HCLTech Grant
by HCLFoundation

Pan India Symposiums 2023
Edition IX

Anchored by HCLFoundation
and CSRBOX

Duration: May 30, 2023 to June 27, 2023

Contents

Executive Summary

The HCLTech Grant Symposiums, organized by HCLFoundation and CSRBOX, have played a significant role in promoting civil society engagement and collaboration in India. By aligning these symposiums with the G20 Presidency and involving civil society organizations (CSOs) in discussions and policy coordination, HCLFoundation and CSRBOX have contributed to enhancing civil society's role in shaping the global economic agenda.

Indeed, with India holding the G20 Presidency from December 2022 to November 2023 under the theme of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," emphasizing inclusive and sustainable development, there has been a notable increase in focus on addressing global challenges through collaboration and cooperation. The concept of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," which translates to "One Earth | One Family | One Future," underscores the interconnectedness of nations and the shared responsibility to work together for the betterment of the planet and its inhabitants.

The symposiums provided a platform for CSOs to learn, share knowledge, and leverage their expertise in addressing key challenges related to sustainable development, economic stability, and financial governance. The discussions covered a wide range of topics, including poverty alleviation, sustainable economic growth, health, unemployment, and climate change. By bringing together industry leaders, experts, and CSO representatives, the symposiums fostered dialogue, collaboration, and advocacy on these critical issues.

Technology and innovation were emphasized as key drivers in addressing social and environmental challenges. The need for measuring and scaling impact, integrating gender equality and sustainability into poverty alleviation strategies, and aligning corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives with environmental, social, and governance frameworks were also highlighted during the panel discussions. The symposiums highlighted the value of shared learning, best practices, and international cooperation in driving sustainable development.

By actively involving CSOs and facilitating their collaboration with governments, businesses, and other stakeholders in enhancing its contribution to India's vision of inclusive and sustainable development within the G20 framework, HCLFoundation and CSRBOX aimed to make CSR initiatives more effective and impactful. Recognising the involvement of CSOs in shaping the global economic agenda leading to more holistic and impactful development outcomes, furthering the goals of the Indian G20 Presidency, the symposiums serve as a reminder to the Indian Civil Society to actively participate in scripting the country's diverse story of development, with inclusivity, sustainability, and growth at its core.

Overall, the 9th edition of the HCLTech Grant Symposium had a total of 1990 active participants, including 1867 NGOs from various locations. The series featured 75+ speakers from various backgrounds, including government departments, consultants, and CSR activists. These speakers shared their insights and expertise, contributing to the knowledge exchange and discussions during the event.

Context of the HCLTech Grant Symposium

The HCLTech Grant Symposiums serve as a platform for various stakeholders to come together and discuss Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives and their contribution to nation-building. The symposiums are organized by HCLTech Grant in collaboration with CSRBOX, aiming to foster interactions between NGOs, experts, government officials, corporate representatives, and policymakers across India.

HCLFoundation, through the HCLTech Grant, has been actively supporting and empowering the NGO ecosystem in India. With the foundation's vision to strengthen the sector, they have successfully reached even the most remote locations in the country. The primary goal is to motivate and encourage small to mid-size high-calibre initiatives to participate in the HCLTech Grant Process, which offers rewarding opportunities for NGOs.

By bringing together stakeholders from diverse backgrounds and sectors, the symposiums aim to facilitate regional and sectoral understanding of CSR and its potential for nation-building. The platform allows participants to share their experiences, best practices, and insights, enabling collaboration and knowledge exchange. Through these interactions, the symposiums aim to foster innovation, sustainable development, and positive social impact across India.

As the HCLTech Grant programme has reached its 9th consecutive edition, it demonstrates the long-standing commitment of the HCLFoundation and its partners to support and empower NGOs in their efforts to create positive change in society.

About HCLTech Grant

The HCLTech Grant, with its three thematic categories of Environment, Health, and Education, offers NGOs a significant opportunity to implement path-breaking models of rural development. The grant provides a substantial amount of ₹ 5 Crore (~US$0.65 million) to the winning NGOs in each category for a 4-year project. Additionally, the 2 other finalists in each category receive ₹ 25 lakhs (~US$0.03 million) for a year-long project.

HCLTech Grant Pan India Symposium Report 23-24

Introduction

The 9th edition of the HCLTech Grant Pan-India Symposiums covered 8 locations across India - Bangalore, Trivandrum, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Guwahati, Raipur & Delhi. These symposiums were conducted by HCLFoundation and CSRBOX, with the aim of bringing together NGOs, experts, government officials, corporates, and policymakers to discuss and develop a better understanding of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and its contribution to nation-building. The symposiums also provided a platform for NGOs to learn about the HCLTech India Grant and encourage their participation in addition to increasing their awareness about relevant topics specific to the social impact sector.
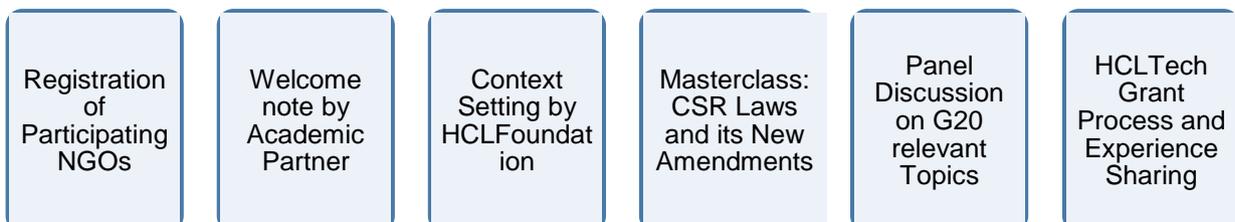
Symposiums Journey - 9th Edition:

The symposiums were held from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm IST and included masterclasses, motivational segments, and panel discussions anchored by sector experts. The purpose of these symposiums was to not only provide information about the grant but also to build the capacity of nonprofits and development professionals in attendance.

Flow of the Symposiums

Time: 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM

| Registration of Participating NGOs | Welcome note by Academic Partner | Context Setting by HCLFoundation | Masterclass: CSR Laws and its New Amendments | Panel Discussion on G20 relevant Topics | HCLTech Grant Process and Experience Sharing |

Academic Partners & Symposium Location

Symposium Date	Symposium Location	Symposium Venue/Institute
30th June 2023	Bangalore - Karnataka	The Scouts and Guides
2nd June 2023	Trivandrum - Kerala	Loyola College of Social Sciences
8th June 2023	Mumbai - Maharashtra	M.L Shrikant Auditorium, SP Jain Institute of Management and Research (SPJIMR)
12th June 2023	Ahmedabad - Gujarat	Ahmedabad Management Association (AMA)
15th June 2023	Jaipur - Rajasthan	IIHMR University
19th June 2023	Guwahati – Assam	Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)
23rd June 2023	Raipur - Chhattisgarh	National Institute of Technology (NIT)
27th June 2023	Delhi – New Delhi	NCUI

Summary of Registrations

Location	No. of Registration (Online)	On Spot Registration	No. of Participants (On venue)
Bangalore - Karnataka	240	85	361
Trivandrum – Kerala	98	36	164
Mumbai - Maharashtra	166	66	265
Ahmedabad - Gujarat	116	47	194
Jaipur - Rajasthan	94	59	183
Guwahati – Assam	71	16	117
Raipur - Chhattisgarh	70	37	140
Delhi	474	81	604

Location	Total no. of Unique NGOs
Bangalore	344
Trivandrum	97
Mumbai	320
Ahmedabad	193
Jaipur	147
Guwahati	94
Raipur	110
Delhi	562

Modes of Outreach

Outreach: Emailer, WhatsApp Messages, Social Media Posts, SMS, Calls

Confirmation: Emailer, WhatsApp Messages, Calls

Reminder: Mails: 1-Day prior to the event & Calls: 3 hours prior to the commencement of the event
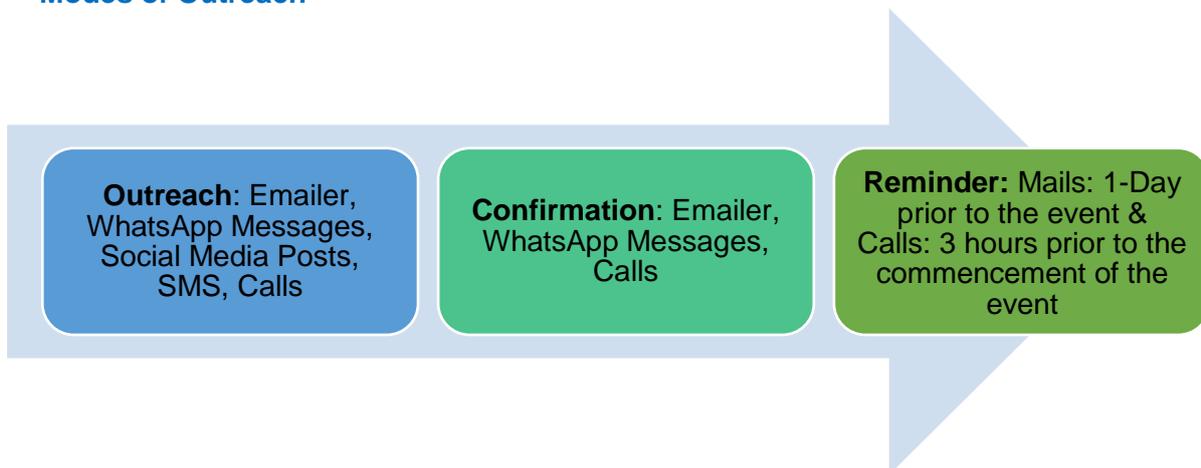
The HCLTech Grant Symposium undertook an extensive and structured outreach process to ensure the circulation of information to as many NGOs as possible, regardless of their scale. The outreach efforts were designed to foster curiosity, sustained engagement, and opportunities for dialogue with NGOs, encouraging their active participation in the symposiums. This process commenced around one month prior to the scheduled start of the symposiums, with the aim of generating momentum and generating interest in the event.

