



Threads of empowerment, woven together

Yearbook 2025-26

Across the pages

Threads of empowerment, woven together

Behind every programme is a story

A story of a child discovering the confidence to learn and grow.

Of a woman stepping forward with new skills and aspirations.

Of a person with a disability gaining greater access, independence, and opportunity.

Viewed individually, these may appear as distinct stories. Yet, together, they reflect a deeper truth: lasting change is built through people, partnerships, and shared purpose. For two decades, we have strengthened these connections across communities and causes, enabling long-term progress through greater access, stronger systems, and initiatives spanning gender equality, child development, disability inclusion, and technology-enabled solutions.

As we enter our next 20 years, we carry forward a renewed commitment to weave inclusion, technology, and systemic transformation into stronger possibilities for individuals, communities, and society.

Because lasting change is never built in isolation. It is woven together through empathy, strengthened by partnerships, and sustained by shared purpose and collective action, one thread at a time.

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Message from the Chairperson



Twenty years is both a milestone and a moment of renewal. It gives us the opportunity to reflect on the journey so far, while asking an equally important question: are we ready for the road ahead?

For Cognizant Foundation, this question has shaped many conversations throughout the year. As we look to the next 20 years, our ambition is not simply to do more, but to do better: to deepen the impact of our work, strengthen the ecosystems around the causes we support, and stay responsive to the changing needs of the communities we serve.

The challenges before us are different from those of two decades ago. They are more complex, more connected, and evolving faster. Advancing education calls for stronger health systems. Creating livelihoods requires access to skills, technology, and opportunity. Building inclusive communities demands that we move beyond individual interventions and strengthen the systems that enable lasting progress. This calls for more than good intent. It requires organisations to work across sectors, combine strengths, and create solutions that are collaborative, adaptive, and designed for long-term outcomes.

The next phase of our journey will therefore be defined not only by the scale of our interventions, but by the depth of change they create. It will call for sharper choices, stronger partnerships, and a sustained focus on outcomes that endure.

As we enter this next chapter, we do so with optimism and humility. There is still much to do, and much to learn. What gives me confidence is the shared commitment of our partners, associates, volunteers, and communities to build a future that is more inclusive, more equitable, and full of opportunity.

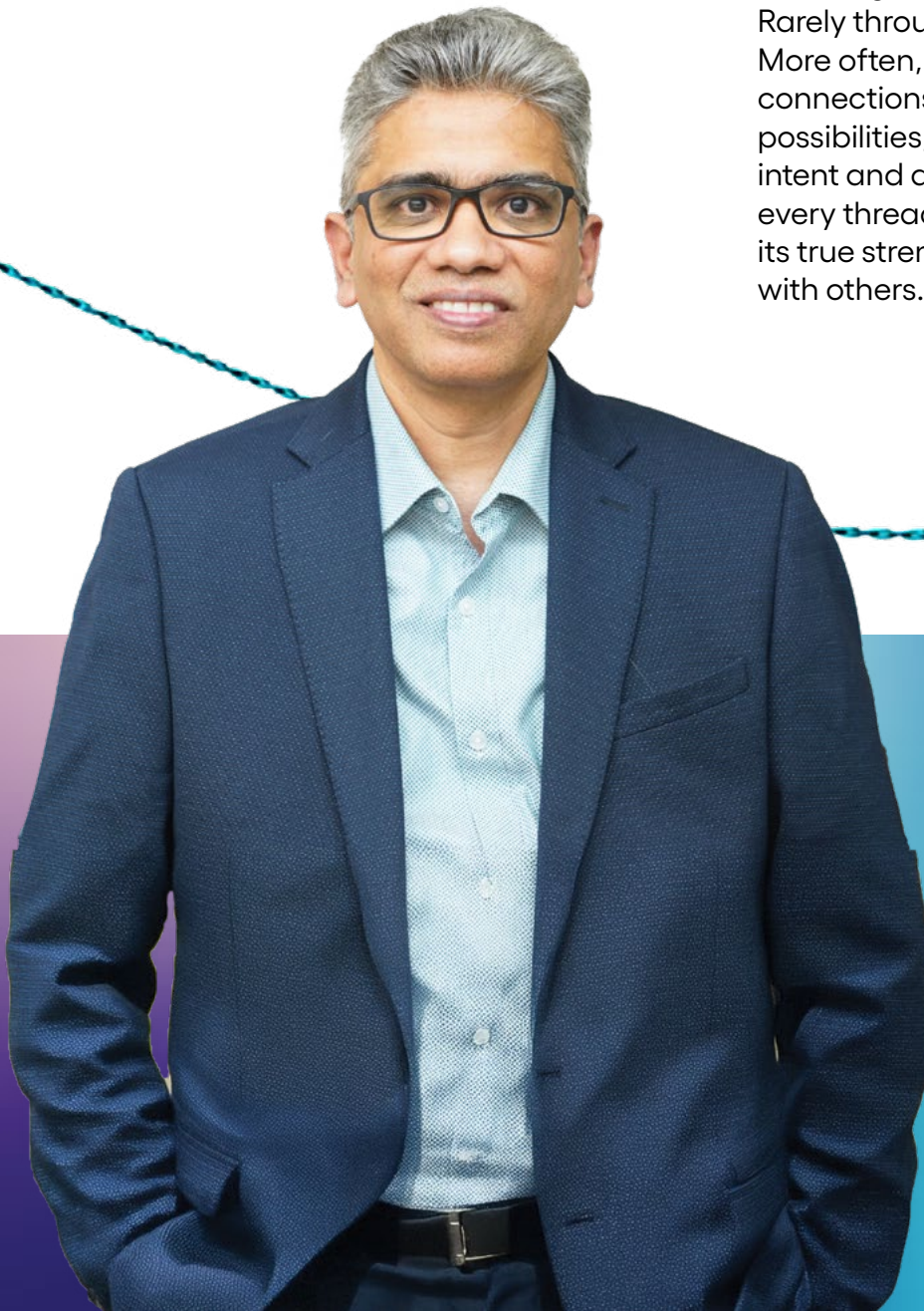
The next 20 years begin with that shared belief. I look forward to what we will continue to build together.

Warm regards,

Vinita Bali

Chairperson of the Board,
Cognizant Foundation

Message from the CEO



As Cognizant Foundation completes 20 years, I find myself reflecting on how meaningful change truly takes shape. Rarely through a single intervention. More often, it is built patiently through connections: between people and possibilities, technology and inclusion, intent and action. Like a woven fabric, every thread carries its own story, but its true strength emerges when joined with others.

This thought stayed with me throughout the year.

A few months ago, I visited a school for visually impaired children in Aluva, Kochi. What remains vivid is the pride in a teacher's voice as he demonstrated how his students were using Hexis, the braille reader. His pride was not in the technology alone, but in the independence it enabled.

Around the same time, I attended a graduation ceremony for women who had completed a skills training programme. We expected to observe quietly from the sidelines. Instead, we were surrounded by participants eager to share their journeys, celebrate their achievements, and speak about what came next. Their joy, confidence, and sense of possibility were a powerful reminder that transformation often begins with one meaningful opportunity.

Different settings, different communities, yet both moments reinforced the same truth: lasting impact is created when many forces come together: community organisations, technology, volunteers, local leadership, and the determination of individuals themselves.

This belief has also shaped my own journey. Before joining the Foundation, my professional life was rooted in technology, project management, and business operations. Early on, I focused on the programmes and outcomes directly before me. Over time, I learned to see the larger systems

that connect individual efforts. That perspective continues to guide how we think about social impact today, whether in healthcare, education, livelihoods, or inclusion: how can different interventions come together to create lasting systemic change?

As we marked 20 years of Cognizant Foundation, our anniversary became a moment to reconnect with long-standing partners, hear inspiring community stories, and reflect on the collective effort that brought us here.

The milestone also led us to ask: what should the next twenty years look like?

One answer emerged clearly. To create deeper and more enduring impact, we must sharpen our focus, strengthen prevention alongside support, and deepen our commitment to inclusion, especially for persons with disabilities.

Placed at the intersection of technological possibility and community need, the Foundation is uniquely positioned to draw on Cognizant's culture of innovation while remaining deeply rooted in community realities. This shared DNA enables us to harness technology, digital solutions and AI in ways that are innovative, practical and deeply human, advancing more inclusive, scalable and enduring social impact.

As we begin our next chapter, I look forward to engaging more closely with our volunteers and NGO partners, whose commitment, resilience and spirit continue to inspire us. I thank everyone who has been part of our journey and invite you to continue walking with us as we weave a more inclusive, equitable, and hopeful future for all.

Warm regards,

Deepak Prabhu Matti

Chief Executive Officer

About the Foundation

Cognizant Foundation at a glance

For twenty years, Cognizant Foundation has helped create opportunities for individuals and communities across India by bringing together technology, inclusion and collaboration. Established in 2005 as one of Cognizant’s CSR channels in India, the Foundation works to advance equitable and sustainable development through technology-led social impact.

Its work is guided by a simple belief: lasting change is built by understanding people’s needs and strengthening the systems around them. With a focus on public health, inclusive education, livelihoods and empowerment of persons with

disabilities, the Foundation addresses challenges through connected, community-centric solutions.

Guided by its core tenets of technology, inclusion and collaboration, Cognizant Foundation uses digital innovation, promotes inclusive practices and works closely with non-profit organisations, institutions and community partners to create lasting outcomes.

Through partnerships with more than 300 non-profit organisations and over 600 projects, Cognizant Foundation has positively impacted more than 3.4 million lives across India.



