impACT

October - December 2023

Dear co-founders of social change,

Our quarterly newsletters are a viewport into the latest updates from the community - highlights from ACT, stories of our social entrepreneurs and sector insights.

This newsletter is by and for the ACT Collective. We hope that you enjoy reading!

WHAT'S NEW

KARYA

WISER finds that startups can lead the way on accelerating women's workforce participation

October witnessed ACT For Women launch India's first and largest collaborative report on women in startups - the Women in India'sStartup Ecosystem Report {WISER).

With participation from 111 founders, 117 CHROs, and almost 800 startup employees, WISER 2023 focused on understanding the drivers for gender diversity across employment levels and spotlighting best practices that have helped improve women's participation.

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ACT welcomes Karya to the collective with our first Education x Women grant

Karya's innovative micro-tasking app enables underserved communities to complete simplified AI/ML data tasks and generate supplementary income, while providing them with up-skilling opportunities and career guidance.

We're excited to fuel Karya's vision to bring 100M individuals out of povertyby building ethical ways of data collection that fairly compensates its workers, most of whom are from rural India.

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ACT For Health and GH Labs come together to bring private innovations to public healthcare

This collaboration aims to jointly identify Indian digital and medical technology innovators and support the development and scale of their digital health and medical technology innovations within India's public healthcare system, with a view to positively impact the access to quality and affordable healthcare for underserved populations.

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Cancrie from the ACT For Environment portfolio gains prestigious recognition

ACT For Health partners with Chikmagalur district to bring healthcare innovations to the last mile

Top Parent from the ACT For Education collective wins second place at the Global Edtech Startup Awards

Cancrie's advanced nano-carbons made from agri-waste significantly improve battery performance and lifespan, thus reducing the need for raw material extraction.

They recently won the prestigious ENTICE Challenge Awards in the "Most Novel and Promising Solution" category and have also been recognised with the National Energy Efficiency Innovation Award by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) at the Ministry of Power.

The collaboration seeks to pilot and scale innovative health-tech innovations and consequently, support improved healthcare outcomes in the district. To begin with, Medprime Technologies will deploy four units of its digital microscopy solution at the district hospital and Neurosynaptic Communications will introduce its integrated suite of diagnostic devices in five PHCs within the district.

Going forward, we hope to leverage this partnership to bring more private innovations to the last mile and strengthen India's public healthcare system.

Top Parent is emerging as a powerful force in the space of foundational literacy and numeracy - striving to revolutionise education for India's underserved children. Its mobile app delivers educational content meticulously tailored to match a child's developmental stages, fostering parental engagement and minimising learning loss for children aged 3 to 8 years.

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ACT For Environment grantee Farmers For Forests partners with the government to scale their impact

ACT For Health's pilot with Adagio VR shows positive mental health outcomes among transgender communities

REVY and Zerocircle from the ACT For Environment portfolio gain international recognition

F4F's collaboration with the District Administration of Gadchiroli (Maharashtra) will enable Gram Sabhas managing 5 lakh hectares of forest land to receive training in forest mapping and biodiversity protection. This initiative aims to foster ecosystem preservation and build community livelihoods.

Learn more about their impact through the eyes of 73 year old farmer Najukrao here.

ACT For Health collaborated with MITR Trust to pilot Adagio's innovation among transgender communities to address their mental health concerns through a four-week program. The solution combines virtual reality with clinical techniques to help users identify and address the root causes of anxiety, depression and trauma.

The cohort of 100 participants showed positive mental health outcomes after and demonstrated an -85% decrease in anxiety and depression scores from the baseline.

While REVY won the Climate Mitigation Award at the Sankalp Global Summit 2023 for their microbial solution that transforms agri-waste into organic manure, Zerocircle was declared as the Global Winner of the CleanTech 2023 pitch competition hosted by UNIDO for their innovation that transforms dried seaweed biomass into an ocean-safe and home compostable alternative to plastic.

