

Two decades of empowerment

Yearbook 2024-25

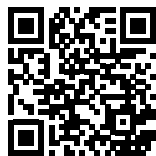


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Two decades of empowerment

Twenty years ago, a ringing telephone was a luxury, artificial intelligence lived in textbooks, and the word inclusion rarely echoed in boardrooms or classrooms. The world felt larger, and opportunities, especially for those on the margins, seemed distant and out of reach.

Today, our lives are woven together by technology, and stories of diversity and resilience shape our shared journey. Yet, beneath this tide of transformation, what has truly carried us forward is something deeper: our collective humanity and the belief that every life holds infinite possibility.

At Cognizant Foundation India, this belief has been our north star. For two decades, we have reached beyond boundaries, using technology not just as a tool but as a bridge to possibility. We have witnessed the quiet courage of persons with disabilities finding their voice and place in the world. We have watched children, once bound by circumstance, discover the freedom to dream and grow. We have stood beside women and girls as they step forward, claim their potential, and shape a more equitable tomorrow.

These are not just stories. They are milestones of hope and progress, shaped by every partnership, every innovation, and every act of kindness along the way.

Through all the change, from the scratchy sound of radios to the instant connection of smartphones, from handwritten notes to messages that cross oceans in seconds, our values have remained unshaken. They are the heartbeat of our work, lifting up those who need us most, making room at the table for every voice, and always choosing compassion over convenience.

As we celebrate 20 years, our hearts are full with gratitude for the past, purpose for the present, and hope for a future where progress serves all of humanity. Together, let us build a world not just more connected, but truly more inclusive.

As we celebrate

20 years

we honour the past, embrace the present, and look forward to a future where progress serves humanity, ensuring a world that is not only more connected but also more inclusive.



20 years of elevating lives

The Cognizant Foundation is focussed on empowering underserved communities by expanding access to healthcare, education and employment-oriented skilling opportunities. Anchored

in inclusion, technology, and collaboration, our programmes work to strengthen healthcare delivery, promote STEAM and digital learning, widen access to higher education,

build future-ready skills, and enable sustainable livelihoods. Together, these efforts aim to create a lasting impact, helping individuals lead lives of dignity, purpose, and potential.

2005-2009

Laying a Strong Foundation

Since 2005, the Foundation has placed healthcare and education at the core of its mission. We have built high-impact programmes that include preventing avoidable blindness and strengthening STEM education across communities. Over the years, we have supported various initiatives, creating a strong and scalable base for long-term change.



2010-2014

Expanding Focus Areas

Between 2010 and 2014, we added livelihood development as a third focus area. We drove innovation through initiatives like Science on Wheels and the Lifeline Express hospital train. By the end of this phase, the implementation of numerous projects reflected our ability to address critical societal issues through bold, practical solutions.



2015-2022

Deepening Impact

Between 2015 and 2022, we expanded our reach through flagship programmes that brought deeper, more inclusive impact. A strategic review in 2020 led to the launch of our 4All initiatives, under two flagship programmes Health4All and Fututre4All. By our 15th anniversary, we had supported over 500 projects, strengthened the drive for inclusion, and earned recognition for our contributions to healthcare.

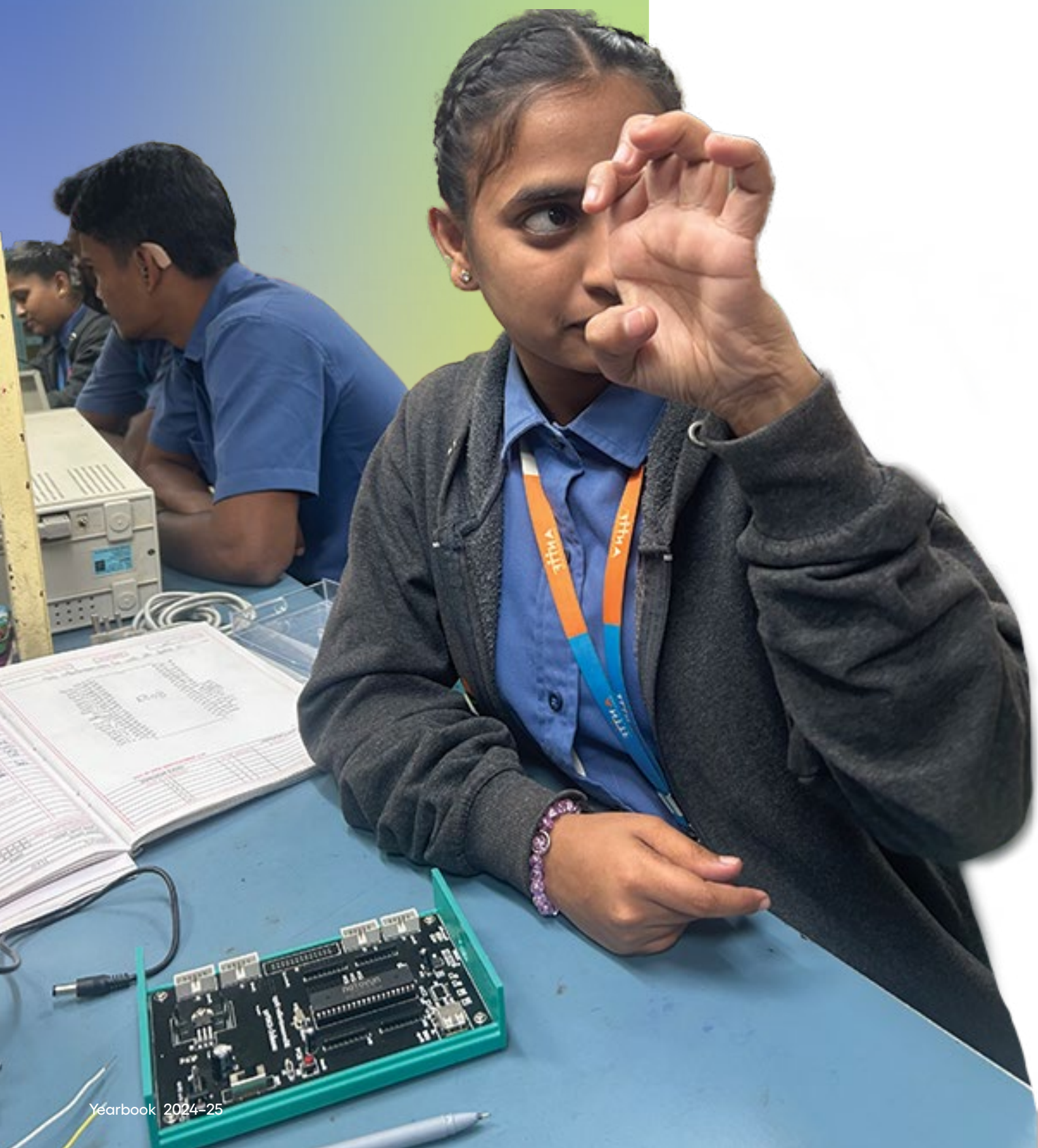


Post 2023

Celebrating Two Decades of Empowerment

We marked 20 years of social change by advancing inclusion, technology and collaboration. We reaffirm our mission of creating equitable access to healthcare, education, and skilling opportunities for all.





For the last 20 years, Cognizant Foundation India has been dedicated to elevating local communities towards a brighter tomorrow through addressing society's most pressing challenges. We envision building a future for all where technology, inclusion, and collaboration serve humanity, fostering health, education, and upward mobility.

Message from the Chairperson

“Cognizant Foundation’s journey of transformation and impact is a reflection of the power of collaboration. Together, we will continue to build a more inclusive, equitable world, making a lasting difference in the lives of those who need it the most.”

As we commemorate the 20-year journey of the Cognizant Foundation, our purposeful contribution stands as a testament to the power of collaboration with our various partners and our shared commitment to building a more inclusive and equitable society.

This milestone year is not just a time to reflect on our past experiences, it is also a time to reaffirm our commitment to address some of the most pressing challenges facing our society: access to healthcare, education, and skill development. We believe technology is a catalyst for social change that helps drive innovation and accelerates inclusive growth. We place particular emphasis on empowering women, children, and people with disabilities, groups that often face systemic barriers to opportunities.

None of this would be possible without the trust, support and implementation excellence of our partners and stakeholders. Their collaboration has been instrumental in helping us change lives and strengthen the communities we have worked in together across India.

As we look ahead, we remain deeply committed to driving meaningful and lasting change - building a future that is inclusive, equitable, and full of promise.