Key highlights for FY 2025-26

7,13,427 Lives positively impacted

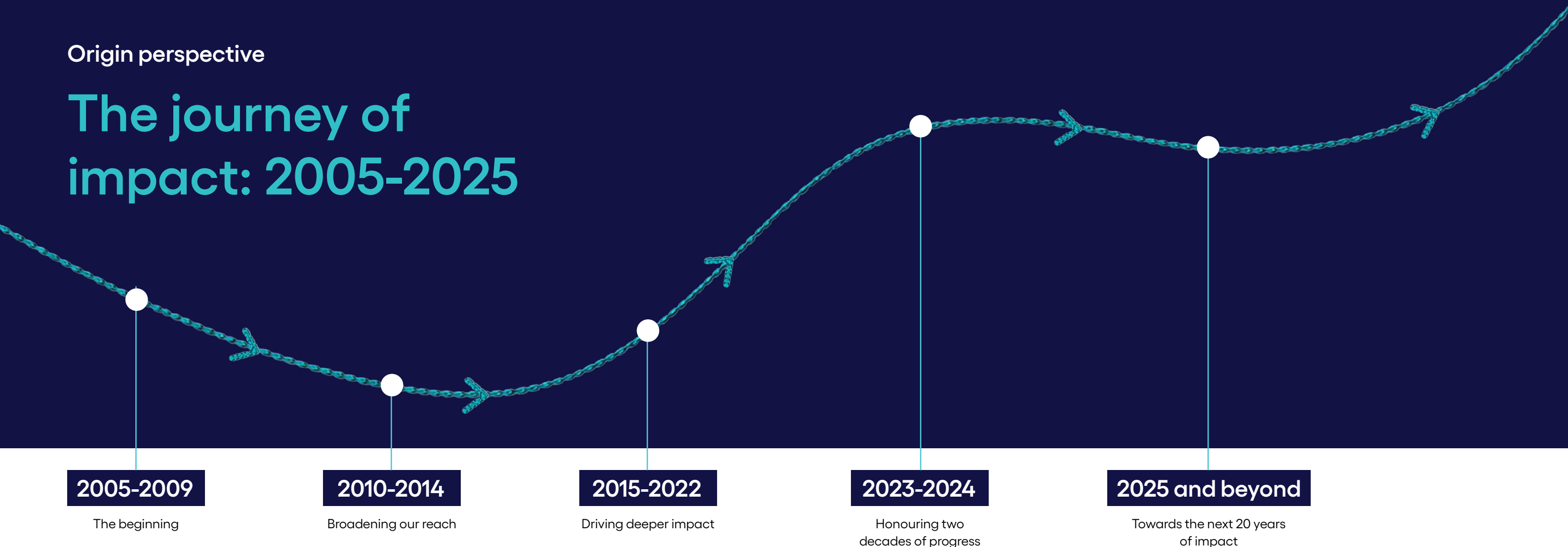
35 Partners

65 Unique projects

10+ States

Origin perspective

The journey of impact: 2005-2025



Key metrics for FY 2025-26

Across health, education, and skilling

4,32,151

Individuals screened and sensitised in healthcare

2,81,276

Individuals accessed education & skilling programs

Across the lifecycle

6,592

High-risk mothers and newborns supported through early intervention

12,747

Children supported for vision needs

2,520

Individuals protected from avoidable vision loss

5,578

Youth supported with scholarships and employability skills

Strengthening systems

865

Public health facilities strengthened

8,603

Parents, frontline workers, and healthcare professionals trained and sensitised

13

Institutions/schools enabled with inclusive infrastructure and services

35

Partnerships supported across health, education, and skilling systems

Volunteering and collective action

11,111

Volunteering hours contributed by Cognizant employees towards our projects

3,916

Volunteers engaged across Foundation's programmes



The prevention thread

Weaving pathways to prevention and possibility

While not all disabilities can be prevented, many can, especially when identified early.

In the fabric of early life, there are moments that matter more than others, brief, often unseen, yet decisive. A timely intervention. An early diagnosis. Care that arrives when it can still shape what comes next. Prevention is woven into these moments. It is not the absence of risk, but the presence of the right response, at the right time.

At Cognizant Foundation, this work unfolds as a continuum, supporting high-risk pregnancies, strengthening neonatal care, identifying developmental delays in early childhood, rehabilitation where risks are identified. Safeguarding

vision and independence across later life stages forms a dedicated focus within this continuum. Each intervention is a thread, distinct in purpose, yet interconnected in impact.

What binds them together is timing. And these stories reflect what becomes possible when each thread holds, coming together to create pathways not just to prevention, but to possibility.



Mr. Ranganath N. K.
Director, Cognizant Foundation

Mr. Ranganath N. K. brings a systems-thinking approach to Cognizant Foundation's work, drawing on more than four decades of leadership across engineering, sustainability, and business transformation. With extensive global exposure and active engagement in education, skills and social sector organisations, he provides valuable perspectives on ecosystem partnerships, programme accountability and building inclusive models that deliver measurable outcomes for persons with disabilities and other underserved communities.



Mr. Kasturi Balaji
Director, Cognizant Foundation

Mr. Kasturi Balaji brings deep expertise in institution-building, technology-led transformation and governance, shaped by decades of leadership at esteemed organisations. A strong advocate of leveraging government systems and partnerships to scale social impact, he has provided valuable guidance on healthcare initiatives, organisational processes and long-term sustainability, helping the Foundation expand the reach and effectiveness of its inclusion and community development efforts.



Visual disability



Cross-disability

Across disabilities. At the right time.

Cross-disability



Rather than working within the boundaries of a single condition, much of Cognizant Foundation's prevention approach spans across disabilities. Many of these efforts are rooted in maternal and early childhood health, addressing shared vulnerabilities at the earliest stages of life, often before disability takes form. By acting early, risks are mitigated before they evolve into more defined or limiting outcomes.

This cross disability lens shifts attention from diagnosis to context, asking what the mother, the child, and the surrounding care system need at that point in time, whether to prevent the onset of disability or reduce the risk of secondary complications, regardless of how a condition may eventually present.

01 Case story

Sustaining care for fragile lives



Neonatal stage



Thiruvallur, Tamil Nadu



EKAM Foundation

The challenge and context

The earliest stage of life carries the highest concentration of risk.

Prematurity, low birth weight, birth asphyxia, and feeding difficulties can quickly escalate into long-term developmental challenges if not addressed on time. Positive outcomes depend not only on clinical intervention but on continuous care, spanning from early risk identification during pregnancy to stabilisation in the neonatal unit and continued support at home.

In Thiruvallur district, care gaps were most visible at these critical transition points. High patient volumes at public facilities like the Government Medical College Hospital (GMCH) limited the time available for caregiver counselling and preparedness.



High-risk pregnancies were not always tracked consistently across antenatal visits. For economically vulnerable families, hospital discharge often marked the beginning of uncertainty rather than continuity of care. Subtle risks like poor feeding, low responsiveness, or inadequate weight gain were frequently missed, delaying intervention during a critical developmental window.

The response

Closing these gaps required more than strengthening individual touchpoints; it required keeping care connected.

Through its partnership with EKAM Foundation, Cognizant Foundation addresses these vulnerabilities by supporting a cross-disability care continuum that begins well before delivery and holds long after discharge. At the community level, frontline workers identify high-risk pregnancies early and remain engaged throughout the antenatal period. Care quality has been strengthened at GMCH Thiruvallur and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in Poondi and Tiruttani through labour room upgrades, LaQshya and MusQan certifications, and the introduction of a 24-hour human milk bank.

Inside the Special Newborn Care Unit (SNCU), care extends beyond clinical stabilisation. Mothers receive practical, hands-on guidance in Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) and breastfeeding, empowering them to carry this care forward.

After discharge, follow-ups continue through home visits and tele-lactation support, ensuring families are equipped with simple tools to stay engaged in the care pathway.

Care does not stop at the hospital door. It stays with the family.

In focus: Poornima—when care stayed beyond the hospital door

Poornima's journey reflects what this continuity can make possible.

She was identified early as a high-risk mother due to being underweight. Her community health worker, Ms. Latha, began regular follow-ups, guiding her on nutrition and antenatal care. Midway through her pregnancy, Poornima moved to Chennai, making consistent monitoring difficult. When she returned, her nutritional status remained unchanged, and the pregnancy remained high-risk.

In her seventh month, she went into preterm labour.

Adhithi was born on May 26, 2025, weighing 1,520 grams, and was admitted to the Special New-born Care Unit. The initial days were uncertain, her weight dropped, and Poornima struggled to breastfeed and care for such a fragile newborn.

With steady, hands-on support, from Kangaroo Mother Care to feeding techniques and recognising her baby's cues, Poornima gradually found her footing. By the time of discharge, Adhithi had reached 1,550 grams. At home, the support continued. Ms. Latha remained in touch, supported by tele-lactation services. Over time, routines stabilised. By February 2026, Adhithi weighed 6,700 grams and is developing well.

“When my baby was born so small, I was scared and unsure if I could properly care for her. With the constant support and encouragement I received, I found the strength to nurture her every day. Today, seeing her healthy and growing well fills my heart with happiness and hope.” says Poornima, her mother.

What made it possible

Adhithi's survival reflects a seamless, human-centred continuum of care that integrates facility and community into one system.

Infrastructure upgrades and quality certifications strengthened care at GMCH and Primary Health Centers (PHCs), while capacity-building enabled health workers to deliver with confidence. At the community level, frontline workers, Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Committees (VHSNCs) and SBCC tools embedded in government systems ensured families could access and continue care beyond facilities. For Poornima, guided from anxiety to confidence, integrated ICU protocols and tele-support ensured continuity, keeping Adhithi securely within a trusted care pathway throughout recovery.

Together, these elements reduce drop-offs and help families remain within the care pathway, where timely support can make all the difference.

“EKAM is a pillar of support for GMCH towards improvement of maternal and child health. In our rush, we are able to manage only critical care of the patients. EKAM team takes care of the counselling and that is a great relief for us. The Echo Machine donated through the Cognizant Foundation and EKAM partnership is a game changer and helps in providing timely care to children in the SNCU.”

— Dr. Sivaraman,
Head of Paediatrics, GMCH Thiruvallur

Metrics at a glance

6,938 Mothers and children benefited from improved services

3,485
High-risk mothers supported

2,076
High-risk newborns supported through KMC and lactation

02 Case story

Bridging the access gap



Early childhood



Karnataka



The Association of People with Disability



The challenge and context

As survival stabilises, the nature of risk begins to shift.

Beyond the neonatal stage, developmental concerns such as missed milestones, limited motor control, and delayed response emerge gradually, risking progression into long-term disabilities if not identified early.

Across some parts of Karnataka, these risks are severely compounded by the geographical and socio-economic landscape. There is a high concentration of children with disabilities in dispersed, remote, and hilly regions such as Bidar, Haveri, Ankola, Bellary, Sirsi, and parts of Mangalore. For many families, seeking



specialised support means enduring long travel and lost wages, making continuous follow-up nearly impossible. This challenge is further complicated by high maternal anaemia, low awareness, social stigma, and frontline facilities like Anganwadis frequently lacking the necessary infrastructure and training to detect these subtle delays in their earliest stages.

The response

Addressing this requires more than access; it requires continuity, ownership, and care that can stay close to the child.