To reach out to NGOs, various platforms such as emails, WhatsApp messages, calls, SMS, and social media were used. These channels provided diverse avenues for communication, allowing the organizers to connect with NGOs in different ways and accommodate their preferred modes of communication.

Emails were widely used to send detailed information about the symposium, including the event schedule, topics of discussion, and registration details. This allowed NGOs to have a comprehensive understanding of the symposium and decide whether they would like to participate.

WhatsApp messages, calls, and SMS were extensively used for more direct and personalized outreach. These channels were employed to establish one-on-one communication with specific NGOs, providing them with a more personalized invitation and addressing any queries they may have had.

Social media platforms played a crucial role in creating consistent engagement. The various social media platforms were leveraged to generate excitement, share updates about the symposium, and highlight the benefits of participation. The social media channels such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram were used to reach a wider audience and engage with NGOs on a broader scale. This approach allowed for ongoing communication, as NGOs could follow the symposium's social media accounts for regular updates and engage in discussions related to the event.

Overall, the HCLTech Grant Symposium employed a multi-channel outreach strategy to maximize the dissemination of information to NGOs. By utilizing emails, WhatsApp messages, calls, SMS, and social media, they aimed to create a sense of curiosity, foster continuous engagement, and encourage dialogue with NGOs to increase their participation in the symposiums.

HCLTech Grant Symposium 1 Bengaluru

Location: Bengaluru (Karnataka) **Date:** 30th May 2023
Venue: The Scouts and Guides Auditorium
Agenda:

Sr. No.	Particulars	Time	Speakers
1	**Breakfast and Registration**	8:30am- 9:30 am	Help Desk/Registration Desk
2	**Lamp Lighting and Welcome Song**	9:30am- 9:40 am	
3	**Welcome Address by Academic Partner**	9:40am - 9:45 am	The Bharat Scouts and Guides
4	**Keynote Address by HCLTech**	9:45 am -9:55 am	**Mr. Prasad RA** Senior Vice President, HCLTech
5	**Context Setting and HCLFoundation Overview**	9:55am – 10:15 am	**Dr. Nidhi Pundhir** Vice President, Global CSR, HCLFoundation
6	**Masterclass on CSR Laws and its New Amendments**	10:15 am -11:15 am	**Mr. Nikhil Pant** CSR Advisor and Former Chief Programme Executive, National Foundation for CSR, IICA, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt. of India **Mr. Bhomik Shah** Founder and CEO, CSRBOX
7	**Health Break**	11:15 am -11:25 am	
8	**Panel Discussion** Topic: Addressing SDG Goal No.1 – Ending Poverty – What it means for in context of G20	11:25 am -12:25 pm	**Dr. Nidhi Pundhir** Vice President, Global CSR, HCLFoundation **Mr. Jeya Chandran** State Project Head, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-Karnataka **Ms.Kalyani Pantangi** Director & Sr-Consultant for Management & Business Services| Patron of Sustainability & Change management| ESG Consultant| G100 India Country Chair | Volunteer @ UN & CIC **Ms. Veena M** ESG Consultant/ SPSC Ambassador/ National President of Handicraft Council - Women India Chamber of Commerce/ Facilitator at CIC/ Co-Founder at Texellent Solutions Private Limited **Dr. Usha Manjunath** Professor – Director - IIHMR (Bangalore) **Moderator: Mr. Nikhil Pant**
9	**HCLTech Grant Process and Experience Sharing**	12:30 pm - 1:45 pm	**Grant Process:** **Ms. Shally Kaushal** Programme Officer, HCLFoundation **Experience Sharing:** **Ms. Archana Tripathi** CEO, SAAHAS **Ms. Jyoti Thyagarajan** Founder and Executive Trustee, Meghshala Trust **Mr. Murthy Naveen Kumar** National Archer, The Association of People with Disability (APD) **Moderator: Mr. Robin Thomas** Manager, HCLFoundation
10	**Networking Lunch**	1:45 pm - 2:30 pm	
11	**Grant Help Desk and Registration**	2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	HCLFoundation Team

Summary of the Registration

240 Registration (Online)

85 On Spot Registration

361 Participants (On venue)

The 9th edition of the HCLTech Grant Pan India Symposiums began with **Bengaluru (Karnataka)** on 30th May 2023. The day began with a welcome note from **The Bharat Scouts and Guides Lion K. Gangappa Gowda MJF,** who elaborated on the organization's goal of developing character, health, skills, and a spirit of service among young students in India, as well as the resonance with HCLFoundation's vision of nation building**.** The next on the agenda was a Keynote Address by **Mr. Prasad RA, Senior Vice President, HCLTech-** The key point of the speech was that "in alignment with HCLTech's value proposition, HCLFoundation stands for supercharging progress for the people, planet, and better lives of the last mile communities."

Dr. Nidhi Pundhir, Vice President, Global CSR, HCLFoundation, provided an engaging context for the day and a comprehensive brief on the transition from HCL Grant to HCLTech Grant, ways the grant has adapted to a changing legal landscape, HCLTech grant priorities aligning with the G20 agenda, and promoting Vocal for local with E-Haat.

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Session: Masterclass - CSR Laws and its New Amendments

Facilitators
- **Mr. Nikhil Pant**, Senior CSR Advisor and Former Chief Programme Executive, National Foundation for CSR, IICA, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt. of India
- **Mr. Bhomik Shah**, CEO and Founder of CSRBOX & NGOBOX

Key Takeaways

The session was typically divided into two parts and was broken into an interactive dialogue for higher comprehension of NGOs from remoter geographies:

Part A: CSR Amendments & Evolution of Compliance over the years - This session broadly covered aspects of:

- **CSR Mandate and G20 Presidency Alignment**
- Importance of CSR initiatives in contribution to global sustainability goals in alignment with India's G20 Presidency's CSR mandate.
- **Awareness of Section 135 of CSR**
- Significance of section 135 of the companies act
- Importance of necessary paperwork for non-governmental organisations to ensure compliance and reporting.
- **Green Growth and Sustainable Change**
- Understanding the importance of green growth and sustainable practises in tackling climate concerns following the COVID-19 epidemic
- CSR as a catalyst for driving beneficial environmental effect through: expertise, collaborations and resource leveraging
- Creating greener future and meeting sustainability goals by adapting to sustainable practises, innovation, and teamwork

- **Qualifications of a Company for CSR:**
- Importance of company's CSR qualifications as a critical factor for successful governance and accountability in CSR efforts
- understanding the role of the board of directors and CSR committees in implementing successful CSR policies
- **Other Key Take Aways**
- Section 198 of the law, income tax forms for non-profit organisations, and CSR 3.0, which is becoming more popular
- For effective execution, the programme budgets need to be aligned with the CSR law
- Understanding the responsibilities of various stakeholders, the transformative impact of CSR and strategic budgeting and reporting

Part B: Impact and way forward for NGOs in relation with CSR

- **Corporate Board Room Narratives to Grassroot Impacts:**
- The discussion began with narratives, pragmatic experiences, the evolution of CSR, and the new era of impact delivery, all of which show the growing emphasis on community impact and CSR in corporate boardrooms.

- As corporations invest major cash towards CSR programmes, it is critical for NGOs to synchronise their strategy in order to successfully traverse the shifting terrain.
- **Key strategies for NGOs include:**
- **Defining a Core Area of Expertise:**
  - By establishing their core area of competence, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) can focus their resources and efforts on specific issues.
  - It is also critical to maximise the impact factor and successfully satisfy the requirements of the communities they serve.

- **Prioritising Impact Delivery:**
- Ensuring that activities and initiatives are well-planned, evidence-based, and focused on achieving meaningful and long-term change.
- Proper effect evaluation and reporting must be developed in order to gain credibility and obtain additional financing.
- **Planning for Visibility:**
- In order to attract funders, raising creative awareness about work, and establishing a positive brand image, NGOs should use efficient communication and marketing methods.
- Sharing success stories and testimonials from recipients can assist to increase their credibility.
- **Collaboration with Government:**
- Collaborating with government agencies and officials can result in systemic change and provide non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with additional resources, expertise, and support.
- By involving lawmakers, they can help shape rules and regulations that promote their cause.
- **Social Stock Exchange:**
- Recognising the concept of a Social Stock Exchange, which enables businesses to raise financing from major institutional investors.
- Ways The HCLTech Grant assists in becoming acquainted with the minimal disclosure criteria for listing on the Social Stock Exchange, as well as comprehending vision, objectives, strategy, governance, management, operations, finance, compliance, credibility, social effect, and risks.
- **Mindset of Openness and Collaboration:**
- The need for an open and collaborative approach to collaboration with other NGOs, corporations, universities, and community leaders. This technique promotes the exchange of knowledge, collaborative activities, and group problem-solving.

Session: Panel Discussion

Topic: Addressing SDG Goal No.1 – Ending Poverty – What it means for in context of G20?