With best wishes,

Vinita Bali

Chairperson, Cognizant Foundation

Messages from the Directors



At Cognizant Foundation, we believe that impact at scale is possible only when purpose is matched with persistence. Over the past two decades, we have remained steadfast in our mission, guided by humility, clarity, and a deep conviction that meaningful change must begin where it is needed the most.

In a world that is evolving faster than ever, our focus remains clear: to use technology as a force for good. By working closely with communities and grassroots partners, we are delivering solutions that are not only relevant and inclusive but also built to last. Every initiative is

a step towards creating ecosystems of opportunity and resilience.

Looking ahead, we are committed to amplifying our impact by embracing innovation, strengthening partnerships, and staying rooted in the needs of the communities we serve. As we move forward, our resolve is stronger than ever, to build a future where progress is shared, inclusive, and sustainable for all.

With best wishes,

Rajesh Varrier

Director, Cognizant Foundation



“At Cognizant Foundation, we believe that real impact begins with the purposeful application of technology to solve today’s most pressing challenges.”

By embedding technology-enabled tools into our initiatives, we are creating practical, inclusive solutions that uplift communities and enable meaningful progress.

This is not a distant aspiration, it is a commitment we act on every day. Whether it’s helping individuals overcome barriers to access or equipping communities with digital capabilities, our approach is rooted in innovation, empathy, and action. We are proud to

see how technology, when thoughtfully applied, becomes a powerful enabler of brighter, more empowered futures.

We will continue to harness the potential of technology to drive scalable, sustainable change. We look ahead to a future where digital inclusion is not just a possibility, but a reality for all.

With best wishes,

Rajesh Nambiar

Director, Cognizant Foundation



We measure success by the lasting impact we create in people's lives. Through a strong focus on skill development and meaningful partnerships, we are planting the seeds of progress that continue to grow and empower communities over time. Our initiatives are designed not just to meet

immediate needs, but to build the foundation for long-term, sustainable change.

With best wishes,

N R Krishnan

Director, Cognizant Foundation



“Access to quality healthcare can profoundly alter the trajectory of a life. At Cognizant Foundation, we are deeply committed to making this access a reality for the most underserved communities.”

Through initiatives such as establishing vision centres, conducting eye screening camps, and strengthening maternal and child healthcare, we strive to bridge critical gaps in early detection and timely intervention.

Whether it's treating congenital heart disease or preventing childhood blindness through ROP screening, our focus remains unwavering : on delivering care that is timely, inclusive, and life-affirming. Each effort is a step towards building healthier futures and restoring hope where it's needed most.

As we look forward to another year of service, we aim to scale our healthcare initiatives with greater reach and precision, ensuring that no one is left behind due to lack of access. By fostering partnerships and leveraging innovation, we envision a future where quality healthcare is not a privilege, but a promise fulfilled for every individual.

With best wishes,

K. Balaji

Director, Cognizant Foundation



“At Cognizant Foundation, we hold a steadfast belief that digital literacy can be a transformative force in a woman’s life. When underprivileged women gain access to IT/ITeS and employment-oriented vocational training, they are not merely acquiring skills, they are unlocking pathways to economic empowerment, self-assurance, and autonomy.”

It is deeply inspiring to witness their journeys, from being on the margins of the digital world to becoming active participants, confident learners, and agents of change. These women are redefining their futures, and in doing so, they are also reshaping their communities. Their resilience and growth reaffirm our commitment to inclusive development and the power of opportunity.

Looking ahead, we remain dedicated to expanding our reach and deepening our impact, ensuring that more women across the country are equipped with the tools, training, and confidence to thrive in a digital-first world. Together, we can build a more equitable and empowered future.

With best wishes,

Dr Nandini Rangaswamy

Director, Cognizant Foundation



“Quality education should never be a privilege, it is every child’s right. The Cognizant Foundation, through its inclusive Future4 All initiative, is committed to providing quality education to those who need it most. Education is a powerful tool that can transform lives and communities.”

When children from underprivileged backgrounds receive quality education, it opens up a world of opportunities for them. It enables them to break free from the cycle of poverty, access better job opportunities, and make informed decisions about their future. By supporting government schools with limited resources, we are helping unlock the potential of countless young minds.

Quality education is not just about academic learning; it is about building confidence, developing critical thinking skills, and nurturing dreams. Through initiatives like Future4All, we are not only helping individuals but also uplifting

entire communities. The impact of quality education extends beyond the individual, creating a ripple effect that benefits society as a whole.

Our work also extends to children with special needs and students with visual impairments, reflecting our unwavering belief in an inclusive Future4All. Witnessing these children learn, grow, and dream, often in the face of significant challenges, reaffirms our purpose and strengthens our resolve to build a more equitable and hopeful future.

With best wishes,

Ranganath N Krishna

Director, Cognizant Foundation



As part of our enduring commitment to educational equity, our scholarship for higher education initiative offers scholarships to meritorious students pursuing STEM disciplines. Additionally, to promote inclusion we support students pursuing B.Ed. in special education and master's in social sciences. This initiative reflects our belief in the transformative power of learning and our responsibility

to foster an inclusive Future4All. By supporting these bright minds, we aim to nurture innovation, empower diverse talents, and contribute meaningfully to a more skilled and compassionate society.

With best wishes,

Narayanan T

Director, Cognizant Foundation





Message from the Chief Executive Officer

“This year marks a defining milestone in the journey of Cognizant Foundation: Two Decades of Empowerment across communities in India. Since its inception, the Foundation has stayed true to its mission, driving access and inclusion through a focussed, technology-led approach to social impact.”

What began as a vision to serve underserved communities has evolved into a nationwide effort that has positively impacted several million lives. Over the years, we have engaged deeply at the grassroots, listening to needs of the communities, learning from lived experiences, and working closely with partners who share our belief in inclusive growth. These relationships have shaped our journey, turning programmes into long-lasting impact, especially in places where support is most needed and can make the most significant difference.

In an increasingly digital world, technology has remained at the core of our interventions. Whether it is improving access to healthcare, supporting inclusive education, or opening new pathways for employability, we have embedded innovation into how our programmes are designed and delivered. This has helped us

ensure that our solutions are not only relevant and future-ready but also tailored to the unique contexts of the communities we serve.

As we look ahead, our commitment remains strong. We will continue to focus on health, education, skilling, while expanding the use of AI-enabled digital tools and collaborative models to enable systemic change. This 20-year milestone is not just a moment of reflection, but a call to do more. The road ahead demands greater impact, deeper partnerships, sharper execution, and bolder thinking. We are ready to move forward with renewed purpose, enduring commitment, and a clear focus on creating change where it matters most.

With best wishes,

Deepak Prabhu Matti
CEO, Cognizant Foundation

The journey of the Foundation has always been guided by a deep sense of purpose, to create meaningful change where it matters most. With every step, we have witnessed the transformative power of compassion, partnership, and perseverance. It's not just about what we do, but the lives we touch and the futures we help shape.



About Cognizant Foundation India

Cognizant Foundation India, established in 2005, is one of the CSR channels of Cognizant in India, working to create equitable and sustainable change through technology-led social impact. The Foundation focusses on advancing inclusion and empowering underserved communities by strengthening the public health ecosystem, enabling inclusive education, and improving livelihoods. Guided by its three core tenets, technology, inclusion, and collaboration, the Foundation leverages digital innovation, promotes inclusive practices, and builds strong partnerships across sectors to maximise its impact. Over the years, it has partnered with over 300 non-profit organisations and implemented more than 600 projects, positively impacting several lives across India.

The Foundation's work is driven through two flagship programmes, Health4All and Future4All. Under Health4All, it supports initiatives such as eye care access through Sight4All, congenital heart disease and maternal and child health under Care4All, and support for individuals with disabilities and mental health challenges through Support4All. Future4All focusses on enabling inclusive learning and employment through initiatives like STEAM4All, scholarships for higher education under Excellence4All, and vocational training through Tech4All.

Key Highlights for the Year 2024-25

7,15,860

Beneficiaries

100

Unique projects implemented

51

Partners

Presence in

10

States

Our governance structure and framework

The Cognizant Foundation follows a robust governance framework that fosters transparency, accountability, and alignment with its mission to drive inclusive, and technology-driven social impact. A Board of Directors, made up of executive leaders from Cognizant and experts from the development sector, leads the Foundation. The Board sets strategic direction, approves key policies, and ensures all initiatives comply with regulatory norms and support our Foundation’s purpose.

