NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP
'EVALUATING THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT, ACADEMIA AND CORPORATE'

Questa, Student Forum of the P.G Department of Social Entrepreneurship, MSSW in collaboration with Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CSIE) IIT Madras held its first of its kind Social Innovation Conclave-
"National Conference on Social Entrepreneurship- Evaluating the roles of Government, Academia and Corporate" on the 7th of September, 2018

The conference aimed to propel constructive debates, discussions and collaborations around topics of supporting and strengthening the purview of Social Entrepreneurship through Government, Academia and Corporate alliance. The event saw a resplendent sight of 100+ representatives from various specialisations, institutes, E-cell, civil society bodies, Tamil Nadu State Corporation Bodies, academia, multinational companies and welfare bodies as participants for this engaging session. Panellists for the conference included 9 nationally acclaimed speakers, each of who are top leaders and practitioners in their forefront in Government sectors, Academia and Corporate. Each group of panellist represented wide range of frameworks around social entrepreneurial structures that exist in their sectors.

Speakers representing the government sector implored upon the role of Government in promoting and sustaining social enterprises. The session opened up discussion about different missions and schemes present with the government to promote social entrepreneurship. Whilst the speakers also spoke about the challenges faced by them in implementing skill development and entrepreneurship, they also briefed on what kind of support could be rendered by academia and corporate in terms of leveraging social entrepreneurship environment. Speakers of the session included-

- Mr Manikandan Deputy Director, Entrepreneurship Development India, Chennai
- Mr.Rufus H.K George State Engagement Officer, Tamil Nadu National Skill Development Corporation
- Mr M. Sivakumar Chief Executive Officer, ICT ACADEMY

Speakers representing academia sector implored upon social entrepreneurial education and practices. The panel reflected on the findings and results of the new researches that are emerging in the field of Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation. They also spoke on challenges and solutions offered by current researches in starting and sustaining a social venture. Speakers of the session included-

- Prof L. S. Ganesh Professor, Department of Management Studies, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M)
- Prof Satyajit Majumdar, Professor , Tata Institute of Social Sciences- Centre for Social Entrepreneurship , School of Management and Labour Studies
- Dr.Shalabh Mittal, CEO, School for Social Entrepreneurs India

Speakers representing the corporate sector implored upon maximizing social Impact through corporate collaboration. The panel shared the best practices followed in their organisations to develop social entrepreneurship. They further discussed about social and economic value being created by social entrepreneurial activities through their respective corporations. Speakers of the session included-

- Ms Uma Venkataraman Chennai Community Connection Trust – CCCT
- Mr.Victor Pravin Kumar, Corporate Social Responsibility, Lead – Tamil Nadu, Tata Consultancy Services
- Mr.R.Rajasekarapandy Senior Manager – CSR, Larsen and Toubro Limited

The National Conference on Social Entrepreneurship backed the idea of drawing attention to the central agenda of promoting interaction and collaboration between Government, Academia and Corporate for leveraging Social Entrepreneurship. The event held onto its intentions to build awareness around exploring the merits of stakeholder collaboration with regard to social enterprise as an expanding global mechanism for social change. It also conducted an exclusive poster making competition based on the theme Climate Change. All participants creatively presented their sustainable social solutions that would help counter this global threat through posters.

Apart from the conference agenda, the event also initiated the launch of UK-India Social Innovation Challenge that aims to find, fund and support innovative and sustainable solutions to global problems.