Through its partnership with The Association of People with Disability (APD), Cognizant Foundation supports a community-based early intervention model focusing on children up to eight years old, with particular emphasis on those under five. Frontline workers, including Anganwadi workers, Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), Multipurpose Rehabilitation Workers (MRWs), and Village Rehabilitation Worker (VRWs), are trained to recognise early signs of delay and initiate local referrals. Once identified, each child receives an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) that blends centre-based therapy with home-based support, encompassing physiotherapy, early stimulation, assistive devices, and nutrition.

Crucially, the model centres on a 'Mother as Interventionist' approach, training caregivers to deliver daily therapy and track progress, transforming intervention from an occasional clinical visit into a continuous, home-based routine.

In focus: Nitesh—when a missed milestone was caught in time

Nitesh Naik's early days gave little indication of what lay ahead.

At three and a half months, he experienced his first seizure. Later he struggled to sit without support, could not crawl, and did not track objects visually. His parents sought answers across hospitals in Karnataka. When the diagnosis came—delayed brain development and intellectual disability—it brought clarity, but no clear path forward.

That path began to take shape closer to home. An Anganwadi worker identified Nitesh and initiated a referral. RBSK officials followed up, and he was enrolled in an early intervention programme tailored to his needs. At the centre, Nitesh received therapy, including gait training and balance exercises, supported by assistive devices such as a standing frame. Alongside, his mother, Pavitra, was trained to continue these interventions at home. Through the 'Mother as Interventionist' approach, Pavitra learned to monitor his progress and apply stimulation techniques between sessions. Over time, she became a Champion Mother, extending therapy into daily life.

Progress was gradual but meaningful. Nitesh gained motor control, became more responsive, and engaged more actively with his surroundings. Today, he can half-kneel, stand and walk with support, make simple sounds, and participate in play.

"He tries a lot to stand now and is able to stand in a frame for 15-30 minutes. He understands everything we communicate and has shown remarkable improvement over the last year. He calls everyone at home for love and affection. When I take him to the Anganwadi, he observes everything closely. I am planning to get him registered there soon."

— Pavitra, Mother

What made it possible

Nitesh's progress underscores the strategic value of decentralising early intervention.

Traditional, hospital-centric models often fail dispersed communities due to the friction of geography and the high cost of specialised access. By transforming distant clinical care into a daily household routine, the intervention eliminated access barriers and ensured uninterrupted, sustainable developmental gains.

At the same time, the system around the child is beginning to function differently. Through APD's model, frontline workers are not only identifying cases earlier, but following through with referrals and continued engagement. Families, once uncertain, are now able to carry therapy forward within the home. In Sirsi, a recent measurement camp saw all 32 village rehabilitation workers and the MRW actively participating, marking a shift from limited engagement to collective ownership of early intervention.

Metrics at a glance

728 Children with special needs and developmental delays supported

527 Parents trained in therapy

5,256 Stakeholders sensitised on disability

The prevention thread – case stories

Protecting vision. Across life stages.

Visual disability



While many risks cut across disabilities, some require a more focused response. Vision loss is one of them, widespread, yet often preventable.

This shift brings sharper attention to how sight is protected across life stages. From fragile newborns to school-going children and adults, outcomes are shaped by timing, early screening, timely treatment, and sustained access to care.

Cognizant Foundation's approach addresses this continuum through targeted interventions that combine early detection, technology-enabled care, and strong system partnerships. In doing so, it seeks to prevent avoidable blindness before it takes hold.

These stories reflect what becomes possible when sight is protected at the right time, supporting learning, sustaining independence, and enabling opportunity across a lifetime.

03 Case story

Protecting sight in preterm infants



Neonatal stage



Maharashtra



Mission for Vision (MFV)

The challenge and context

Protecting sight in the earliest days of life depends on acting within a narrow and critical window. As more premature infants live beyond their first weeks, Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) emerges as a leading, silently developing, and rapidly progressing cause of preventable childhood blindness. Affecting infants born before 34 weeks or weighing 2,000 grams or less, ROP requires highly timely screening to prevent irreversible vision loss.

In Maharashtra, navigating these risks is hindered by significant coverage gaps. While the state's 36 SNCUs see an estimated 16,000 preterm infants requiring ROP screening annually within the public system, these vital services are not uniformly available. Delayed screening, weak follow-up, and limited caregiver awareness increase the risk of progression. For vulnerable families, the complexities of navigating referrals and accessing



care compress an already narrow window for intervention, often resulting in tragic, avoidable outcomes.

The response

Addressing this requires embedding timely screening and treatment within neonatal care itself.

In association with Mission for Vision, Cognizant Foundation focuses on this critical window through a facility-based screening model across SNCUs and NICUs in Pune and Satara districts. Neonates are screened before discharge or within 30 days of life using wide-field retinal imaging or indirect ophthalmoscopy. These retinal images are transmitted to specialists through tele-ophthalmology, enabling immediate, real-time diagnosis.

Referral and treatment support is anchored at H.V. Desai Eye Hospital, where infants diagnosed with treatable ROP receive interventions, such as laser, injection, or surgery, within 48-72 hours, completely free of cost. At the same time, the programme strengthens the surrounding healthcare system by comprehensively training neonatal nurses, paediatricians, and ASHA networks, improving awareness and cementing strong referral pathways.

In focus: Anita—a 48-hour window that protected her newborn's sight

Anita's journey highlights the profound urgency of acting within this clinical window.

Following the loss of her first husband and years of challenges conceiving, she and her second husband opted for IVF, investing their limited resources. This resulted in a high-risk pregnancy where one twin was tragically lost. To save Anita and the surviving baby, an emergency caesarean section was performed at 31.4 weeks.

The baby, born prematurely and weighing only 1,500 grams, was immediately admitted to the NICU for surfactant therapy, oxygen support, and jaundice treatment. During the first ROP screening on December 16, 2025, the baby was diagnosed with Aggressive ROP. The very next day, the child was referred to H.V. Desai Eye Hospital and successfully received a sight-saving anti-VEGF injection.

Today, the baby remains under regular follow-up, with each visit playing a role in preserving vision. For Anita and her husband, dependent on farming income with limited financial security, the journey is demanding. Yet, timely intervention ensured that blindness was not inevitable.

What made it possible

The difference lies in acting within the clinical window, consistently and without delay.

Screening is integrated into neonatal care, ensuring infants are identified at the right time. Technology enables real-time diagnosis, while clearly defined treatment timelines ensure prompt intervention.

Equally important is the strengthening of the ecosystem around care. Capacity building across healthcare providers and awareness among caregivers improve adherence to screening, referral, and follow-up protocols. Engagement with public health systems further aligns stakeholders across the care pathway.

Together, these elements ensure that identification, diagnosis, and treatment remain connected, reducing delays at every stage and preserving sight when it matters most.

Metrics at a glance

2,572 Preterm babies screened and parents sensitised

243 Babies identified with ROP

78 Medical interventions

63 Health workers sensitised

04 Case story

Restoring learning through clear vision



Childhood stage



Maharashtra



Mission for Vision (MFV)



The challenge and context

The shift from survival to learning often hinges on what a child is able to see. Uncorrected refractive errors and ocular conditions rarely announce themselves; instead, they surface quietly in classrooms through difficulty seeing the board, hesitation in participating, and reduced engagement. If missed, these issues directly shape long-term learning outcomes and development.

These gaps become highly pronounced in settings where access and awareness are limited. In Maharashtra, a vast population and low prioritisation of preventive eye care increase the risk of undetected vision issues. Districts like Thane report high rates of visual impairment, and children with poor vision are up to 2-5 times less likely to be in formal education, leading to massive losses in learning potential. Within this context, children in government and low-income schools across districts like Raigad continue to face profound barriers of access, awareness, and affordability for basic eye care.



The response

Addressing this requires shifting the point of care closer to where children are, embedding it directly within the school system itself.

In association with Mission for Vision, Cognizant Foundation delivers a targeted, school-based screening programme across Raigad district. Children are screened within their own schools, enabling early identification without disrupting their educational access. Refractive errors are promptly corrected through the provision of free, child-friendly spectacles, frequently selected by the children themselves to encourage comfort and consistent use.

For more complex conditions requiring detailed evaluation or surgery, children are seamlessly referred to R. Jhunjhunwala Sankara Eye Hospital. The programme extends beyond clinical care through one-on-one counselling that supports families in understanding and following through with treatments. Furthermore, teachers are actively trained to identify early signs, encourage spectacle usage, and reduce classroom stigma, ensuring correction is sustained.

In focus: Om—when school screenings unlocked a brighter future

Om Mali, a 13-year-old Grade 8 student, lives in Shedung village with his parents and younger sister. His father, a bus driver, supports the entire family on a limited income.

At the age of seven, his parents noticed a squint. A hospital visit in Mumbai confirmed the condition and recommended surgery, but the procedure remained entirely unaffordable for the family. Om was prescribed spectacles, which he used inconsistently, and the underlying condition went unaddressed for years.

Years later, a school screening brought the issue back into focus. On January 7, 2025, a camp identified the squint and referred him to R. Jhunjhunwala Sankara Eye Hospital. The very next day, a paediatric ophthalmologist evaluated him and recommended corrective surgery. When his parents hesitated over the cost, a hospital counsellor guided them through the process, explaining that the procedure would be fully supported. Om underwent successful surgery on January 17, 2025.

“We were very worried about the cost of surgery, but thanks to Cognizant Foundation, Mission for Vision, and the R. Jhunjhunwala Sankara Eye Hospital team, our son received treatment free of cost,” his parents shared. “Seeing his eyes aligned properly has brought us great relief and happiness.”

What made it possible

Behind this outcome is a system designed to stay connected from identification to recovery.

Screenings conducted directly in government and low-income schools ensure early identification without requiring families to seek care independently. Clear referral linkages to R. Jhunjhunwala Sankara Eye Hospital enable timely diagnosis and treatment, including surgery where required. The provision of free spectacles and no-cost treatment removes a key financial barrier.

Equally critical is the role of teachers and counselling. Teachers reinforce early identification and consistent usage, while one-on-one engagement with families improves acceptance and adherence. Follow-up by the project team, along with school-level monitoring, ensures that intervention continues beyond detection.

Together, these elements ensure that identification leads to completed treatment, and that correction is sustained in daily school life.

