

Thinking Social Roundtable – Bangalore



The maiden thematic roundtable of “TSEC Thinking Social Roundtable” series, organized by IIM Calcutta Innovation Park (IIP), was held on 28th November 2014 at the Lemon Tree Premier in Bengaluru, under the aegis of Tata Social Enterprise Challenge (TSEC). The Bengaluru Chapter of IIM Calcutta Alumni Association was instrumental in supporting the Roundtable. The theme of the Roundtable was ‘Providing Affordable Healthcare’. The main objective of this roundtable was to provide a platform, for the champions of healthcare entrepreneurship ecosystem to exchange their experiences and ideas thereby perhaps create a set of best practices for the industry to emulate.

The thematic TSEC Roundtable was structured with an introductory address from IIP and the TATA Groups followed by Panel discussion with subsequent Q&A round and ending with a valedictory and thanking note from the IIMC Alumni Bengaluru Chapter.

The speakers for the day comprised eminent entrepreneurs, VCs, NGOs who have established their own outstanding ventures in the healthcare sector in India. The audience (a strong presence of 42 registered participants) comprised of Professionals, entrepreneurs, innovators and NGOs mainly from the Healthcare sector.

Mr. Chandradeep Mitra, advisor to IIM-Calcutta’s Innovation Park, in his introductory address on behalf of IIP emphasized the global importance of the theme. Mr. Mitra outlined the structure of the Innovation Park and also discussed how its functions focus on healthcare, social issues, livelihood, education and green energy as the core areas. Ms Shernavaz Colah of the TATA Groups highlighted the dedication of the TATA Groups towards Providing Affordable Healthcare through various initiatives, charities and infrastructures.

Mr Chandradeep Mitra moderated the Panel discussion and requested all the Panelists to share their thoughts on the Challenges and Opportunities of the Theme.

Dr.R.V. Ramani, Founder and Managing Trustee, Sankara Eye Care Institutions, shared his experience of being an entrepreneur in an era when the word entrepreneur was not common. He emphasized that '*Patience*' is the main virtue of an entrepreneur.

Dr Ashwin Naik: Founder & CEO of Vaatsalya Healthcare started his discussion by stating 'I do not believe in Challenges & Opportunities'. He believes that understanding the problem and finding a solution to it is the key to everything.

Mr. Sundeep Kapila, Co Founder of Swasth, believes that quality of service needs to be benchmarked at its best; -'My family goes to the centre, that's my benchmark for quality of service'. He believes that creating right kind of awareness is also vital to scalability. 'I am a technical person with no healthcare experience which helped me to look at the problem with an outsiders point of view' which helped Mr. K. Chandrasekhar: CEO of Forus to provide easy, user-friendly and affordable technology solutions. He believes that in order to make healthcare affordable lot of IT integration is required and people from IT backgrounds should be encouraged to do so.

'I have some good news for you'— Nagaraja Prakasham, Partner of Acumen, insisted that there are plenty of funding opportunities for healthcare startups as long as they are scalable. Talking from a VCs perspective Mr Siddharth Dhondiyal, Director India Value Fund Advisors, opined that a good scalable idea with a good business plan always attracts investment. There are a good number of VCs interested in the healthcare domain.

Mr Pritpal Marjara, Managing Director, Population Service International India, feels more awareness on healthcare is required and governments need to play the role of an enabler in a more structured way.



The Q&A round witnessed almost 100% participation from the audience. There were many burning issues discussed and addressed by the audience and the panelists. The TSEC Roundtable concluded with Mr Ishwar Kumar's valedictory note on behalf of IIMC Alumni Bengaluru Chapter.