



impACT

July'22 Edition

Dear co-founders of social change,

Our newsletters are a viewport into the month gone by - highlights from ACT, 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!

What's New

ACT For Education grantee Rocket Learning bags the Arnhold Rainer Fellowship



They've been selected as one of ten organisations worldwide by [Mulago Foundation](#) to be a part of this prestigious program.

As an Arnhold Rainer Fellow, [Rocket Learning](#) will receive additional funding that will enable them to scale their edtech solution and help more children across India bridge the learning gap.

Navya Care comes on board as an ACT For Health grantee

As an ACT For Health grantee, [Navya](#) will pilot the Earthshot Engine - a simple digital user interface through which non-clinical staff can enter patient data, enabling it to map that data to NCG and NCCN guidelines and determine compliant treatment protocols.



This innovation will aid quick & low cost second opinion cancer care; thus becoming accessible for regional primary care providers, hospitals, oncologists, NGOs etc.

ACT For Health grantee Wysa secures \$20 million in Series B funding



Led by Health Quad & British International Investment, this additional funding will support [Wysa](#) in scaling the Hindi version of their mental health app in India.

The app will also be accessible on Whatsapp and help increase access to high-quality affordable mental healthcare.

Read more [here](#).

ACT For Environment grantee Farmers for Forests raises 3.25 Cr from Accenture & Nvidia

With this additional funding, [F4F](#) is now expanding their scope from the planned 700Ha to 12,500 Ha; which will enable widespread reforestation and aid an increase in village livelihoods.

They have also set up a for-profit entity for receiving carbon credits which is a critical component of their business model.



ACT distributes 2.5 Cr+ facemasks to boost COVID prevention protocols



ACT distributed 2.5 Cr+ facemasks across 11 states for children, self help groups, frontline workers, police and army personnel, govt. offices, PHCs and taluka health centre staff.

"I extend my gratitude to ACT for their generous contribution. This act of goodwill will impact the lives of millions!" - Mr. Jayant Sinha, MP - Hazaribagh (Jharkhand)

Our heartfelt gratitude to Hanesbrands for donating the masks and Delhivery for helping us with distribution.

Niramai becomes an ACT For Health grantee

Given the inaccuracy of mammography in detecting breast cancer in younger women, [Niramai](#)'s portable breast cancer screening device is an innovative intervention that's affordable, radiation free, non-invasive and can be used for women of all ages.

As an ACT For Health grantee, they have partnered with the Andhra Pradesh department of health to conduct 5000 screenings across 6 months.



ACT For Health grantee Coronasafe Network secures additional funding by MSDf for its TeleICU project



In 2020, [Coronasafe](#) demonstrated that engineering students can be trained to manage professional disaster management software.

Having seen how the TeleICU capabilities created by these students on the system has helped save lives in remote district hospitals, MSDf has extended its grant support for the TeleICU project till June 2023.

Read this [Twitter thread](#) about how nurses at a remote district hospital used TeleICU to consult with specialists at JIMS, Imphal and intubate a patient who stopped breathing.

Periwinkle joins the collective as an ACT For Health grantee

[Periwinkle](#)'s handheld Smart Scope® CX device provides consistent cervical cancer screening images without the need for electricity & its AI component analyses the images to provide a risk stratification, thus reducing the need for extensive personnel training.

As an ACT For Health grantee, they'll conduct operational studies with NHM in a few states to establish the benefits of Smart Scope® CX versus the naked eye VIA test.



In Spotlight: VOPA



When schools shut down during the pandemic, [Prafulla Shashikant](#) decided to act!

A 1st generation learner from Beed in Maharashtra and the co-founder of [VOPA](#), he created and deployed the VSchool app to help underprivileged students continue their education.

Open source & user friendly, the app provides vernacular lesson plans for grades 1-10 custom created by teachers & is fully functional even on low internet bandwidth. So far, the VOPA team has trained 2000+ teachers to put up 2700+ lesson plans in Marathi, Semi-English and Urdu with over 9000 videos for students across 4 of the most backward districts in Maharashtra.