Metrics at a glance

193 Schools across Raigad and Navi Mumbai

206 Teachers trained

68,530 Children screened in Maharashtra

2,014
Eye glasses provided

14
Surgeries conducted

05 Case story

Eye care that restores independence and dignity



Adulthood stage



Maharashtra



Operation Eyesight India (OEI)



The challenge and context

As the lifecycle progresses, visual impairment begins to profoundly affect adult independence, productivity, and dignity. Conditions such as cataract, uncorrected refractive errors, and diabetic eye disease are highly common and treatable. However, for individuals dependent on daily wages, gradual vision loss often means stepping away from work and mobility, quietly turning a manageable condition into avoidable blindness due to an inability to access care.

In Bhawanipeth, a densely populated slum in Pune, these challenges are driven by harsh everyday realities. Congested housing and informal livelihoods, from



daily wage labour to petty trade, leave households highly vulnerable. In these settings, the fear of losing a day's income heavily deters health-seeking behaviour. Coupled with the state's significant burden of blindness among populations aged 50 and above, this lack of local access and awareness results in widespread untreated eye conditions across underserved urban communities.

The response

Bridging this gap requires bringing comprehensive care closer, both physically and systemically.

In partnership with Operation Eyesight India, Cognizant Foundation established the Bhawanipeth Vision Centre, creating a reliable, local access point for eye care within the community itself. The centre addresses refractive errors, cataract, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy, making essential diagnosis and primary care highly accessible.

The model is activated at the household level, where Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) conduct door-to-door screenings to identify early signs and confidently refer individuals to the Vision Centre. From there, well-defined referral pathways seamlessly connect patients to base hospitals for further diagnosis and free or subsidised surgical interventions. CHVs and frontline workers build deep community trust, actively encouraging care-seeking among vulnerable groups, while follow-up systems ensure that treatments are completed and outcomes are permanently sustained.

At the system level, government primary healthcare staff are trained, and referral linkages are strengthened, embedding primary eye care within the broader public health ecosystem.

In focus: Lakshi—when a doorstep visit restored her world

For Lakshi Sarode, a 70-year-old resident of Bhawanipeth, vision loss was not sudden, but gradual and deeply unsettling.

In May 2023, she began losing sight in her left eye. Routine activities, cooking, cleaning, and moving around her modest home, became difficult and unsafe. With each passing day, the fear of complete blindness and the dependence it would bring grew stronger. Living in a densely populated neighbourhood with limited access to health services, she worried deeply about becoming a burden to her family.

Her turning point came through a direct doorstep interaction. Community Health Volunteer (CHV) Meera Shinde identified her condition during a routine visit and referred her to the Bhawanipeth Vision Centre. Lakshi was diagnosed and underwent cataract surgery, followed by timely YAG laser treatment when complications arose. Six months later, when her right eye deteriorated, she returned to the system with complete confidence, undergoing a successful second mature cataract surgery.

“Now I can see everything, my home, my husband, the world around me,” she says with a bright smile. “I feel truly happy. I can cook, clean, and move around without fear.”

What made it possible

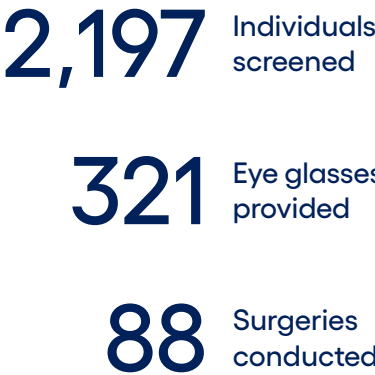
The shift lies in making eye care both accessible and continuous.

Door-to-door screening ensures early identification at the household level. The Vision Centre provides a reliable, local point for diagnosis and primary care. Clear referral pathways enable timely surgical intervention, while free or subsidised treatment removes financial barriers.

At the same time, capacity building, across Community Health Volunteers (CHVs), vision centre staff, and government healthcare workers, strengthens delivery and referral systems. Integration with public health programmes such as National Programme for Control of Blindness & Visual Impairment (NPCB&VI) aligns these efforts with district systems, supporting long-term continuity.

Together, these elements ensure that identification leads to treatment, and treatment leads to sustained outcomes, preventing avoidable blindness before it becomes permanent.

Metrics at a glance



The volunteer’s perspective

Being part of the Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) screening camp at Villupuram Government Medical College Hospital on behalf of Cognizant Foundation was an experience that left a lasting impact on me. My heartfelt thanks to the Cognizant Outreach team for providing me this wonderful opportunity. I am based out of Chennai and was travelling to Villupuram out of my own interest to support the needy for this cause. I have been volunteering for Naan Mudhalvan Phase I in Villupuram region and so opted Villupuram Government Medical College Hospital as I know that it was a rural area which needs attention on this aspect.

Walking into the camp, I expected to see doctors, nurses, and medical equipment. What stayed with me, however, were the emotions that filled the room, hope, anxiety, resilience, and immense love. Every child waiting to be screened represented a future full of promise, while every parent carried silent prayers for reassuring news.

One moment I will never forget was watching a mother hold her nine-month-old baby close as the echocardiogram was conducted. As the doctor carefully examined the screen, she quietly prayed. When the doctor smiled and confirmed that everything was normal, she broke down in tears of relief. Equally moving was another family whose child’s scan revealed an abnormality. The doctor’s calm explanation of the next steps reminded me that healthcare is as much about compassion and reassurance as it is about diagnosis and treatment.

I was also deeply touched by meeting a 15-year-old boy attending his annual follow-up after undergoing open-heart surgery as a toddler. Listening to his widowed mother recount their journey and speak about living for her only son was profoundly emotional.

The experience reinforced how critical early screening and timely intervention are in giving children the opportunity to lead healthy lives. I am grateful to Cognizant Foundation for enabling me to be part of this initiative and witness the life-changing impact that accessible healthcare can create.

“I left the camp that day with a heart full of emotion. The camp was not just about medical testing, but also giving families hope and reassurance. I witnessed science and humanity working hand in hand. The doctors gave every family a chance of peace, and every baby a chance of life.”



Sarath Babu E.
Volunteer
Project Manager, Cognizant Technology Solutions



The inclusion thread

The continuum of inclusion



Visual disability



Cross-disability



Ms. Vinita Bali

Chairperson of the Board, Cognizant Foundation

Ms. Vinita Bali brings deep global leadership experience and a strong strategic lens to Cognizant Foundation. She consistently encourages the Foundation to view its interventions as interconnected journeys rather than standalone programmes, fostering a lifecycle approach that enhances long-term impact. Combining a keen eye for detail with a broad strategic perspective, she has helped strengthen programme quality while guiding the Foundation's efforts to scale and focus on a select portfolio of flagship initiatives.

Prevention protects potential; access truly unlocks it.

As we move beyond preventing disability in the earliest stages of life, the next step in our lifecycle approach is ensuring that children and young people with disabilities are able to access the services they need to learn, participate, and grow.

Across India, millions of children with disabilities are enrolled in schools but remain excluded from meaningful learning because essential supports, therapy, special education, assistive devices, and accessible environments, are unevenly available. Public systems aspire to provide these services, yet resource shortages and fragmented delivery often leave families navigating this journey alone.

Cognizant Foundation's strategy addresses this gap by strengthening access to services that make education and development possible. By revitalising government resource centres, enabling multi-disciplinary therapies, building educator capacity, and supporting families, we help ensure that early developmental challenges do not harden into secondary disabilities or learning gaps.

The stories that follow illustrate how improved access to services within schools, communities, and public systems helps children progress in their learning, participate with confidence, and move towards greater independence.

Early interventions to career readiness

Cross-disability



As individuals progress from childhood into young adulthood, the nature of the barriers they face shifts significantly. What begins as a need for early therapeutic intervention in the classroom evolves into a demand for accessible, industry-aligned skilling that can facilitate entry into the formal workforce. The following stories highlight our cross-disability interventions that span this continuum. They illustrate our commitment to bridging critical gaps at every life stage, from ensuring that young children receive multi-disciplinary therapy in inclusive educational environments to equipping young adults with the customised training and post-placement support necessary to transition successfully into sustainable careers.

01 Case story

Foundational skill training for inclusive employability



Adulthood stage



West Bengal



Dr. Reddy's Foundation (DRF)

The challenge and context

As children with disabilities transition into adulthood, education does not automatically translate into job readiness. Across India, many youth face a combination of limited training opportunities, low digital literacy, and restrictive social attitudes. Even when capable, they encounter workplaces that are unequipped or hesitant to hire them, leaving many young people marginalised and without clear pathways into the formal workforce.



This is particularly evident in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities across West Bengal. Youth with formal degrees fall short of industry expectations due to critical gaps in communicative English, basic IT literacy, and soft skills. For youth with orthopaedic, visual, or speech and hearing impairments, employer bias regarding their mobility and capability further narrows their options. This combination results in a cycle of repeated rejections, deeply impacting their confidence and locking them out of the formal workforce.

The response

Breaking this cycle demands an end-to-end pathway connecting customised learning with direct employer linkages. In partnership with Dr. Reddy's Foundation, Cognizant Foundation supports a comprehensive 60-day skilling programme focusing on core employability and BPO curriculum. Designed specifically for persons with disabilities, the adaptive training integrates communicative English, basic IT, and life skills, supported by accessibility tools such as sign language interpreters and screen readers. Beyond the classroom, the programme leverages an AI-enabled job matching portal to efficiently connect candidates with the right opportunities. Crucially, continuous post-placement support ensures that young adults successfully transition into their new roles, bridging the gap between raw potential and long-term industry success.



In focus: Sayan—when a degree met the right direction

Twenty-four-year-old Sayan's journey illustrates the profound impact of connecting skills with opportunity.

Hailing from a village near Singur in Hooghly district, Sayan lives with a locomotor disability resulting from childhood polio. Following the loss of his father, his family's financial stability rested entirely on his older brother. Driven to support them, Sayan completed his Bachelor of Arts degree. However, stepping into the job market brought continuous rejections stemming from a lack of computer knowledge, poor communication skills, and employer biases regarding his mobility, rapidly eroding his hope. A referral led Sayan to the Dr. Reddy's Foundation training centre in Kolkata. Over 60 days, he developed foundational IT skills, refined his spoken English, and participated in mock interviews that rebuilt his confidence. This focused preparation culminated in a successful interview at Hinduja Global Solutions (HGS), where Sayan is now employed as a Customer Support Executive earning ₹14,000 per month.

"I used to think my disability and my village background would always hold me back," Sayan reflects. "Dr. Reddy's Foundation gave me not just skills, but the courage to face the world. Now, I am supporting my mother, and I feel proud of who I am."