A programme management office (PMO) supports the Board by overseeing critical areas such as project evaluation, monitoring, compliance, and impact assessment. The PMO team guides decision-making and strengthen programme and operational oversight. We apply a structured approach to every stage of programme execution. We carefully select partners, allocate funds responsibly, and monitor progress to assess impact. The PMO team manages day-to-day operations and works closely with implementation partners to deliver effective, scalable, and results-driven solutions. This layered governance model reflects our Foundation’s commitment to ethical action, collaboration, and long-term development outcomes.

Our Tenets



Fostering Gender Equality

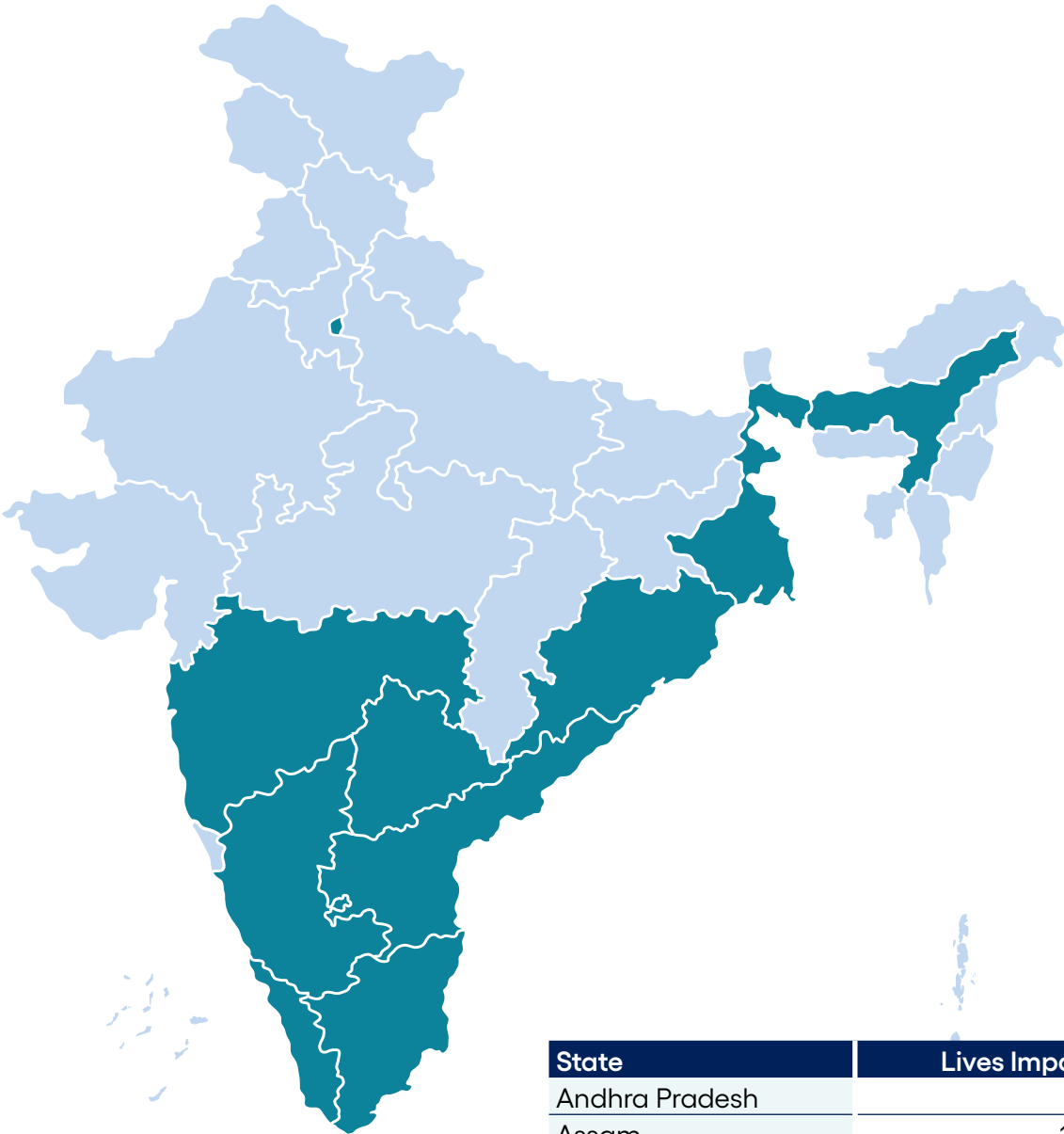


Promoting Holistic Child Development



Empowering Persons with Disabilities

Touching lives far and wide



State	Lives Impacted
Andhra Pradesh	7,200
Assam	14,015
Delhi-NCR	1,11,798
Kerala	45,242
Karnataka	1,45,697
Maharashtra	83,632
Odisha	1,764
Tamil Nadu	90,504
Telangana	33,799
West Bengal	1,18,309
Pan India	63,900

Disclaimer: This map is a generalised illustration only for the ease of the reader to understand the locations, and it is not intended to be used for reference purposes. The representation of political boundaries and the names of geographical features/states do not necessarily reflect the actual position. Our Company or any of our Directors, officers or employees cannot be held responsible for any misuse or misinterpretation of any information or design thereof. Our Company does not warrant or represent any kind of connection with its accuracy or completeness.

Transforming lives today

Our actions today ignite a chain reaction of growth and opportunity, turning dreams into reality and challenges into triumphs.



Linkage to UN SDGs

At Cognizant Foundation India, we believe that meaningful change begins with immediate action. Every day, the Foundation is making a tangible difference by investing in innovative, tech-enabled solutions that bring quality education and accessible healthcare to those who need it most. Through dynamic collaborations with NGOs, government bodies, and social enterprises, we are addressing immediate challenges, empowering individuals, and strengthening communities across the country.



Indian scenario

India's healthcare system is one of the largest in the world, serving 1.4 billion people through a vast and evolving network of services. In recent years, the country has expanded healthcare coverage through initiatives like Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) and numerous national health programmes, steadily improving access to essential services. Significant opportunities remain to further strengthen equitable and quality healthcare, particularly in rural and underserved areas, where enhanced infrastructure, greater availability of healthcare professionals, and affordable care can have a meaningful impact.

For Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), targeted measures are helping address longstanding barriers. While over 80% of PwDs currently lack health insurance coverage, expanded awareness campaigns and inclusive policy reforms are steadily bridging the gaps. Initiatives such as accessible infrastructure (ramps, toilets, sign language interpreters), improved medical equipment design, and community outreach are being scaled up. Programmes like door-to-door visits and mobilisation efforts are making it easier for individuals to access care without financial or logistical burdens, even when a caretaker is needed for hospital visits. Women's health is receiving growing attention, with momentum building to address systemic gaps in research, diagnosis, and treatment. Historically, the under-representation of women in clinical trials has limited understanding of disease patterns and responses, but efforts to develop more gender-responsive healthcare models are underway. Priorities include tackling malnutrition, anaemia, mental health concerns, and breast and cervical cancers through early detection and targeted intervention programmes. By improving awareness, empowering women to seek timely care, and delivering services in ways that are accessible and inclusive, India can accelerate progress towards a healthcare system that meets the needs of all citizens.

(Source: NCBI article, Indian Journal of Public Health article)

The Foundation's response

Cognizant Foundation, under its Health4All initiative, is committed to making quality healthcare accessible to underserved communities across India. At the heart of our approach lies a recognition that factors such as disability and gender significantly influence health outcomes. Our healthcare programmes are therefore thoughtfully designed to address the diverse needs of all community members. To drive meaningful impact, the Foundation collaborates with credible not-for-profit organisations and institutions, delivering focussed interventions across three core programmatic pillars:

Sight4All
Focussed on eliminating avoidable blindness through timely eye care initiatives, including screenings and treatments.

Care4All
Dedicated to improving maternal and child health outcomes through targeted care and support.

Support4All
Designed to address the healthcare needs of persons with disabilities and children with special needs by enabling inclusive, sustained care.

Through these initiatives, which collectively reached **4,49,263** beneficiaries in 2024-25, Cognizant Foundation enhances healthcare access and equity. The programmes are designed to be responsive, efficient, inclusive and scalable, helping to bridge healthcare gaps and bring critical services within reach of those who need them the most.

A ray of hope in a premature baby's life

At Baripada District Hospital in Odisha, Soren*, a premature baby entered the world fighting for survival. Diagnosed with aggressive Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) and several other life-threatening conditions, his early days were spent in the Special Newborn Care Unit. Born to Lina and Raju*, a low-income farming couple living over 60 km away from Baripada DHH, the newborn's fragile health took a heavy emotional and financial toll. After two months in the hospital, the family had nearly exhausted their savings and were running out of options.