The platform is free for use, the district governments help spread the word and teachers developing the content don't ask for compensation - **VOPA is a true example of how edtech fueled by collective action can create social impact at scale!**

Entrepreneur Speak: Saathealth



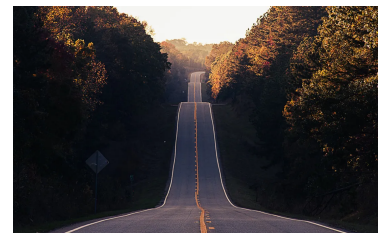
The [Saathealth](#) app was born as an attempt to help low-income families get easy access to credible health information and make timely healthcare decisions. The AI powered platform is tailored to vernacular needs and has reached over 7 million individuals across 10 cities.

Co-founders [Aditi Ganju](#) and [Dr. Aakash Ganju](#) share their social entrepreneurial journey - **if you need a dose of inspiration today, read more [here!](#)**

Industry Insights

Hustle is critical for early stage startups, especially at the formation stage – but it just doesn't scale. Phenomenal execution does.

Read more about leveraging OKRs to build enduring organisations in [this article](#) by [Rajan Anandan, MD - Sequoia Capital](#).



Let's #ACT!

Join the LITE Hiring Network

LITE Hiring Network Early Adopters

We received an encouraging interest from software companies to become a part of the LITE Hiring network. As of now, following companies have signed up:



This year, 1047 software engineers applied for Coronasafe Network's [Teaching Fellowship](#), of which 3 were selected to maintain and upgrade AICTE's National Model Curriculum for Advanced Web Development.

These Fellows have just released the first major [upgrade for the curriculum](#), which is being launched in 9 universities across 6 states.

If you're looking to access a high-quality pipeline of students trained in this curriculum to join your organisation as full stack developers, sign up for the LITE Hiring Network [here](#).

VOPA is hiring

ACT For Education grantee [VOPA](#) is hiring and looking for recommendations.

VSchool, their free edtech solution, has made rapid strides in enabling children from low income communities to learn at home and is looking for high-calibre professionals to join their team.

If you know someone who would be a good fit for any of these positions, please ask them to apply [here](#).



WE ARE HIRING

VOPA's V-School is an edtech solution that provides free and contextualized teaching - learning content to students and teachers. We have helped 12 lakh children to learn better using V-School!

Positions

- Manager - Impact assessment & Strategy
- Manager - Partnerships & Collaborations
- Project Lead - Content writing team
- School Coordinator + Educational content writer

Location: Kothrud, Pune

#NGO #JobAlert

Fibsol is looking for a BDO



ACT For Environment grantee [Fibsol](#) is hiring for a Business Development Officer to lead organisational growth.

An agritech start-up that is pioneering ultra light agri-inputs for sustainable agriculture, they are looking for professionals with 2-3 years of relevant experience. The full JD can be found [here](#).

If you know someone who would be interested in applying, please ask them to write to kavithafibsol@gmail.com.



Message sent by ACT Grants at 101, Yashila 1/1, 1st main, 8th Block, Koramangala VI BK SO, Bangalore South, Bangalore, Karnataka, India.

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August'22 Edition

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What's New

Meet the ACT Fellowship Program 2022-23 cohort

Our Fellows are set to begin their Fellowship journey on 15th September - [Sayesha Dogra](#), [Gulam Sarwar](#), [Ananya Yerra](#), [Shazib Siddique](#), [Brintha Chandrasekaran](#) & [Sunaina Mathur](#) will spend the next 9 months deep diving into creating social impact at scale across our 4 verticals.

We're stoked to welcome them to the ACT Collective as co-founders of social change!



ACT For Health concludes its pilot needs assessment study



We recently concluded our needs assessment pilot study across 12 states with 45 doctors, specialising in tuberculosis, cancer, diabetes & mental health, and gleaned many valuable insights.

Know more [here](#).

ACT For Education portfolio comes together to reimagine edtech for Bharat

August saw our entire ACT For Education portfolio come together in Delhi to learn from each other and collaborate with each other.

The 2 days were an immersive mix of expert sessions & discussions which galvanised our entrepreneurs around positively shifting the landscape in the time to come.

Read more [here](#).



