

Thinking Social Roundtable – Delhi 16 October 2015



The first event of the “Thinking Social” series of roundtables, organized by IIM Calcutta Innovation Park (IIMCIP), was held on 16th October 2015 at the India International Center, Delhi under the aegis of Tata Social Enterprise Challenge (TSEC) 2015-16. The theme of the Roundtable was “**Enhancing Quality and Affordability of Education through Technology**”. The discussion was centered on three broad themes - Quality, Access, and Affordability of education for the masses. The overarching focus was the use of technology in meeting these three objectives.

The thematic Roundtable included an overview on Thinking Social, an interactive Panel discussion followed by Q&A and presentations from two social entrepreneurs working in the education domain.

The speakers for the day comprised eminent entrepreneurs and academicians who have rich experience in the Education sector in India. The audience (a strong presence of 40 participants) comprised of Professionals, entrepreneurs, Impact investors, innovators, NGOs and students mainly from the Education sector.

In the inaugural session, **Subhrangshu Sanyal – CEO, IIM Calcutta Innovation Park** introduced the theme and shared with the audience IIMC’s journey on entrepreneurship, IIMCIP’s vision & activities and how TSEC emerged as one of the biggest platforms for the social entrepreneurs in India.



Prof Raghendra Chattopadhyay, IIM Calcutta moderated the Panel discussion and requested all the Panelists to share their thoughts on the challenges and opportunities around the theme.

Mr. Anil Mammen, Chief – Learning Design & Social Impact, Tata ClassEdge said that technology is an enabler and cannot replace the teachers. He said that “Technology without adult guidance has no meaning” and hence what TATA ClassEdge does is that they invest more in bringing up teacher capabilities and then stage wise introduce technology in the classrooms.

Mr Vivek Agarwal - Chief Executive Officer at LIQVID, one of India’s fastest growing eLearning companies gave a practioners view on technology and education. He explained that there are three elements for technology solutions – Content, Technology and Services. He also said that “technology has existed for a long time but what is really missing is the willingness of the institutions to make this work.” To bring a change in this country there must be lots of experiments from the government’s side and it is through initiatives like this which can help to bring a change.



Ms Samina Bano - Chairperson of Bharat Abhyudaya Foundation, spoke about the right way of using the technology. She said that “I look at the education system as the classroom, school and the entire system.” She described the value chain of institutional change as a three tier step – Policy makers, system design and the service delivery. She insisted the use of technology in areas where there is a system in place and it can be made more robust with the use of Technology.



The Q&A round witnessed good participation from the audience. There were many significant issues discussed and addressed by the audience and the panelists.

Two entrepreneurs from the education domain, **Abhinav Giridhar, founder of Bodhi Health Education** and **Ram Kumar, founder of Edwell Solutions** presented their journey, current projects and the challenges faced. The roundtable ended with a valedictory and vote of thanks from IIMCIP.