Panellists:
- **Dr. Nidhi Pundhir**, Vice President, Global CSR, HCLFoundation
- **Mr. Jeya Chandran**, State Project Head, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-Karnataka
- **Ms. Kalyani Pantangi**, Director & Sr-Consultant for Management & Business Services| Patron of Sustainability & Change management| ESG Consultant| G100 India Country Chair | Volunteer @ UN & CIC
- **Ms. Veena M**, ESG Consultant/ SPSC Ambassador/ National President of Handicraft Council - Women India Chamber of Commerce/ Facilitator at CIC/ Co-Founder at Texellent Solutions Private Limited
- **Dr. Usha Manjunath**, Professor – Director - IIHMR (Bangalore)
- **Moderator: Mr. Nikhil Pant**

Key Takeaways from the Panel Discussion

- **Measurability and Scaling**
- The panellists stressed the need of matching project impact with acknowledged metrics.
- The need for scaling local ideas and concepts at the global level
- The importance of Implementing comprehensive Management Information Systems (MIS) as a critical tool
  It was emphasized that these factors can also help in fostering trust, recruiting funds, and maximising the overall effect of Poverty Alleviation (SDG Goal No.1) activities, making it more organised and effective.

- **Collaboration and Technology**
- The Karnataka State Government's Akansha initiative, a technology-based initiative collaborating NGOs and corporations was discussed. Such platforms can facilitate effective communication, resource sharing, and knowledge, best practises dissemination and organisations reaching to more people and have a strong impact.
  Thus, it was highlighted that non-governmental organisations (NGOs) play an essential role in contributing to Sustainable Development Goal 1 (SDG 1) and other interconnected goals through collaboration with numerous stakeholders.

- **Gender Equality and Sustainability**
- Women's empowerment through access to education, healthcare, financial services, and job opportunities can break the cycle of poverty and enhance community well-being.

- Alleviation initiatives must prioritize gender-inclusive interventions for sustainable and inclusive development.

- HCL's pledge to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040 was brought to the forefront to show how to include sustainability in poverty alleviation strategies.
According to the panellists, the G20's recognition of women's essential role in growth, as well as many corporations' preference for women-led organisations, emphasize the need of empowering women in poverty reduction activities.

- **Intersection of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)**
- Addressing ESG through CSR is crucial for sustainable development, and including ESG factors in poverty alleviation efforts will ensure social responsibility and ecological sustainability.
- Tailored proposals aligning with ESG and CSR have higher acceptance and implementation rates, and integrating ESG into companies' strategy, should be transparent and emphasize positive social and environmental impacts.
The C20 initiatives align with SDG No.1 and support the G20's goal of inclusive and sustainable growth. They can: increase impact, generate sustainable development, foster collaborations and power women as agents of change.

Session: HCLTech Grant Process, Experience Sharing and Grant Help Desk

The session's purpose was to familiarize NGOs with the application process for the HCLTech Grant. The speakers included previous grant winners and finalists, as well as subject matter experts from the HCLFoundation. The session aimed to provide a transparent and candid account of the speakers' experiences with the grant. They guided the NGOs through the seven stages of the application and were available to address any queries the participants had. This approach allowed the NGOs to gain insights and practical knowledge from those who have been successful in the past, as well as receive expert guidance from the HCLFoundation.

HCLTech Grant Process:
- **Ms. Shally Kaushal**, Programme Officer, HCLFoundation
- **Mr. Robin Thomas**, Manager, HCLFoundation

Experience Sharing:
- **Ms. Archana Tripathi**, CEO, SAAHAS
- **Ms. Jyoti Thyagarajan**, Founder and Executive Trustee, Meghshala Trust
- **Mr. Murthy Naveen Kumar**, National Archer, The Association of People with Disability (APD)
- **Dr. Chethana Thirthahalli**, Lead - Health, HCLFoundation
- **Moderator: Mr. Robin Thomas**

Key Take Aways from the Session

- Each NGO gained knowledge from the HCLTech Grant Journey.
- The panellists and subject matter experts emphasized that the HCLTech Grant's due diligence approach made the company and its leadership

stronger and more reliable in terms of supporting them in developing trust over time.
- The HCL proposal, like a research proposal, necessitates a high level of relevance and innovation. The following criteria are used to evaluate the HCLTech Grant submission:
- Project Relevance b. Potential Impact c. Innovation and Sustainability
d. Openness e. Replicability f. Financial Modelling g. Deliverability h. Organisational Strength
- The HCLTech Grant considerably benefited in scaling and replicating solutions to remoter geographies

HCLTech Grant Symposium 2 Trivandrum

Location: Trivandrum (Kerala)

Date: 2nd June 2023

Venue: Loyola College of Social Sciences

Agenda:

Sr. No.	Particulars	Time	Speakers
1	**Breakfast and Registration**	8:30 am - 9:30am	Help Desk/Registration Desk
2	**Welcome Address By Academic Partner**	9:30 am - 9:40 am	**Dr. Saji P Jacob** Principal and Head, Loyola College of Social Sciences
3	**Keynote Address by HCLTech**	9:40 am -9:50 am	**Mr. Santhosh Jayaram** Global Head, Sustainability, HCLTech
4	**Context Setting and HCLFoundation Overview**	9:50 am - 10:10 am	**Mr. Robin Thomas** Manager, HCLFoundation
5	**Masterclass on CSR Laws and its New Amendments**	10:10am -11:10 am	**Mr. Nikhil Pant** CSR Advisor and Former Chief Programme Executive, National Foundation for CSR, IICA, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt. of India
6	**Health Break**	11:10am -11:25 am	
7	**Panel Discussion** Topic: "G20 Presidency by India, Right time for CSR to contribute toward the growth and development story".	11:25am -12:25 pm	**Mr. Santhosh Jayaram** Senior Vice President & Global Head, Sustainability, HCLTech **Dr. Jyothi Krishnan** Head MSW, Disaster Management Department Loyola College of Social Sciences **Mr. Zuhail Sainudeen** Project Director, Institute for Sustainable Development and Governance (ISDG) **Moderator: Mr. Nikhil Pant**

8	HCLTech Grant Process and Experience Sharing	12:25 pm - 1:40 pm	**Grant Process:** **Ms. Shally Kaushal,** Programme Officer, HCLFoundation **Experience Sharing:** **Mr. Sooraj Abraham** Founder & Secretary, Plan@Earth **Mr. Avani Kumar Varma** Senior Advisor and Subject Matter Expert, HCLFoundation **Moderator: Mr. Anuj Srivastava,** Deputy Manager, HCLFoundation
9	**Networking Lunch**	1:40 pm - 2:30 pm	
10	**Grant Help Desk and Registration**	2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	**HCLFoundation Team**

Summary of the Registration

98 Registration (Online)

36 On Spot Registration

164 Participants (On venue)

Summary of the Symposium

The 9th Edition of the HCLTech Grant Pan India Symposium second symposium was held in Trivandrum in partnership with Loyola College of Social Sciences. The Symposium began with a welcome note by **Dr. Saji P Jacob,** Principal and Head of Loyola College of Social Sciences. Dr. Jacob highlighted the alignment between HCL Tech and Loyola College's objectives, emphasizing their shared goals and emphasized the potential benefits of their collaborative network, fostering engagement with diverse organizations for mutual advantage.

Further, the Keynote Address was given by **Mr. Santhosh Jayaram,** Global Head, Sustainability, HCLTech, where he gave a brief about how HCL aims to combine technology and human potential to drive progress and create positive impacts for clients, people, the community, and the planet. Their vision is guided by three principles: Act, Pact, and Impact. The act emphasizes personal responsibility, Pact highlights collaboration, and Impact focuses on meaningful outcomes from collective efforts.

The event was carried forward with **Mr. Robin Thomas, Manager of HCLFoundation,** providing an overview of the foundation. This was followed by a highly anticipated Masterclass on CSR laws and their recent amendments, conducted by **Mr. Nikhil Pant, Senior Advisor CSR** and former Chief Programme Executive at the National Foundation for CSR, IICA, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, GoI. The **Masterclass** focused on "Leveraging India's G20 Presidency to Achieve SDGs through CSR".

Summary of the Masterclass: (Key Take Aways same as Bengaluru Symposium)

Session: Panel Discussion

Topic: "G20 Presidency by India, Right time for CSRs to Contribute Towards the Growth and Development Story."

Panellists:
- **Mr. Santhosh Jayaram**, Global Head, Sustainability, HCLTech
- **Dr. Jyothi Krishnan**, Head MSW, Disaster Management Department Loyola College of Social Sciences
- **Mr. Zuhail Sainudeen**, Project Director, Institute for Sustainable Development and Governance (ISDG)
- **Moderator- Mr. Nikhil Pant**

Key Takeaways from the Panel Discussion

- **Leveraging CSR for Effective Disaster Management: Aligning with India's G20 Goals**
- It was emphasized that minimizing daily vulnerabilities is crucial in disaster management and NGOs must prioritize community disaster preparedness in hard-to-reach areas to support and assist vulnerable populations.
  Monitoring disaster recovery is crucial for effective disaster management, as it impacts development. With India leading the G20 Presidency, CSR initiatives can contribute to growth and development.

- **NGOs: Long-Term Impact and Positive Change Catalysts**
- NGOs are vital for climate adaptation, sustainable development to maximize impact, and promote global change.
- The time is now to acknowledge and avail the opportunities offered by mandatory CSR, which has high potential to drive global transformations.

  Local NGOs leveraging technology and embracing CSR can contribute to global change and sustainable development, executing effective initiatives for positive social transformation.

