP, 38 show ROP to some degree, and 15 to 16 babies required treatment. Retina specialists from LVPEI's tertiary centre in Bhubaneswar travel to the secondary centres and treat the babies with laser, injections or surgery as may be the case. The project also trains paediatric health personnel to ensure continuity of ROP care.

Real-time ROP tele-screening (RRT) is a groundbreaking initiative that involves imaging the infants by paramedical staff and synchronous monitoring of the images, analysis, and parent counselling by an ROP specialist linked to the screening site in real-time over a video conferencing software. The model developed in this project has received wide recognition

from paediatricians and ophthalmologists. A unique activity was set at Sundargarh in Odisha, wherein 92 infants were screened for ROP within a single day. The screening was done in real-time over a 6-hour period. Training of ophthalmologists and retina specialists in ROP care and paramedics has been an integral part of this project. LVPEI-CF ROP screening and treatment project team has bagged various accolades and Awards from various national and international forums for their efforts.

Given the successful implementation of the earlier project, Cognizant Foundation partnered with L.V. Prasad Eye Institute again in January 2023 to continue supporting the ROP screening and treatment initiative in 15 districts of Odisha for a period of 13.5 months. Through this project, 2400 preterm babies would be screened. The project also aims to continue establishing and enhancing the ROP care model for the rural population in Odisha via the LVPEI Pyramidal eyecare model. Cognizant Foundation and LVPEI is also implementing the project in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

## Sight4All **Screening for and treatment of ROP**

### Project in partnership with Mission for Vision and H.V. Desai Eye Hospital

Cognizant Foundation partnered with Mission for Vision and H.V. Desai Eye Hospital in February 2020 to implement an ROP initiative in the Jalgaon, Buldhana, Satara and Pune districts of Maharashtra for a period of two years. Under this project, pre-term babies in nine government Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs) are screened for ROP. Babies identified with ROP are provided with appropriate treatment—laser, injection or surgery. Through this project, training is provided for government doctors in the screening and treatment of ROP.

This project catered to a highly vulnerable target group as a prematurely born infant is prone to multiple health issues.

Parents are often already in a distressed state with their child in the NICU, often fighting for survival. There is further financial pressure on the parents as the child needs multiple treatments. The initiative is highly critical and has saved the baby’s future from a lifetime of blindness and visual impairment impacting the child’s ability to learn, earn and contribute meaningfully to society. The programme has impacted not just the child’s but also the family or caregivers’ lives. Despite facing numerous challenges during COVID-19, the project catered to needy babies thanks to the medical team’s commitment.

## Sight4All

# Screening for and treatment of ROP

### Case story

“I am indebted to all of you. I cannot imagine what I would have done and whose door I would have knocked on to save my child’s life and sight”.

The Wadkes\* were excitedly counting every week on the calendar as they were expecting their first bundle of joy. Having married against their family’s wishes, they were living alone and struggling to make ends meet. Despite being a graduate, Mr. Wadke worked as a daily wage labourer and had to undertake part time jobs as a folk-artist to earn an extra income. Even though Mrs. Wadke took up some part-time work to financially support her husband, she left it to focus on her health during pregnancy. In the 8th month of her pregnancy, Mrs. Wadke began experiencing severe vomiting episodes leading to dehydration, pain in abdomen and profuse discharge with bleeding. She was immediately taken to the district hospital, and owing to complications, the Wadkes were informed by the doctors that the baby had to be delivered immediately.

The baby, who weighed about 1500 grams at birth, had to be immediately shifted to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) as he developed respiratory distress syndrome and required oxygen support. During this critical time, the Wadkes kept

faith that the difficult times would pass and that their baby would get better. However, after three weeks, they met with another challenge.

During the ROP screening initiative implemented by H.V. Desai Eye Hospital (Pune), the baby was diagnosed with ROP and needed immediate intervention. Medical experts counselled the parents about the best course of treatment to save the baby’s vision and a laser surgery was conducted on both eyes at H.V. Desai Eye Hospital. The Wadkes are thankful to the hospital and Cognizant Foundation as multiple screenings and treatment was done free of cost.

“I am indebted to all of you. I cannot imagine what I would have done and whose door I would have knocked on to save my child’s life and sight. Thank you to H.V. Desai Eye Hospital and Cognizant Foundation for everything you’ve done,” Mr. Wadke said.

\* Name changed to maintain privacy.

## Sight4All Setting up and running of Vision Centres

### Five Vision Centres in Assam in partnership with Mission for Vision and Sri Sankaradeva Netralaya

Assam is among the top three states in terms of blindness prevalence. Cognizant Foundation partnered with Mission for Vision in September 2021 to set up five new Vision Centres in Assam and run them for two years in partnership with Sri Sankaradeva Netralaya. The screening happened through the Vision Centre, camps and schools. A Vision Centre is a

permanent facility at the doorsteps of the community that is effectively able to screen and diagnose potentially blinding causes and provide appropriate interventions, especially in states like Assam where eye health service scarcity is high. It provides the community with easy access to quality primary eye care services at an affordable cost.

### Five Vision Centres in Assam, Maharashtra and West Bengal in partnership with Operation Eyesight India

Cognizant Foundation partnered with Operation Eyesight India in June 2022 to set up five new Vision Centres in Assam, Maharashtra and West Bengal over a period of three years to provide comprehensive eye health services to underserved rural communities. Two centres were set up in Assam in partnership with Sri Sankaradeva Netralaya and

Chandraprabha Eye Hospital; one centre in Maharashtra in partnership with Community Eye Care Foundation; and two centres in West Bengal in partnership with Sundarban Social Development Centre and Lions Seva Eye Hospital. The centres have been set up and project activities are being carried out.

## Sight4All **Setting up and running of Vision Centres**

### Extension of support for Vision Centre in Chalisgaon in partnership with Mission for Vision

In September 2018, Cognizant Foundation had supported Mission for Vision in setting up and running a Vision Centre in Chalisgaon, Maharashtra, in partnership with Tulsi Eye Hospital. However, its operations had to be suspended due to COVID-19 lockdown. Mission for Vision approached Cognizant Foundation in August 2020 for support in running the Vision Centre as the partner hospital could not manage

the operational costs. The Foundation extended its support and partnered with Mission for Vision to run the Vision Centre. Though the centre faced a lot of challenges in reaching out to the beneficiaries during the pandemic, the performance of the Vision Centre drastically improved from January to June 2022. A total of 3257 persons were screened through this support.

## Sight4All

# Setting up and running of Vision Centres

### Case story

“I shall come soon for the operation of my right eye too, thank you and my sincere blessings to Cognizant Foundation and Mission for Vision for the good work. It is not just my vision that you all have restored but my dignity as well.”

Ms. V.R. Gaikwad\*, a 60-year-old widow, had lived her entire life as an independent woman who financially contributed to her family. After losing her husband, she just had one son to make ends meet. Since they were from a socio-economically weak background, she wanted to help ease the burden on her son and began to work as a labourer. Soon, she began to experience vision deterioration in her left eye but overlooked it thinking it must be a symptom of her old age. However, her condition worsened, and it reached a point where the cataract matured and required immediate intervention lest it lead to permanent blindness. Soon, she had to give up her work and began to lose confidence and self-respect. She began to worry about what the future lay for her and did not wish to become dependent on her son and daughter-in-law (who was pregnant at the time).