That is when support arrived. Through its partnership with LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI), Cognizant Foundation has been working to prevent childhood blindness in Odisha. The initiative focusses on early detection and treatment of ROP using real-time tele-screening technology. Trained paramedics capture high-resolution retinal images of newborns in rural hospitals, which are then reviewed remotely by specialists to recommend immediate interventions where needed.

Following timely screening and diagnosis, Soren received the necessary treatment. Early detection and swift intervention helped prevent the risk of complete vision loss.

Today, Soren continues to grow stronger under close follow-up. His story has not only brought relief to his parents but also raised awareness about ROP in their community, a condition many had never even heard of. What began as a silent struggle has become a symbol of what timely care, innovation, and compassion can achieve.

Partner Testimonial

"The partnership with Cognizant Foundation since 2019 in Odisha, has facilitated ROP care for 11,500 preterm babies. The initiative has also provided zero-cost treatment to over 1,270 infants across 15 districts of Odisha, protecting their vision and future. By preventing irreversible childhood blindness, it has not only transformed individual lives but also reduced the long-term financial burden on families. Early intervention has helped avoid the psychosocial trauma and stigma that often accompany such disability, impact that is both deeply personal and far-reaching."

– Dr Tapas Ranjan Padhi

Faculty - Vitreoretinal and Paediatric Retina Services
L V Prasad Eye Institute, Bhubaneswar, Odisha



*Name changed to maintain privacy

Kayati's story from shadows to sight

In the heart of Sangam Vihar, one of South Delhi's most densely populated slums, lives a spirited young girl named Kayati. Tucked inside a narrow lane filled with the hustle of daily survival, Kayati's family resides in a small unauthorised jhuggi, a home that speaks volumes of resilience amidst hardship. Her father, a daily wage labourer earning around ₹ 700 per day, is the sole breadwinner for the family of four.

From a young age, Kayati struggled with a visible squint in both eyes, which gradually began affecting her daily life. This not only caused discomfort but also led to peer teasing and a dip in self-esteem. With financial resources stretched thin, medical treatment was simply not an option. Her parents, though aware of her growing difficulties, were unable to seek help, until help found them.

In mid-2024, a door-to-door paediatric eye screening initiative reached Kayati's neighbourhood. This was part of a joint effort by Cognizant Foundation and Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital (SCEH), aimed at reducing uncorrected refractive errors and preventing avoidable blindness among children in

underserved communities. Recognising the critical gaps in eye healthcare in areas like Tughlaqabad and Sangam Vihar, the project offered free screenings, referrals, and surgical interventions for children like Kayati.

During the visit, Kayati's condition was promptly flagged and she was referred to a Vision Centre for further diagnosis. After a comprehensive evaluation, doctors concluded that squint correction surgery was urgently needed to prevent further deterioration of her vision and to improve her quality of life. In September 2024, Kayati underwent corrective surgery on both eyes, completely free of cost. The surgery not only corrected her vision but also restored her confidence.

Today, she walks into her classroom with her head held high, her eyes aligned and sparkling with determination. Her parents, overwhelmed with gratitude, shared how the surgery lifted a huge emotional and financial burden from their lives.

"We never imagined she could get such treatment without any cost. Now she is happy, studying well, and dreams of becoming a lawyer."

says her mother with pride.



A clearer future for Salman through early intervention

Salman*, a fifth grader at St John De-Britto Anglo-Indian High School in Fort Kochi, often struggled with blurred vision and eye strain that made studying difficult. His parents noticed his eyes squinting and occasional head tilting when he read or looked at the blackboard, but the family was unaware of the severity of the issue. During a free school eye screening camp organised by Little Flower Hospital, supported by the Cognizant Foundation, Salman was diagnosed with significant refractive errors and an eye

condition called alternating esotropia. Under this programme, comprehensive eye care services are provided through regular school screenings across multiple states, aiming to prevent avoidable childhood blindness. The programme focusses on early detection, treatment, and awareness to ensure children receive timely care and support. Since 2018, this initiative has grown to reach hundreds of thousands of children, providing spectacles, treatment, and surgeries as needed, all at no cost to families.

Salman was referred for a detailed squint evaluation and subsequently underwent corrective surgery. His vision and confidence have improved remarkably, allowing him to participate fully in school activities and studies without difficulty. His parents are deeply grateful that the programme identified and treated his condition early, lifting a huge financial and emotional burden. Today, Salman looks forward to a bright future, continuing his education unhindered.

Volunteer Testimonial

"Volunteering at the 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 – the sheer joy on the faces of the students when they received their new spectacles and could finally see clearly."

– Priya Darshini G

Volunteer

**Name changed to maintain privacy*



Bimala's journey from darkness to hope

Bimala Naik*, 41, lives with her parents and sister in a tea garden settlement in Assam's Golaghat district. As a member of the Tea Tribe community, she works as a daily wage labourer in the tea estates and is the sole earner for her family. Despite her hard work, Bimala earns just ₹ 50,000 annually. Having never attended school due to family neglect, she faced life with few options and growing health challenges.

Over the years, untreated cataracts steadily stole her vision. By the time she was screened, she could barely see: 3/60 vision in her right eye, and only finger

counting in her left. Basic tasks became difficult, and work in the tea gardens nearly impossible. The strain – physical, emotional, and financial – took a heavy toll on her and her family.

Recognising the scale of avoidable blindness in the region, Cognizant Foundation partnered with Operation Eyesight India to improve access to quality eye care through Vision Centres in Boko and Bokakhat. Trained Community Health Volunteers conducted door-to-door screenings, raising awareness and helping identify cases like Bimala's before it was too late.

During one of these routine visits, Bimala was flagged as needing urgent surgery. Thanks to the programme, she received free treatment at Chandraprabha Eye Hospital. The cataract surgery restored her sight completely, bringing back not just her vision but her independence and confidence.

Today, Bimala is back at work, supporting her family and caring for her aging parents. Her recovery has sparked hope across the community, encouraging others to prioritise their eye health. With her vision restored, she dreams of building a *pucca* house and living a life where she can stand on her own terms, with dignity, strength, and a renewed faith in what healthcare access can do.



Beating the odds, one tiny heart at a time.

In the quiet village of Somandargudi in Tamil Nadu, little Revathi* was born into a modest home with a tiled roof and access to running water only at fixed hours. Her parents watched helplessly as their one-year-old daughter fell ill repeatedly. What they thought were recurring colds turned out to be something far more serious, a complex congenital heart defect that placed her life at risk.

Her father, a data entry operator earning just ₹ 1.2 lakhs a year, could not fathom how they would afford the treatment she urgently needed. Even before the nearest screening camp could reach them, the family travelled to MGM Healthcare in Chennai, where doctors advised surgery once she gained enough weight. The weeks that followed were filled with hospital visits, uncertainty, and the quiet hope that support would arrive.

That hope came through the Congenital Heart Disease Programme, run by Aishwarya Trust with support from the Cognizant Foundation. In March 2025, Revathi underwent life-saving surgery. This was the one that gave her a real chance at growing up healthy. No longer frail and constantly unwell, her recovery brought relief to a family that had lived for too long in fear and anxiety.

Today, Revathi is thriving. She is under regular follow-up care through district health camps, where her growth is closely monitored. In her laughter and growing strength, her parents see not just recovery, but the future they had almost stopped imagining. For them, every smile is a reminder that hope, when met with timely support, can change everything.



**Name changed to maintain privacy*

From fragile beginnings to thriving lives

In the remote village of Pallipattu in Tamil Nadu, Selvi* welcomed twin daughters into the world, tiny, fragile, and struggling to breathe. The joy of becoming a mother was quickly overshadowed by anxiety. Both newborns were diagnosed with respiratory complications and dangerously low birth weight. With limited access to private healthcare and transport, the family turned to the Government Medical College Hospital, which became a critical lifeline in ensuring the babies' survival.

It was here that support arrived through Ekam Foundation, backed by the Cognizant Foundation. Selvi was introduced to Divya, a dedicated lactation counsellor who stood by her through each uncertain step. She introduced Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC), a simple yet powerful method involving skin-to-skin contact that helps stabilise premature and low-weight infants. Alongside this, Divya demonstrated breastfeeding techniques using a traditional cup (Paladai), patiently teaching Selvi how to nourish her daughters effectively.

By the fourth day, Selvi was breastfeeding both babies with confidence. Gradually, they began gaining 20 to 30 grams a day. This was a quiet but powerful sign of recovery that restored hope to the family.

Today, the twins are healthy and thriving. Their steady progress is a testimony to

early, compassionate intervention and the resilience of a mother guided by the right support. Selvi's journey speaks to the strength found in the simplest forms of care: warmth, touch, trust. And not to forget the life-changing difference they can make.