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- ▪ **Exploring the Social Stock Exchange: Goals and Creating a Trustworthy Environment for Philanthropy and Investor Confidence**
- **Social Stock Exchange (SSE) Goals:**
- Philanthropy made retail: SSE enables wider access to charity for individuals, including retail investors.
- Safe environment for investors: SSE ensures trust, confidence, and robust governance for deploying funds to social causes, encouraging long-term investment. **SSE Goals: Retail philanthropy, investor confidence. G20 Presidency by India creates an opportune time for CSR contributions to growth and development.**

- **Importance of Impact Evaluation in Project Management**
- Regular stakeholder meetings for progress monitoring and accountability. As well as Intermediate evaluations to assess programme efficacy.
- Emphasize competent and trained NGO workers for increased influence.

- Regular field visits to understand project implementation and make necessary adjustments.

CSR importance, local initiatives, impact evaluation, NGO's role in positive change, disaster management, sustainable development, and investor trust. Stakeholders accepting these findings can foster a long-term, safe, and transformative social climate.

Session: HCLTech Grant Process, Experience Sharing and Grant Help Desk

HCLTech Grant Process:
- **Ms. Shally Kaushal**, Programme Officer, HCLFoundation

Experience Sharing:
- **Mr. Sooraj Abraham**-Founder & Secretary Plan@Earth
- **Mr. Avani Kumar Varma**-Senior Advisor and Subject Matter Expert, HCLFoundation
- Moderator: **Mr. Anuj Srivastava**, Deputy Manager, HCLFoundation

Key Take Aways
- HCLTech Grant supports NGOs for social development and community empowerment.
- Grant categories focus on areas like education, healthcare, environment, and more.
- NGOs apply by submitting a detailed proposal meeting eligibility criterion.
- Expert panel evaluates applications based on compliance, governance, financial planning, and project relevance.
- Overall organizational strength and effectiveness are also considered in the evaluation process.

Key Take Aways from the Panel Discussion

- Insights from previous grantees offered valuable guidance for new NGOs.
- HCLTech Grant process is streamlined and professional with a supportive team.
- It provides financial support for social development projects under the thematic areas of education, health and environment.

HCLTech Grant Symposium 3 Mumbai

Location: Mumbai (Maharashtra)
Date: 8th June 2023
Venue: S P Jain Institute of Managements and Research (SPJIMR)
Agenda:

Sr. No.	Particulars	Time	Speakers
1	**Breakfast and Registration**	8:30am-9:30am	Help/Registration Desk
2.	**Welcome Address by Academic Partner**	9:30am -9:40am	**Dr. Varun Nagaraj** Dean, S.P. Jain Institute of Management and Research (SPJIMR), Mumbai
3	**Key Note Address and HCLFoundation Overview**	9:40am -9:50am	**Mr. Sundar Mahalingam** President of Strategy, HCL Corporation and Shiv Nadar Foundation
4	**Masterclass on CSR Laws and its New Amendments**	9:50am -10:50am	**Mr. Nikhil Pant** Senior CSR Advisor and Former Chief Programme Executive, National Foundation for CSR, IICA, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt. of India **Mr. Bhomik Shah** Founder and CEO, CSRBOX
5	**An Overview of Good Governance Practices for NGOs**	10:50pm -11:25am	**Ms. Ruchi Sadhana,** Vice President, HCLTech
6	**Health Break**	11:25 am –11:35 am	
7	**Panel Discussion** **Topic:** "Promoting Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth in India through G20 Cooperation and CSR Efforts".	11:35 am - 12:35 pm	**Mr. Milind Arolkar** Director, Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini **Mr. Hemant Gupta** Head, BSE Social Stock Exchange MD BIL Ryerson Technology Startup Incubator Foundation **Mr. Simit Bhagat** Founder, Simit Bhagat Studios and The Bidesia Project **Ms. Siji Varghese** CEO, Leaders in Lipstick **Prof. Chandrika Parmar** Associate Professor at S P Jain Institute of Management & Research (SPJIMR, Mumbai), Director at Development of Corporate Citizenship (DoCC)

			Moderator: Mr. Nikhil Pant
8	**HCLTech Grant Process and Experience Sharing**	12:35 pm - 1:50 pm	**Grant Process:** **Ms. Shally Kaushal,** Programme Officer, HCLFoundation **Experience Sharing:** **Ms. Sujana Krishnamoorthy** Executive Director, Under the Mango Tree Society **Dr. Dhruv Mankad** **Director, VACHAN, Nashik** MBBS and MacArthur Fellow **Ms. Pankaja Kshirsagar** Executive Director, MelJol **Moderator: Dr. Surbhi Yadav,** CSR Consultant, HCLFoundation
9	**Networking Lunch**	1:50 pm - 2:30 pm	
10	**Grant Help Desk and Registration**	2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	**HCLFoundation Team**

Summary of the Registration

166 Registration (Online)

66 On Spot Registration

265 Participants (On venue)

Summary of the Symposium

The 9th edition of the HCLTech Grant Pan India Symposium's third symposium was held in Mumbai at S.P. Jain Institute of Management and Research (SPJIMR). The event began with **Dr. Varun Nagaraj**, Dean, S.P. Jain Institute of Management and Research (SPJIMR), Mumbai, gave the welcome note, followed by **Mr. Sundar Mahalingam**, President of Strategy, HCL Corporation and Shiv Nadar Foundation giving the keynote address.

Session: Masterclass I - CSR Laws and its new amendments:

Facilitator:

- **Mr. Nikhil Pant**, Senior CSR Advisor and Former Chief Programme Executive, National Foundation for CSR, IICA, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt of India; and
- **Mr. Bhomik Shah**, Founder and CEO, CSRBOX & NGOBOX

Summary of the Masterclass: (Key Take Aways same as Bengaluru Symposium)

Key Takeaways from the Session: An Overview of Good Governance Practices for NGOs by Ms. Ruchi Sadhana, Vice President, HCLTech

- Good governance principles include Transparency, responsiveness, participation, equality, inclusivity, effectiveness, efficiency, and adherence to the rule of law.
- Few of the Audit checklists for NGOs:
  a. Organizational policies: Properly documented policies covering financial management, human resources, procurement, and project implementation.

b. Compliance with statutory laws: Adherence to relevant laws and regulations.
c. Alignment with trust deed: Activities in line with defined objectives.
d. Financial management: Effective financial processes, audits, transparency, and internal controls.
e. Managing Committee: Responsible and engaged governing body.
- Timely submission of reports: Regular and accurate progress, achievements, challenges, and financial information.
- Fixed assets and stock registers: Transparency and accountability in asset and inventory management.
- Meeting expectations builds trust and increases funding opportunities.

Session: Panel Discussion

Topic: Promoting Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth in India through G20 Cooperation and CSR Efforts

Panellists:
- **Mr. Milind Arolkar**, Director, Rambhau Mhalgi Prabhodhini
- **Mr. Hemant Gupta**, Head, BSE Social Stock Exchange, MD BIL Ryerson Technology Startup Incubator Foundation
- **Mr. Simit Bhagat**, Founder, Simit Bhagat Studios and The Bidesia Project
- **Ms. Siji Varghese**, CEO, Leaders in Lipstick
- **Prof. Chandrika Parmar**, Associate Professor at S.P. Jain Institute of Management and Research (SPJIMR, Mumbai), Director at Development of Corporate Citizenship (DoCC)
- Moderator: **Mr. Nikhil Pant**

Key Takeaways from the session:
- C20 is an important platform within the G20 framework for civil society organizations worldwide. Advocating for sustainable and inclusive development, combining economic growth, environmental stewardship, and social progress.
- C20 ensures that the voices of various stakeholders are heard and considered by world leaders in the G20.
- Social Stock Exchange helps NGOs address cashflow challenges by connecting them with potential investors. Whereas Social Audit adds credibility to NGOs and builds trust among donors and investors.

- Capacity-building funds enhance NGOs' knowledge and skills to engage with the stock exchange and potential donors.
- Women's development is crucial for social and economic progress, empowering them in every space, including the NGO sector.
- NGOs should maintain a strong social media presence and document their work to mobilize support and attract donors. Further, Effective communication channels amplify NGOs' messages, engage stakeholders, and drive social change.

In summary, C20 in G20 promotes sustainable development with environmental stewardship and social progress. Social Stock Exchanges connect NGOs with investors, while audits and capacity building enhance credibility. Women's development and effective communication are key to social change.

Session: HCLTech Grant Process and Experience Sharing

HCLTech Grant Process:
- Mr. Robin Thomas, Manager, HCLFoundation

Experience Sharing:
- **Ms. Sujana Krishnamoorthy**, Executive Director, Under the Mango tree Society
- **Dr. Dhruv Mankad**, Director, Vachan, Nashik, MBBS and MacArthur Fellow
- **Ms. Pankaja Kshirsagar**, Executive Director, MelJol
- Moderator**: Dr. Surbhi Yadav**, CSR Consultant, HCLFoundation

Key Take Aways from the Session
During the discussion on the HCLTech Grant process, the participants delved into the evaluation criteria used for selecting the grant recipients. Several key aspects were thoroughly examined to assess the projects submitted by new NGOs interested in registering this year. The following criteria were discussed:
- Relevance of the Project
- Potential Impact
- Level of Innovation and Sustainability
- Inclusiveness
- Replicability
- Financial Modelling
- Capacity to Deliver
- Organizational Strength

The HCLTech Grant process focused on selecting projects with the potential for sustainable social impact, innovation, and positive change. It prioritized NGOs with strong organizational capacity to ensure successful project implementation.