One fine day, she got acquainted about the Chalisgaon Vision Centre and camp through her neighbour. She visited

one of the outreach camps held in a nearby village with her friend and was identified by the social worker with mature cataract in the left eye and early signs of one in the right. The social worker counselled her about the need for immediate intervention. When she was informed that the surgery would cost her nothing more than 24-36 hours of her time, she instantly agreed.

After recovering from the surgery, Ms. Gaikwad is extremely happy as she got her sight back free of cost and can restart her work soon. “I shall come soon for the operation of my right eye too, thank you and my sincere blessings to Cognizant Foundation and Mission for Vision for the excellent work. It is not just my vision that you all have restored but my dignity as well,” she said after the surgery.

\*Name changed to maintain privacy.

## Sight4All Tele- ophthalmology assistance system

### Project in partnership with L.V. Prasad Eye Institute

Chronic eye conditions, post-surgical eye conditions and acute conditions like infections require frequent visits to the doctor and maintenance to prevent vision loss and surgical complications. The excessive costs towards travel and lost wages result in an economic burden. To address this, Cognizant Foundation partnered with L.V. Prasad Eye Institute in September 2022 to implement a health-tech innovation project to address the eye care needs of underserved sections in both rural and urban areas. The project offers a smartphone camera-enabled eye examination and tele-consultation with a doctor to offer quality eye care at the doorstep.

The project plans to manufacture 10,000 devices called “Gabi” and distribute them to patients over one year. The

objective is to test the utility of the smartphone attachment designed to be used by patients in providing better remote care utilising a tele-consultation platform for follow-up of anterior segment disorders. A customised imaging software application is being designed to adjust the smartphone camera settings for capturing optimal images of the eye. These devices will be given to high-risk patients, and they will be trained using simple protocols. The project will develop a software platform to enable efficient ophthalmic imaging and take feedback from the doctors. This initiative will be a channel for continued eye care, early intervention, and reduced cost. It is expected to cover 9000 patients in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Telangana in one year.

## Sight4All Equipment grant support

### To partner hospitals in West Bengal in partnership with Mission for Vision

Cognizant Foundation partnered with Mission for Vision in February 2023 to support Siliguri Greater Lions Eye Hospital in West Bengal with ophthalmic equipment such as slit lamp, horizontal autoclave, operating microscope, specular microscope and chair unit in order to provide quality eye care and to reach 14000 patients annually; and support Sundarban

Social Development Centre in West Bengal to equip their hospital with biometry and slit lamp to provide quality eye care and reach 6000 patients annually. The support would also help to improve the eye health services for the vulnerable and marginalised people in West Bengal.

### To partner hospitals in Karnataka in partnership with Mission for Vision

Cognizant Foundation partnered with Mission for Vision to equip Sankara Eye Foundation in Bengaluru and Shivamogga with quality medical equipment to help improve the eye health services for the vulnerable and marginalised people in Karnataka. At least 50% of beneficiaries will be served at a free or subsidised cost.

The project has supported Sankara Eye Hospital, Bangalore, to procure 3nethra neo ROP screening equipment to screen babies and to reach 1500 children annually; and supported Sankara Eye Hospital, Shimoga, to procure Leica microscope for performing critical vitreoretinal surgeries and to provide quality eye care to reach 2400 patients annually.

## Sight4All Equipment grant support

### To Rural Community Training Centre at Mugalur of St. John’s Hospital, in partnership with CBM India Trust

Cognizant Foundation partnered with CBM India Trust to strengthen the eye care facilities of the Rural Community Health Training Centre (RCHTC) of St. John’s Medical College Hospital in Mugalur village. The project has supported the purchase of required ophthalmic medical equipment such

as phaco machine, tonometer, direct ophthalmoscope and lensometer to strengthen the eye care facilities of RCHTC and to equip the ophthalmology block to serve 2500 patients annually.

### To Sankara Eye Hospital, Coimbatore

Cognizant Foundation supported Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Medical Trust in February 2023 for purchase of medical equipment to establish a full-fledged myopia wellness clinic in the Paediatric Ophthalmology department of Sankara Eye Hospital, Coimbatore.

Myopia has now evolved into a significant public health problem with a large percentage of children demonstrating

progression. There is a larger interest in identifying possible interventions that could slow it down. With the increased number of children with refractive errors reporting in the hospital, the project plans to reach out to 5000 children over a period of one year in and around Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, through this myopia wellness clinic.

## Care4All Leveraging technology for newborn post- discharge care

Project in partnership with IIT Madras, JIPMER Puducherry, Chengalpattu Medical College and Hospital, Institute of Obstetrics & Gynaecology Chennai, Institute of Child Health Chennai, and Saveetha Medical College Hospital Chennai

Preterm babies have a greater risk of developing various health problems. To avert postnatal complications, these infants require regular follow-up care. To tackle this issue, Cognizant Foundation partnered with IIT Madras in June 2020 for rolling out a technology-based solution for post-discharge temperature monitoring of newborns who had been admitted in SNCU.

The three-year project would be an end-to-end intervention involving hospitals, mothers and newborns through wireless monitoring devices and a connectivity platform. The device was developed by Helyxon Healthcare - a company incubated by the IIT Madras Healthcare Technology Innovation Centre. Training of 5000 village health nurses is also included as part of the project.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

- Improve the facility and community based follow up of moderate and severe risk neonates discharged from SNCUs
- Reduce the mortality rate of risk-neonates post discharge from SNCUs
- Increase the home visit rates by community health and nutrition personnel
- Improve the growth monitoring of infants in the community
- Assess the change in the rate of readmission of discharged neonates
- Assess the rate of early detection of acute life-threatening events at community level

## Care4All Leveraging technology for newborn post- discharge care

### Partner speaks

“This project has helped parents take care of their babies with much more awareness and confidence. One interesting thing we noticed due to the technology involvement is the increased participation of the fathers in the care of the babies!

This project illustrates that this is the time to harness such technology to create a market improvement in healthcare delivery and for parents to better utilise the services at both communities as well as the facility.

Hence it is a high forward-looking project that has an impact across multiple dimensions – babies, parents, community and facility healthcare personnel, and the overall health system”.

**Dr. J. Kumutha**  
**Professor & Head, Department of Neonatology,**  
**Saveetha Medical College and Hospital**  
**Expert Advisor - Child Health to National Health Mission,**  
**Government of Tamil Nadu**

## Care4All

# Enabling safe health of mother and child

## Project in partnership with Committed Communities Development Trust

Cognizant Foundation partnered with Committed Communities Development Trust in July 2020 to implement a five-year project to reduce maternal and infant morbidity and mortality in Bhiwandi and Malegaon in Maharashtra. Called “Project Suraksha,” it raises awareness on the importance of antenatal and postnatal care and improves access to information. It facilitates communication and transportation for pregnant women and lactating mothers. It also enables continued medical care, immunisation and micro-nutrient supplements to high-risk pregnant women and lactating mothers throughout the entirety of their pregnancy and to children between 0-2 years of age.

Antenatal care support is provided by enabling appropriate nutrition, immunisation, micronutrient supplements, take-home ration via public distribution system, psycho-social health, institutional delivery, and special care of high-risk cases. Postnatal care creates support and awareness on optimal breastfeeding, low birth weight baby care, child immunisation and nutrition till 2 years of age, family planning and follow-up of high-risk cases. The project makes use of digital technology to improve programme impact. The field staff record the data of the women and children through tablets in a specially designed software.