CEC comes on board as an ACT For Environment grantee



We look forward to working with [CEC](#) (Centre for Environmental Concerns) – the creator of SWAR – to dramatically reduce water consumption, promote soil health, reduce fertiliser requirements, improve crop yields and thus, farmer incomes.

Read more [here](#).

Rocket Learning gets featured in the Bloomberg New Economy Catalyst List 2022

[Azeez Gupta](#), co-founder of ACT For Education grantee [Rocket Learning](#), is one of 28 remarkable startup founders globally recognized by Bloomberg as creating equitable, inclusive & sustainable outcomes!

Read more [here](#).



ACT For Health grantee Intelhealth recognized by Uplink - World Economic Forum



Cited as one of the top 14 global innovative crowdsourced projects, this recognition by [UpLink](#) will help [Intelhealth](#) further enhance the public healthcare delivery via telemedicine and build resilience within the ecosystem.

Know more [here](#).

ACT For Environment portfolio showcased at EDF's Climate Tech Convening

Environmental Defense Fund hosted its first [Climate Tech Convening](#) on 26th August which showcased 3 ACT For Environment portfolio orgs - [Fibsol](#), [Brisil](#) & [A2P](#).

The showcase brought together business leaders, investors & sector experts to catalyse the climate tech ecosystem in India - giving these orgs the opportunity to interact 1:1 with several leading corporates on collaboration possibilities.



Josh Skills joins the ACT For Education collective



We are excited to partner with [Josh Skills](#) to open up free access to their spoken English app for youth from low-income backgrounds and develop intelligent content to personalise their learning journey.

Read more [here](#).

ACT For Health supported collaborative platform Manthan launched on 15th Aug

We're proud to support [Manthan](#) - an initiative led by the office of the Principal Scientific Advisor to the government of India that aims to empower various stakeholders to share challenges & facilitate tech innovation for social impact.

Know more [here](#).



In Spotlight: Intellehealth



For rural India, access to proper healthcare is more a privilege than a right.

This was the insight that led Dr. Neha Verma, a biomedical engineer, to become an entrepreneur who incubated [Intellehealth](#) at Johns Hopkins as a Global Health Innovation Fellow.

Intellehealth is an open-source digital platform that bridges that gap by empowering public health services to deliver affordable primary healthcare to rural communities through telemedicine.

As an ACT For Health grantee, they've partnered with the Odisha state government to deliver comprehensive primary healthcare across 30 districts by training frontline workers like ASHAs & ANMs, enabling less specialised health workers to take up specialised tasks & strengthening eSanjeevani telemedicine for access to specialised health workers, where required.

This project aims to develop a resilient and accessible primary healthcare while improving health outcomes and we're excited to see the transformation it will bring to Odisha's public healthcare system in the time to come!

Entrepreneur Speak: Farmers For Forests

Climate change cannot be solved without addressing ecosystem destruction and biodiversity loss. This was the thought that led Krutika Ravishankar, Jaspreet Kaur & Arti Dhar to start [Farmers For Forests](#) - an organisation that empowers the farmer community to combat deforestation.

If you need a dose of inspiration today, read more about their social entrepreneurial journey [here](#)!



Industry Insights



While the eSanjeevani telemedicine platform helps strengthen public healthcare services, an Open Digital Telehealth Initiative (ODTI) could go a long way in accelerating the pace of growth of healthcare services across India & help deliver a wider set of public health goals.

Read more in [this article](#) by ORF.

Let's #ACT!

Help With CSR Connections: ACT For Environment Portfolio

Several of our portfolio orgs need an introduction to 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](#)!



Fibsol is hiring for a Business Development Officer



ACT For Environment grantee [Fibsol](#) is hiring a Business Development Officer and looking for recommendations; the full JD can be found [here](#).

If you know someone who would be a good fit, please ask them to write to kavithafibsol@gmail.com.



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What's New

Sowjanya Kanuri joins the collective as ACT For Women's Program Lead



Having worked with orgs like Unilever & Girl Effect, [Sowjanya](#) will help us accelerate our efforts towards increasing women's workforce participation in India.