HCLTech Grant Symposium 4 Ahmedabad

Location: Ahmedabad (Gujarat)

Date: 12th June 2023

Venue: Ahmedabad Management Association (AMA)

Agenda:

Sr. No.	Particulars	Time	Speakers
1	**Breakfast and Registration**	8:30am - 9:30am	Help Desk/Registration Desk
2	**Welcome Address by Academic Partner**	9:30am - 9:40am	**Ahmedabad Management Association (AMA)**
3	**Keynote Address by HCLTech**	9:40am -9:50am	**Mr. Vaibhav Chauhan** Senior Project Manager, HCLFoundation
4	**Context Setting and HCLFoundation Overview**	9:50am -10:10am	**Mr. Robin Thomas** Manager, HCLFoundation
5	**Masterclass on CSR Laws and its New Amendments**	10:10am-11:10am	**Mr. Nikhil Pant** Senior CSR Advisor and Former Chief Programme Executive, National Foundation for CSR, IICA, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt. of India **Mr. Bhomik Shah** Founder and CEO, CSRBOX
6	**Motivational Talk** "Are we Passing the Right Vibes?"	11:10am -11:30 am	**Mr. Nirav Mayur Shah** Motivational Speaker/Mentor and Businessman
7	**Panel Discussion** Topic: "India's G20 Presidency: What does it mean for Civil society".	11:30am -12:30pm	**Mr. Vaibhav Chauhan** Senior Project Manager, HCLFoundation **Mr. R M Chaudhary** DEO Ahmedabad City, DPEO Ahmedabad **Dr. Prof. Saswat Bandyopadhyay** Professor - CEPT University **Ms. Tejal Vasavada** American Corner Director & Outreach Coordinator **Moderator: Dr. Surabhi Yadav**, CSR Consultant, HCLFoundation
8	**HCLTech Grant Process and Experience Sharing**	12:30 pm - 1:45 pm	**Grant Process:** **Ms. Shally Kaushal,** Programme Officer, HCLFoundation

			Experience Sharing: **Mr. Dilip Surkar** Executive Director, Vikram A Sarabhai Community Science Centre (VASCSC), Ahmedabad **N M Prusty** Vice Chair- Coalition for Food and Nutrition Security (CFNS) **Moderator: Mr. Robin Thomas**, Manager, HCLFoundation
9	**Networking Lunch**	1:45 pm - 2:30 pm	
10	**Grant Help Desk and Registration**	2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	**HCLFoundation Team**

Summary of the Registration

116 Registration (Online)

47 On Spot Registration

194 Participants (On venue)

Summary of the Symposium

The 9th edition of the HCLTech Grant Pan India Symposium's fourth symposium was conducted in Ahmedabad (Gujarat) on 12th June 2023. The day was packed with engaging lectures and masterclasses fostering valuable discussions with NGOs. It commenced with a warm welcome address by **Mr. Unmesh Dixit, Executive Director, AMA** highlighting the concept of Collaborative Social Responsibility (CSR), emphasizing collective growth through collaboration to address social and environmental challenges. He also advocated for collaboration among businesses, governments, NGOs, and communities to achieve significant and sustainable social impact. Further, the day progressed with a keynote address by **Mr. Vaibhav Chauhan, Senior Project Manager, HCLFoundation,** followed by the HCLFoundation overview and context setting by **Mr. Robin Thomas, Manager, HCLFoundation.**

Session: Masterclass - CSR Laws and its New Amendments

Facilitator:

- **Mr. Nikhil Pant**, Senior CSR Advisor and former Chief Programme Executive, National Foundation for CSR, IICA, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt of India
- **Mr. Bhomik Shah**, Founder and CEO, CSRBOX & NGOBOX

(Summary of the Masterclass: (Key Take Aways same as Bangalore Symposium))

Session: Motivational Talk

Topic: "Are we Passing the Right Vibes?"
Facilitator:
- **Mr. Nirav Mayur Shah**, Motivational Speaker/Mentor and Businessman

Key Takeaways from the Session
- **Focus on being independent:** Charities and philanthropy should aim to make recipients independent by providing resources, education, and opportunities for long-term change and self-reliance.
- **Importance of mentors:** Mentors offer guidance and support, benefiting individuals and organizations through skill development, goal-setting, and fostering a positive work environment.
- **Creating positive vibes:** Cultivating a positive atmosphere improves motivation, engagement, productivity, teamwork, and innovation by promoting optimism, support, and a focus on strengths and achievements.

Session: Panel Discussion

Topic: "India's G20 Presidency: What does it mean for Civil society".

Panellists:
- **Mr. Vaibhav Chauhan**, Senior Project Manager, HCLFoundation
- **MR. N M Prusty**, Vice Chair Coalition for Food and Nutrition Security (CFNS)
- **Dr. Saswat Bandyopadhyay**, Professor - CEPT University
- **Ms. Tejal Vasavada**, American Corner Director & Outreach Coordinator
- Moderator**: Dr. Surabhi Yadav**, CSR Consultant, HCLFoundation

Key Takeaways Panel Discussion

- Engaging in Climate Action Initiatives: Advocating for sustainable practices and adapting strategies to address climate change.

- Document and Scale Innovations: Sharing successful models of climate action and social initiatives globally.
- Bridge Gender Gaps and Promote Inclusivity: Promoting gender equality and inclusivity through sensitization efforts and collaboration.
- Establish Replicable Models and Community Institutions: Creating sustainable models and collaborating with local stakeholders for broader impact.
- Prioritize Knowledge Sharing and Communication: Sharing experiences and best practices to inspire collaboration within the NGO sector.
- Optimize Internal Processes: Enhancing transparency, accountability, and efficiency in operations and governance.
- Collaborate on Scientific Projects: Partnering with research organizations to strengthen evidence-based approaches.
- Leverage Philanthropic Funds Strategically: Utilizing resources strategically for sustainable development aligned with G20 priorities.
- Engage in Skill Development and Education: Prioritizing skill development and education initiatives for socio-economic progress.

Aligning with the G20 Presidency, Indian NGOs can contribute globally by showcasing successful models and actively addressing issues such as climate action and gender equality. This presents a unique opportunity for them to make a significant impact on a larger scale.

Session: HCLTech Grant Process and Experience Sharing

Grant Process:
- **Ms. Shally Kaushal**, Programme Officer, HCLFoundation

Experience Sharing:
- **Mr. Dilip Surkar**, Executive Director, Vikram A Sarabhai Community Science Centre (VASCSC), Ahmedabad
- **Mr. N M Prusty**, Vice Chair - Coalition for Food and Nutrition Security (CFNS)
- Moderator**: Mr. Robin Thomas**, Manager, HCLFoundation

Key Take Aways from the Session
- HCLTech Grant supports NGOs with various objectives and covers multiple categories.
- Evaluation criteria that include regulatory compliance, governance practices, financial modelling, delivery capacity, project relevance, impact potential, innovation, sustainability, inclusiveness, replicability, and organizational strength.
- Mr. Dilip Shared his experience of a rigorous evaluation process, emphasizing the importance of well-documented proposals, alignment with government initiatives, and understanding of compliance requirements.
- Mr. Dilip's experience also highlighted the competitive nature of the grant process and the need for meticulous preparation to maximize success.

HCLTech Grant Symposium 5 Jaipur

Location: Jaipur (Rajasthan)
Date: 15th June 2023
Venue: IIHMR University
Agenda:

Sr. No.	Particulars	Time	Speakers
1	**Breakfast and Registration**	9:00 am - 10:00am	Help Desk/Registration Desk
2	**Welcome Address by Academic Partner**	10:00am -10:10 am	**Prof. Dr. P.R. Sodani** President IIHMR University
3	**Context Setting and HCLFoundation Overview**	10:10am -10:30 am	**Dr. Neelima Chopra** Lead-ECCD & Education, HCLFoundation
4	**Keynote Address**	10:30am -10:40 am	**Mr. Arindam Das** Dean Research and Professor at IIHMR University,
5	**Masterclass** on CSR Laws and its New Amendments	10:40am -11:40 am	**Mr. Nikhil Pant** Senior CSR Advisor and Former Chief Programme Executive, National Foundation for CSR, IICA, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt. of India **Mr. Bhomik Shah** Founder and CEO, CSRBOX

6	**Panel Discussion** Topic: "G20 Presidency in India: Improving policies and investments for women's, children's, and adolescents' health and well-being".	11:40am -12:30 pm	**Ms. Chhavi Rajawat** Formal Sarpanch, Member of the South Asia Advisory Council **Ms. Sarita Yogi** Social Activist, CLG (Community Liaison Group) Rajasthan Police **Dr. Neelima Chopra** Lead-ECCD & Education, HCLFoundation **Dr. Varsha Tanu**, Associate Professor of IIHMR University **Moderator: Mr. Nikhil Pant**
7	**HCLTech Grant Process and Experience Sharing**	12:30 pm - 1:45 pm	**Grant Process:** **Ms. Shally Kaushal**, Programme Officer, HCLFoundation **Experience Sharing:** **Dr. Udita Ghosh Sarkar** Research Director-Public Affairs, Ipsos Research Subject Matter Expert - HCLFoundation **Dr. Nutan Prabha Jain** Professor, SDG SPH, Director, Centre for Gender Studies, IIHMR University, Jaipur, India, Associate, Department of International Health Bloomberg School of Public Health, JHU, USA **Moderator: Mr. Robin Thomas, Manager, HCLFoundation**
8	**Networking Lunch**	1:45 pm - 2:30 pm	
9	**Grant help Desk and Registration**	2:30pm-3:30pm	HCLFoundation Team

Summary of the Registration

94 Registration (Online)

59 On Spot Registration

183 Participants (On venue)

Summary of the Symposium

The 9th edition of the HCLTech Grant Pan India Symposium's fifth symposium was conducted in Jaipur (Rajasthan) on 15th June 2023. Prof. Dr. P.R. Sodani, President of IIHMR University, opened the Jaipur Symposium, highlighting the importance of corporate social responsibility (CSR) in national development. The event was carried forward with Context Setting and HCLFoundation Overview by **Dr. Neelima Chopra, Lead-ECCD & Education, HCLFoundation.**

This was followed by a Keynote Address by Mr. Arindam Das, Dean of Research and **Professor at IIHMR University** was engaging and insightful and welcomed the audiences wholeheartedly.