## Care4All

# Enabling safe health of mother and child

### PROJECT OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

- Consumption of healthy food with all micro, macro, anti-nutrients with appropriate nutrition needs awareness has been created which has led to balanced intake of nutritional food among the pregnant mothers and lactating mothers in the communities.
- Request for need assessment has come from the government health department to Project Suraksha team to identify existing cases of severe acute malnutrition and moderately acute malnutrition among children in unorganised settlements. This assessment will define the requirement of number of Anganwadis for the underprivileged unorganised population in the community.
- Frontline health workers (Anganwadi workers, integrated community development services, urban health post staff) from the government departments are trained and are

brought for various meetings and are sensitised on the challenges faced by the beneficiaries on a day-to-day basis in seeking health services from government nodal points. Given the intervention, now the government staff work in collaboration with Suraksha staff to provide the required healthcare services in these locations and the intervention has been planned smoothly and collaboratively with a sustainability matrix where Suraksha project staff will be slowly phased out from the community and health system.

- Due to continuous sensitisation and awareness creation on maternal and child health needs and for regular immunisation for children among the community religious leaders, now reminders of routine immunisation camps in the community are announced after Azan (prayer).

## Care4All

# Enabling safe health of mother and child

## Case story

“It is because of your help and support that we have our child with us safe and healthy”.

When Ameera\* became pregnant for the seventh time, a feeling of dread and fear overpowered her at the thought of losing yet another child to a miscarriage. Having suffered four miscarriages, she wanted to do everything in her power to save her unborn child.

A mother of two children, Ameera weighed about 52kg and had low haemoglobin levels in her first trimester of pregnancy. After she registered with Project Suraksha, a programme implemented by Committed Communities Development Trust in partnership with Cognizant Foundation, the outreach workers provided her with protein powder to increase her weight and improve her haemoglobin levels. She was also counselled on nutrition and food during antenatal and postnatal care, medicines, management of workload, importance of rest and timely follow-ups.

Owing to her previous history of miscarriages, she also consulted with doctors at private and government hospitals.

Unfortunately, she felt unhappy with the doctors' explanations and could not overcome her fears as she found it difficult to understand the technical information provided by them. The outreach workers helped in clearing all her doubts at every stage of her pregnancy, and the supportive environment helped in reducing her stress and worries.

Ameera and her husband also decided to break away from traditional home birth and opted for hospital delivery with proper medical care. She is extremely happy with the support she has received and has given birth to a healthy baby.

“It is because of your help and support that we have our child with us safe and healthy,” Ameera says. “I was worried about having another miscarriage, but the Project Suraksha team was with me every step of the way and the help and comfort they gave me was invaluable.”

*\*Name changed to maintain privacy.*

## Care4All Enhancing maternal and child health in urban slums

### Project in partnership with People to People Health Foundation and Kolkata Municipal Corporation

For a safe motherhood and childhood health, it is imperative to provide access to affordable, accountable, effective and reliable healthcare, especially for the poor and vulnerable sections of the population. Project SAMARTH was launched by Cognizant Foundation in partnership with People to People Health Foundation and Kolkata Municipal Corporation with the aim to improve the health and well-being of mothers and children in urban slum areas in Kolkata. The initiative will contribute towards the government's efforts on reducing maternal and infant mortality. It will improve access to maternal, newborn, child health and nutrition (MNCHN) services of the government among women and children, improve community and key influencer knowledge and health seeking behaviour on MNCHN, and build capacity of the health and nutrition care

providers for strengthening MNCHN skills.

As part of the project, capacity building programmes for frontline health and nutrition workers have been carried out. The project also aims to conduct activities like: baseline assessment with control site, technical advisory group with representatives from key departments, development and adaptation of need-based training modules and materials, conduct behaviour communication change sessions with beneficiaries to improve knowledge and practices, home-based counselling and skill building for maternal and child care, capacity building of key influencers and health care providers, endline assessment and dissemination, to name a few. With these approaches, it aims to increase community awareness and MNCHN service uptake in the project areas.

## Care4All Capacity building to transform labour and delivery care

### Project in partnership with EKAM Foundation

Cognizant Foundation has partnered with EKAM Foundation in January 2023 to implement a project to reduce the number of neonatal, child and maternal deaths by strengthening maternal and child health in Thiruvallur district, Tamil Nadu, over three years.

The project aims to improve care around delivery in the labour room and maternity operation theatre at the Thiruvallur Government Medical College Hospital and Kadambathur Primary Health Centre and early initiation and exclusive breastfeeding practised by new mothers at the hospital.

Rather than creating a parallel system, this project aims to work with and strengthening the existing government

system as a sustainable model. It is focused on capacity strengthening of key health workers at the hospital and community to augment the provision of optimal maternal and childcare services. After the first level of intervention with the high-risk cases of pregnant women and Special Neonatal Care Unit (SNCU) babies, the lactation counsellor and help desk coordinators at the Thiruvallur hospital will link these high-risk cases with the frontline workers to follow-up these cases in the community. This was proposed by the National Health Mission as then it can be easily integrated and absorbed within the system thus ensuring sustainability of the intervention.

## Care4All Strengthening paediatric care and infrastructure

### Setting up a paediatric pulmonology department

**Partner:** Rotary Club of Madras East

Cognizant Foundation partnered with Rotary Club of Madras East to help Kanchi Kamakoti Childs Trust Hospital (Chennai) set up a paediatric pulmonology department in the hospital to provide quality, safe care and high-quality clinical services at an affordable cost in a child-friendly manner. It also aims to educate and train young paediatrics to enhance respiratory disease management in Chennai.

Presently, over 200-250 children are being treated every month in the department, but it was proposed to do testing for

children visiting the hospital to avoid and prevent respiratory diseases. This exemplary, evidence-based, multidisciplinary respiratory care for children - the first of its kind in Tamil Nadu - has been set up as a Centre of Excellence in paediatric pulmonology with an AIIMS-trained specialist doctor.

### Screening for congenital heart diseases in children

**Partner:** Aishwarya Trust

Cognizant Foundation supported Aishwarya Trust in February 2023 to procure a new echo machine and accessories to be used in the congenital heart disease screening camps at Vellore, Tiruvannamalai, Villupuram, Chengalpattu, Tenkasi, Cheyyar, Kallakurichi, Tiruvallur, Nagapattinam, Pudukkottai,

Mayiladuthurai, Thoothukudi, Sivaganga, Madurai and Samayanallur districts in Tamil Nadu and at the treatment facility in Chennai for screening children.

## Care4All Strengthening paediatric care and infrastructure

### Strengthening neonatal and paediatric intensive care unit

**Partner:** Round Table India

Majority of the sick neonates and children received at the paediatric ward of Government Kilpauk Medical College and Hospital, Chennai, are unfortunately in critically ill condition and require resuscitation, continuous monitoring and intensive care. Considering the ever-increasing patient inflow and the

demand to upgrade the existing facility, Cognizant Foundation partnered with Round Table India in December 2022 to support Kilpauk Medical College and Hospital with critical medical equipment to strengthen the neonatal and paediatric intensive medical care unit in the hospital.

### Strengthening Special Newborn Care Units of Government hospitals

**Partner:** EKAM Foundation

Cognizant Foundation partnered with EKAM Foundation to strengthen seven Government Special Newborn Care Units (SNCUs) in Virudhunagar, Tiruvannamalai, Ooty and Gudalur (Nilgiris), Mayiladuthurai, Perambalur and Dindigul districts in Tamil Nadu with critical medical equipment to make quality

and timely healthcare accessible to unwell babies. These are SNCUs with a high burden of neonatal mortality rates, aspirational districts and districts with a high low-birth weight caseload.

