



Best CSR and Sustainability Practices Award 2016

There is unanimity in the belief that the benefit of spending crores of rupees on building roads and developing infrastructure, will not accrue to India unless the large part of population becomes healthy, skilled, educated and included in banking system. While India has achieved a fair bit in moving the needle positively in these metrics in the recent past, our journey of transformation in these sectors has just begun... and we have miles to go!

Helping India fulfil its dream of transformation, is an organisation which has been known for contributing to the causes of nation building in a strong and sustainable manner and building scale at a trailblazing speed. This organisation while continuously reinventing itself has become a catalyst in accelerating development in India by leveraging technology and resources to get meaningful and lasting outcomes. Over the past eight years the group's CSR philosophy has been focusing on precisely these four areas namely elementary education, primary healthcare, skill development and financial inclusion with **knowledge and industry partnerships being at the core of its unique model.**

In its belief that it is crucial to bridge the critical gap between manpower availability and employability by providing sustainable livelihood opportunities for all to grow and prosper, it aims to train 100,000 youth in the country by 2017 as part of its skill development program and financial inclusion drive. It launched its own Academy for Skills in October 2013 to provide vocational training in electrical and home appliance, sales, office administration, web designing, retail café operations and communication and financial literacy for economically weaker youths.

The Primary healthcare initiative it has undertaken with the Department of Women and Child Development, in Baran district in Rajasthan has significantly improved delivery of health services under Integrated Child Development Scheme and National Health Mission, to women and children from remotely located and low income families with a focus on supplementary nutrition, growth monitoring, referrals, health and nutrition education, health checkups, supportive supervision to Anganwadi Workers and strengthening community participation.

It also launched an Outpatient Healthcare pilot on the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana platform (RSBY) with the aim to strengthen the delivery of outpatient healthcare at public healthcare facilities and also involve private players to further improve healthcare accessibility for below poverty line households in Puri (Odisha) and Mehsana (Gujarat).

Project partners included Ministry of Labour and Employment, the Micro Insurance Innovation Facility of International Labour Organisation and ICICI Lombard General Insurance. Based on the pilot, the Central government extended outpatient healthcare in all RSBY empanelled hospitals as a standard product across the nation, potentially benefitting 3.7 crore poor families.

With the group's belief that access to quality education is a pre-requisite for India's growth to be inclusive, it has supported various education programs in partnership with government institutions, aimed at systemic improvement in teaching - learning outcomes across Government sector schools. It has entered into a collaborative partnership with Government of Rajasthan and Government of Chhattisgarh to implement the School and Teacher Education Reform Program which aims at delivering child-centric learning environments in government schools. The key components of the collaborative programme are strengthening academic nodal institutions, revision of school curriculum and text book, reform of teacher education, capacity building of district and block level educational functionaries and development of scalable models of Right to Education compliant schools.

A key enabler towards inclusive growth is the provision of banking services to India's rural poor. A lot has happened on the supply side of the opportunity - with the advent of the *Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana* but a lot still needs to be done to address the demand side of the story. Financial literacy is the first step in this journey and a large and ongoing one at that. This organisation through its Rural Self Employment Training Institutes reaches out to unemployed rural youth and engages them in a Financial Literacy Program spanning 12 hours of training. As a result many of its trainees are actively using banking channels and have secured credit linkages.

For its alignment to the vision of inclusive and sustainable development goals and for its dedication and commitment to the causes of nation building and for doing it in a meaningful and sustainable manner to specially benefit the weaker and marginalised stakeholders of society, the **Asian Centre For Corporate Governance & Sustainability** is proud to confer the Award for **Best CSR and Sustainability Practices to ICICI Foundation** on this Eleventh day of January 2017.

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