Session: Masterclass - CSR Laws and its New Amendments

Facilitator:
- **Mr. Nikhil Pant**, Senior CSR Advisor and Former Chief Programme Executive, National Foundation for CSR, IICA, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt of India; and

(Summary of the Masterclass: (Key Take Aways same as Bengaluru Symposium))

Session: Panel Discussion

Topic: G20 Presidency in India: Improving Policies and Investments for Women, Children, and Adolescents' Health and Well-being

Panellists:
- **Ms. Chhavi Raiawat**, Former Sarpanch, Member of the South Asia Advisory Council
- **Ms. Sarita Yogi**, Social Activist, CLG (Community Liaison Group) Rajasthan Police
- **Dr. Neelima Chopra**, Lead-ECCD & Education,

- **Dr. Varsha Tanu**, Associate Professor of IIHMR University
- Moderator: **Mr. Nikhil Pant**

Key Takeaway from the Panel Discussion

- There is a need for implementing localized policies and conducting need-based assessments to address diverse community needs effectively.
- Collaboration among NGOs and stakeholders bridging the gap between policies and grassroots realities is the dire need of the hour.
- Engaging with people's representatives and self-help groups (SHGs) for stronger local governance and coordination acts as a strong foundation for community initiatives.
- Empowering local leaders like ASHA workers to improve project implementation and the healthcare system is a sustainable way ahead to implement last mile programmes.
- NGOs should work on addressing childcare and malnutrition through tailored policies, regular revisions, and cash benefits for women.
- Using innovative financing methods, such as individual donors, CSR funds, and social budget analysis can help the NGOs garner more streamlined support.
- Ensuring effective implementation through community participation, trust building, technology utilization, and evidence-based decision-making is an efficient way forward.

Session: HCLTech Grant Process and Experience Sharing

Grant Process:
- **Ms. Shally Kaushal**, Programme Officer, HCLFoundation

Experience Sharing:
- **Dr. Udita Ghosh Sarkar**, Research Director-Public Affairs, Ipsos Research Subject Matter Expert HCLFoundation
- **Dr. Nutan Prabha Jain** Professor, SDG SPH, Director, Center for Gender Studies IIHMR University, Jaipur, India Associate, Department of International Health Bloomberg School of Public Health,

- **Moderator: Mr. Robin Thomas**, Manager, HCLFoundation

Key Take Aways from the Session
- **HCLTech Grant overview:** The experts discussed categories focused on environment, health, and education for replicable and scalable models and its alignment with the HCLTech Grant.
- **Application process was discussed:** During the session, with categories available for NGOs seeking registration this year.
- **Evaluation criteria:** The panel emphasized factors such as adherence to regulations, governance practices, financial planning, delivery capabilities, project relevance, impact potential, innovation, sustainability, inclusivity, replicability, and organizational strength.
- **Insights and tips:** Experts provided insights on creating strong proposals and shared tips for NGOs to consider.
- **Overall objective:** The session familiarized participants with the grant, its application process, and evaluation criteria, promoting replicable and impactful
- projects in environment, health, and education.

HCLTech Grant Symposium 6 Guwahati

Location: Guwahati (Assam)

Date: 19th June 2023

Venue: Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS Guwahati)

Agenda:

Sr. No.	Particulars	Time	Speakers
1	**Breakfast and Registration**	9:00 am - 10:00am	Help/Registration Desk
2	**Welcome Address by Academic Partner**	10:00 am - 10:10 am	**Dr. Kalpana Sarathy (PhD)** Professor & Deputy Director Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)
3	**Keynote Address and HCLFoundation Overview**	10:10 am - 10:30 am	**Mr. Gaurav Majumdar,** Lead-Skill development & Livelihood, HCLFoundation
4	**Masterclass on CSR Laws and its New Amendments**	10:30 am - 11:30 am	**Mr. Nikhil Pant** Senior CSR Advisor and Former Chief Programme Executive, National Foundation for CSR, IICA, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt. of India **Mr. Bhomik Shah** Founder and CEO, CSRBOX.
5	**Panel Discussion Topic:** G20's Role in Combating Unemployment & Creating Jobs for the Youth.		**Dr. Rousy K. Baruah** State Project Manager – Social Mobilisation, Institution Building & Capacity Building, Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission (ASRLM), Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana-National rural Livelihoods Mission (Day-NRLM) **Dr. Pradeep Ramavath J** Associate Professor with The Centre for Livelihood and Social Entrepreneurship (CLSE), School of Social Work (SSW), Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Guwahati **Ms. Santala Ronglo** Development Consultant, Founder- Mountain Trails Thallem, Former Project Manager at NERCORMP-IFAD **Moderator: Mr. Nikhil Pant**
6	**HCLTech Grant Process and Experience Sharing**	12:30 pm - 1:45 pm	**Grant Process:** **Ms. Shally Kaushal**, Programme Officer, HCLFoundation **Experience Sharing:** **Mr. Saurabh Biswas** Public Health Consultant Foundation, Graduate (IIT Kharagpur) **Dr. Chandrayee Das** PhD Planning (IIT Kharagpur), Founder Secretary (Hijli INSPIRATION), Subject Matter Expert, HCLFoundation **Moderator: Ms. Shally Kaushal**
7	**Networking Lunch**	1:45 pm - 2:30 pm	
8	**Grant Help Desk and Registration**	2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	**HCLFoundation Team**

Summary of the Registration

71 Registration (Online) → **16 On Spot Registration** → **117 Participants (On venue)**

Summary of the Symposium

The 9th edition of the HCLTech Grant Pan India Symposium's sixth symposium was conducted in Guwahati (Assam) on 19th June 2023. The event began with a Welcome Note by **Dr. Kalpana Sarathy (Ph.D.),** Professor & Deputy Director, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) thanking the teams for the collaboration between the HCLTech grant and the academic partners, notably the Centre for Livelihoods and Social Entrepreneurship within the School of Social Work. The symposiums focus on the G20's responsibility in addressing unemployment and youth employment and was praised as an essential component of the forum.

The event was carried forward with a Keynote Address by **Mr. Gaurav Majumdar, Lead-Skill Development & Livelihood, HCLFoundation** and provided valuable insights into the exemplary work of the HCLFoundation and its commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of individuals and communities.

Session: Masterclass - CSR Laws and its New Amendments

Facilitator:
- **Mr. Nikhil Pant**, Senior CSR Advisor and Former Chief Programme Executive, National Foundation for CSR, IICA, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt of India; and
- **Mr. Bhomik Shah**, Founder and CEO, CSRBOX & NGOBOX

(Summary of the Masterclass: (Key Take Aways same as Bengaluru Symposium))

Session: Panel Discussion

Topic: G20's Role in Combating Unemployment & Creating Jobs for the Youth

Panellists:
- **Dr. Rousy K. Baruah**, State Project Manager, Social Mobilisation, Institution Building & Capacity Building Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission (ASRLM) Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana, National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)
- **Dr. Pradeep Ramavath J**, Associate Professor with The Centre for Livelihood and Social
- Entrepreneurship (CLSE), School of Social Work (SSW), Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Guwahati
- **Ms. Santala Ronglo**, Development Consultant Founder- Mountain Trails Thallem Former Project Manager at NERCORMP-IFAD
- **Moderator: Mr. Nikhil Pant**

Key Takeaways from the Panel Discussion
- ▪ **The NGOs in North East and Assam were specifically asked to focus on the following:**
- Tapping into the region's resources and knowledge for economic growth and sustainable development.
- Addressing financial literacy and market connectivity to empower communities.
- Engaging with and building capacities of NGOs to enhance their effectiveness.
- Emphasizing partnership development for co-creation and involvement of stakeholders.
- Advocating for inclusive policies and social justice to address disparities.
- Focusing on skill development and entrepreneurship in the informal sector.
- Supporting government efforts in filling positions and providing stable employment opportunities such as Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission.

- ▪ **The Role of NGOs in Community Engagement and Proposal Preparation was emphasized and the following were advised recommendations to keep in mind and strengthen further:**
- Serving as intermediaries between development initiatives and communities.
- Preparing comprehensive project proposals with clear objectives and strategies.
- Engaging and preparing communities for project implementation.
- Curated tailor-made approaches to specific community requirements.
- Understanding perceptions of unemployment in the region.
- Managing engagement and stakeholders for effective implementation.

Session: HCLTech Grant Process and Experience Sharing

Grant Process:
- **Ms. Shally Kaushal**, Programme Officer, HCLFoundation

Experience Sharing:

- **Mr. Saurabh Biswas,** B. Tech. (IIT Kharagpur), Public Health Consultant & Subject Matter Expert, HCLFoundation
- **Dr. Chandrayee Das**, PhD Planning (IIT Kharagpur) Founder Secretary (Hijli INSPIRATION) Subject Matter Expert, HCLFoundation
- **Mr. Pranjal Saxena**, Manager Grant Thornton

- **Moderator: Ms. Shally Kaushal**

Key Take Aways from the Session

Key evaluation parameters for project proposals in the social sector include governance, alignment with evaluation criteria, replicability, sustainability, scalability, organization and project integration, impact measurement and evaluation, and budget and cost-effectiveness. These parameters help assess the quality, feasibility, and potential impact of proposals, aiding in the selection of projects that can effectively address social issues.