## Support4All Early intervention for special-needs children

### Project in partnership with The Association of People with Disability

Cognizant Foundation is supporting The Association of People with Disability, Bengaluru, to implement a comprehensive early intervention programme offering rehabilitation services to 1000 children with special needs in six districts of Karnataka in one year.

Early intervention projects help in building the foundation for physical, cognitive, language, social and emotional growth through proven, tested rehabilitation strategies for children with developmental delays between the age-group of 0 to 8 yrs. If detected early, the delays can be avoided, or secondary problems and deformity can be prevented. Therefore, there is a great need to identify and cater to the specific disability and prevent further problems in children with developmental delays by providing the basic amenities of life along with an inclusive and sustainable ecosystem.

Children with developmental delays can enjoy a happy childhood and bloom into self-reliant and dignified members of society when provided with appropriate rehabilitation services and a supportive ecosystem at the right time. But due to lack of or limited access to need based rehabilitation services and a supportive ecosystem to children with developmental delays and parents from poor families, majority of them remain on the margins of society staring at a lost childhood and bleak future. The child's developmental gaps further increase if left unattended. In the year 2015, Association of People with Disability conducted a baseline survey in 7 taluks and 231 villages and found that developmental gaps increased from 27.5% (0 to 2 years) to 55.2 % (5 years).

## Support4All

# Early intervention for special-needs children

### Case story

“We are happy with our son’s progress and development. He is able to eat solid food and is even responsive to our calls”.

Five-year-old Akhil\* had impaired social and motor skill and had started showing signs of intellectual disability. He also suffered from a range of other health problems such as malnutrition as he was unable to sip even liquid food. His parents, who were from a socio-economically disadvantaged background, restricted Akhil inside the four walls of their home because of societal stigma.

Akhil’s health complications required medical care but owing to their poor economic situation, his parents were not in a condition to afford treatment. Moreover, they were also not aware about special education and early intervention programmes that are of help to children with intellectual disabilities.

After an Anganwadi worker assessed and identified Akhil’s condition, his parents were counselled and made aware of intervention solutions. Even though his mother was initially reluctant to consider the programme, it was the

constant visits by the community worker that motivated his parents to enrol Akhil at the special education school and participate in rehabilitation facilities.

On seeing the improvement in his cognitive skills, his mother now takes the extra effort to travel 14 km to bring Akhil to the programme. She has also been provided training on rehabilitation services, apart from providing nutrition kits to lead a healthy life. Currently, Akhil is receiving physiotherapy services and showing immense improvement.

“We are happy with our son’s progress and development. He is now able to eat solid food and is even responsive to our calls,” says Akhil’s parents. “Thanks to The Association of People with Disability and Cognizant Foundation our son will be able to have a better life.”

*\*Name changed to maintain privacy.*

## Support4All

# Early intervention for special-needs children

### Case story

“I wish all children who need similar care are blessed with the opportunity and support that my child has received”.

At 18 months is when a toddler begins to play and explore their surroundings. Unfortunately, for Rishabh’s\* parents, they became apprehensive upon noticing that their child had not achieved the developmental milestone for his age. A doctor’s visit confirmed that Rishabh would not be able to crawl, sit or stand, let alone play with other children without immediate intervention. His parents, who were farmers, were devastated when their charming son got diagnosed with global developmental delay and were at a loss as to how to deal with the situation. Hailing from a socio-economically disadvantaged class, Rishabh’s parents were already struggling to meet his nutritional needs.

It was an Anganwadi worker’s intervention and subsequent reference to the early intervention project run by The

Association of People with Disability, in partnership with Cognizant Foundation, that brought a ray of hope into their lives. Rishabh was provided with adequate nutrition and neurodevelopmental facilitation because of which he is currently able to stand unsupported and walk with minimal assistance. His cognitive skills have also been enhanced through play-based interventions and he is now able to interact well with his environment.

“I wish all children who need similar care are blessed with the opportunity that my child has received. This programme has had a life-long impact on us, and we will always be grateful,” Rishabh’s parents said.

\*Name changed to maintain privacy.

## Special project

# Supporting patients with chronic kidney disease

## Project in partnership with TANKER Foundation

### Dialysis support for Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) patients

Patients who have tested positive/negative for Hepatitis B and C often find themselves marginalised from receiving access to healthcare. They find it difficult to get dialysis treatment as there are very few private hospitals offering it for these patients. Government hospitals are also finding it difficult to meet this constantly increasing demand. Therefore, Tamilnad Kidney Research (TANKER) Foundation has been providing dialysis treatment for these patients. They have about 20

patients in the waiting list and the government hospitals have also been referring patients to TANKER Foundation for treatment. They have about 16 dialysis machines (and an additional one on standby) and 85 patients in their Vellore unit.

Cognizant Foundation has supported TANKER Foundation for the purchase of four dialysis machines and some accessories for use in their Vellore unit to provide dialysis to CKD patients who are Hepatitis B and C positive/negative.

### Free haemoglobin injections support for chronic kidney disease patients

Anaemia is unfortunately a common side effect of CKD. When the kidneys are damaged, they produce less erythropoietin (EPO), a hormone that signals the bone marrow to make red blood cells. With less EPO, the body makes fewer red blood cells due to which less oxygen is delivered to organs and tissues. Anaemics with CKD may have low levels of nutrients, such as iron, vitamin B12 and folate that are needed to make healthy red blood cells.

TANKER Foundation has been providing EPO injections and iron sucrose injections free of cost to their dialysis patients who cannot afford these injections. They also help patients get these injections at a subsidised rate. Cognizant Foundation is supporting TANKER Foundation for providing these free injections for 6 months starting from the 1st of January 2023.

## Excellence4All

# Graduate study in STEAM

## Case story

“By providing the scholarship, you have allowed me to focus on the most important aspect of college - learning”.

Bobbili Harika, who hails from Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, aspired to pursue a career in engineering. Her academic prowess helped her in securing first rank in her secondary senior year at school.

Coming from a family of four members with her father being the sole earning member as a clerk in a theatre, it became increasingly difficult for him to financially support the household chores and look after both of his daughters' educational expenses. Despite their financial hardships, he decided to pledge their land and take a loan to fulfil his daughter's wish of enrolling in entrance coaching and trying to secure a seat in a top engineering college.

The dream became reality when Bobbili got admission to NIT Raipur after a wait of two years. However, since they did not have the financial means to secure her admission, her father decided to discontinue her education. It was during this difficult phase in her life that she came across the FFE scholarship programme.

She says: “Life has not been easy. But the scholarship has

helped me financially to come out of that situation. I have used the scholarship to pay my hostel and college fees without becoming a burden to my parents. Thanks to Cognizant Foundation's support, I am one step closer to reaching my education and career goals. I have been working hard through college and secured 8.73 CGPA till my sixth semester. I have also actively participated in all college clubs and committees, which have enhanced my learning and improved my knowledge. I have also been upgrading my skills through various courses offered by FFE.

Thanks to this support, I am happy to share that I have secured a placement at Publicis Sapient with a CTC of 12.47 LPA. This has given me the opportunity to support my parents and bring them out of their crisis. Without this support, my dream would not have come true. You have inspired me to support more students like me!

By providing me the scholarship you have allowed me to focus on the most important aspect of college - learning. I hope that one day I will also help students like me achieve their goals. Thank you for making this possible”.