"I am really excited by ACT's unique approach towards solving this issue - hyper focusing on addressing demand side barriers to create significant shifts within the startup ecosystem, to begin with. I look forward to learning from the ACT's amazing network of supporters!"

ACT For Environment grantee Agri To Power wins the Cisco Global Problem Solver Challenge 2022

[A2P](#)'s AI based platform uses satellite imagery to identify areas where crop waste burning is prevalent & creates a marketplace where crop waste can be turned into clean biofuels instead.

Being a solution that substantially reduces greenhouse gas emissions and increases farmers' incomes, they've won the \$1,00,000 Climate Impact & Regeneration prize.

Read more [here](#).



Mission Brighter Bharat kicks off in rural Uttarakhand



In partnership with Central Square Foundation, Sshrishti Trust, BYJU'S, Cashify, Freshworks, The Max Foundation & Urban Company, ACT For Education's Mission Brighter Bharat initiative distributed over 600 tablets, preloaded with free educational content, to children from low-income families between grades 4th to 8th in rural Uttarakhand.

Know more [here](#).

ACT For Environment grantee Farmers for Forests recognised by Uplink - World Economic Forum

As an organisation working to protect and increase India's biodiverse forest cover in collaboration with rural communities, [F4F](#) has been recognised by UpLink - World Economic Forum as a top innovator working on ecosystem protection & restoration in India.



Read more [here](#).

ACT For Health welcomes Swasth Alliance to its portfolio in support of the Health Claims Exchange (HCX)



Swasth is working with stakeholders across the healthcare ecosystem to build HCX as public digital infrastructure - a unified backbone for health financing in the form of an interoperable health benefits network covering the continuum of care.

Read more [here](#).

ICAC winner Brisil launches their second plant in Gujarat

First of its kind in India & South Asia, this facility will use [Brisil](#)'s patented technology to convert 15000 tons of rice husk ash (a significant cause of air pollution) into 8000-9000 tons of green precipitated silica for industrial use.

This energy efficient process will not only reduce the dumping of rice husk ash as a waste product but also replace conventionally produced silica extracted from sand; thus preventing sand mining and its related damage to rivers, floodplains & the water table.



Vidyakul joins the ACT For Education portfolio

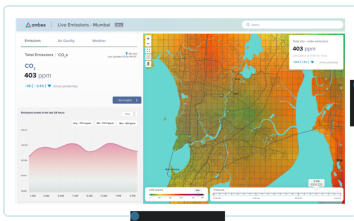


Their affordable mobile app offers live as well as recorded classes, with lecture notes and quizzes, for state board students in grades 9 to 12. Currently operating in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh & Gujarat, Vidyakul employs local teachers to create vernacular educational content for all subjects with contextual examples to help students learn better.

Read more [here](#).

In Spotlight: Ambee

When Madhusudhan Anand's son was an infant, he would wake up choking and gasping for



air every morning. Doctors were unable to figure out the reason and while Madhusudhan suspected air pollution to be the cause - he couldn't find any reliable measures on air quality.

He built a sensor and drove around his neighbourhood in Bengaluru, creating a heat map on air quality. As it turned out, the air was indeed toxic but no one had identified it as an issue because there was no one measuring it.

Ambee was born of Madhusudan's resolve to drive climate action on air pollution using real time data. Using proprietary data science and AI, that combines raw data from satellites and thousands of on-ground sensors, it provides hyperlocal intelligence that can help cities identify pollution hotspots and take action in real time.

Having partnered with the likes of NASA, they're now working with ACT For Environment on enabling India to act against air pollution by partnering with local government bodies on using Ambee's data sets to manage city-level climate action plans!

Entrepreneur Speak: Top Parent



Parents from low-income communities lack the resources to support their children's learning and development at home.

This is the realisation that led **Sashwati Bannerjee** to launch **Top Parent** - a free mobile app that equips low-income parents with resources, strategies, and language to support their children to get ready for school and for life.

If you need a dose of inspiration today, read more about her social entrepreneurial journey [here!](#)

Industry Insights

Given the unevenness of quality & coverage of early childhood education services in the country, it is important to develop a responsive model that can help the government provide equitable services to all children aged between 3-6 years.

Read more in [this report](#) by CBGA & Save the Children.



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