



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY MADRAS  
Office of Alumni and Corporate Relations



आयआयटीएम

# THE SOCIAL IMPACT CLUB



Mumbai  
Edition

**An IIT Madras Initiative**

**Topic**

**CSR-Driven Collaborative Ecosystems:  
Advancing Affordable and Accessible  
Healthcare Innovation**

**10th June 2025**

**Mumbai Edition 2 - Report**

## 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

- Harnessing AI and CSR for Healthcare Innovation in India and collaborative ecosystem that converges to revolutionize healthcare access and affordability - the challenges and the opportunities.
- Importance of India Specific data and healthcare interventions, without India specific datasets, AI risks perpetuating biases and missing underserved communities.
- Inspire CSR Leaders to champion healthcare research as a positive tool for long term impact - Where it can be a powerful intersection of purpose and progress—where social responsibility meets cutting-edge research.
- Align healthcare innovation efforts with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN-SDGs), especially those related to health and well-being.

### MODERATOR

**Prof. Himanshu Sinha:** Professor in the Department of Biotechnology at IIT Madras, where he also serves as a coordinator for the Initiative for Biological Systems Engineering (IBSE) and is affiliated with the Centre for Responsible AI. His research spans complex genetics, systems biology, and data-driven healthcare innovation, with a strong focus on maternal and child health, genotype-phenotype mapping, and AI-powered clinical tools. He moderated the session with an academic lens on collaborative ecosystem for advancing affordable and accessible healthcare innovation and use of AI.

### DISCUSSION SUMMARY

**1. AI & Healthcare:** The session highlighted the transformative role of AI in making healthcare affordable, accessible, and preventive in India, while addressing cultural mindsets and the government's proactive involvement. Key themes included:

- **Preventive Healthcare:** AI-driven tools for early detection and personalized health guidance can shift the population's focus from reactive to preventive care.
- **Maternal & Child Health:** India-specific Garbhini-1 and GA2 models improve gestational age estimation, enhancing preterm birth identification and prenatal care.
- **Healthcare Delivery:** LLM-powered assistants with regional voice interfaces expand access to immunization and maternal health services across linguistic and literacy barriers.

- **1Genome India 10K:** This national project, including IIT Madras, sequenced 10,000 genomes to enable population-specific diagnostics and treatments, advancing India's leadership in precision medicine. A platform shall be developed for India for India specific diseases such as cervical cancer etc.
- **Microbiome & AMR:** Research on microbiome dynamics and antimicrobial resistance is shaping public health responses to antibiotic overuse and resistance spread.
- **Responsible AI for Healthcare:** Focus on developing ethical, safe, and transparent systems that enhance clinical decision-making without replacing human judgment. Institutions like IIT Madras are at the forefront of building these trustworthy, patient-centered technologies.

**2. Why the Government Support and Interest alone is not enough:** Research based funding has been received from the Ministry of Education, Department of Biotechnology, BIRAC, Gates Foundation etc basis which initial studies for undertaken for the Pilot stage Gestational Age model estimations however to scale the study to different diversities of the country for long term targets to cover 2 Crore pregnant women, the CSR funds shall be instrumental that shall be achieved gradually over few years.

**3. CSR becomes a catalyst for systemic, long-term change, rather than a patchwork of short-term interventions:** CSR should evolve from funding access alone to actively supporting innovation across the healthcare value chain. By investing in R&D, validation, and scale-up, CSR can help bridge the “lab-to-market” gap and ensure that high-impact innovations reach underserved populations. By backing academic institutions, incubators, and translational research, CSR can bridge critical funding gaps, accelerate validation, and scale context-specific innovations that address India's unique health challenges.

4. How do Board or CSR Committee look at Research Projects, and steps to be taken by institutes like IIT Madras to package the proposal to get CSR the support.

## **INSIGHTS & REFLECTIONS FROM PARTICIPANTS**

### **Shreya Sudhir, SLB**

Spoke about integration of the work of Asha Healthcare workers with the LLM Powered Assistants in the rural settings

### **Pragya Srivastava, Bitzer India**

“How to decide which problem in the society to be addressed – Whether Government decides and gives the mandate”

**Rohan Das, DBS Bank**

“How can Corporates contribute to the work happening at IIT Madras in AI & Healthcare”

**Dr. Gurjit Singhmonga, ICICI Foundation**

“For the language-based apps, will it cover only vaccinations or questions related to nutrition”

**Shilpashree Muniswamappa, Colgate Palmolive**

“There are high chances that if a child is born premature, chances that the mother have had bad oral health, there are global studies however not in India”. Also mentioned that AI & Tech in Healthcare is really exciting.

**Chandrashekhar Gowda, Sun Pharma**

“The challenges being faced as an implementer, is the lack of information or misinformation among community and we need to keep on hydrating them with right set of information, the catchment area to service is 5-6 lakh at any given time, how can that be solved with the help of AI or App can be really helpful”. Also wanted to know “If there is any technology or AI based solution for early screening such as cervical cancer or HPV infection”. Further spoke about “Building Capacity of para medics for screening at the community level for high-risk cases and refer them for confirmative diagnostic, thus resources been used adequately”

**Clifford D’Costa, SBI General Insurance**

“Successful result provided by the Research Institutes to the CSR Teams as an example and will make a lot of difference. Also, Research has been introduced in the CSR Act only in the year 2019, it will still take 5-7 years’ timeline”

**Ridhi Bhatia, Kotak Mahindra Bank**

“Research may not have success to it, however Proof of Concept (POC) with the small outcome can also be considered”

**SUGGESTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Accelerate Large-Scale Data Collection: Ensure that healthcare datasets are sufficiently large and representative of India’s diverse population. Rapid, high-quality data acquisition is essential for meaningful AI interpretation and model development.
- Invest in Long-Term R&D and Co-Creation: Support sustained research through collaborative models that bring together academia, startups, and user communities. This fosters innovation grounded in real-world needs and accelerates translation from lab to impact.

- Establish Multi-Year CSR Frameworks: Encourage CSR policies that enable multi-year commitments to ecosystem building. Long-term funding ensures continuity, deeper impact, and the development of scalable, sustainable healthcare solutions

## **WAY FORWARD**

The Mumbai edition of the Social Impact Club ignited purpose-driven dialogue at the intersection of AI, healthcare, and Corporate Social Responsibility. With visionary corporate partners and the research strength of IIT Madras, the path forward is clear: co-create scalable, inclusive technologies that not only address India's health challenges, but also advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Two strong recommendations that emerged from participants:

- A) Align Research with Impact: Healthcare research projects must demonstrate social impact, as this alignment strengthens their case with CSR boards and improves chances of funding approval.
- B) Back Research-Led Innovation: Use CSR funding to support early-stage healthcare R&D—especially in AI, genomics, and diagnostics—enabling scalable solutions tailored to India's needs.

These insights will inform how IIT Madras structures future collaborations and proposals with industry partners.

**Interested in joining future editions of The Social Impact Club?**

**Write to us at [csrpartner@ia.iitm.ac.in](mailto:csrpartner@ia.iitm.ac.in) to stay connected.**