## Excellence4All Empowering visually impaired students

### Empowering visually impaired students

To strengthen the number of graduates and career prospects amongst persons with visual impairment, Cognizant Foundation partnered with Help the Blind Foundation in 2018 and instituted a scholarship programme for students across India. Recognizing the need to equip them for taking up careers, this scholarship programme was expanded to include Education Mobility and Employability Training (EMET).

The EMET has helped build in the visually impaired students a sense of independence, mobility and imparted digital skills for them to continue their learning as well as supported them in employment prospects. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Foundation has been supporting the scholars with laptops to help pursue online education and build digital skills vital in landing well paying jobs.

In 2022-23, Cognizant Foundation piloted 'Smart Vision Glasses', an innovative wearable device designed for the visually impaired. These glasses, which are powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML), aim to increase the independence and dignity of visually impaired individuals. The Smart Vision Glasses interpret visual information using

AI algorithms, allowing for real-time object identification, text reading, face recognition and detailed audio descriptions of the surrounding environment. The glasses are lightweight, user-friendly and equipped for seamless interaction with a high-resolution camera, sensors and a built-in speaker.

Recognizing the potential impact, Cognizant Foundation intends to expand the pilot programme to include all visually impaired scholars in the upcoming years. By doing so, we intend to empower a larger community and equip them with the means to live independently. This initiative illustrates the transformative potential of technology in addressing the difficulties encountered by the visually impaired. This project exemplifies the power of innovation and its capacity to promote inclusivity by promoting a new way for visually impaired people to experience the world. Using AI and ML, these Smart Vision Glasses not only assist visually impaired students with daily tasks but also provide them with a renewed sense of independence and dignity. Overall, this pilot programme represents a significant step towards empowering the visually impaired community and creating a more inclusive society.

## Excellence4All **Graduate study in special education**

### Beneficiary speaks

“The scholarship came as an immense help at a challenging time for me. It really helped me focus and put all my efforts into studying for my degree”.

“My name is Jothy M., and I was among the 5 students who received scholarship from Cognizant Foundation. The scholarship came as an immense help at a challenging time for me. My father works as a mason. Paying my semester fees was a burden my parents were finding difficult to carry. Thanks to the scholarship, I was able to pay the fees on time. It

really helped me focus and put all my efforts into studying for my degree. Once I graduate, I hope to make my parents proud and help children who need special education”.

**Jothy M.**  
**B.Ed. Special Education**  
**N.K.T. National College of Education for Women, Triplicane**

## Excellence4All **Graduate study in special education**

### Beneficiary speaks

“(The scholarship) is an invaluable opportunity that has allowed me to pursue my educational goals and aspirations with determination and enthusiasm”.

“I express my deepest gratitude for being selected as a recipient of the Cognizant Foundation merit-based scholarship for B.Ed. Special Education programme. I am truly honoured to have been chosen among such talented and deserving candidates. Receiving this scholarship has not only provided me with significant financial assistance but has also reaffirmed my commitment to academic excellence and personal growth. It is an invaluable opportunity that has allowed me to pursue my educational goals and aspirations with determination and enthusiasm. I am genuinely grateful to my college, the scholarship committee and the generous donors who made this scholarship possible.

Once again, I thank you for this incredible opportunity. I am fully aware of the responsibility that comes with this scholarship, and I am committed to proving myself worthy of the trust and support bestowed upon me. I look forward to the exciting journey ahead as a Best Teacher, and I hope to make you proud” .

**Aduliya Vijayakumar**  
**B.Ed. Special Education**  
**N.K.T. National College of Education for Women, Triplicane**

## Excellence4All Postgraduate study in social sciences

### Beneficiary speaks

“(The scholarship) is an invaluable opportunity that has allowed me to pursue my educational goals and aspirations with determination and enthusiasm”.

“I am Martina Rajan, a second-year postgraduate student in Social Work. I am honoured to be one of the recipients of this scholarship from Cognizant Foundation and cannot express enough how much this support means to me.

Thanks to your generous support, I am one step closer to achieving my dream of becoming an excellent social worker. I can now focus on my studies and career growth without worrying about the financial burden. As someone who aspires to work with children and their education, this scholarship has motivated me to work harder towards achieving my goals. I aim to contribute my strengths meaningfully to society and make a positive difference in the lives of those around me.

Once again, thank you for this wonderful opportunity. I am grateful to Cognizant Foundation for its commitment to supporting students and providing them with opportunities to excel in their academic pursuits”.

**Martina Rajan**  
**II-year MSW, Department of Social Work**  
**Rajagiri College of Social Sciences (Autonomous),**  
**Kalamassery**

## Excellence4All Postgraduate study in social sciences

### Beneficiary speaks

“Thank you for the opportunities and support you have provided to us and to so many other students. We will do our best to honour your trust in us”.

“We express our deep gratitude for the generous scholarship that you awarded us. Your support will allow us to pursue our academic goals and further career aspirations. We cannot thank you enough for your confidence in us and your investment in our future. Receiving this scholarship is a tremendous honour and it has lifted a significant financial burden off our shoulders. It has given us the opportunity to focus on our studies and dedicate ourselves to achieving our academic and career goals without the stress of worrying about how to fund our education.

Cognizant Foundation’s dedication to supporting students and their education is truly admirable. It is inspiring to see an organisation committed to making a difference in the lives of young people and investing in their futures. We are

grateful to be a part of this community of scholars and look forward to making a meaningful contribution to society in the future. Thank you for the opportunities and support you have provided to us and to so many other students. We will do our best to honour your trust in us by continuing to work hard and pursue our dreams”.

**Anjana Sebastian and Shrikant Sahebrao Kate**  
**II-year MSW, College of Social Work**  
**Nirmala Niketan, Mumbai**

## Excellence4All Promoting excellence

### Beneficiary speaks

“The scholarship not only provided the financial means to pursue my interest in theoretical computer science but also instilled in me a tremendous sense of confidence and independence”.

“I am immensely grateful to Cognizant Foundation for the scholarship they provided to fund my master’s education at CMI. It not only provided the financial means to pursue my interest in theoretical computer science but also instilled in me a tremendous sense of confidence and independence. During my time at the institute, I had the privilege of learning from exceptional professors and collaborating with brilliant peers who shared my enthusiasm for the subject. These formative learning experiences have led me to pursue a fully funded Ph.D. at École Polytechnique, France, starting this year.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Cognizant Foundation for their generous support, which has significantly influenced both my education along with personal and professional growth”.

**Namratha**  
**Graduate, Chennai Mathematical Institute**

## Tech4All Technical skilling programmes

### Beneficiary speaks

“Thank you for the opportunities and support you have provided to us and to so many other students. We will do our best to honour your trust in us”.

“I am Sonali Tanaji Patil, a 22-year-old student from Kondharki, Maharashtra. I am a student at Sveri’s College of Engineering in Pandharpur and come from a family of six members with a very weak financial background. My father works as a labourer and my mother is a homemaker. We reside in a rural and underdeveloped area, and my brother is currently in 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Unfortunately, my family had to face numerous financial difficulties in the past that have severely impacted us. To support my education, my father had to take out a loan from the bank, but his low salary often leaves us with only rice and drinking water to sustain us. We were even forced to sell our home due to financial issues.

I realised that I needed a job to assist my family and support my parents financially. When I came to know about the Tech4All programme through my friend, I decided to enrol in it to learn something new. My passion towards technical skills drove me to accept this as a new challenge. I always believe that if we are passionate about our work, we can surely do our best.

