



KEYNOTE

Dear Friends,

Taking a step back, in this edition the *Samvaad* team decided to narrate not just the eventful last two years of its publication but also invited the views of its Chief Editor to share the Foundation's path to development.

The journey to *Samvaad* began two years back on the freezing night of Christmas 2019, when we rolled out its very first edition. With each edition of *Samvaad*, there has been a conscious effort from the team to make it a unique publication in the field of corporate social responsibility. The team has worked assiduously on theme-based editions, bringing stories that showcase the work done by different projects of TMF, introduced a discussion corner to reflect the views of industry stalwarts and professionals talking on important topics such as the priority to be accorded to mental health, talking on the changed scenario of teaching-learning methods in education or focusing on the opportunities for CSRs to work post-pandemic. The objective of *Samvaad* is not just to bring TMF's work to you, but also to identify areas of collaboration for organizations to bring a multiplier effect in what we do.

The last seven editions of *Samvaad* have reflected on some exceptional initiatives and significant achievements of the Tech Mahindra Foundation. In this eighth edition, *Samvaad* aims to capture the journey and key milestones that the Foundation has accomplished over the last few years. This edition is dedicated to the 16-year journey of Tech Mahindra Foundation and its continuous effort to improve on from the foundation that was laid in 2006 by its founding fathers.

For this, we got our Editor-in-chief and Chief Operating Officer of TMF, Mr Chetan Kapoor to talk about the Foundation's coming of age – from being a relatively small CSR division to a leading implementing agency in the social sector. We also feature an awe-inspiring story of Pallavi who is a beneficiary of one of TMF's long and most valued partnerships with The Association of People with Disability. You will also read about the collaboration that the Foundation has commenced with GIZ India to launch ASCENT. This alliance is the fruit of a 3-year long exchange between the two teams that aims at providing quality vocational training to 10,000 urban youth. The Foundation has also joined hands with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to offer a free Cloud Computing course to the students of SMART Academies for Digital Technologies.

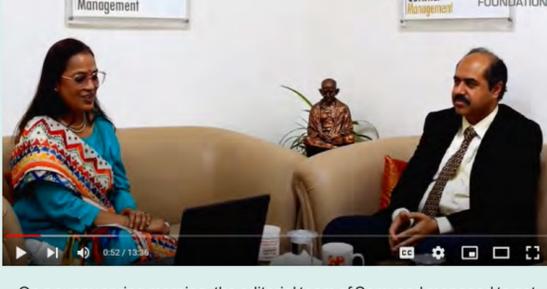
With this, we hope to keep giving you content that is valuable and carry forward your views that have an inner voice to them. The entire team of *Samvaad* is ever grateful and appreciates your discerning views and valuable feedback received at every step to create content that finds space in discussion forums and policy platforms. A huge Thank You from the bottom of our hearts!

Best wishes for your good health,

Editorial Team of *Samvaad*



A CANDID TALK WITH MR CHETAN KAPOOR



On a sunny spring morning, the editorial team of *Samvaad* managed to get a candid interview from Mr Chetan Kapoor. While speaking with us he brought out some extremely interesting and lesser-known facts behind the accomplishments of Tech Mahindra Foundation in the last 16 years. Mr Chetan Kapoor, is a known and an accomplished social development professional with notable experience of working in the Education and Skill Development sectors.

Mr Kapoor elaborated on the factors that have contributed to the success of the Foundation; talking about clarity of purpose and direction, as well as a deep passion that runs through the core of the Foundation. These two have been the cornerstones of the commitment that Tech Mahindra Foundation has demonstrated towards social change. Creating and streamlining robust processes along with an emphasis of quality over quantity were also consciously taken decisions that have been critical success factors.

When asked about the factors that connect the Foundation's roots to its present, Mr Kapoor in an impeccable tone explained that the Foundation had ample scope and liberty given to the new leadership by the founding fathers to shape the vision 'Empowerment through Education' in their own way. Of course, what also worked in favour of the Foundation were two things: going slow yet steady with its flagship employability and education programs and taking the right decisions at the right time. These helped set high benchmark for the Foundation in the years to come.