Building hope through inclusive rehabilitation

In the crowded lanes of Halshibagan, a slum in Kolkata, West Bengal, young Ritik Sen* lived with his parents in a makeshift rented shelter built from tin and asbestos sheets. This narrow, overburdened stretch of urban poverty is plagued by poor sanitation, limited water supply, and shared toilet facilities used by over 30 people, a constant struggle for dignity and health. In this challenging environment, Ritik's family fights a daily battle for survival, with his father working as a goldsmith in a nearby factory, earning barely ₹ 8,000–10,000 a month. His mother is a homemaker, and Ritik, a child with special needs, is a first-generation learner with limited access to opportunities.

For years, Ritik grappled with a host of physical, behavioural, and learning challenges. He was hyperactive, had poor attention span, limited speech, social isolation, and faced deep stigma within the community. His family lacked the means to seek help, and Ritik's condition threatened to hold him back from experiencing a full and dignified childhood. Like many children with special needs in underserved communities, he faced marginalisation, exclusion, and a future defined by limitations, not potential.



This is where Cognizant Foundation, in collaboration with Hope Kolkata Foundation, stepped in. Recognising the urgent need for inclusive support systems, Cognizant Foundation initiated a project across seven government resource centres in Kolkata to provide therapy-based early intervention to children with special needs from low-income backgrounds. Through a combination of occupational, speech, physiotherapy, behavioural and dance movement therapies, children like Ritik received customised care in child-friendly, disability-inclusive environments. These centres also work to increase awareness among families and communities, breaking the silence and stigma around disabilities.

**Name changed to maintain privacy*

Ritik began receiving therapy regularly. With occupational therapy, he developed eye contact, concentration, sitting tolerance, fine and gross motor skills, and better sensory responses. Speech therapy helped him utter words, improve pronunciation, and reduce drooling. Physiotherapy enhanced his muscle tone,

standing balance, and mobility. Through dance movement therapy, he learned to manage anxiety, share space, take turns, and engage socially. Behavioural therapy brought down hyperactivity, controlled outbursts, and built self-regulation and manners.

Today, Ritik is enrolled in a regular government school, learning in an inclusive classroom setting, where he sits with peers and participates more confidently. His family has also been linked to government entitlements, like the SSM Scholarship, further easing their burden. What is more heartening is the shift in community perception: what was once stigma is now slowly turning to empathy and inclusion.

“We never thought he would be able to go to school like other children,”

his mother says with emotion,

“But now, he listens, he learns, and he smiles more.”



Pavithra’s new dawn - reclaiming life through mental health support

In the crowded lanes of a low-income slum in Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu, Pavithra* lived a life marked by hardship. A mother of two school-age children, she had endured years of abuse and isolation at her in-laws’ home. After losing her husband, the emotional toll deepened, leaving her struggling with worsening mental health, severe distress, and growing social withdrawal. With no income or support system, even her children’s education and basic needs hung in the balance.

Relief came through the Support4All - NALAM programme, a mental health initiative by Cognizant Foundation in partnership with The Banyan, aimed at addressing the rising mental health burden in Tamil Nadu’s

underserved communities. Through this holistic model of care, Pavithra received psychiatric treatment, regular emotional counselling, livelihood support, and assistance in accessing government welfare schemes.

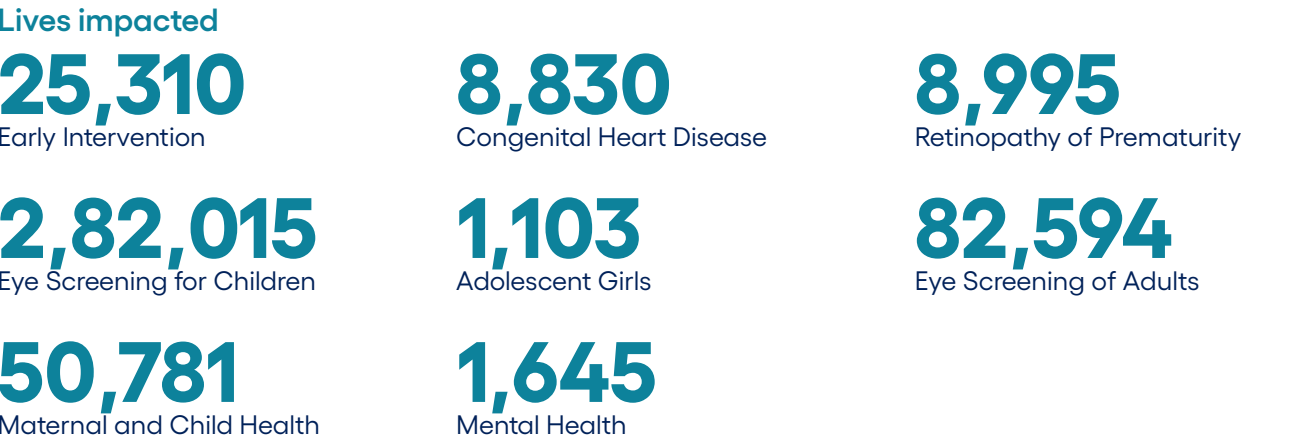
A community health worker played a critical role in her journey, helping her relocate to her maternal home, re-enrolling her children in school, securing a disability pension, and identifying a supportive job. These interventions gave Pavithra more than just stability. They gave her a renewed sense of purpose.

Today, Pavithra lives in a safer environment, earns for herself, and is steadily rebuilding her life. With ongoing support and guidance, she now aspires to reclaim her identity documents and continue her path towards full independence. Her story stands as a powerful reminder that with timely intervention and compassionate care, recovery and dignity are within reach, even in the most challenging of circumstances.

*Name changed to maintain privacy



Our impact in numbers



Our Projects

Cause	Implementing Partner
Early Intervention and Education	Hope Kolkata Foundation The Association of People with Disability Sri Ramacharan Charitable Trust Madras Dyslexia Association
Congenital Heart Disease	Aishwarya Trust
Eye Screening for Babies with ROP	Mission for Vision in partnership with H V Desai Eye Hospital Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital Hyderabad Eye Institute Pushpagiri Vitreo-Retina Institute (PVRI) Sri Keshava Trust
Eye Screening of Children	Mission for Vision in partnership with Little Flower eye hospital R Jhunjunwala Sankara Eye Foundation Sankara Netralaya Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital
Adolescent Girls	Calcutta Rescue
Eye Screening Of Adults In Community	Operation Eyesight India Hyderabad Eye Institute Sankara Eye Hospital, Pammal Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Medical Trust Mission for Vision CBM India Trust Rotary Club of Madras East Trust
Maternal Child Health	Committed Communities Development Trust Ekam Foundation Round Table India
Mental Health	The Banyan



Building better futures

A better future is not built in a day, but in every step forward, every door opened, every voice empowered.

Linkage to UN SDGs

Creating lasting impact requires vision and commitment to the future. Cognizant Foundation India remains dedicated to shaping a brighter, more inclusive future. By building strategic partnerships and championing sustainable, community-driven initiatives, the Foundation is not only expanding opportunities for today's generation but also laying the groundwork for resilient, thriving communities for generations to come.



Indian scenario

Access to quality education and skill development plays a vital role in enabling individuals to realise their potential and contribute meaningfully to society. However, in India, this access remains uneven, especially for underserved groups including children, women and persons with disabilities (PwDs). While the pandemic accelerated digital innovation in education, it also highlighted existing inequities, particularly in rural and underserved regions.

According to the Census 2011, 2.68 crore individuals in India live with disabilities, accounting for 2.21% of the population, though this number is expected to rise under broader definitions in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. Educational attainment among PwDs remains low: nearly 45% are illiterate and only 3.1% have received formal or informal vocational training. Women and persons with disabilities in rural areas face a stark gap in education and employment opportunities. Employment



data reveals that only 26% of PwDs are part of the working population, with most engaged in self-employment or casual labour, and only a small fraction receiving regular wages, particularly in rural areas.

In parallel, while women constitute 43% of STEM graduates, the highest globally, only 14% participate in STEM-related jobs in India. A persistent gender wage gap, underrepresentation in employment, and lack of skilling opportunities further inhibit women's economic empowerment. There is a pressing need to adopt a gender-sensitive approach to education and employment, especially in sectors like Information and Communication Technology (ICT), where skill-based roles offer greater potential for closing income disparities.