My experience with this programme has been incredibly positive, and I have learned in-demand technical skills, front end skills, database concepts and most impressive real life project case studies. The Cognizant Foundation and Centum Foundation team are doing an excellent job. This course has encouraged and motivated me to learn new things and improve myself by 1% every day. The impact it has had on my life is unbelievable.

I am very thankful to my mentor and Tech4All team for providing me such an amazing and valuable training. Live sessions are remarkably interesting and effective, and the trainers are knowledgeable and helpful. I would recommend this programme to my juniors as it is beneficial and truly amazing”.

**Sonali Tanaji Patil**  
**Tech4All Batch 3**

## Tech4All Technical skilling programmes

### Case story

“I really couldn’t afford computer courses provided by multiple institutes, and that’s when this training came as a godsend”.

It was through her husband, who is employed as a driver, that Sandhya came to know about the Tech4All programme offered by Cognizant Foundation and ANEW. A B.Com. graduate, she wished to pursue a career in accounting. However, her numerous attempts at securing a job remained futile as most companies required a candidate who was skilled in Tally. “I really could not afford computer courses provided by multiple institutes, and that’s when this training came as a godsend”, she says.

Upon completing the Tech4All Basic IT and Tally course run by ANEW with funding support from Cognizant Foundation, she

was placed in an accounting job at a leading accounting firm and has been working there for 3 months now.

“Thanks to the training and placement provided by ANEW and Cognizant Foundation, it is now possible for me to pay for my kids’ school since my husband’s salary was barely sufficient enough to cover our rent and expenses. I have also recommended the training to many others and will forever remain grateful to both organisations for their support”, Sandhya exclaims.

## Tech4All

# Other skilling programmes

### Case story

“After a lot of struggles, I finally have a platform from which I can build a successful future for me and my family”.

Abida Malik, who was born with a locomotor disability, has always believed that success is dependent on effort. Even though she had to face a lot of challenges owing to her disability, she was always able to count on the support from her parents. Her college, for example, was a long way from her house and the daily commute was hard especially since she had difficulty walking. However, her parents were always at hand to travel with her, making her transit much easier.

After she graduated, Abida was excited to move forward in life and started looking for a job. Unfortunately, her disability did not make the search easy, and she had to face many rejections. Naturally, she started to feel disheartened, but she continued to persevere as she passionately held on to her dream of financially supporting her parents one day.

It was through her family that Abida came to know about the training programme provided by Sarthak Educational Trust, in partnership with Cognizant Foundation. She immediately enrolled herself for a three-month training course which proved to be a turning point in her life. The course helped transform her attitude and confidence while improving her communication and computer skills.

“After her training was complete, she was placed in a leading financial services company as an MIS executive. “I am incredibly happy to have gotten the opportunity to improve my skills and learn so many new things. After a lot of struggles, I finally have a platform from which I can build a successful future for me and my family,” she says.

## Tech4All

# Other skilling programmes

### Case story

“I am so happy to know that there are people out there to help PwDs like me build a successful life and career”.

For Tipu Abhishek, who was born with a hearing impairment, his father has always been his biggest support. His journey in life has not been easy owing to his disability. While in school, he was not able to communicate well or express his emotions. As a result, he used to feel demotivated when his peers used to make fun of his disability. Through all these challenges, his father remained his biggest pillar of support—motivating and inspiring him to stand up and act against anything bad that happens to him. With the help of his father, Tipu completed his studies and started looking for a job to prove to himself and the world that he can achieve anything.

During his job search, he was aware of the reality that his disability might become a challenge to his career. The enthusiasm he had at the start slowly started waning as the number of companies he has applied to kept growing without any call backs. Slowly he started putting less and less effort into finding a job.

One day, he unexpectedly got a call from Sarthak Educational Trust informing him about the three-month training programme that was being conducted in association with

Cognizant Foundation. Initially, he was sceptical as he found it difficult to believe that an organisation was willing to provide him with free training and job placement support. After researching about the organisation, he decided to enrol in the training programme.

Tipu wholeheartedly participated in the programme and learned all about workplace culture and ethics and improved his skills in English and communication. Over the three months, his personality also transformed, and he became much more confident.

After the training was complete, the Sarthak team helped him get an interview at a leading hotel in Bengaluru which he passed with flying colours. He is now working as a Team Member and looking forward to a bright future.

“I am so happy to know that there are people out there to help PwDs like me build a successful life and career. Sarthak and Cognizant Foundation have helped me climb up from a well of despair and now I have the confidence to succeed, no matter what,” Tipu says.

## Tech4All Skills training programmes

### Technical skills

#### Tech4All Phase 1

##### **BPO voice and non-voice training**

Under this project, skilling is provided to PwDs between 18-35 years of age who have an educational qualification of 10<sup>th</sup> pass or above. They are trained in both voice and non-voice BPO processes for a period of 60 days. Once the course is complete, 65% of the candidates at a minimum are targeted to be placed in technology-enabled jobs in IT/ITeS and allied sectors with an average monthly salary from ₹10,000 to ₹12,000 and above.

**Partner: Dr. Reddy's Foundation**

##### **Banking and finance training**

Under this project, skilling is provided to PwDs (specifically orthopaedic disability and hearing impairment) in the 18-35 age group who are 12<sup>th</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> PUC pass or have a diploma/graduate qualification with skills in finance, accounting or banking. Training is provided for 30 days to help them get into tech-enabled corporate jobs in the banking/finance sector with an average monthly salary of ₹10,000. The curriculum for this project has been developed in partnership with Christ University, Bengaluru and it also prepares candidates for various banking exams.

**Partner: Cheshire Disability Trust**

##### **Fin-tech (TALLY) training**

Under this project, skilling is provided to women from marginalised families in Basic IT and Advanced IT (TALLY) with the aim of motivating them to opt for higher studies or take up accountant/fintech jobs in BFSI and other sectors. About 80% of students trained in Basic IT are either employed or go for advanced studies, and around 70% of students trained in Advanced IT choose jobs in the financial sector. Most candidates earn a minimum monthly salary of at least ₹10,000.

**Partner: Association for Non-traditional Employment for Women (ANEW)**

## Tech4All

# Skills training programmes

### Technical skills

**Tech4All Phase 2:** Signed grant agreements for the following initiatives, to benefit a total of 6100 women and 100 PwDs

#### **Top-up skilling in advance IT courses such as artificial intelligence, data analytics, robotic process automation, cloud, networking, CRM**

Under this project, Centres of Excellence for Women Empowerment are established in 50 Colleges across tier 2 and tier 3 cities of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Telangana to provide training for a total of 5000 female students and 200 teachers over a period of 1 year. Training is provided for a period of 7 months to pre-final year students. Post training, a minimum of 60% students are targeted to be placed with a minimum starting pay of ₹15,000 per month.

**Partner: ICT Academy of Tamil Nadu**

#### **ITeS and web design training**

Under this project, 200 women from underserved communities will be trained in IT and ITeS skill (100 in ITeS and 100 in web design) in Pune over a period of 1 year. Training is provided for a period of 3 months. Post training, a minimum of 70% students are targeted to be placed with a minimum starting pay of ₹10,000 per month.

**Partner: New Resolution India**

#### **IT (Java, XML, Python) training**

Under this project, 200 women graduates from underserved communities in Telangana will be trained in IT skills over a period of 1 year. Training is provided for a period of 3 months. Post training, a minimum of 70% students are targeted to be placed with a minimum starting pay of ₹20,000 per month.

