



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY MADRAS
Office of Alumni and Corporate Relations

cordially invites you to



An IIT Madras Initiative

Topic

**Skilling for Industry 4.0: Role of CSR in
Emerging Tech Training**

24th June 2025 | 03:00 PM - 05:00 PM

Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel, Delhi Airport

THE SOCIAL IMPACT CLUB

The Social Impact Club is aimed at creating a forum for CSR professionals where key focus areas and challenges faced by the CSR community are discussed, shared, and collaboratively addressed.

OBJECTIVES

The Delhi edition of the Social Impact Club gathered leading CSR professionals and thought leaders to explore how CSR can address the skill gap for Industry 4.0 by:

- Aligning CSR initiatives with national skilling priorities and future industry needs, including AI, robotics, IoT, cybersecurity, and more.
- Enabling access to cutting-edge tools, labs, and training platforms for underserved and marginalized communities.
- Fostering collaborations between academia, startups, corporates, and ed-tech platforms to promote hands-on, job-oriented skilling.
- Linking learning outcomes with certifications, internships, and job placements.

MODERATOR

Prof. Vignesh Muthuvijayan

Associate Chair, Centre for Outreach and Digital Education (CODE), IIT Madras

Prof. Vignesh delivered an in-depth presentation on IIT Madras' national skilling ecosystem and its alignment with emerging technologies. He highlighted programs such as NPTEL, BS in Data Science & Electronic Systems, and executive education in AI, electric mobility, and more—emphasizing scale, inclusivity, and industry alignment.

DISCUSSION SUMMARY

1. Technology-Driven Skilling for All

Prof. Vignesh illustrated how IIT Madras is using its digital platforms to scale quality education and skilling programs, particularly to reach students from underserved backgrounds across India. The BS program alone has enabled 38,000+ students to pursue high-quality tech education without JEE, supported by CSR and IITM.

2. CSR for Marginalized Talent Pipelines

Participants resonated with the potential to tap into diverse and motivated learners in the 20–24 age group from low-income families. IITM's platforms, backed by CSR, could serve as a national reservoir of internship and hiring-ready talent, especially under schemes like PM Internship.

3. Industry Partnerships in Skilling

A strong case was made for deeper corporate participation—beyond funding—through leadership talks, project mentorship, internship hosting, and tailored training programs. Attendees acknowledged the need for sustainable skilling models co-developed with academia.

4. Scaling Impact with CSR

Programs such as NPTEL (with 35 lakh+ enrolments per semester) and BS in Data Science (with over 40% learners from low-income families) were cited as powerful vehicles for inclusive impact. CSR-backed fee support, lab access, and certification enablement were suggested as high-leverage intervention.

INSIGHTS & REFLECTIONS FROM PARTICIPANTS

- **Ms. Sarika Rastogi, Genpact**

“Skilling for Industry 4.0 isn’t just a tech challenge—it’s a social equity opportunity. We need to plug into grassroots learners with strong motivation but limited means.”

- **Ms. Sheryl Shankar, Sun Life Global Solutions**

“IITM’s online-first, certification-backed model opens up vast possibilities for employee volunteering and industry mentoring.”

- **Mr. Amit Kumar Anand, Nokia**

“Customized, modular programs in AI, IoT, and cybersecurity can address real gaps we see in the field. The ability to co-create is key.”

- **Mr. P.K. Sahu, NTPC**

“We should look at more interventions at the primary school level.”

- **Ms. Dipanwita Chakraborty, Sustainability & Impact Leader**

“How do we train future job seekers in a world where AI will replace a lot of jobs?”

SUGGESTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- Create **co-branded training pathways** in emerging tech for underserved learners.
- Structure **CSR support** across the value chain: certification, internships, placement, and infrastructure.

- Enable **mentorship and project reviews** by industry volunteers through virtual Vivas and evaluations.
- Forge **multi-year partnerships** for skilling initiatives under PM Internship and related programs.
- Build **consortium-style proposals** allowing multiple corporates to support different components.

WAY FORWARD

The Delhi edition of the Social Impact Club reinforced the urgent need to align CSR investments with India's skilling and employment priorities in tech-driven sectors. As IIT Madras continues to scale access, affordability, and academic rigor, the collective resolve among corporates to co-create and sustain these pathways emerged as a strong theme.

Together, academia and industry have the opportunity to build inclusive, tech-powered ladders of opportunity—transforming not just livelihoods, but lives.

Interested in joining future editions of The Social Impact Club?

Write to us at csrpartner@ia.iitm.ac.in to stay connected.