![ACT | impACT logo]

June'22 Edition

Dear co-founders of social change,

We've redesigned our newsletters as a viewport into the month gone by - key highlights from ACT, stories of our grantees, inspiration from our social entrepreneurs, sector insights and collaboration opportunities.

This newsletter is by and for the ACT Collective so we hope that you enjoy reading and look forward to deepening our engagement in the time to come!

What's New

We've launched the ACT Fellowship Program - help us find 6 passionate Fellows to join the 2022-23 cohort!

The ACT Fellowship Program is a 9 month full time opportunity for young professionals to contribute towards creating social impact at scale while building their own leadership skills and entrepreneurial abilities.

Come September, 6 ACT Fellows will get the platform to learn from domain experts, gain invaluable experience in venture philanthropy and learn what it takes to catalyse collective action for social change; straight from the driver's seat.

With 1 week to go till applications close on 24th July, we've received 70+ applications and are very excited for this program to inspire the next generation of social entrepreneurs.

Watch Karishma Gajaria, Varun Paul, Dakshesh Thacker & Suman Gopalan speak about the Fellowship!

If you know someone who would be a great fit for the program, do ask them to apply by clicking here.

Our Tech Advisors For Social Change pilot is underway!

ACT paired 8 social impact organisations that focus on areas ranging from early childhood education to career guidance, with a senior tech advisor from the for-profit world.

Meet our incredible advisors - Mohammad Illiyaz, Saraswati Chandra, Venkat Srirraman, Savitra Muley, Shashank Kothari, Erica Arya, Saurabh Saha & Kamal Govindraj!

A few weeks into the 10 week volunteering program, we're already seeing the impact - our advisors are deeply engaged in providing oversight on tech architecture and sharing insights to improve the end user experience.

We're excited to see the results of the pilot program once it concludes in August and hope to expand it further going ahead!

The India Clean Air Challenge (ICAC) takes the next step towards climate action at scale!

June saw 12 of ACT's ICAC winners and finalists showcase their solutions to 19 urban local bodies in Mumbai. The pitches were made in the presence of Veena Reddy, USAID's Mission Director & Head Of Clean Energy, and sparked off several conversations on early adoption by the ULBs.

USAID representatives remarked that it was the strongest collection of climate-tech startups that they have seen in India. Conversations around procurement and permissions continue; with all organisations reporting ongoing engagement.

ACT For Health initiates a needs assessment study on gaps in the healthcare value chain!

We spoke to 40+ doctors, specialising in TB, Cancer, Diabetes & Mental Health, from 21 government/private/charitable hospitals across 12 states.

It has emerged that nearly 75% of urban doctors are either currently using or have used a tech based product; as compared to only 25% in rural & semi-urban areas - which could be due to lack of awareness. A critical area of focus is strengthening primary care centres with screening/diagnostic facilities along with capacity building for general physicians. There is also a need to bolster counselling services to help patients & family members understand the diagnosis of such diseases, help them cope with stress and improve treatment compliance.

In the coming months, we'll be conducting in-depth interviews and focus groups with a larger cohort of doctors and release the comprehensive study findings in Q3.

ACT For Education grantee Top Parent emerges as a 2021-2022 Learning Engineering Tools competition winner!

Designed to support parents from low-income communities, their free of cost mobile solution enables parental engagement to help children minimise learning loss.

By winning the K12 accelerated learning track, Top Parent has secured additional

Tools Competition
**2021–2022
Winner**
K-12 Accelerated Learning Track

Play. Connect. Learn.
A mobile app to foster accelerated learning in early years via parental engagement

funding that will enable them to expand their mobile app offering beyond their existing base of 200K parents from low income backgrounds!

Read more here.

ACT For Women is set to drive best practices on gender inclusivity!

We've partnered with Circle In (an organisation under The Convergence Foundation) to initiate a State Of The Sector Report on women's employment across levels in the startup ecosystem to understand enablers & disablers as well as emerging best practices which can be adopted industry wide.

This report will be released on 8th March, 2023 and pave the way for piloting interventions for women such as return to work programs as well as supporting innovative ideas that can help women enter and remain in the workforce.

If you're a startup founder, join the movement to enable gender equity at your organisation by signing ACT's Pact For Gender Parity here!

Image Credit: istockphoto.com/sjenner13

ACT For Health partners with India Health Fund for Quest 2022!

IHF, a Tata Trust initiative, is searching for the sharpest innovations that can accelerate the eradication of infectious diseases. With tuberculosis being one of ACT's focus areas under the healthcare vertical, we'll be evaluating funding applications received from startups working in the tuberculosis domain.

Applications closed on 10th July and the evaluation process is currently underway!