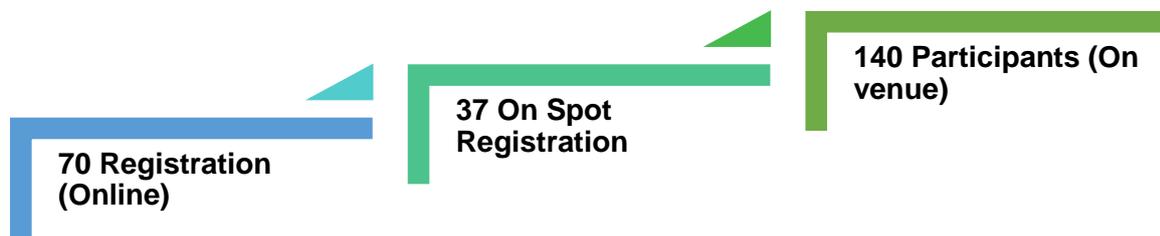# HCLTech Grant Symposium 7 Raipur

Location: Raipur (Chhattisgarh)
Date: 23rd June 2023
Venue: National Institute of Technology (NIT)
Agenda:

Sr. No.	Particulars	Time	Speakers
1	**Breakfast and Registration**	8:30 am - 9:40am	Help/Registration Desk
2	**Key Note Address**	9:40 am - 9:50 am	**Mr. Robin Sarkar** Project Director, Shiksha & Sub Jury Member, HCLTech Grant
3	**HCLFoundation Overview**	9:50am – 10:00am	**Dr. Santanu Basu** Project Director - Harit, HCLFoundation
4	**Samuday: Transforming Rural India** A testament to HCLFoundation's commitment in creating source codes for socio-economic development	10:00am -10:20 am	**Mr. Yogesh Kumar** Group Operations Head- Programmes, Samuday, HCLFoundation
5	**Masterclass on CSR Laws and its New Amendments**	10:20am -11:20 am	**Mr. Nikhil Pant** Senior CSR Advisor and Former Chief Programme Executive, National Foundation for CSR, IICA, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt. of India **Mr. Bhomik Shah** Founder and CEO, CSRBOX
6	**Panel Discussion** Topic: "The G20's response to climate change and environmental challenges in India – Role of NGO's"	11:20 am - 2:20 pm	**Dr. Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure (IAS)** Collector & District Magistrate, Raipur **Mr. Arun Kumar Pandey (IFS)** Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF), Joint Forest Management (JFM) & Member Secretary State Biodiversity Board Chhattisgarh **Dr. Bidyut Mazumdar** Associate Professor, NIT Raipur (MTech - IIT Kharagpur) **Dr. Santanu Basu** Project Director- Harit, HCLFoundation **Moderator: Mr. Nikhil Pant**
7	**HCLTech Grant Process and Experience Sharing**	12:20 pm - 1:30 pm	**Grant Process:** **Ms. Shally Kaushal** Programme Officer, HCLFoundation **Experience Sharing:** **Mr. Robin Sarkar** Project Director, Shiksha & Sub Jury Member, HCLTech Grant **Mohd Dilshad** Subject Matter Expert, HCLFoundation **Mr. Yogesh Kumar** Group Operations Head - Programmes, Samuday, HCLFoundation **Moderator: Mr. Robin Thomas** Manager, HCLFoundation
8	**Networking Lunch**	1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	
9	**Grant Help Desk and Registration**	2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	HCLFoundation Team

Summary of the Registration

- **70 Registration (Online)**
- **37 On Spot Registration**
- **140 Participants (On venue)**

Summary of the Symposium

The 9th edition of the HCLTech Grant Pan India Symposium's seventh symposium was conducted in Raipur (Chhattisgarh) on 23rd June 2023. The event was filled with exciting conversations and insightful discussions with the day starting with a keynote address by **Mr. Robin Sarkar, Project Director, Shiksha & Sub Jury Member, HCLTech Grant.** He elaborated on HCL Technologies: IT services and software development. Further, emphasis was laid on innovation, CSR initiatives, Shiv Nadar Foundation. Post that, there was an HCLFoundation Overview by **Dr. Santanu Basu, Project Director - Harit, HCLFoundation,** introducing and providing an overview of its purpose and mission.

Session on Overview of SAMUDAY

A special session on **Transforming Rural India**, was led by **Mr. Yogesh Kumar,** Group Operations Head - Programmes, Samuday, HCLFoundation SAMUDAY, a CSR initiative by HCL Technologies, The session emphasized the structure of the Samuday Programme as a comprehensive rural development programme benefiting over 2.1 million people with its focuses on livelihood, education, healthcare, sustainable agriculture, water-energy management, and infrastructure. SAMUDAY aims to create replicable and scalable models aligned with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, transforming rural India.

Session: Masterclass - CSR Laws and its New Amendments:
Facilitator:

- **Mr. Nikhil Pant**, Senior CSR Advisor and Former Chief Programme Executive, National Foundation for CSR, IICA, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt of India; and

- **Mr. Bhomik Shah**, Founder and CEO, CSRBOX & NGOBOX

(Summary of the Masterclass: (Key Take Aways same as Bangalore Symposium))

Session: Panel Discussion

Topic: "The G20's Response to Climate Change and Environmental Challenges in India - Role of NGOs"

Panellists:
- **Dr. Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure (IAS),** Collector & District Magistrate, Raipur
- **Mr. Arun Kumar Pandey (IFS),** Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest
- (PCCF)**,** Joint Forest Management (JFM) & Member Secretary State Biodiversity Board
- Chhattisgarh
- **Dr. Bidyut Mazumdar,** Associate Professor, NIT Raipur (M. Tech - IIT Kharagpur)
- **Dr. Santanu Basu,** Project Director- Harit, HCLFoundation
- **Ms. Abhismita Roy,** Assistant Professor, Department of Botany Faculty of Science Kalinga University, Naya Raipur
- Moderator: **Mr. Nikhil Pant**

Key Takeaways from the Panel Discussion

- NGOs play a crucial role in biodiversity, climate, and forest conservation. They contribute to ecosystem protection, species conservation, and sustainable land management.
- Collaboration between NGOs and governments is important for effective conservation efforts as enhanced partnerships between NGOs and governments improves policy formulation and implementation.
- NGOs address climate change through advocacy, renewable energy projects, and sustainable practices.
- Involving youth in conservation through collaborations, awareness campaigns, and funding youth-centric projects is essential.
- NGOs should focus on smooth functioning, data accessibility, and capacity building.
- Climate resilience requires acknowledging climate change, addressing water scarcity, and promoting biodiversity conservation.
- NGOs can align their efforts with the G20 agenda, emphasizing water scarcity, lifestyle changes, and collaboration with government schemes.
- Leveraging last mile strength and addressing policy gaps are important for inclusive and effective environmental initiatives.

In summary, NGOs are crucial for biodiversity and climate conservation through initiatives and collaboration. Empowering youth, government partnerships, climate action, and aligning with the G20 agenda enhance their impact in addressing environmental challenges for sustainable development.

Session: HCLTech Grant Process and Experience Sharing

Grant Process
- **Ms. Shally Kaushal**, Programme Officer, HCLFoundation

Experience Sharing:
- **Mr. Robin Sarkar,** Project Director, Shiksha & Sub Jury Member, HCLTech Grant
- **Mohd. Dilshad,** Subject Matter Expert, HCLFoundation
- **Mr. Yogesh Kumar,** Group Operations Head - Programmes

- Samuday, HCLFoundation
- **Ms. Manju Garg,** State Manager, Language and Learning Foundation, Chhattisgarh
- Moderator: **Mr. Robin Thomas,** Manager, HCLFoundation

Key Take Aways from the Session
The HCLTech Grant supports NGO's focusing on the environment, health and education for rural development. Evaluation criteria include organizational strength, project relevance, impact, sustainability, inclusiveness, replicability and financial modelling. Successful proposals demonstrate detailed project execution, address language barriers and have a long-term vision. Tips for applicants include maintaining uniformity, using simple language, reflecting measurable impact, ensuring alignment between abstract and proposal and possessing technical expertise.