The Foundation's response

Cognizant Foundation, through its **Future4All** initiative, works towards building an equitable society by accelerating access to quality education, digital and STEM learning, vocational education, and employment-oriented skills for underserved communities. Through its Excellence4All initiative, the Foundation seeks to promote greater inclusion in higher education across India by extending scholarship support to students from underserved communities. The programme specifically focusses on empowering women, persons with disabilities, and transgender individuals, helping them overcome financial and systemic barriers to access quality education and realise their academic aspirations. In 2024-25, these efforts reached **2,56,597** individuals across India. Key focus areas include:



STEAM4All

Aimed at driving inclusive education and digital-based learning through capacity building of educators, enhancing digital literacy, and creating accessible STEAM resources, including digital learning for persons with visual impairment, digital learning for underserved children, and experiential science learning.

Excellence4All

Provides scholarships to deserving candidates for graduate studies in STEAM and special education (such as for courses in B.Ed. Special Education), and for post-graduate studies in social sciences.



Tech4All

Focussed on vocational and employability training for persons with disabilities and women from underserved communities, including IT/ITeS skilling, advanced IT training for young women, vocational technical education, and targeted programmes to identify, train, and support job placements in tech and non-tech roles, with a strong emphasis on bridging gender and accessibility gaps.

A new window to learning

In a small village in Telangana, Ruchitha, a ninth-grade student from a farming family, had never touched a computer. Her world was limited to textbooks and chores, and her parents were beginning to wonder if keeping her in school made sense. Maths was difficult, confidence was low, and the thought of dropping out loomed close.

But things changed the day 20 computers arrived at her school, donated through the Cognizant Foundation's partnership with Educational Initiatives. With the launch of the Mindspark programme,

Ruchitha encountered her first mouse click and her first sense of real possibility. The programme adapted to her learning level, offering bite-sized lessons, patient feedback, and playful challenges. Slowly, numbers began to make sense. Her marks improved. Her confidence soared.

At a parent-teacher meeting, her parents watched in awe as she navigated the computer lab with ease. They no longer saw school as a burden, but as a doorway to a brighter future. Today, Ruchitha stands tall in her class, more certain of herself and her future than ever before. What began as a digital intervention became something far more powerful: a reason to believe, to stay, and to strive.



Empowering students with visual impairment through technology

Amaresh Sen, a Class VII student at the Ramakrishna Mission Blind Boys' Academy in Kolkata, had always been fascinated by how the world works. Science, in particular, sparked his imagination. However, with his visual impairment, it was challenging for him to fully engage with the subject. Like many visually impaired students, Amaresh relied on tactile diagrams to grasp scientific concepts. While these offered some support, they often lacked the detail required for more abstract topics in higher grades. Without clear, guided explanations, he found it hard to connect theory with tangible understanding, which limited both his confidence and curiosity.

As part of Vision Empower's accessible education programme, supported by the Cognizant Foundation, Amaresh was introduced to IRIS. It is an innovative audio-based device that provides detailed verbal descriptions of tactile diagrams. For the first time, he could explore diagrams with his hands while simultaneously listening to contextual audio, helping him connect shapes with meaning.

The results were transformative. Concepts that once seemed confusing began to take shape in his mind. Amaresh became more engaged in class, asked deeper questions, and demonstrated a stronger grasp of scientific topics.

“Now I can understand the details of the diagrams better by listening; it helps me imagine the picture in my mind.”

Today, Amaresh is more confident and independent in his learning. He actively participates in science lessons and continues to explore new ideas with enthusiasm. With the right tools, his curiosity is no longer limited by accessibility barriers; it is being fuelled by them.



Volunteer Testimonial

“I have always been a fan of tabletop games, especially those that require strategic thinking and have a rich, immersive theme. Here, with ‘Tactical Card Making’, we are helping those who need a little additional help to learn. I am happy that I was part of this programme. Together, we can make a difference. Every action counts in the fight for a better world. Thank you, team.”

– Sujatha Prabhu

Volunteer

Mahesh's journey from disability to Amazon

In the quiet village of Chiyyedu in Ananthapur, Andhra Pradesh, Bulle Mahesh Babu grew up in a modest nuclear family, the youngest of three siblings. His father, a small-scale farmer and the family's sole breadwinner, earned less than ₹ 1 lakh annually, barely enough to meet their basic needs.

By the age of 16, Mahesh had already undergone two major surgeries, including one for a fracture and another for appendicitis. Battling repeated bouts of typhoid, his childhood was riddled with health setbacks. But perhaps the most life-altering challenge was the loss of his vision in late childhood. The impact was immense, not just physically, but emotionally and socially. He faced restricted mobility, limited access to learning tools, and a sharp drop in confidence. Coming from a vernacular-medium background, Mahesh struggled with transitioning to higher education in English. Living in a rural area with no exposure to technology, he found himself falling behind his sighted peers, isolated by a widening digital and educational divide.

Recognising the systemic barriers faced by visually

impaired students like Mahesh, Cognizant Foundation partnered with Help the Blind Foundation (HTBF) to provide a comprehensive solution: academic scholarships, assistive devices, and employability training. Through the Education, Mobility, and Employability Training (EMET) programme, Mahesh received a laptop, headset, keyboard, and Smart Vision Glasses, critical tools that enabled him to bridge the gap between aspiration and ability.

What followed was a remarkable transformation. Over two years in the EMET programme, Mahesh

mastered mobility, improved his English communication, learned to navigate digital platforms, and gained the self-confidence he had once lost. His diligence was evident; he not only excelled academically, completing his B.Com with 80%, but was also honoured as Best Student of the Year by his college.

With this, he landed a job at Amazon as a Manual Tester for the Alexa Device Support Team. Today, he works as a Quality Service Associate with Amazon Shopping in Chennai, where he finds the workplace inclusive, the team supportive, and his role fulfilling.



New dreams taking roots in rural classrooms

"It is easier now to guide students. This programme gives us tools to help them dream and plan practically."

- Ms Mamata Kolkar, their teacher

In government high schools across Karnataka's Belagavi division, thousands of students from rural and tribal communities once saw their futures as limited, often shaped by early dropouts or default career paths. Without guidance, they navigated their education like a maze without a map. For many girls, the barriers were even higher, with pressures of early marriage and restricted mobility. Even the most committed teachers lacked structured tools to support students beyond academics.

Cognizant Foundation stepped in to change this. In partnership with the India Literacy Project, the CareerQuest Comprehensive Pathways Programme was launched across 1,184 schools in the region. At its core is a simple but powerful belief: every student deserves the opportunity to discover their strengths and shape a meaningful future. Through self-discovery workbooks, career videos, and teacher-led sessions, the programme helps students explore their interests, consider career options, and set personal goals.

The impact has been transformative. Students who once hesitated to dream now speak with clarity and confidence. Nagaratna from Chittakula discovered her strengths and now knows what she wants to pursue after school. In Gopanakoppa, Sneha and her classmates treat their workbooks like personal journals, spaces where they reflect deeply, write freely, and plan boldly. Teachers, too, feel reinvigorated, equipped with tools to guide their students more meaningfully.

Today, students are more self-aware, hopeful, and motivated. As they look to the year ahead, both students and teachers see each session not just as a lesson, but as a step towards greater choice, brighter possibilities, and a future shaped on their terms.



Seeing the unseen - supporting children with Dyslexia

In bustling classrooms across Chennai, countless children silently struggle, not with a lack of intelligence or motivation, but with a misunderstood condition: Specific Learning Disability (SLD). Branded as inattentive, lazy, or 'Problem Children,' these students often fall behind academically, unable to keep pace with their peers. The lack of awareness and appropriate support within mainstream schools pushes many to the margins, and in too many cases, out of the education system altogether.

Recognising this critical gap, Cognizant Foundation partnered with the Madras Dyslexia Association (MDA) to build a systemic response within schools. MDA, a leader in the field of SLD, brought in

decades of expertise to develop a programme that not only identifies children with learning disabilities but also provides remedial strategies and support systems directly within the school environment.

Resource rooms were set up in 15 government and affordable private schools across Chennai, and 800 mainstream teachers were trained in identifying and addressing SLD through specialised remedial strategies. An identification checklist was developed that allowed teachers to screen and classify children into mild, moderate, and severe categories of learning difficulty. Based on this classification, targeted interventions were implemented within the classroom and the resource room. Tablets loaded with the MDA-Avaz Reader, an

app that helps children with dyslexia become independent readers, was also provided. Special educators were also equipped with remedial kits, filled with engaging teaching-learning aids tailored to the needs of children with SLD.

The results have been transformative. Over 5,000 children have been identified with SLD across the project schools, enabling them to receive timely support without being removed from the classroom setting. Teachers, now trained and sensitised, report being more confident and empathetic in handling diverse learners. Resource rooms have become active learning spaces where children feel safe, supported, and capable of catching up with their peers.