Farmers For Forests comes on board as an ACT For Environment grantee!

Using the innovative payment for ecosystem services (PES) model, F4F treats local farmers as stewards of the forests who are financially compensated for implementing actions that nurture young forests or protect the biodiversity of existing ones - like carbon sequestration, groundwater recharge, nurturing biodiversity habitat, afforestation etc.

The model provides a sustainable way to encourage indigenous communities to work towards ecosystem protection by helping them get additional income & livelihood security.

The ACT For Environment team worked with F4F to build a sustainability model that has not only led to a 40% increase in the size of the planned pilot but also has the team evaluating a for profit model.

ACT For Health welcomes BHS (Basic Healthcare Services) as a grantee!

Basic HealthCare Services

BHS is a platform that envisions a responsive community healthcare ecosystem which enables access to high-quality, low-cost health services.

As an ACT For Health grantee, they'll be setting up x-ray machines across 3 AMRIT Clinics in Udaipur and 1 PHC in Rajasthan's Dungarpur district to enable timely and effective diagnosis of TB.

This is a service innovation project that aims to yield a cost reduction of 40% by installing 1 reader in one of the nodes to capture data from all x-ray machines.

In Spotlight: FIBSOL

Even the simplest innovations have the potential to change the world!
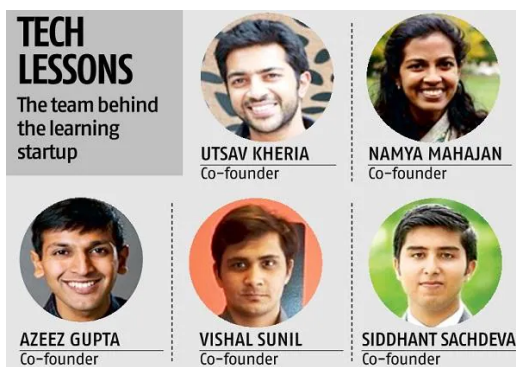

Chemical fertilisers have long deprived agricultural soil of its natural ecosystem, thus reducing soil fertility. They're also a major source of carbon emissions - 1 ton of chemical fertiliser releases almost 1.5 tons of carbon dioxide.

Dr. Kavitha Sairam, an expert in biochemistry and molecular biology, started FIBSOL to provide farmers with a bio alternative to chemical fertilisers. She used her expertise to create a gel based product which contains a huge amount of good bacteria beneficial for increasing the yield of high quality and nutritious food.

The gel based technology also increases the shelf life of bacteria two fold, cuts down on bulk mass and does not need any special storage; thus reducing transportation and warehousing costs for farmers as well.

So far, FIBSOL has helped farmers reduce their use of chemical fertilisers by 50%, reduce their input costs by 22% and yet have a 20% higher, more nutritive yield!

Entrepreneur Speak: Rocket Learning

Recognized by MIT Solve, World Economic Forum, Forbes 30 Under 30 & Business World 40 Under 40 - our ACT For Education grantee Rocket Learning has been creating ripples in the edtech space with a digital learning solution tailored for children from low income communities.

Co-founders Azeez Gupta, Namya Mahajan, Utsav Kheria, Siddhant Sachdeva and Vishal Sunil talk about their social entrepreneurial journey - **if you need a dose of inspiration today, read more here!**

Industry Insights

"People are taking purpose driven work as a priority over a job that just pays bills. People are more aware about the emerging opportunities. You can become a changemaker now at all levels." - Aashish Beergi, Founder and CEO, MASH Project Foundation.

An interesting take on the rising potential of social entrepreneurship across for-profit and non-profit business models. **Click here to watch the panel discussion hosted by Business World.**

The new normal in the healthcare ecosystem will be about how healthcare delivery will innovate in the coming decade and what it means for both patients and healthcare providers.

Read more in [this report by EY](#) on Healthcare In India: 2022 & Beyond.

Let's #ACT!

Help With CSR Connections: ICAC Winners

Several of our ICAC winners are requesting connections with CSR leaders who are interested in climate action; to enable government implementation of clean air and waste management technologies in Maharashtra.

If you know someone in the CSR space and are open to giving us a reference and connecting us with them, please fill up [this form](#)!

Support With Finding Co-Funders: Wysa

Wysa, an ACT For Health grantee, is looking for co-funders for their Hindi language mental health app; which will also be accessible through WhatsApp.

The first iteration of the Hindi app will guide users through cognitive behavioural therapy exercises, via text with a phone-based conversational agent, to help users manage depression and anxiety. The app will guide users who show moderate to severe symptoms towards a clinical program and wellness tools to others.

If you know someone who would be interested to explore funding this initiative, please write to us at neetha@actgrants.in!