What made it possible

The success of this transition lies in shifting the focus from simply 'training' to comprehensive employment readiness.

The programme addresses both the individual's skill gaps and the systemic barriers to hiring. By providing adaptive learning environments equipped with necessary accessibility features, the training ensures no candidate is left behind. Furthermore, the use of AI-driven job matching combined with sustained post-placement support bridges the critical gap between securing a job and retaining it, ensuring both employees and employers are set up for lasting success.

Metrics at a glance

106 Aspirants trained in core employability skills

94 Aspirants successfully employed

The volunteer's perspective

Volunteering with Dr. Reddy's Foundation (DRF), West Bengal, on behalf of Cognizant was a deeply rewarding experience. During the sessions, I had the opportunity to engage with persons with disabilities, sharing insights on current market trends, resume building, LinkedIn, and practical IT tools to help strengthen their professional readiness.

This experience reinforced the importance of making career guidance truly accessible. Breaking down concepts such as personal branding, resume writing, and digital tools into simple, actionable steps, while adapting to each participant's pace and confidence, highlighted how inclusive learning can empower individuals to prepare for meaningful careers.

One of the most fulfilling moments was seeing participants actively refine their resumes and LinkedIn profiles during the session, gaining confidence as they realised these professional tools were within their reach. Their eagerness to learn and grow was truly inspiring. I also had

the privilege of participating in DRF's National Disability Day celebration in Howrah, which was an equally inspiring experience and offered another opportunity to witness the resilience and aspirations of the community.

I am grateful to Cognizant and DRF West Bengal for this opportunity and look forward to volunteering again.



Subham Mallick
Volunteer
Associate, Cognizant Technology Solutions

Enabling self-reliance for Persons with Visual Impairment (PVI)

Visual disability



As we work to strengthen access across disabilities, visual impairment requires a focused intervention. It is one of the most common yet deeply systemic challenges in India. For a child with visual impairment, meaningful participation in education relies on specialised tools, tactile learning environments, and accessible content. The following stories highlight how Cognizant Foundation bridges the gap between rote memorisation and true comprehension, enabling learners with visual impairment to engage, understand, and pursue opportunities on an equal footing.

02 Case story

Making STEAM education accessible



Childhood stage



Tamil Nadu



Vision Empower Trust (VET)

The challenge and context

For children with visual impairment, access to education must go beyond mere enrolment; they require the tools to truly comprehend the world around them. Across many special schools, education remains heavily dependent on rote learning and verbal explanations. For highly visual and spatial subjects like Mathematics and Science, solely relying on teachers or sighted peers to describe diagrams, maps, or equations leaves concepts feeling entirely abstract. Without access to tactile learning tools, interactive models, or modern assistive technology, students are forced into the passive exercise of memorising formulas and shapes they cannot physically experience. This lack of independence hinders logical thinking, stifles scientific curiosity, and restricts their agency and confidence in the classroom.



The response

Addressing this aspect requires shifting the pedagogical approach from 'hearing about' to 'experiencing.'

In partnership with Vision Empower Trust, Cognizant Foundation is bringing tech-enabled STEAM education to special schools for the blind in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal. The intervention disrupts traditional rote learning by introducing tactile, play-based learning kits, such as geoboards and Jodo straws, allowing students to physically construct and feel geometric shapes.

Alongside these tactile tools, the programme introduces digital independence through the Hexis device, an electronic braille reader. By equipping students with targeted assistive technology, the intervention allows them to independently access books, news, and study materials, effectively transforming abstract ideas into tangible, comprehensible concepts.

In focus: Gopika—when learning became tangible

Gopika, an eighth-grade student at the Indian Association for the Blind (IAB) school in Madurai, has always been ambitious. She dreams of becoming a bank manager. Yet, the path to her goal was often frustrating.

Math, in particular, felt like a distant, abstract language. Unable to visualise geometric shapes or scientific concepts through verbal explanations alone, she relied entirely on rote memory to pass her exams. Subjects that should have sparked curiosity instead felt like chores.

The introduction of Vision Empower's tactile tools fundamentally changed her classroom experience. Instead of just memorising the properties of a triangle, Gopika used the geoboard and Jodo straws to construct shapes herself, understanding geometry through touch and interaction. Science transformed from a list of facts into a series of meaningful activities.

Her independence grew further with the Hexis device. Previously dependent on her teachers to read the news during school assemblies, Gopika can now read independently. The device has given her the power to access study materials on her own schedule, replacing reliance with autonomy.

Today, Gopika's logical thinking and curiosity have flourished. She no longer just memorises; she understands.

What made it possible

The transformation from passive memorisation to active learning was driven by providing the right tools at the right time.

By combining low-tech tactile solutions (like geoboards) with high-tech assistive devices (like Hexis), the programme caters to multiple ways of learning. Furthermore, it shifts the role of the student from a dependent receiver of information to an independent explorer. This dual approach of tactile engagement and digital autonomy enables students to deeply comprehend complex STEAM subjects, proving that with the right environment, visual impairment is not a barrier to scientific curiosity or academic excellence.

Metrics at a glance

21 Blind schools equipped with tactile and tech-enabled learning tools

4,130 Teachers trained in inclusive learning methodologies

937 Students trained in the use of assistive technology

03 Case story

Unlocking independence through skill building



Adulthood stage



Pan-India



Help The Blind Foundation (HTBF)



The challenge and context

Entering higher education is a significant milestone for young people with visual impairment, but university environments are fundamentally different from special schools. Across India, many visually impaired students arrive at university from rural or semi-urban backgrounds, suddenly finding themselves in an environment where independent research, email communication, and computer literacy are mandatory. Without advanced digital skills, independent mobility confidence, or exposure to modern assistive tools, the sheer volume of reading materials and the necessity of navigating large, unfamiliar campuses can be



overwhelming. This lack of targeted intervention leaves talented students dependent on sighted peers or scribes, creating profound isolation and a severe disadvantage as they attempt to transition from higher education into a highly competitive formal job market.

The response

Addressing this requires equipping students not just for college, but for independence.

Through its partnership with Help The Blind Foundation, Cognizant Foundation supports the Empowerment through Mobility, Employability, and Training (EMET) programme. This initiative provides comprehensive support to visually impaired college students across India, focusing on digital literacy, communication skills, mobility training, and career readiness.

The programme recognises that true inclusion in higher education requires a multi-faceted approach. Students are trained to use screen

reading software, enabling them to access digital libraries, complete assignments, and browse the internet independently. Simultaneously, rigorous mobility training empowers them to navigate their college campuses and cities safely. Beyond academics, the EMET programme focuses on employability, offering soft skills training, spoken English classes, and interview preparation, ensuring that these young adults are fully equipped to enter the professional world.

In focus: Gungun—moving from isolation to independence

Gungun, a young woman from a rural background, started her college journey feeling lost and overwhelmed.

The sheer size of the campus and the sudden reliance on digital resources for her classes left her deeply dependent on others and academically disconnected. Her enrolment in the EMET programme marked a turning point. She learned foundational digital skills, discovering how to use screen readers to independently access books and send emails without assistance.

Alongside digital literacy, structured mobility training taught her to navigate the campus on her own, transforming a daunting environment into a familiar one. As her independence grew, the programme's focus on communication and employability skills helped her clearly articulate her ambitions.

“Before EMET, I felt like a burden. I had to wait for someone to help me cross the campus or read a notice,” Gungun shares. “Now, with the help of my white cane and the mobility training I received, I can walk to class on my own. I can now operate a computer which is helping me prepare for my career. I feel like I am finally in charge of my own life.”

What made it possible

The profound shift in Gungun's trajectory was made possible by treating independence as a teachable skill set.

By providing a holistic curriculum that addresses both physical mobility and digital literacy, the EMET programme removes the most significant barriers visually impaired students face in higher education. The intervention goes beyond academic support; it builds self-reliance. Equipping students with these essential tools ensures that they are not merely surviving college, but actively participating, leading, and preparing themselves for successful careers.

Metrics at a glance

751 Students trained in employability and mobility

146 Women facilitated with scholarships

195 Men facilitated with scholarships

The technology thread

Expanding access through purposeful technology



Mr. Rajesh Nambiar
Director, Cognizant Foundation

Mr. Rajesh Nambiar brings a future-focused perspective to Cognizant Foundation's work, backed by over three decades of leadership in digital transformation and technology-driven businesses. He encourages the Foundation to continually revisit its priorities in response to India's evolving socio-economic landscape, while championing technology as a force multiplier for social impact. His insights help shape innovative and scalable interventions that expand reach, strengthen effectiveness and deliver measurable outcomes for underserved communities.

Technology is most powerful when it does not stand apart from human need, but quietly expands what people can access, experience, and achieve.

Across health, education and skilling, Cognizant Foundation recognises technology as a critical enabler of inclusion. In underserved communities, it can bring high-quality learning to under-resourced classrooms, support teachers with personalised tools, and open new pathways for children and youth who might otherwise remain on the margins.

The Foundation views technology not as a standalone solution, but as an equaliser that widens access, an amplifier that strengthens public systems, and a bridge that connects learners to future opportunities.

When thoughtfully integrated, it can deepen understanding, unlock accessibility and build the digital confidence essential for education, employability and independent participation.

The stories that follow show how technology-led models, rooted in public systems and designed for inclusion, are reshaping learning experiences across India. They reflect a simple belief: when innovation is guided by purpose, it can help individuals learn with greater confidence, participate with greater agency and aspire with a stronger sense of possibility.

01 Case story

Tech-led mastery in mathematics



Childhood stage



Maharashtra



Khan Academy India



The challenge and context

In many government schools, students enter classrooms with vastly different foundational understandings. In Mathematics, missed concepts compound quickly, causing confidence to decline and anxiety to rise as the curriculum advances.

Across Zilla Parishad schools in Maharashtra, addressing these individual learning gaps is exceptionally difficult. Digital resources are scarce, and students from underserved communities often have little exposure to technology at home or school. Teachers, meanwhile, are expected to integrate digital learning without structured training. This lack of self-paced practice and targeted remediation prevents the personalised support necessary to manage diverse classroom capabilities.



The response

Addressing this requires combining technology with structured pedagogy. Through its partnership with Khan Academy India, Cognizant Foundation supports a mastery-based digital learning model across Zilla Parishad schools. To improve mathematics learning, the intervention empowers students to learn at their own pace, ensuring progression is driven by demonstrated understanding instead of classroom averages. The programme integrates app-based learning with data-driven progress tracking. Crucially, teachers receive ongoing support to incorporate these tools into regular instruction, utilising simple reporting dashboards to identify learning gaps and personalise their teaching approach.