Today, these schools are no longer silent witnesses to a child's academic decline. They are active participants in a child's growth, ready to identify, support, and nurture every learner. The teachers express pride and satisfaction in being able to make a difference, and the children, finally seen and understood, respond with joy, curiosity, and progress.



Tech-enabled skilling for the visually impaired

In the remote village of Psar in West Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya, Pynskhemlang la I Lamare grew up as one of nine siblings in a modest household. After losing both parents early in life, her elder siblings, engaged in farming and coal mine work, took on the responsibility of raising the family. Born visually impaired, Pynskhemlang faced years of isolation and missed out on early schooling, largely due to the lack of awareness and access to inclusive education in her rural community.

Her life began to change when she was connected to Jyoti Sroat School, a special school in Shillong, where she first experienced structured learning. But the real turning point came when she joined EnAble India's training programme, supported by Cognizant Foundation. Through this initiative, she was introduced to the Blimey tool, an accessible digital learning platform tailored for persons with visual impairment.

With grit and determination, Pynskhemlang quickly gained confidence and digital skills. She mastered

computer usage independently and proactively sought help when needed. This transformation led to her placement as a Technical Recruiter in a multinational company, where she excelled, eventually rising to the role of Senior Recruiter.

Today, she not only supports her siblings and their children's education, but also contributes to her own household after recently getting married. Her story has redefined how her community sees disability, not as a limitation, but as a part of a person's larger potential. She continues to upskill using the Blimey tool, aspiring to grow further in her career while mentoring others like her.



Enabling dreams through scholarships



In the remote village of Kasimpur in Dholpur, Rajasthan, Neeraj Kumar, a visually impaired student, faced more than just academic challenges. With his father working as a daily wage labourer and no other source of income, Neeraj's family struggled to meet basic needs, let alone support his education. Studying in a mainstream environment without assistive tools or financial resources, Neeraj often found himself falling behind, despite his strong motivation to learn.

His turning point came when Bhumi, through its inclusive scholarship programme supported by the Cognizant Foundation, identified his potential. The scholarship provided more than financial aid. It enabled Neeraj to purchase assistive devices, attend skill-building workshops, and access career guidance tailored to his needs. With these tools, Neeraj's academic performance improved, and he began engaging more confidently in class.

The programme also expanded his aspirations. Through career awareness sessions, Neeraj discovered his interest in social work and now aims to pursue a Master's in Social Work to support others facing similar challenges, after completing his ongoing course at Maharaja Agrasen College. He recently completed an internship with Bhumi, gaining hands-on experience in the development sector and affirming his desire to make a meaningful impact.

Apoorva's journey from hardships to success

Opportunities rarely knock in the narrow lanes of rural Tumkur, but Apoorva was determined to find her own way. Born with polio in her left leg and hand, she grew up facing barriers, both physical and societal. Her father, a farmer, and her mother, a tailor, worked hard to support the family, but their income left little room for dreams of higher education or stable employment. The future seemed uncertain and distant.

That changed when she was enrolled in a two-year Electronics Mechanic training programme at NTT, supported by the Cognizant Foundation. More than just a vocational course, it became a place where Apoorva found her voice. She acquired

technical skills, grew in confidence, and took on leadership roles within her peer group. What set her apart was her decision to learn Indian Sign Language, not for herself, but to support hearing-impaired classmates. She became a vital link between trainers and students, leading by example.

Today, Apoorva is employed at Tata Power in Bengaluru, earning a decent income. She supports her family with quiet pride and motivates others with disabilities to believe in their potential.



Empowering women through skill development

In the crowded lanes of Pune's Bidi Kamgar Vasahat, Balaji Nagar, Jasminder Kaur Bhada was quietly holding on to a dream. A 12th pass student with a diploma in pre-school teaching, she had the heart to work with young children, but lacked the confidence, tools, and direction to turn that passion into a profession. Financial constraints and societal expectations at home meant further education was not an option. She was stuck between what she wanted to do and what seemed possible.

Her journey took a turn when she was introduced to Bright Future's career guidance programme, supported by the Cognizant Foundation. What started with a Career Khoj session at Ashraya Foundation turned into a transformative path. Jasminder joined the 4-month training and slowly began to find her footing. With classes in English communication, teamwork, and digital skills such as Excel and PowerPoint, she not only grew professionally but also personally. Each day of learning chipped away at her hesitation, revealing a confident, capable young woman beneath.

Today, Jasminder is a full-time preschool teacher, confidently preparing lesson plans on her laptop and nurturing young minds with a voice that once trembled. Her next goal is clear: to pursue a formal D. Ed. (Diploma in Education) and inspire other girls in her community to dream bigger, aim higher, and believe in their potential.

Partner Testimonial

"At Bright Future, we believe every young person deserves access to learning, mentoring, and employment opportunities that empower them to become change-makers in their communities. With support from Cognizant Foundation, we created inclusive spaces for young women from underserved communities to explore careers in tech, starting with centres in Yerwada, Pune, and later in Dwarka, Delhi. Through training in graphic design, web development, and digital tools, over 200 young women, many first-generation learners, have gained skills, confidence, and access to IT-enabled jobs."

– Kishor Palve

Founder and CEO
Bright Future



Seema's journey from crisis to confidence

Seema Kharat lives in the rural village of Katepurna in Maharashtra's Akola district. Her parents are farm labourers without land of their own, and the family lives in a temporary kutcha house. When her father underwent multiple surgeries and became unable to work, her mother became the sole breadwinner, straining under both financial and emotional pressure. Seema, having just completed her 12th grade exams, felt compelled to help, but without guidance or employable skills, her options were painfully limited.

In the midst of this uncertainty, Seema came across a friend who had completed the General Duty Assistant (GDA) course under Pratham Education Foundation and found employment. Motivated, she enrolled in the same course, with support from the Cognizant Foundation. The initiative focusses on bridging the skill gap in India's vast youth population, many of whom come from underprivileged backgrounds. Through its partnership with Pratham, the Foundation aims to provide healthcare-related vocational training to young women across Maharashtra.

Seema underwent two months of intensive training, including hands-on experience in medical care. Upon completion, she was placed at Astitva Medical Care in Pune. Earning a decent income now, she contributes regularly to her family's income and is helping rebuild their home.

Today, Seema takes pride in her work and the life she is building. Her parents beam with pride when they speak of their daughter working in a hospital in Pune. Her story has not only brought dignity and stability to her household but also sparked change in her community, with ten other girls from her village enrolling in the same course after seeing her transformation.

Volunteer Testimonial

"It was really great! I didn't expect that I would be teaching 16 students altogether. The students were interactive and paid attention."

– Maitrayee Borate

Volunteer



Building a new life, one step at a time

In a modest home in Chennai, Rohith Kumar N lived each day caught between hope and helplessness. Living with an intellectual disability and limited family income, his father, an AC mechanic, and his mother, a homemaker, Rohith struggled to find his place in the world. Though he had completed school, job opportunities remained out of reach. Repeated rejections and the weight of social stigma wore down his confidence, leaving the family emotionally and financially strained.

Then came the turning point. With support from the Cognizant Foundation, Rohith enrolled in Dr Reddy's Foundation's inclusive skilling programme. More than just technical training, the programme offered a supportive environment where he learned typing, MS Office, retail operations, and interview skills, all while receiving consistent emotional encouragement. Through personalised mentoring and hands-on learning, Rohith began to thrive. He completed tasks independently, supported his peers, and slowly rebuilt his self-belief.

Today, Rohith works as a Captain, Picking and Packing, with Comett Staffing Solutions at Blinkit, earning a respectable yearly pay. He leaves home with pride, returns with stories from work, and plays an active role in supporting his family. What once seemed like an impossible dream is now a lived reality, one defined by dignity, purpose, and a renewed sense of belonging.

Partner Testimonial

“At Dr Reddy's Foundation, our vision has always been to enable sustainable livelihoods for underserved communities, including PwDs, women, and youth. Our decade-long partnership with Cognizant Foundation began with youth skill development and, since 2019, has expanded to focus on inclusive livelihood programmes for PwDs. This transition marked a significant step in making the skilling ecosystem more inclusive and accessible. Together, we have positively impacted the lives of thousands of young people and People with Disabilities by building their skills and facilitating meaningful employment opportunities. The long-standing support from the Cognizant Foundation has helped us scale our reach, strengthen our training models, and build greater awareness around inclusive hiring practices.”