HCLTech Grant Symposium 8 Delhi

Location: New Delhi

Date: 27th June 2023

Venue: National Cooperative Union of India Auditorium & Conventional Centre (NCUI)

Agenda:

Sr. No.	Particulars	Time	Speakers
1	Tea/Coffee and Registration	9:00 am - 10:00am	Help Desk/Registration Desk
2	Welcome Address by Academic Partner	10:00am -10:05 am	**Dr. Sudhir Mahajan (IAS (Retd))** Chief Executive, National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI)
3	Presentation - National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI)	10:05 am - 10:20 am	**Mr. Sumit Singh** Advisor - Strategy & Cooperation, National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI)
4	Keynote Address by HCLTech	10:20am -10:30 am	**Mr. Raj Walia** Executive Vice President, HCLTech
5	Context Setting and HCLFoundation Overview	10:30am -10:50 am	**Ms. Nidhi Pundhir** Vice President, Global CSR, HCLFoundation
6	Masterclass on CSR Laws and its New Amendments	10:50am -12:00 pm	**Mr. Nikhil Pant** Senior CSR Advisor and Former Chief Programme Executive, National Foundation for CSR, IICA, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt. of India **Mr. Bhomik Shah** Founder and CEO, CSRBOX
7	Panel Discussion ("India's G20 Presidency- What it means for Rural Development ")	12:00 pm - 1:10 pm	**Ms. Nidhi Pundhir** Vice President, Global CSR, HCLFoundation **Prof Dr. Suresh Kumar** Medical Director Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Hospital (LNJP) **Mr. Ravindra Singh** Chief Executive Officer, Skill Council for Persons with Disability (SCPwD) (Skill India) **Mr. Rahul Kulshreshtha** Strategic Alliances Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India **Dr. Anjan Kumar Bhanja** Associate Professor & Head, Centre for Panchayati Raj, Decentralised Planning and Social Service Delivery National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj **Moderator: Mr. Nikhil Pant**
8	Motivational Talk Topic: "Motivational Mindset"	1:10 pm to 1:30 pm	**Author Sherry** Recognised by the Prime Minister of India, International Public Speaking Coach, Mentor, Global Professional Speaker, 900+talks,18+countries,11xTEDx Speaker & 4x Josh Talks Speaker, CEO - MS Talks
9	Networking Lunch	1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	

10	**HCL Experience Sharing and Grant Process**	2:30 pm - 4:00 pm	**Mr. Amitava Roy** General Secretary Lokamata Rani Rashmoni Mission **Mr. Santanu Chakraborty** Director - Programme Operations & Humanitarian Responses at Save the Children, India **Dr. Shafia Yaseen Wani** Subject Matter Expert, HCLFoundation and Assistant Professor (Rural Development), (IMPARD) **Moderator: Mr. Anuj Srivastava**
11	**High Tea**	4:00 pm - 4:30 pm	

Summary of the Registration

474 Registration (Online)

81 On Spot Registration

604 Participants (On venue)

Summary of the Symposium

The culmination of the 9th edition of the HCLTech Grant Pan India Symposiums was conducted in Delhi on 27th June 2023. The event began with a Keynote address by **Mr. Raj Walia, Executive Vice President, HCLTech.** The audience witnessed an impressive journey of the HCLFoundation. The audience witnessed HCLFoundation's incredible trajectory, and other topics highlighted in the event included HCL Tech's early adoption of philanthropy and CSR practices, active employee participation, and focus on meaningful impact. Revenue, workforce count, and global reach have all increased significantly. HCL provides a diverse range of technology services and solutions across multiple industries.

The next on the agenda was a presentation by **Mr. Sumit Singh**, Advisor - Strategy & Cooperation, National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI). The speaker acknowledged the importance of the cooperative sector in India and its collaboration with the HCLFoundation. Cooperatives bridge the rural-urban gap, foster economic development, and promote social welfare. The sector welcomes partnerships and enjoys government support. Recent developments include the establishment of the Ministry of Cooperation and efforts to compile national cooperative data.

Dr. Sudhir Mahajan (Retd. IAS), Chief Executive, National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI), delivered the keynote presentation. He gave a brief overview of the NCUI's core activities and various collaborations. The presentation was followed by the most intriguing context setting and HCLFoundation Overview by **Dr. Nidhi Pundhir, Vice President, Global CSR, HCLFoundation.** Dr. Nidhi emphasized the vital role of cooperatives in HCLFoundation's programmes, fostering collaboration and collective action. Proposals centered on cooperatives have a greater likelihood of selection. Cooperatives uplift rural communities and address urban challenges, promoting inclusive and sustainable development. HCLFoundation's support for cooperatives aims to maximize impact and empower communities.

Session: Masterclass - CSR Laws and its New Amendments:

Facilitator:

- **Mr. Nikhil Pant**, Senior CSR Advisor and Former Chief Programme Executive, National Foundation for CSR, IICA, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt of India; and
- **Mr. Bhomik Shah**, Founder and CEO, CSRBOX & NGOBOX

(Summary of the Masterclass: (Key Take Aways same as Bengaluru Symposium))

Session: Panel Discussion

Topic: "India's G20 Presidency- What it Means for Rural Development"

Panellists:
- **Prof Dr. Suresh Kumar**, Medical Director Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Hospital (LNJP)
- **Mr. Ravindra Singh**, Chief Executive Officer, Skill Council for Persons with Disability (SCPwD) (Skill India)
- **Dr. Nidhi Pundhir**, Vice President, Global CSR, HCLFoundation
- **Mr. Rahul Kulshreshtha**, Strategic Alliances, Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India
- Moderator**: Mr. Nikhil Pant**

Key Takeaways from the Panel Discussion for relevant stakeholders included:

- **Promoting inclusion for individuals with disabilities:**
- **Tailored training:** Providing specialized training programmes tailored to the specific needs of individuals with different disabilities.
- **Collaboration with supportive organizations:** Partnering with organizations specializing in supporting differently-abled individuals to leverage their expertise and resources.
- **Detailed proposal preparation:** Providing comprehensive information in project proposals, including industry mapping and highlighting potential impact and benefits.

- **Driving social impact through science, technology, and innovation:**
- **Strategic alliances division:** Establishing a dedicated division for collaborations and leveraging science, technology, and innovation for social impact.
- **Industry support and commercialization:** Seeking industry support to commercialize technological solutions addressing social needs aligned with SDGs.
- **Collaboration with foundations and NGOs:** Collaborating with foundations and NGOs to implement projects and support technological innovations.

- **Focus on SDGs:** Aligning projects with SDGs, addressing challenges like rural market access, women empowerment, and science clusters.
- **Rural development with a focus on health:**
- **Inadequate health spending:** Advocating for increased healthcare investment in rural areas and prioritizing healthcare challenges.
- **Infrastructure challenges:** Addressing infrastructure gaps, improving access to healthcare facilities, and considering innovative solutions like telemedicine.

- **Holistic approach:** Developing programmes considering the health needs of all age groups, including issues like birth defects and malnutrition.
- **Reaching underserved areas:** Collaborating with NGOs and utilizing CSR funds to extend healthcare services to underserved rural regions.
- **Strengthen local healthcare facilities:** Enhancing Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and local hospitals to improve rural healthcare infrastructure.
- **Considerations for project proposals:**
- **Convergence and collaboration:** Encouraging partnerships and collaboration among stakeholders to maximize project impact.
- **Inclusion and active participation:** Prioritizing inclusion and creating opportunities for active participation of target beneficiaries.
- **Innovation and government alignment:** Fostering innovation in project proposals aligned with national priorities and government initiatives.

To summarize, promoting inclusion and leveraging assistive technology can drive economic growth and help India achieve its 5 trillion economy goal by unlocking the potential of individuals with disabilities and providing support and opportunities.

Session: Motivational Talk

Topic: "Motivational Mindset

Facilitator: Author Sherry
Recognized by the Prime Minister of India, international Public Speaking Coach, Mentor, Global Professional Speaker, 900+talks, 18+countries, 11x TEDx Speaker and 4x Josh Talks Speaker, CEO-MS Talks

Summary of the Session

"Unleashing Your Motivational Mindset" empowers individuals to adopt a growth mindset, discover their purpose, set powerful goals, cultivate positive habits, overcome obstacles, nurture a supportive environment, fuel inspiration and creativity, and maintain momentum. By embracing these principles and techniques, individuals can unlock their true potential and achieve success in all areas of life.

Session: HCLTech Grant Process and Experience Sharing

Grant Process:

- **Ms. Shally Kaushal**, Programme Officer, HCLFoundation
- **Mr. Robin Thomas**, Manager, HCLFoundation

Experience Sharing:
- **Mr. Rohit Bahdur**, Partner Grant Thornton
- **Mr. Amitava Roy**, General Secretary Lokamata Rani Rashmoni Mission
- **Mr. Santanu Chakraborty**, Director - Programme Operations & Humanitarian Responses at Save the Children, India
- **Dr. Shafia Yaseen Wani**, Subject Matter Expert, HCLFoundation and Assistant Professor (Rural Development), (IMPARD)
- **Dr. Santosh George**, CIIT, Director Cure India
- Moderator**: Mr. Anuj Srivastava**, Deputy Manager, HCLFoundation

Key Take Aways from the Session

▪ **Evaluation Parameters for HCLTech Grant:**
The evaluation process for the HCLTech Grant considers the organizational strength, capacity to deliver, and governance structure of NGOs at the organizational level. At the project level, the evaluation focuses on relevance, impact/innovation, sustainability, inclusiveness, replicability/scalability, and financial modelling. This comprehensive evaluation ensures the selection of NGOs with strong capabilities, innovative proposals, and a commitment to sustainability and inclusiveness.

Key Takeaways from the Panellists Session

During the session, experts/panellists shared their experiences and insights regarding the HCLTech Grant process. Here are the key pointers highlighted by each speaker:

- **Dr. Shafia Wani** emphasized the importance of a well-defined proposal, focusing on the theory of change and the organization's capacity to implement the project effectively.

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- **Mr. Santanu Chakraborty** highlighted the strong and reliable mechanism of the HCLFoundation, mentioning the systematic evaluation process that ensures transparency and fairness. He also discussed the positive impact his organization achieved with the support of the grant.
- **Mr. Amitava Roy** stressed the importance of impact rather than geographical reach for organizations. He shared how the grant journey served as a valuable learning experience, enabling his organization to improve beneficiary management systems and internal processes and leverage technologies.
- **Dr. Santosh George** mentioned that although his organization did not receive financial support through the grant, the experience had a positive impact on their team. It served as a capacity-building opportunity, leading to improvements in their internal systems, financial management, and management information systems (MIS).
- **Mr. Rohit Bahadur** highlighted the evaluation process and provided advice for NGOs when submitting a proposal. He emphasized the significance of compliance documents, governance processes, and the clarity of the proposal.

The Team

NGOs

The Speakers

HCL**Foundation**

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