In focus: Krushna—the phone that changed sides

Krushna Munfund, a sixth-grade student at Zilla Parishad Primary School, Dhanore, Pune, has always shown an interest in Mathematics and Science. However, access to structured practice outside the classroom was limited.

Krushna's parents run a small pharmacy near the school. Like many families in the area, they manage their livelihood carefully and prioritise their child's education within their constraints. At home, there was a smartphone, but his parents associated it primarily with entertainment and distraction. Their concerns about screen time were so strong that they actively requested school communication and homework not be shared through WhatsApp. While they valued education, they did not initially view digital devices as credible tools for learning.

The introduction of the Khan Academy platform at school created a gradual shift in this perception. Krushna began practising on the platform during the designated school period. Soon, he started practising at home too, on the very same phone his parents had once wanted to keep away from schoolwork.

What changed was not merely access to a device, but how that device was used. Krushna's parents began observing him engaged in structured exercises, revisiting instructional videos when concepts were unclear, and attempting questions independently. The visibility of purposeful academic use reduced their hesitation and increased their comfort with supervised home practice.

Within the classroom, his teacher noted that Krushna began attempting problems more independently and was more willing to engage in follow-up discussions. This shift towards self-directed learning highlighted how a guided digital framework can create continuity between school and home.

What made it possible

Technology worked because it was built into the system.

The success of this intervention lies in systemic integration, not superficial adoption.

The programme does not simply provide software. It embeds a dedicated Khan Academy period within official school timetables, ensuring that structured digital learning becomes a regular part of the academic schedule.

It also invests in strengthening the government education system itself. District Nodal Officers, DIET Principals and senior teachers are trained to monitor academic quality, provide peer mentoring and use data dashboards effectively. By integrating platform usage data into routine academic review forums, the programme strengthens government processes and builds institutional capability that can sustain beyond the initial intervention.

Metrics at a glance

15,029 Students benefiting from mastery-based learning in Mathematics

207 Teachers trained to use data-driven instructional methods

02 Case story

Enabling tech careers for women



Adulthood stage



Andhra Pradesh



ICT Academy of Tamil Nadu



The challenge and context

For many young women in semi-urban and rural India, completing a higher education degree does not automatically translate into formal employment. Graduates often remain disconnected from fast-growing, technology-led sectors like cloud computing and data analytics.

This divide is highly pronounced among young women from low-income and first-generation graduate families. While pursuing degrees in local colleges, these students lack exposure to industry-aligned skills, and geographic and financial constraints heavily restrict their access to specialised private training.



Consequently, capable graduates are left without the specific technical competencies, mentorship, and professional confidence demanded by the modern digital workforce.

The response

Closing this employability gap requires embedding industry-level training directly within higher education institutions.

Through its partnership with ICT Academy of Tamil Nadu, Cognizant Foundation supports the establishment of Centres for Women Empowerment across colleges in Andhra Pradesh. The programme equips young women with advanced, future-ready IT skills, bridging the divide between academic theory and practical industry expectations. The intervention combines hands-on technical training with structured mentorship from industry

professionals, hackathons, and leadership platforms. Designed for holistic digital readiness, the initiative actively links candidates to campus placement opportunities to transition young women into confident technology professionals.

In focus: Sathi Chaitanya Sai Durga—a farmer's daughter codes her future

Sathi Chaitanya Sai Durga grew up in a small village near Surampalem in Andhra Pradesh, where life was shaped by seasons, soil and the uncertainty of rainfall. As the daughter of a farmer and a homemaker, her family's annual income of ₹1,50,000 depended largely on crop yields. Even through the strain of poor harvests, her parents supported her aspiration to become the first graduate in the family.

A B. Tech Computer Science Engineering student at Pragati Engineering College, Sathi had ambition and academic commitment. What she lacked was the industry-specific guidance required to enter the competitive IT sector.

Her trajectory changed when she enrolled in the Certificate Course on Cloud, facilitated by ICT Academy of Tamil Nadu and Cognizant Foundation.

The training helped bridge the gap between classroom theory and real-world application. Sathi gained hands-on exposure to Amazon Web Services, learning to deploy virtual servers, manage cloud storage and build serverless applications.

The programme also strengthened her professional confidence. Through mock interviews, communication workshops and time-management frameworks such as the Eisenhower Matrix, she gradually transformed her stage fright into articulate self-expression.

Equipped with industry-relevant cloud skills and refined soft skills, Sathi achieved a life-changing milestone: a placement at HCLTech.

"The course was not just a training programme, it was the bridge between a farmer's daughter's dream and a technology professional's reality," Sathi reflects.

For a young woman whose family's stability once depended on the weather, this placement marks the beginning of financial independence and a new chapter of empowerment.



What made it possible

The success of this initiative lies in its sustainable, institution-based model.

By establishing training centres directly within college campuses, the programme eliminated the geographic and financial friction of seeking external technical courses. Furthermore, by upskilling faculty mentors and directly linking the training to established campus placement networks, the intervention created a self-sustaining cycle of employability deeply embedded within the existing educational ecosystem.

Metrics at a glance

334 Young women trained in advanced, industry-aligned IT skills

10 Centres for women empowerment established in higher education institutions

03 Case story

Advancing rural eye care through technology



Adulthood stage



West Bengal



Sankara Jyoti Eye Institute



The challenge and context

While technology is reshaping primary eye care, its impact is limited if it cannot travel the last mile. In regions where hospitals are distant and public transport is prohibitive, preventable conditions such as cataract and diabetic retinopathy routinely progress into lifelong visual impairment. In the North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, severe geographic and economic barriers restrict access to institutional care. For elderly individuals and daily-wage earners, travelling to a district hospital often means losing a day's income. Consequently, patients delay seeking treatment until their vision has severely deteriorated, creating a massive backlog of complex, untreated conditions and forcing vulnerable populations into preventable blindness and economic dependence.



The response

Addressing this gap requires taking the clinic directly to the community.

In partnership with Sankara Jyoti Eye Institute, Cognizant Foundation supports a comprehensive mobile eye care initiative, deploying fully equipped mobile vision vans as 'clinics on wheels'. These units bring digital ophthalmic tools to underserved communities across North 24 Parganas and Kolkata. Frontline medical teams utilise technology for real-time patient data capture and the rapid identification of refractive errors, cataracts, and diabetic retinopathy right at the doorstep. Crucially, the intervention establishes a direct linkage between community screening and institutional care, enabling transparent follow-ups and timely surgical interventions.

In focus: Rakhal—eye care at the village doorstep

For 74-year-old Rakhal from Mouli village in Minakhan, a persistent vision problem had affected his life for several years.

His family of three depended entirely on his daughter-in-law, an ICDS worker and the sole earning member of the household. As Rakhal's eyesight deteriorated, it became a source of worry for the family, adding emotional strain to their daily challenges.

Hope arrived when the tech-enabled mobile vision van came to Minakhan. His daughter-in-law brought him to the community camp, where the medical team conducted a digital eye check-up and diagnosed him with a mature cataract.

The on-site screening enabled the team to promptly refer him to Sankara Jyoti Eye Institute for surgery. Following a successful operation in January 2026 and subsequent follow-up care, Rakhal began regaining his independence.

Today, he is slowly returning to his daily routines. The restoration of his sight has not only lifted the uncertainty from his own life, but also brought relief to his family, especially his daughter-in-law, who had carried the weight of his care alongside the responsibility of earning for the household.

What made it possible

The effectiveness of this last-mile delivery model stems from its deep integration with the existing public health system.

Rather than operating in parallel, the mobile screening units actively coordinate with government Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres to manage patient referrals. By aligning seamlessly with National Blindness Control initiatives, the programme ensures that early digital detection instantly translates into sustained, reliable medical care.

Metrics at a glance

3,547	Individuals screened through mobile vision vans
333	Spectacles dispensed to correct refractive errors
325	Individuals identified with DR, glaucoma and other ailments
45	Patients treated for DR, Glaucoma, and other ailments

The volunteer's perspective

Volunteering at the school eye screening camp for government school students was an incredibly rewarding experience where I got an opportunity to support our little friends. Seeing firsthand the dedication of Cognizant Foundation and Mission for Vision in bringing essential eye care to these children was truly inspiring. The process was so well-organised, from the initial vision checks with the letter boards to the detailed examinations by the optometrists. What struck me most was the immediate impact and the sheer joy on the faces of the students when they received their new spectacles and could finally see clearly. It wasn't just about vision correction; it was about opening up a whole new world for them, improving their ability to learn, participate in class, and simply enjoy their childhood. The gratitude expressed by the students and teachers was deeply touching. It reinforced the importance of such initiatives and left me feeling

privileged to have played a small part in making a tangible difference in their lives.

I wholeheartedly encourage others to volunteer for such camps. It is an eye-opening experience in more ways than one!

"One small help can bring a bigger change and vision in one's life!"



G. Priya Dharshini
Volunteer
Junior Executive, Cognizant Technology Solutions



The resilience thread

Building the backbone

Prevention protects potential. Access unlocks it. Resilience ensures it lasts.

For change to last, communities need more than isolated interventions. They need systems that continue to respond long after a programme has begun: frontline workers who are trusted, referral networks that function, public institutions that coordinate, and services that remain accessible when families need them most.

This is where Cognizant Foundation's resilience thread comes into focus. Across health and education, our work goes beyond delivering support at a single point in time. It strengthens the public and community systems around people, so that progress does not depend only on one project, one partner, or one moment of intervention.

By deepening government linkages, building local capacity, enabling frontline teams and improving the continuity of service delivery, we help create pathways that communities can rely on. The aim is not just to solve immediate gaps, but to make the system stronger for the next child, the next family, and the next generation.

The stories that follow reflect this shift from direct intervention to deeper system strengthening. Rooted in community engagement and shaped through close partnership with public institutions, these initiatives show how resilience becomes a foundation for lasting health, education and well-being.



Dr. Nandini Rangaswamy
Director, Cognizant Foundation

Dr. Nandini Rangaswamy brings a unique blend of expertise spanning education, social development, business leadership and gender advocacy, enriching Cognizant Foundation's approach to education and skilling interventions. Drawing on her deep understanding of policy environments, government systems and grassroots realities, she helps strengthen programme design, beneficiary targeting and ecosystem engagement. Her perspectives on equity, inclusion and the responsible use of technology have been instrumental in shaping context-sensitive initiatives that create meaningful opportunities for women, children and underserved communities.