**Partner: Centum Foundation**

## Tech4All Skills training programmes

### IT (AWS) training

Under this project, 200 women graduates from underserved communities will be trained in IT skills in Telangana over a period of 1 year. Training is provided for a period of 3 months in AWS Cloud Certification programme. Post training, a minimum of 70% students are targeted to be placed with a minimum starting pay of ₹20,000 per month.

**Partner: Magic Bus India Foundation**

### IT (Java/Dot Net/Cloud Computing) training

Under this project, 300 women from underserved communities will be trained in deep tech programs (Java/Dot Net/Cloud Computing – depending on need/demand) in West Bengal over a period of 1 year. Training is provided for a period of 4 months. Post training, a minimum of 70% students are targeted to be placed with a minimum starting pay of ₹20,000 per month.

**Partner: Anudip Foundation for Social Welfare**

### IT – ITeS (Digital marketing and web design) training

Under this project, 200 women from underserved communities will be trained in IT and ITeS skills (Digital marketing, graphic and web designing) in Mumbai/Navi Mumbai region in Maharashtra. Post training, a minimum of 75% students are targeted to be placed with a monthly salary ranging from ₹ 8,000 to ₹ 12,000.

**Partner: Lok Bharti Education Society**

### Management skills training

Under this project, 100 visually impaired students will be trained in management skills – office management, insurance, banking, finance and accounts in Bengaluru, Karnataka. Post training, a minimum of 40% students are targeted to be placed with a minimum starting salary of ₹12,000 per month.

**Partner: Cheshire Disability Trust**

## Tech4All

# Skills training programmes

### Other skills

#### **IT – ITeS, organised retail, and tourism & hospitality training**

Under this project, skilling is provided to 1500 PwDs over three years in Noida and Bengaluru. It is a non-residential program for PwD candidates between 18-35 years of age. They are trained in one of the 3 broad verticals – IT-ITeS, tourism & hospitality and organized retail for a period of 3 months. Once the course is complete, 70% of the candidates at a minimum are targeted to be placed in jobs in the respective sectors with an average monthly salary from ₹ 7,000 to ₹ 15,000 and above.

**Partner: Sarthak Educational Trust**

#### **BPO, e-commerce, horticulture, and hospitality training**

Under this project, training is provided in vocational skills/ITeS to 400 youth with disabilities from Kannur and Kozhikode in Kerala and Medchal in Telangana. Rehabilitation services and support, and mobility aids and appliances are also provided for those who need them. The duration of the training program is 45 days. Post training candidates will be supported to get into related jobs in metropolitan and tier-2/tier-3 cities with a minimum starting salary of ₹10,000 per month.

**Partner: The Association of People with Disability**

#### **General duty assistance training**

Under this project, skilling is provided in general duty assistance to 520 young women from underserved communities in Akola, Amaravati, and Jalgaon, Maharashtra. The duration of the training program is 2.5 months. A minimum 70% of the trained candidates is expected to be placements in hospitals/clinics and home care institutions with a monthly salary ranging from ₹ 8,000 to ₹ 12,000.

**Partner: Pratham Education Foundation**

## Tech4All Skills training programmes

### Home nursing training

Under this project, skilling is provided to 300 underprivileged women in Home Nursing over three years. The women are mostly first-generation learners. The duration of the training program is 6 months. The candidates undergo training in basic patient care, which includes geriatric and paediatric care along with English, self-defence, and life skills. Over 75% of the students trained get placed in hospitals/clinics or as home nurses with an average salary of ₹6,000 to ₹12,000 per month.

**Partner: Association for Non-traditional Employment for Women (ANEW)**

## Tech4All

# Building disabled technicians

### Case story

“I never thought a student like me would get such a wonderful opportunity. Sometimes it all feels like a fairy tale”.

Vineetha, a resident of Kumbarahalli village in Karnataka, was born with a hearing impairment. Their family of five lived on the meagre earnings of her father (who worked as a coolie), her mother (who was a domestic worker) and her elder brother (who worked in an electronics repair shop). Her inability to hear weighed upon Vineetha from a young age. Coupled with the family’s financial situation, this meant that she never really believed that she could become successful in life.

It was her school principal who referred Vineetha to Nettur Technical Training Foundation and the Electronic Mechanic programme supported by Cognizant Foundation.

“After enrolling in the programme, I was able to understand my abilities better and embrace my true self,” Vineetha says. “The support I have received from my teachers and peers has been invaluable and really helped increase my self-esteem”.

She has received theoretical and practical training on various technical subjects, something which she really enjoys. Apart from technical training, Vineetha also enjoys the daily 5 learning activities, cultural events, physical education classes and the morning assembly. Thanks to Cognizant Foundation’s support, she was able to get hostel accommodation free of cost as well which not only reduced the financial burden on her parents, but also gave them peace knowing that their daughter is in a safe and secure environment.

“I never thought a student like me would get such a wonderful opportunity. Sometimes it all feels like a fairy tale. I am forever thankful to everyone who has supported and encouraged me to achieve a good future,” Vineetha added.

## STEAM4All Teacher development for inclusive schools

Cognizant Foundation has implemented projects aimed at teacher development for an inclusive school education system, leveraging technologies with the following objectives:

- Demonstrating the possibilities of using technologies and in particular, digital technologies, for creating and supporting inclusive pedagogies for children with special needs.
- Strengthening capabilities for designing and delivering STEM learning in school education, with a focus on building computational thinking.

The Foundation partnered with Vision Empower to enable visually impaired children through inclusive education. The Vision Empower mission is to make Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects accessible for students with visual impairment. Vision Empower has designed a 3-year programme aimed at creating accessible STEM learning and computational thinking resources and capacity building for teachers in special schools with a focus on children with visual impairments. Vision Empower implemented the programme in Tamil Nadu and Kerala with funding support from Cognizant Foundation to develop teacher capacities to adopt inclusive education.

Cognizant Foundation partnered with IT for Change to implement a project to demonstrate an equitable learning environment in middle schools in Bengaluru. The project has worked on a sustainable model for equitable education by establishing Teachers Community of Practice (COP) at the block/cluster level, establishing resource centres, developed multi-level learning modules, assisted teachers in the creation of Open Educational Resources (OER), providing ongoing support and engaging in intensive schoolwork in select schools. The project focused on ICT for teaching-learning, design, development, and implemented technology-integrated modules, demonstrated new pedagogies, encouraged and facilitated experiential learning, adopted differentiated instruction and assessment strategies, supported school leadership, and bolstered resources. It collaborated with the Karnataka State Department of Education to leverage government structures, processes and resources for the implementation of equitable education.

## STEAM4All

# Teacher development for inclusive schools

### Partner speaks

“It was wonderful to witness a supportive classroom interaction at play, indicating the strengthening of an atmosphere of inclusion”.

Trisha had always been a quiet child. She would go completely silent when asked a question and rarely participated in classroom activities. It was observed that her classmates, particularly boys, would make fun of her physical appearance, and very few girls would speak to her. Classmates would even voice their disappointment when paired with her for any activity. Over time, these factors perhaps led her to lose her confidence and retreat into a shell.

For one session, we were calling students to the board to draw/write the answers to certain questions. When the facilitator called Trisha’s name, she just stared at the floor without a response. One of the students responded, “Ma’am she never responds, she never speaks in class! You can ask someone else”. The facilitator decided to go to Trisha and

wrote the question in front of her on the floor with chalk. With some encouragement, she reluctantly took the chalk from the facilitator and wrote an answer. It was correct! The facilitator complimented her on her excellent work, and she smiled. It felt like a barrier was broken that day.

