

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
FOR
TechForSociety- Evaluation Study

Nasscom Foundation
September, 2025

Request for Proposal

ABOUT NASSCOM FOUNDATION

Established in 2001, Nasscom Foundation has been witness to the transformative power of technology for over two decades. Part of the Nasscom ecosystem, we are the only neutral not-for-profit organization representing the Indian tech industry. We remain rooted to our core philosophy of TechForGood, where our efforts are focused on unlocking the power of technology by creating access and opportunity for those who need it the most. We work on helping people and institutions transform the way they tackle social and economic challenges through technology. We have five key areas of intervention - Digital Literacy, Skilling and Employability, Women Entrepreneurship, Scaling Social Innovation and Empowering NGO Ecosystem.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

TechForSociety, a pilot initiative by Nasscom Foundation, which empowers young innovators with technology and entrepreneurial skills to develop sustainable solutions for critical societal challenges. Launched in October 2024, the program engaged over 700 students from Tier 2 and Tier 3 government engineering colleges. Through workshops, mentorship, and hackathons, 40 teams advanced to prototype development, with 15 teams building Minimum Viable Products (MVPs). The initiative aims to:

- To build entrepreneurial and technical capacity among students in underserved regions
- To foster inclusive, sustainable tech solutions grounded in real-world problem statements
- To connect student talent with expert mentors, industry leaders, and innovation ecosystems
- To create scalable MVPs addressing India's most urgent sustainability challenges.

Project Period: 13 months, with end date at 30th Oct 2025

PROJECT MILESTONE

- Outreach & Orientation (Nov-Dec 2024)- As part of the project initiation, online applications were invited for the TechForSociety program, encouraging students from Government Engineering Colleges to apply with theme based ideas that address real-world challenges through technology. Physical Outreach with Orientation sessions were conducted across four colleges — Hassan, Salem, Mosalehosahalli, Bangalore, and Kerala — to introduce students to the TechForSociety program.
- Workshop & Mentorship (Jan – Mar 2025)- The project conducted extensive workshops and dedicated mentoring sessions from October 2024 to March 2025. The structured sessions provided comprehensive guidance on both technical and entrepreneurial skills, preparing students to tackle complex sustainability challenges effectively.
- Each team was given ₹10,000 to support the development of their prototype only after the discussion and approval of their mentor (replenishment refers to the process of refunding once the team provides valid bills or proof of spending).
- Following a structured evaluation process, the top 50 student teams were invited to present their ideas to a jury comprising experts from Siemens and Nasscom Foundation. Based on innovation potential, feasibility, and impact, 40 teams were selected to participate in the in-person Hackathon held in Bengaluru.

- From 40 teams, 15 shortlisted teams underwent for advanced upskill and mentorship. Participants will receive advanced workshops and one on one mentoring (Virtual and Physical) from industry experts to refine their prototypes. Teams will be provided with resources and funding support to further develop their MVPs into fully fledged solutions.
- Final prototypes are tested and presented at a showcase event where top 5 winners will be awarded by end of Oct'25.

Metric	Numbers Achieved
Total Student Registrations	722
Ideas Submitted	364
Teams Shortlisted (Pre-Hackathon)	125
Teams at Hackathon	40 (149 students)
Teams Advanced to MVP Stage	15
Workshops Conducted	12
Webinars Conducted	1
Mentoring Hours Delivered	136 hours (Siemens & nasscom foundation mentors)
Female Participation	75% of teams have at least One women

SCOPE OF WORK

The present study will outline the concurrent evaluation of the progress of 15 shortlisted teams in terms of their program learning and exposure and advancement in terms of ideating, planning and developing their MVPs. The in-depth study will focus on both individual as well as team learning while being enrolled in the project, and its impact of their learning journey going forward. It will match the entrepreneurial mind-sets developed and their individual personality enhancement as result of program inputs, learning and also feedback/comments to strengthen it further.

The key evaluation questions include

1. **RELEVANCE** - To what extent does the program provided entrepreneurial upskilling/ support to the youth interested in establishing start-ups to address social impact problems?
 - a. Individual learning vs team composition, How well did the team work together? – Approach and challenges. Factors that influenced their productivity.
 - b. Uniqueness and creativity of idea generated, the rationale and approach taken to develop proof of concept. Journey to Prototype developed and the business plan envisaged?
 - c. Who conducted the feasibility assessment/testing and what is the optimum scale at which the MVP can be operationalised?

- d. Role of program team, mentors in terms of - ideation, planning, execution, prototyping, etc. What worked/didn't work?
2. **EFFECTIVENESS** - Is the present model effective in nurturing the young people in setting their expectations, developing start-ups and spinning off as mature models?
 - a. Was the model effective in nurturing expectations and supporting start-up development?
 - b. What impact did the intervention have on knowledge, confidence, and entrepreneurial mindset of students?
 - c. How effectively did teams utilise the training and mentoring provided to develop the MVP from initial idea? (What worked/didn't work)
3. **Sustainability**
 - a. What proportion of 15 shortlisted teams aim to take this forward as full-fledged solution? (Market readiness and expected support)
 - b. What are the key learning from the project intervention to inform the SIFY model? (what worked/didn't work)

SUGGESTED RESEARCH DESIGN

The study will adopt a qualitative design, focusing on perceived changes among students, mentors, and project staff. It will capture project outcomes and identify drivers of sustainable change. Proposed methodology includes:

- In-depth interviews with 10 teams (2-3 members each, at least one female)
- Interviews with 5 mentors and 3-4 project staff
- 2-3 stakeholder/donor interviews (as available)
- 10 detailed case studies highlighting impact at both individual and enterprise levels

RESPONSIBILITY OF AGENCY

The responsibilities of the agency include, but not limited to the followings

- Develop an inception report and finalize multilingual research tools in consultation with Nasscom Foundation
- Deploy trained qualitative investigators with prior evaluation experience
- Establish robust mechanisms for data collection, monitoring, and reporting
- Submit a comprehensive final report with findings, success stories, and recommendations
- Present findings to key stakeholders for program improvement

KEY DELIVERABLES

- Inception Report
- Finalized Data Collection Tools
- Topline Presentation of Findings
- Final Evaluation Report with success stories, case studies, and recommendations

STUDY TIMELINES & COSTS:

By 3rd week of October 2025. Proposals exceeding INR 3,50,000 will not be considered.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Consultant's prior experience with similar assignments; Credentials and expertise of proposed personnel
- Understanding of project objectives and requirements
- Study design, methodology, and feasibility of plan
- Timeline
- Financial proposal: cost-effectiveness and clarity

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Proposals must include:

- Technical Proposal (approach, methodology, timeline, key staff profiles, past work references)
- Financial Proposal (detailed budget with breakdown of costs)
- Work Profile and Consultant CVs

Proposals should be submitted by 26 September 2025, 5:00 PM IST to: rfp@nasscomfoundation.org with the subject line: "Evaluation Study - TechForSociety Project". Late submissions will not be considered.