Watch The Video

ACT signs the SACH pledge on climate health resilience

ACT For Health renews its support to Periwinkle Technologies

ACT shares insight on building resilience within the social impact ecosystem at the AVPN South Asia Summit

ACT recently pledged its commitment to Sustainable Action for Climate Health (SACH) that's led by USAID, PATH, and the Centre for Health Research and Innovation and aims to identify solutions, encourage private sector investments, and assist citiesin addressing the health effects of climate change.

ACT is committed to pledging support to strengthen climate health resilience as we believe that collaboration will play a pivotal role in driving collective action towards building climate-resilient health systems.

Periwinkle's AI-powered handheld device enables early detection of cervical cancer among low-income patients, without the need for additional infrastructure or dependence on trained professionals.

Our second scale-up grant will support Periwinkle to build on the learnings from earlier pilots by conducting on-ground cervical cancer screening in PHCs across both rural and urban settingsacross Maharashtra, Manipur and Jharkhand.

"Technology can be a force multiplier for creating impact, but what social entrepreneurs need is capital that allows them to fail - to try, test, learn and pivot."

Aakanksha Gulati (Director, ACT) shared our perspective in a discussion on building resilience for non-profits. The diverse perspectives shared during this insightful discussion highlighted the necessary shifts needed on both ends of the spectrum.

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ACT Implementers Network demonstrates early glimmers of hope

ACT shares highlights and learnings on our work in FY 2022-23

In 2023, the network catalysed a partnership between **MAHAN** Trust and Medprime Technologies to address the scarcity of diagnostic facilities in the remote Melghat region of Maharashtra.

Medprime's digital microscopy solution, which allows pathologists to remotely analyse test reports, has

Our portfolio strength more than doubled over the previous financial year, with each of the 30 solutions across our 4 verticals leveraging technology and innovation in their own unique way to address critical social need gaps. Our mission-driven founders are also proving to be a formidable force in creating lasting change by building these solutions in

enabled MAHAN Trust to leverage tele-pathology to diagnose multiple cases of tuberculosis, malaria and even suspected leukaemia in a timely manner. T he stories that haveemerged have truly demonstrated the power of technology in saving lives.

ways that can unlock meaningful scale over time.

While there is still a long way to go, these early proof-points demonstrate the potential such solutions have to rapidly gain critical mass and over time, truly build better for Bharat.

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FOUNDERS IN SPOTLIGHT

"As *leaders in pyrolysis, we are excited to be at the forefront of the circularity and decarbonisation movement. We are committed to drive this industry forward to a cleaner and more sustainable future."*

AP Chemi's patented pyrolysis technology transforms non-recyclable plastic waste into feedstock for cleaner biofuels, presenting a greener alternative to fossil fuels and creating scalable climate impact.

Watch the video to know more about AP Chemi's journey through the eyes of founder Suhas Dixit!

"*The core objective of our project is to tackle the problem of paddy straw burning, reduce air pollution, and find sustainable ways to utilise agricultural waste instead of burning it."*

Agri To Power's AI-powered platform uses satellite imagery to identify areas where crop waste burning is prevalent & creates a marketplace where it can be turned into clean biofuels, thus helping farmers transform the management of paddy stubble.

Know more about Agri To power's innovative solution in this Indian Express feature with founder Sukhmeet Singh!

INDUSTRY INSIGHTS

"*Digital health is the next frontier for India and impact funders have a collective responsibility to accelerate the pace of change through concerted efforts to make healthcare accessible to all."*

Read this insightful article by Krisha Mathur, Director at ACT, on leveraging tech-led innovations to improve public healthcare in ET Healthworld.

"*Our learning has been that standalone initiatives or DEi programs alone do not work. To move the needle for women, enduring practices, people (across all levels), behaviours and policies must move in tandem."*

Read more in this MoneY.control op-ed by Aakanksha Gulati, Director at ACT, on how Indian startups can pave the way for accelerating gender equity at the workplace.

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