In one of the subsequent sessions, she finally came up to the front of the class and answered a question. She had a confident smile on her face, which surprised everyone, and drew words of encouragement and applause from her peers. It was wonderful to witness a supportive classroom interaction at play, indicating the strengthening of an atmosphere of inclusion.

**- A note from the IT for Change team**

## STEAM4All Resource centres for dyslexic children

### Beneficiary speaks

“I hope that (the project) grows in scale and helps a lot more kids who may otherwise be left behind”.

“My name is R. Sundara Kumari. I am a teacher and during the academic year 2022/23, I handled students of class 2.

Two of our students, Shivani\* and Kavita\* were finding it hard to learn at the same level as other kids. They were not able to recite the alphabet, write clearly or identify sounds. They were referred to a resource room set up by Madras Dyslexia Association and Cognizant Foundation to help with their learning disability.

After the intervention, there was a clear improvement in both. They were gradually able to identify sounds and read words in both Tamil and English. Their love for learning improved and both students became more attentive in class. By the end of

the year, both Shivani and Kavita were able to read and write grade-level materials and match up with their peers.

The impact of this project is as clear as day and I hope that it grows in scale and helps a lot more kids who may otherwise be left behind”.

**R. Sundara Kumari**  
**Teacher, Bentick Higher Secondary Girls School,**  
**Vepery, Chennai**

\*Name changed to protect student privacy.

## STEAM4All Resource centres for dyslexic children

### Case story

“The resource room is a place where we nurture the young minds to blossom into their full potential”.

Cognizant Foundation partnered with Madras Dyslexia Association to support the resource room activities at Madras Christian College Higher Education School. In 2022/23, 34 children with reading and writing disabilities were identified and trained by the teachers. These students were selected from 2nd grade to 8th grade and categorised based on their difficulties. Over the course of the year, they were given appropriate training with teaching/ learning materials and individual lesson plans. A significant improvement in their academic performance and other activities were observed at the end of the year.

According to Mrs. Subhadra, who is a special educator and one of the beneficiaries of the programme: “The

resource room is a place where we nurture the young minds to blossom into their full potential. The 34 students have acquired the knowledge and are well-versed in identifying the sounds of words and even able to recognise the sight words easily. The students have also developed their mathematics skills and problem-solving techniques using strategies and short methods”.

“We are grateful for this opportunity to be a part of the mission in sowing the seeds of confidence and encouraging these children to grow up and shine like the stars”, she added.

## STEAM4All Connected Learning and Research on Inclusive Education (CLear on IE)

Phase 1 of “Connected Learning and Research on Inclusive Education” (CLear on IE) was implemented by the Centre for Education Innovation and Action Research of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in partnership with Cognizant Foundation between the period December 2020 to August 2022. The purpose of the project was to ensure a more sustainable means of contributing to the human resource development of knowledge and practice of inclusive education with a special focus on the education of children with disabilities.

### The outcome of Phase 1

**Visiting Chair:** TISS-CF visiting Chair on Inclusive Education was constituted under the leadership of Prof. Maya Kalyanpur, Professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning at the University of San Diego.

**Tasks Undertaken:** Desk review (65 journal articles), empirical research (survey of 183 pre-service teacher education students, focus group discussions, classroom observation) and capacity enhancement (virtual and physical IERCs, IE certificate courses for teachers & teacher educators).

**IERCs:** Virtual Inclusive Education Resource Centre has been set up. In addition, 2 IERCs have been set up within Avinashilingam University, Coimbatore, and the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities, Muthukadu.

**Phase 2** of the project was extended to strengthen practitioners’ capabilities to practise inclusion by offering courses developed and piloted as part of Phase 1. The project will reach over 1000 student teachers, practising teachers, and teacher educators, disseminating the developed resources widely, extending deepening the work with IERCs, and developing case studies of tech-enabled inclusive classrooms to network with more teacher education institutions to support inclusion. The project will also focus on releasing the OERs created as part of Phase 1 of the project on the DIKSHA platform to support the wider capacity enhancement of educators for inclusion.

## STEAM4All

# Digital learning for migrant children

### Case story

“My parents are labourers, and I am the first person from my family to use technology. Thanks to this programme, concepts that were difficult for me have become much easier to understand”.

For 14-year-old Nirakar Das, understanding mathematics had always been a challenge. He was in class 8 in a government school in Ganjam, Odisha, but still lacked the knowledge that would be expected of a child in a lower grade. To make things worse, he also lacked the confidence to ask questions and was afraid of making mistakes. All this meant that his performance in academics was very low, which was exacerbated by having to lose an entire year of schooling during the pandemic.

Fortunately, Nirakar’s school was among those supported by the digital learning initiative of The American India Foundation Trust and Cognizant Foundation.

Due to his consistent low performance, he was asked to join remedial classes during which he was encouraged to express his mistakes freely and also received friendly support from the tutor. The conducive environment also meant that he was able to increase his self-esteem and comprehend the subjects better.

Simultaneously, in school, he got an opportunity to learn using technology in the Digital Equalizer classes and this

has significantly improved his academic performance and scores. The Digital Equalizer programme not only uses computers as a key teaching and learning material but also helps students to better understand the fundamentals and concepts in subjects that are difficult for them such as mathematics, science, and social studies.

Nirakar found it interesting to learn the subjects with his peers as they could watch the videos and have interactive discussions in a problem-solving approach. This has helped him engage more with his peers and tutors, and develop his interest in studies.

“My parents are labourers, and I am the first person from my family to use technology. Thanks to this programme, concepts that were difficult for me have become much easier to understand. I am grateful to Cognizant Foundation and The American India Foundation Trust for their support,” Nirakar says.

## STEAM4All Digital Schools

### Beneficiary speaks

“I am very happy to get this tab from Cognizant Foundation and NIRMAAN”.

“I am very happy to get this tab from Cognizant Foundation and NIRMAAN. They also conducted online classes during summer vacation in which we came to learn about so many new topics. All the topics were exciting, and I enjoyed learning them from the volunteers. I have attended all the sessions in summer camp and have learnt about programming, sequential programming, algorithms, debugging, looping and Scratch. The volunteers answered all our doubts during the sessions and helped us develop

some projects by using Scratch programming. We were taught to develop games and animations which was very interesting. I was able to prepare my summer camp projects using the Scratch programme. Thanks to the volunteer for teaching about coding and Scratch”.

**Anushka**  
**Class 10, GGIC Noida, NCR**

## STEAM4All Digital Schools

### Beneficiary speaks

“Thanks to this programme, all our students now have the passion to go out into the world and achieve their dreams”.

“I am the principal of Utkarsh Bal Mandir, Mumbai. I have been observing the students from the beginning of the implementation of the Digital School programme and I can see that the digital devices have contributed to a clear improvement in learning. They have changed due to these tabs and students have become very curious to understand new things. They learned to make science project and mathematical models to understand complex things in an effortless way. Some of our students started learning advanced scientific topics apart from what they learn in school. Thanks to the career guidance they have received, students also came to know about different options available to them when they grow older.

The session of Cyber Security was also critical as it made them aware of the other side of technology and helped them learn ways to protect themselves.

On behalf of my school, I would like to thank Cognizant Foundation and NIRMAAN team for shaping the future of students and giving them direction in all ways to reach their goals in their life. Thanks to this programme, all our students now have the passion to go out into the world and achieve their dreams”.

**Vandana Naik**  
Principal, Utkarsh Bal Mandir, Mumbai

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