01 Case story

Strengthening early life care

 Cross-disability

 Maharashtra

 Committed Communities Development Trust (CCDT)



The challenge and context

In urban slums like Bhiwandi and Malegaon, maternal and child health outcomes suffer not from a lack of government facilities, but from a fragile connection between vulnerable families and public systems. Overcrowded living conditions and deep-rooted cultural practices often delay antenatal registration, allowing critical conditions like severe maternal anaemia to go undetected. Home deliveries by untrained attendants remain common, increasing preventable risks for both mother and child. This gap in awareness and trust undermines health monitoring during the crucial first 1,000 days of life, severely limiting positive developmental outcomes and escalating preventable medical emergencies.



The response

Addressing this requires strengthening linkages from within the community rather than creating parallel healthcare mechanisms. Through Project Suraksha, implemented by Committed Communities Development Trust (CCDT) with Cognizant Foundation's support, Outreach Resource Workers (ORWs) are embedded as trusted bridges between families and public health systems. Through regular household visits, ORWs identify pregnancies, track high-risk mothers, and enable timely referrals to urban health posts and civil hospitals. Utilising Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC), the five-year project engaged husbands and elder family members to overcome resistance, successfully converting sporadic health-seeking behaviour into a dependable continuum of care spanning pregnancy, postnatal care, and early infancy.



In focus: Seema Khan—shifting deeply rooted traditions

Mrs. Seema Khan, a 32-year-old mother from Biradar Baugh in Malegaon, had delivered her first two children at home with the assistance of her mother-in-law, who also functioned as a traditional birth attendant. Since both deliveries had taken place without major complications, the family saw little reason to seek institutional care during her third pregnancy.

During a routine antenatal screening visit, ORW Ayesha found that Seema was experiencing nausea, severe weakness and prolonged amenorrhoea. She was immediately referred to the urban health post, where the pregnancy was confirmed, and then to the civil hospital for a sonography. The examination revealed that Seema was already in her fifth month of pregnancy. Further clinical assessment showed severe anaemia, with a haemoglobin level of 6 g/dl, categorising her pregnancy as high-risk.

Ayesha began regular, targeted follow-up visits. She counselled Seema on antenatal care, dietary diversity and iron supplementation. Equally important, she engaged Seema's husband and mother-in-law, addressing their concerns and misconceptions around institutional delivery.

Over time, continuous engagement helped shift the family's reliance on home delivery. Seema safely delivered a healthy baby weighing 2.5 kg, at the civil hospital under skilled medical supervision. The support continued after childbirth, with the ORW guiding her on exclusive breastfeeding, routine immunisation and family planning.

What made it possible

Project Suraksha succeeded by shifting from project-led delivery to community-led resilience. Overcoming the deep-rooted cultural acceptance of home deliveries required patient, repeated engagement by ORWs, tightly coordinated with government frontline workers like ASHAs and Anganwadi Workers. By training local volunteers to continue acting as change agents post-intervention, the project permanently strengthened the relationship between vulnerable households and government facilities, proving that public systems can be made more trusted and highly responsive.

Metrics at a glance

5,957 Women and children served

280
High-risk women received interventions

126
High-risk babies received intervention

02 Case story

Training professionals, preventing blindness



Adulthood stage



New Delhi



Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital (SCEH)



The challenge and context

Preventing avoidable blindness at scale requires a robust eye-care workforce to support communities before, during, and after surgical interventions. With approximately one ophthalmologist per 65,000 people in India, availability falls drastically short of benchmarks. This is compounded by a severe lack of structured training pathways for mid-level allied ophthalmic personnel.

Inconsistent accreditation and inadequate access to recognised institutes severely restrict hospitals from delivering care closer to communities. Simultaneously, capable young women from low-income rural households face



immense financial and socio-cultural barriers that prevent them from accessing formal training, creating a dual challenge: a critical regional deficit in healthcare personnel and the systemic exclusion of women from economic independence.

The response

Addressing these intertwined challenges requires building a trained, local, and employment-ready allied healthcare workforce. Through the Certified Ophthalmic Paramedics (COP) programme in Delhi, Cognizant Foundation partners with Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital to train young women from underprivileged backgrounds.

This two-year, NCVRT-certified initiative equips students for critical roles such as vision technicians, operation theatre technicians, and patient educators. The curriculum goes beyond clinical competency, intentionally integrating life skills, digital literacy, and English language modules to ensure long-term employability and workplace readiness.

In focus: Sakshi—finding her voice in healthcare

Sakshi's life changed suddenly when her father abandoned the family. Her mother, left to raise Sakshi and her elder brother alone, began working long shifts as a hospital security guard to keep the household running. Despite financial hardship and emotional strain, Sakshi remained determined to build a life rooted in dignity, stability and independence.

Her turning point came when she enrolled in the Certified Ophthalmic Paramedics (COP) programme at Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital. At first, she was unsure of her own abilities. But with structured training, clinical exposure and steady mentorship, she began to grow into the role.

Today, Sakshi works as a patient educator, a role that places her at an important point in the hospital's care continuum. She counsels patients on complex eye conditions, explains surgical procedures and helps them understand preventive care with clarity and empathy.

The change has gone far beyond technical knowledge. "Earlier, I hesitated to speak in front of others," Sakshi shares. "Now, patients listen to me and trust my guidance."

With this confidence, Sakshi is also continuing her education through IGNOU, pursuing her B.Sc. and aspiring to complete her Master's degree. Her journey reflects how skill-building can transform not only individual opportunity, but also the quality-of-care patients receive.

What made it possible

The initiative succeeds by seamlessly integrating workforce development with women's economic empowerment.

By offering recognised certification and targeted placement support, the programme systematically resolves the hospital's shortage of skilled allied professionals, directly improving the facility's capacity to screen and counsel patients. Simultaneously, it transforms capable young women into confident, financially independent healthcare providers, proving that empowering marginalised individuals is a highly effective strategy for strengthening broader public health resilience.

Metrics at a glance

100

Students undergoing training through the Certified Ophthalmic Paramedics programme





The solidarity thread

The power of human connection

Financial support can open doors. Human connection helps people step through them with confidence.

Across Cognizant Foundation's work, lasting change is shaped not only by programmes and partnerships, but also by the people who choose to walk alongside those they support. Through Cognizant Outreach, employee volunteers contribute their time, expertise and encouragement, extending the reach and impact of the Foundation's interventions.

In FY 2025-26, 3,196 volunteers, contributed 11,111 volunteer hours to support communities across India. Whether mentoring students, facilitating access to healthcare, or strengthening grassroots institutions, volunteers help transform programmes into more personal and meaningful journeys.

For a first-generation learner, a volunteer can be a mentor who broadens horizons and builds confidence. For individuals navigating unfamiliar systems and opportunities, they can be a trusted guide and source of encouragement. Their presence helps bridge the gap between access and achievement, enabling people to make the most of the opportunities before them.

The story that follows illustrates this power of human connection, showing how mentorship, financial support and sustained engagement can help a young student navigate higher education and pursue her aspirations with confidence.



Mr. Rajesh Varrier

Director, Cognizant Foundation
President - Operations and CMD, Cognizant India

Mr. Rajesh Varrier brings a strong perspective on execution and operational excellence to Cognizant Foundation, serving as Global Head of Operations and Chairman and Managing Director of Cognizant India. A committed advocate of the Foundation within Cognizant, he has helped foster deeper employee engagement through Cognizant Outreach and encouraged greater participation in social impact initiatives. His emphasis on process discipline, operational rigor and scalable execution has strengthened the Foundation's systems and enhanced its ability to deliver programmes effectively and sustainably.



Mr. Narayanan T.

Director, Cognizant Foundation
General Counsel India and APAC, Cognizant India

Mr. Narayanan T. brings deep expertise in governance, compliance and risk oversight to Cognizant Foundation, serving as General Counsel for Cognizant India and APAC. Through his role on the Foundation's Finance Audit Sub-committee, he provides strategic guidance on regulatory and statutory matters, helping uphold high standards of transparency, accountability and process discipline. A strong advocate of employee volunteering, he also champions the role of Cognizant associates in strengthening the reach and impact of the Foundation's initiatives.

Case story

Empowering first-generation engineers



Adulthood stage



Pan-India



Cognizant Outreach
(Project Dhyeya)



The challenge and context

For first-generation learners from economically weaker backgrounds, accessing premier engineering education requires more than overcoming the visible barrier of tuition fees. The deeper, often unseen gaps begin much earlier through inadequate academic preparation, a lack of exposure to competitive entrance exams, and the absence of informed career guidance. Without access to professional networks, digital skills, or technology-sector role models, these students frequently navigate their ambitions in isolation. Even when financial support is available, stepping into highly competitive, unfamiliar academic



environments without a foundational support system can trigger profound self-doubt and pressure, effectively pushing technology-led careers out of reach for highly capable students.

The response

Addressing this requires a continuous ecosystem of support that merges financial backing with deep, long-term mentorship. Through Project Dhyeya, Cognizant Foundation's Inclusion Scholarship Programme removes the economic barriers to higher education, while Cognizant Outreach drives a sustained cycle of employee volunteering. This engagement begins early at the foundational school level, with volunteers providing rigorous

academic coaching in Mathematics, Science, and logical reasoning. As students progress, the volunteer relationship seamlessly evolves from academic tutoring into comprehensive career mentoring, specifically targeting competitive engineering entrance examinations and professional pathways. This continuous cycle ensures that financial aid is constantly reinforced by lived industry experience, broadening aspirations and building the resilience needed to succeed in technical fields.

In focus: Aishwarya Auti—engineering a new reality

Aishwarya Auti, a first-generation learner from a modest family background, had always carried a quiet ambition to study engineering. But with limited financial resources and little exposure to professional careers, the path ahead felt uncertain.

Before joining Cognizant Foundation's Inclusion Scholarship Programme through Project Dhyeya, her potential was constrained by circumstances. She did not have access to the structured preparation needed for competitive engineering entrance exams. The cost of higher education, combined with the absence of consistent academic mentorship, made her question whether continuing her studies would be possible.

Project Dhyeya changed that trajectory. The scholarship eased the financial burden on her family, while sustained mentorship from Cognizant volunteers helped her prepare, plan and believe in her own ability. Her mentors guided her through exam preparation, academic decision-making and the critical transition into higher education.