– Sri Lakshmi B

Director - Operations
Dr Reddy's Foundation



Our impact in numbers

Lives impacted

79,601

Tech-Based Learning in School

95,916

Career Counselling in School

1,690

Scholarship for College Students

1,397

Tech-Based Learning in College

1,692

Skilling PWDs

2,199

Skilling Women

62,068

Tech-Based Learning in Community

Our projects

Cause	Implementing Partner
Tech-Based Learning in School	Vision Empower Trust
	Nirmaan Organization
	Agastya International Foundation
	IT for Change
	Educational Initiatives Private Limited
Career Counselling in School	Khan Academy India
	India Literacy Project
Scholarship for College Students	Foundation For Excellence India Trust
	Help the Blind Foundation
	Bhumi
	Christel House India
Tech-Based Learning in College	Buddy4Study India Foundation
	Help the Blind Foundation
	Tata Institute of Social Sciences
Skilling PWDs	Sarthak Educational Trust
	The Association of People with Disability
	Dr Reddy's Foundation
	Cheshire Disability Trust
	Nettur Technical Training Foundation
	The Association of People with Disability
Skilling Women	Pratham Education Foundation
	ICT Academy of Tamil Nadu
	New Resolution India
	Centum Foundation
	Magic Bus India Foundation
	Lok Bharti
	Anudip Foundation
	ANEW
	Dr Reddy's Foundation
	Y4D Foundation
	Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital
Tech-Based Learning for Community	Enable India

Recognitions that reflect our purpose



Cognizant Foundation India has won the 'Best Assistive Technology (AT) CSR Initiative (ENABLER category) of the Year Award' at AssisTech Foundation (ATF) Awards 2024.

Edwin Moses, Head of Education programmes, and Ansu Abraham, Head of Strategy and Operations from Cognizant Foundation India, received the award in the presence of Shri Priyank M Kharge, Hon'ble Minister of Information Technology, and Sri Eshwar Khandre, Hon'ble Minister, Forest, Ecology and Environment, Govt. of Karnataka, at the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2024.

Measuring impact that matters

LV Prasad Eye Institute

Project Background

Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) is a leading cause of childhood blindness in India, particularly among preterm babies in Special Newborn Care Units (SNCUs). With the growing number of SNCUs, cases of ROP have risen significantly. In response, LVPEI, with support from Cognizant Foundation, launched the Indian Twin Cities ROP Screening Programme (ITCROPS). ITCROPS is a protocol-driven approach for screening Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) in preterm infants, designed to identify and treat the condition within the critical first 30 days after birth.

Objective

To assess the impact of the equipment that Cognizant Foundation contributed to LVPEI and the OPEX costs for the ROP programme in Odisha.



Project Activities

- ◆ Screening of premature infants for ROP across government SNCUs
- ◆ Use of tele-screening through video conferencing and imaging
- ◆ Clinical interventions, including anti-VEGF injections and surgeries
- ◆ Capacity building and training of NICU and SNCU staff
- ◆ Provision of equipment like retinal cameras and warmers
- ◆ Parental counselling and follow-up care
- ◆ Data management through MIS and performance tracking

Project Details

Implementation Year:

2022-23

Assessment Year:

2024

Project Locations:

8 districts in Orissa

Implementing Partner:

LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI)

Beneficiaries:

1,333 infants screened

216 infants treated

Families with monthly income

<₹ 15,000

Budget:

₹ 98,83,577

Sampling Method:

A mix of quantitative data such as screening and treatment numbers, along with parent satisfaction surveys

Sample Size:

371 stakeholders engaged

200 parents surveyed for satisfaction

Key Findings

- ◆ High prevalence of ROP among SNCU babies - up to 47.2% in some centres
- ◆ Strong satisfaction among beneficiaries - 96% rated the programme ≥4 out of 5
- ◆ Only one SNCU in Cuttack had the capacity to conduct independent ROP care; others relied on LVPEI
- ◆ The cost per patient was ₹ 7,414.5 - considered highly economical
- ◆ Equipment use enhanced staff efficiency and treatment quality

Key Impacts

- ◆ **Clinical Impact:** Over 82% of treated babies showed regressed or regressing ROP
- ◆ **Operational Efficiency:** Screening time reduced from 10 minutes to 5 minutes per child
- ◆ **Social Impact:** Reduced chances of future blindness, improving economic prospects and social inclusion
- ◆ **Healthcare System Strengthening:** Empowered SNCU staff, enhanced infrastructure, improved referral mechanisms
- ◆ **Sustainability:** Equipment projected to last 8 years; potential to screen over 12,700 babies over its lifespan
- ◆ **Scalability:** Model aligns with national healthcare goals and can be replicated in other regions

SDGs Impacted:



Measuring impact that matters

Enable India - Educate Yourself Easily (EYE) Programme

Project Background

The initiative aimed to enhance digital literacy for Persons with Vision Impairment (PVI) across India by upgrading and expanding the Blimey app under the Educate Yourself Easily (EYE) programme. It focussed on providing PVIs with accessible tools, training, and mentorship to improve employability and quality of life. A key component was the 'See A Million (SAM)' campaign, which promoted digital empowerment to help PVIs overcome isolation and achieve economic independence. The overarching mission was to empower one million PVIs as active, self-reliant citizens and contributors to nation-building.

Objective

To upgrade and build a digital learning platform, Educate Yourself Easily (EYE), to Enable Persons with Vision Impairment (PVI) across India over a period of three years.



Project Activities

- ◆ Development and upgrading of the Blimey App
- ◆ 'SAM' campaign to raise awareness
- ◆ Training workshops for students, trainers, and professionals
- ◆ Mentorship support to reinforce learning
- ◆ Feedback loops and monitoring for continuous improvement
- ◆ Collaboration with other organisations to increase employment access
- ◆ Community engagement and outreach
- ◆ Ongoing monitoring and evaluation



Project Details

Implementation Year:
2020-23

Assessment Year:
2024-25

Project Locations:
Pan India

Implementing Partner:
EnAble India

Beneficiaries:
61,063 users

Over **90** partner organisations

Budget:
₹ 2,43,39,387

Sampling Method:
Purposive and Simple Random Sampling

Sample Size:
382 respondents

Key Findings

- ◆ 91.9% of users could type effectively in MS Word using the Blimey app
- ◆ 89.5% were proficient in using Excel with keyboard shortcuts
- ◆ 84.8% used the app successfully to read emails and complete forms
- ◆ 88.2% gained practical, job-ready skills
- ◆ 64.4% of previously non-earning participants reported an increase in income
- ◆ 83.8% continued using the app for work post-training
- ◆ 90.3% recommended the app for digital skill development
- ◆ 85.9% indicated that the app met their learning needs
- ◆ 86.1% found the additional learning resources useful
- ◆ 73.0% expressed a need for mentorship, highlighting the app's value with added human support

Key Impacts

- ◆ **Enhanced Digital Literacy:** Empowered PVIs with skills in Word, Excel, Email, and form filling
- ◆ **Job-Ready Skills Development:** Majority reported acquiring industry-relevant, practical competencies
- ◆ **Inclusivity and Empowerment:** Helped PVIs overcome isolation and integrate into society
- ◆ **Increased Economic Opportunities:** Many transitioned to income-generating roles post-training
- ◆ **Encouraged Technological Adoption:** Inspired wider acceptance of digital tools among PVIs
- ◆ **Wider Applicability of Skills:** Skills extended beyond jobs, improving daily life and independence

SDGs Impacted:



Charting the road ahead

At Cognizant Foundation, our mission continues to centre on creating meaningful, measurable impact in the communities we serve. As we look to the future, we remain committed to placing outcomes and impact at the core of our initiatives, guided by insight, inclusion, and integrity.

Recognising the evolving needs of society, we are refining our strategic approach to ensure that our efforts are more focussed, data-informed, and aligned with our core values. This shift will help us deepen community engagement, improve the programme's effectiveness, and expand our impact in a sustainable manner.

Looking ahead, we will strengthen our focus on three priority areas:

01

Preventing avoidable
blindness

02

Promoting STEM education
for the visually impaired

03

Enhancing employability
and skilling for Persons with
Disabilities (PwDs)



These areas represent both pressing challenges and opportunities to enable lasting change. By supporting inclusive education, innovative skilling models, and community-based solutions, we aim to equip individuals with the tools and opportunities to lead independent, dignified lives.

Through strong partnerships, ongoing learning, and a clear focus on results, Cognizant Foundation will continue to contribute to inclusive and equitable development. We look forward to working alongside our partners, stakeholders, and communities to advance this shared vision.

Disclaimer: Some names and identifying details have been changed to protect the privacy and dignity of the individuals featured in this book. All stories have been shared with consent and in collaboration with our partner organisations.

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