



DSIR

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND
INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

One of our health workers once said- "I am not afraid of storms, I am now learning how to sail my ship"

CRTDH was the wind in the sail !

Story of Change



চৌকার্তে ডাক্তার

Common Research & Technology Development Hub (CRTDH) at IIT Kharagpur has been the catalyst and enabler in diffusing technology innovation into the last-mile underserved rural communities delivering measurable benefits in health outcomes, thus addressing the achievement of SDG#3 (Good health & Well-being).

CRTDH collaborated with "Foundation for Innovations in Health" (FIH) and as the first step, upskilled thousands of Frontline Health Workers (FHW), the majority of whom were women, in the use of software and diagnostic devices, at its laboratory at IIT Kharagpur.



Health workers using diagnostic equipment



Field validation study by our health workers

CRTDH extends hands of support

CRTDH chose multiple digital rural clinics of FIH and undertook scientific field validation studies for its technologies under development, a process by which the FHW became conversant with use of devices in a field situation, and scientists at CRTDH developed more accurate design ethnographic understanding.

As the FHW achieved competence and uniformity under the watchful eyes of Prof. Suman Chakraborty and his team at CRTDH, multiple innovative frugal diagnostic devices were rolled out for community use. Armed with these and a Decision-support software, over 100 FHW are now delivering primary healthcare (over 24000 patients/year) and public health program implementations across 32 locations in deep rural areas in West Bengal.

Stepping into a sustainable future

To bring about further disruption/democratisation, a motor-boat was purpose modified as a floating digital clinic. Four (4) FHW are now delivering similar health services to the islanders in this forgotten and fragile geography with extreme poverty affecting more than 50% of the population.

CRTDH, thus, has built human capacity, innovated deep-science frugal health tech that meets real-life needs and finally, amalgamated all into a delivery system for the people to whom we are all accountable to serve.



Prof. Suman Chakraborty providing training to our health workers



Sinjan Path Lab

Establishment of Diagnostic Centre in the heart of Moyna (Purba Medinipur)

In addition to body fluid-based diagnostic devices, our community health workers also received training from CRTDH in the use of –
A non-invasive spectrophotometric device for the detection of surface cancer