Today, Aishwarya is pursuing her engineering degree at IIT Allahabad, one of India's premier technical institutes. "Dhyeya changed my life," she reflects. "The scholarship helped me reach IIT Allahabad, and the mentors gave me the confidence to believe that I truly belong here and can achieve my dreams."



What made it possible

This outcome was achieved by replacing isolated financial aid with a comprehensive, multi-layered support ecosystem. Cognizant Foundation provides the vital institutional framework and financial resources, while Cognizant Outreach mobilises industry professionals who seamlessly step in at critical transition points in the student's journey. By tightly coordinating financial assistance with a continuous cycle of multi-year mentoring, Project Dhyeya systematically dismantles both economic and non-economic barriers. This ensures that first-generation learners can confidently progress from school-level foundational learning to higher education, and ultimately into the formal workforce.

Metrics at a glance

- 70** Students received scholarships in STEM (39 women, 31 men)
- 650+** Students supported from eighth grade through engineering education
- 250+** Cognizant employee volunteers actively engaged as teachers and mentors
- 10,000+** Volunteering hours contributed cumulatively across academic coaching and mentoring
- 4+** Cities hosting the operational programme, including Pune, Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Bhubaneswar

The volunteer's perspective

The success of students like Aishwarya is shaped by the commitment of volunteers like Ayushi Sapru, an Associate at Cognizant. For Ayushi, the motivation is clear: a student's socio-economic background should not determine the quality of education or opportunity they can access.

Ayushi invests her personal time in mentoring first-generation learners across the eighth, ninth, tenth and twelfth grades. Through structured sync sessions, she helps students understand complex academic concepts, create study plans and prepare for exams with greater clarity.

Her role, however, goes beyond academics. She becomes a source of encouragement during stressful phases, introduces students to technology-led career possibilities and helps them see themselves in spaces they may once have considered distant.

For Ayushi, the experience is deeply meaningful. "Seeing students gain confidence step by step reminds me how much difference steady guidance and belief can make," she says. Through volunteering, she has strengthened her own connection to inclusion, purpose and social impact.

Ayushi Sapru
Volunteer,
Associate, Cognizant Technology Solutions



Our partners and reach

Weaving partnerships across India

Implementation partner/NGO

Institution Name	States of Operation
Aishwarya Trust	Tamil Nadu
Agastya International Foundation	Karnataka; Tamil Nadu; Telangana
ANew	Tamil Nadu
Bhumi	Pan-India
Bright Future India	Delhi; Maharashtra
Buddy4Study India Foundation	Pan-India
Cheshire Disability Trust	Karnataka; Andhra Pradesh; Telangana
Christel House India	Karnataka
Committed Communities Development Trust	Maharashtra
Dr. Reddy's Foundation	Karnataka; Telangana; NCR; West Bengal; Maharashtra; Tamil Nadu
Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital	NCR; New Delhi
Ekam Foundation	Tamil Nadu
Enable India	Pan-India
Foundation for Excellence India Trust	Pan-India
Help The Blind Foundation	Pan-India
Hope Kolkata Foundation	West Bengal
Hyderabad Eye Institute	Odisha
ICT Academy of Tamil Nadu	Andhra Pradesh; Karnataka; Tamil Nadu; Telangana; Kerala; Madhya Pradesh; Maharashtra; NCR; Odisha; Telangana; West Bengal
India Literacy Project	Karnataka
IT for Change	Karnataka
Khan Academy India	Maharashtra
Madras Dyslexia Association	Tamil Nadu
Mission for Vision	Maharashtra; Tamil Nadu; West Bengal; Kerala; Karnataka
Nettur Technical Training Foundation	Karnataka
Operation Eyesight India	West Bengal; Assam; Maharashtra
Pratham Education Foundation	Maharashtra
Pushpagiri Vitreo Retina Institute (PVRI)	Andhra Pradesh; Telangana
Sankara Jyoti Eye Institute	West Bengal
Sarthak Educational Trust	NCR; Karnataka
Sri Keshava Trust	Karnataka
The Association of People with Disability	Karnataka; Telangana; Kerala

Institution Name	States of Operation
The Banyan	Tamil Nadu
Vision Empower Trust	Kerala; Tamil Nadu; West Bengal
Y4D Foundation	Maharashtra; Odisha

Partner educational institutions

Institution Name	Location	State
Social Sciences		
Rajagiri College of Social Sciences	Kochi	Kerala
College of Social Work Nirmala Niketan	Mumbai	Maharashtra
Stella Maris College	Chennai	Tamil Nadu
Tezpur University	Tezpur	Assam
Madras School of Social Work	Chennai	Tamil Nadu
Central University of Rajasthan	Ajmer	Rajasthan
Tata Institute of Social Sciences (G)	Guwahati	Assam
Tata Institute of Social Sciences (H)	Hyderabad	Telangana
Tata Institute of Social Sciences (T)	Tuljapur	Maharashtra
Tata Institute of Social Sciences (M)	Mumbai	Maharashtra
University of Kashmir	Srinagar	Jammu and Kashmir
B. Ed. Special Education		
Dr. MGR Institute of Special Education and Research Institute	Chennai	Tamil Nadu
Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Education and Research Institute	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
N.K. Thirumalachariar National College of Education for Women	Chennai	Tamil Nadu
National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities	Chennai	Tamil Nadu
Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
Alagappa University	Karaikudi	Tamil Nadu
Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam	Tirupati	Andhra Pradesh
Andhra University	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda	Vadodara	Gujarat

Key highlights of the year

Celebrating excellence and impact

Recognitions and mentions



Awarded the **HYSEA Education and Skilling Award**, jointly with Cognizant Outreach, for advancing educational outcomes and skilling opportunities for persons with disabilities across Telangana.



Awarded the **FICCI Excellence in Community Engagement Award**, jointly with LV Prasad Eye Institute, for advancing Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) screening and treatment for preterm babies across 15 districts of Odisha.



Awarded the **Rotary India National CSR Award (South)**, jointly with ICT Academy of Tamil Nadu, for enabling 5,000 young women with IT-enabled skills and creating pathways to employment across Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Telangana.



Featured by the Government of **Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission** as part of its Converging for Impact handbook for advancing inclusive development through impactful CSR-CSO partnerships.



Featured in **Nasscom Foundation's CSR Impact Report**, with Project Suraksha recognised as a case study for its data-driven maternal and child healthcare model supporting over 92,000 women.



Cognizant Foundation CEO Deepak Prabhu Matti was featured in **Decade Decode**, CRISIL's landmark 10th CSR Yearbook, sharing perspectives on the evolution of CSR over the years.

In the news

Putting Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) on the national agenda

Cognizant Foundation co-hosted the National Consultation on Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) in Pune, convening clinicians, policymakers, CSR leaders and healthcare experts to strengthen India's response to preventable childhood blindness. The consultation led to the formation of a Technical Working Group and endorsed a nationwide awareness campaign for parents and caregivers, with the initiative receiving coverage in The Times of India.



Scan the QR code for more information

Driving thought leadership on inclusive development

Through a series of leadership features and opinion pieces, Cognizant Foundation advanced conversations on workforce readiness, AI-enabled inclusion and collaborative social impact. Chairperson Vinita Bali highlighted the economic imperative of women's skilling and the role the Foundation plays in preparing a future-ready workforce in Hindustan Times, while interviews in Business India and Dainik Bhaskar reflected on the Foundation's two-decade journey and its evolving focus on digital inclusion.



Scan the QR code for more information

CEO Deepak Prabhu Matti further reinforced the Foundation's vision through an ET Edge article advocating CSR as a catalyst for innovation-led, collaborative systems change.



Scan the QR code for more information

20th anniversary celebrations

Commemorating two decades of empowerment

Marking its 20th anniversary, Cognizant Foundation hosted a four-city series celebrating the people, partnerships and shared purpose behind its journey. Bringing together Board members, partners, associates, volunteers and communities, the events explored inclusion, recognised the invaluable contributions of the Foundation's NGO partners, and reaffirmed technology's role in expanding opportunities and strengthening communities.

A special highlight was the launch of The Light That Lives On, a commemorative collection of stories that captures the resilience, hope, and determination of individuals whose lives have been touched by the Foundation's work, serving as a powerful reminder that behind every initiative is a human story worth telling.



[>Flip through The Light That Lives On for a dose of inspiration](#)

Chennai

Inclusive education through the power of technology

August 25, 2025 | Cognizant MEPZ | 350+ attendees

Chennai marked the start of the celebration series with a strong focus on inclusive education and the transformative role of assistive technology. Through engaging discussions, inspiring stories from educators and professionals with visual impairment, and conversations on breaking barriers in learning, the event highlighted how access, skills and the right support can empower individuals to realise their full potential.



[Watch the Chennai highlights](#)



Cognizant Foundation marks 20th anniversary in Chennai

Attended by over 350 stakeholders, including partner NGOs, Cognizant leaders, and volunteers, the event highlighted two decades of initiatives in education, healthcare, and livelihoods.

By BL Chennai Bureau
Updated - August 26, 2025 at 12:30 PM.

[GIFT THIS ARTICLE](#)



The 20th anniversary milestone also generated strong national and regional media visibility, amplifying its work and the impact of its partner ecosystem.

Gurugram

Vision reimagined

October 9, 2025 | Candor Tech Space | 100+ attendees

Held around World Sight Day, the Gurugram event focused on eye health, awareness, and inclusion. Through conversations on paediatric eye care, early intervention, and inspiring journeys of persons with visual impairment, the event reinforced how timely support and inclusive opportunities can open doors to brighter futures.



[Watch the Gurugram highlights](#)

Bengaluru

Bridging skilling gaps. Building futures.

October 28, 2025 | Bagmane NEON | 200+ Attendees

Bengaluru brought alive the power of inclusive skilling to open pathways to independence. Through sign language sensitisation sessions and inspiring stories of individuals who overcame barriers through technical education and digital learning, the event showed how skills, confidence and accessible opportunities can help people build lasting economic independence.



[Watch the Bengaluru highlights](#)

Pune

Empowering the future through education

December 16, 2025 | Cognizant Deccan Campus | 350+ attendees

The commemorative series concluded in Pune with a focus on education as a lifelong enabler of opportunity. Stories of digital learning, scholarships, mentorship and higher education showed how sustained support, committed educators and engaged volunteers can help learners realise their aspirations and become catalysts for change within their communities.



[Watch the Pune highlights](#)

Notes

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