

Assistive Technology Accelerator Concept Note

Background:

Samarathanam's Assistive Technology Accelerator (ATA) was established in 2018 to promote start-ups working on assistive technology for persons with disabilities. ATA's mission is to ensure access to appropriate assistive technology for persons with disabilities at the most affordable cost. As part of our interventions,

- ATA has digitized twenty-five special schools with assistive technology and modernized over 500 government schools across India with smart board class rooms, tinker labs & mini science labs.
- We have also signed an MOU with Department of State Education research & Training (DSERT), Govt of Karnataka for converting textbooks of class 1 to 3 into sign language videos for government English medium schools for deaf children.
- Additionally, ATA's livelihood resource center training content is being converted into AI-based automatic sign language videos for deaf. ATA has also partnered with AT start-ups to facilitate the reach of assistive technology across India. In furtherance of our mission,
- ATA conducted an awareness conclave on assistive technology on 23 February 2023. The purpose of the conclave was to create 360-degree awareness among all stakeholders on user-centric design for easy availability and affordability of assistive technology.

Objectives:

To ensure persons who are differently abled have access to assistive technology at speed & scale, by building partnerships in the Assistive Technology ecosystem.

Activities:

- Establish network with premier institutes and research organization such as IIIT-B, IIM-B, IISc by signing MoUs with them to seek technological advice and expertise
- Committee to be formed with the help of experts in the field of technology for screening of the projects, technical expertise and helping us in building key relationships in the AT ecosystem
- Connecting with social venture capitalists; connecting with donors for assistive technology to reach deserving beneficiaries
- Organize Assistive Technology Ideation Conclave to brainstorm on problem statement
- Procure innovative products and distribute amongst the identified persons with disabilities
- Identify and mapping of schools to introduce technology solutions for enhanced learning
- Adopt Pilot institutions to implement the shortlisted technological interventions
- Documentary video on use of Assistive Technology by persons with disabilities
- Support and mentor AT startups to scale up their reach and to disseminate their product and services to the beneficiaries with disabilities.
- Establish model Assistive Technology (AT) labs.
- Conduct 2 hackathons to hack problem statement
- R&D of specific problem statements with startups through AT incubators
- Develop accessible content for higher education students with disabilities
- Provide Technology support to higher education Institutions
- Distribution of Digital kit to beneficiaries with disabilities

Establish Network: Establish a good network with pioneer institutes/labs, organization across the country, network regionally and internationally too. An enabling ecosystem for social enterprises, technology innovators and differently abled beneficiaries will be established.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

- At least 1000 persons with disabilities will have access to appropriate assistive technology in next 3 years;
- Minimum of 25 vendors across the country will have participated in the conclave;
- At least 25 assistive technology experts will take part in the conclave;
- A minimum of 300 stakeholders will participate in the conclave
- At least 25 special schools will be mapped and sensitized;
- At least 5 special schools will be adopted to introduce assistive technology
- AT lab will be set up by the end of the project cycle.
- Two hackathons will be conducted & 2 best hacks- POC/Prototype to the solutions of the problem statement will be shortlisted.
- Digital kit will be provided to 500 beneficiaries.

Exploring Funding Opportunities: Assistive Technology Accelerator is exploring funding opportunities with Government Agencies, Corporate Social Responsibility Funds, International/National funding agencies and PSUs.

Contact us:

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