

## Thinking Social Roundtable – Mumbai



The third thematic roundtable of “TSEC Thinking Social Roundtable” series, organized by IIM Calcutta Innovation Park (IIP), was held on 27th February 2015 at the Vivanta by Taj - President in Mumbai, under the aegis of Tata Social Enterprise Challenge (TSEC). The Mumbai Chapter of IIM Calcutta Alumni Association was instrumental in supporting the Roundtable. The theme of the Roundtable was ‘Bridging the Education Gap’. The main objective of this roundtable was to provide a platform, for the champions of education entrepreneurship ecosystem to exchange their experiences and ideas thereby perhaps create a set of best practices for the industry to emulate.

The speakers for the day comprised eminent entrepreneurs, VCs, NGOs who have established their own outstanding ventures in the education sector in India. The audience comprised of Professionals, entrepreneurs, innovators and NGOs mainly from the Education sector

Prof Manish Thakur, IIM Calcutta moderated the Panel discussion and requested all the Panelists to share their thoughts on the challenges and opportunities of the theme.

Sumit Mullick, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra in his address mentioned that the learning effectiveness in our school education system is much below expectations which is mainly due to lack of learning tools and accountability from teachers.

Mr. Somraj Giradkar, State Head Maharashtra, Pratham Education Foundation, suggested a few pointers to improve the current effectiveness of school education. He stressed that teachers need to be facilitators and should allow children to think and reason and to follow their interests.



Mr. Ujjwal Banerjee, Asst Development Manager, Education Portfolio, Tata Trust, mentioned a few key aspects regarding technology enabled education in India. He said not many schools in India have a clear understanding of technology enabled education and its implementations. He also said that the implementation needs to be well evaluated and the teachers need to adapt to technology.

Mr. Subrat Nayak, Deputy Director, National Program, Meljol said that teaching is change oriented and not result oriented.

Prof. Sandeep Desai, Trustee, Shloka Missionaries commented that strengthening the government structure is the key to the progress of the education system.

Mr. Anil Mammen, Chief – Learning Design & Social Impact, Tata ClassEdge said that technology is an enabler and cannot replace the teachers. He also said that learning should be promoted through various engagements.

The Q&A round witnessed good participation from the audience. There were many significant issues discussed and addressed by the audience and the panellists.