To conclude, Mr Kapoor in his indomitable spirit spoke of the various initiatives such as setting up of the Alumni Clubs and in future see the Foundation emerge as a solid resource centre to contribute to the body of knowledge and as an implementing agency in the development sector.

PARTNER SPEAKS

The editorial team decided to feature the work of one of its oldest and most valuable partners - The Association of People with Disability (APD), Bangalore, working for youth with disabilities. APD has been a pioneer in enabling employability among PWDs to help them lead a life of meaning and dignity.



'TMF is a valuable partner, with a vision to enable, equip and empower youth with disabilities and their families by ensuring a better ecosystem, comprehensive rehabilitation, rights, entitlements, and mainstreaming them through livelihood opportunities. With the TMF partnership, APD strives to create a better world for persons with disabilities where equity, dignity, and justice is assured.'

Through this partnership - 1,664 PwDs gained knowledge, and domain skills to develop their functional independence and living skills. 1,310 became financially independent and 6,656 family members have been impacted through this initiative of TMF.'

Dr. N.S. Senthil Kumar, Ph.D.(Rehab)
Chief Operations Officer & Executive Director
The Association of People with Disability

BENEFICIARY CORNER

Let's read about one of our partner beneficiaries who broke all the barriers and became a role model for many.



'At the age of 3 years, I met with a spinal cord injury which made me dependent on a wheelchair. Having no education, exposure or social interaction made me lose confidence and hope in life. With constant motivation from my family and APD institute, I was finally able to pursue my life-long dream of becoming a fashion designer and identify my passion for badminton. Currently, I am making clothes for my family and friends and preparing for the national-level badminton competition.'

Pallavi
(She completed her training on ITES-BPO from APD institute in 2018-2019).

We hope to share more such inspiring stories like that of Pallavi.

SAAJHI SAMAJH

Saajhi Samajh - a discussion platform of Tech Mahindra Foundation has hosted several seminars with a focus on Education, Employability, and Disability. The platform is now an accepted medium of advocacy where we consciously choose topics to engage in meaningful discussions while gaining insights from experts and specialists.



Observing the International Social-Emotional Learning Day, the Seventh edition of Saajhi Samajh was organized on 11th March, 2021. The discussion topic was on Integrating social-emotional learning in Education - a core internal practice of the Foundation itself, as it continues to propagate the idea of SEL to the world. Eminent personalities like Mr Samir Parikh, Director, Fortis National Mental Health Program, and Ms Sakina Bedi, National Award winner for Best Professional Institution Builder (NFBM Jagriti School for Blind Girls) joined the session to share meaningful insights on how to improve oneself by imbibing the Social-emotional concepts in our daily living.

To know more visit: techmahindrafoundation.org/education/saajhi-samajh



The Sixth edition focussed on including Disability in the workplace. This edition aimed at bringing out affirmative action steps from employers and experts by promoting the idea of an inclusive workplace for PWDs. During the discussion, Industry experts shared insights on how workplaces can realize the benefits of employing PWDs from structural to tactical perspectives.

Please read the report below.

[Read Report](#)

ANNOUNCEMENT CORNER



We've partnered with **Global Mentorship Initiative (GMI)** to provide career-focused guidance to our SMART students. This will create an ecosystem of opportunities for our students by building their careers, confidence, and skills.

Marking its global footprints, Tech Mahindra Foundation has collaborated with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) India to launch 'Alliance for Skill Capacity Enhancement with Technology (ASCENT)'. This alliance aims to promote employability among 10,000 urban youth with quality vocational training in the allied sectors of Healthcare, Digital Technologies, and Logistics.

Samvaad is a quarterly e-newsletter. You can participate by writing an article or sharing your project experiences with us. If you have ideas on what you would like to see included in our newsletter, then we are all ears!

Please e-mail us your thoughts and ideas at samvaad@techmahindrafoundation.org

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