SITARE Foundation

“It is not that we use technology, we live technology.”

- Godfrey Reggio, American Director

We are living in unprecedented times, computers have fundamentally changed how we live. From smartphones to smart wearables, from finding information to buying things, from banking to healthcare, from listening to music to driving a car, every aspect of our life is impacted by computers. This trend will only accelerate with the new age of AI and Machine Learning. The future will belong to people and nations who can make fundamental advances in technology.

India, like the rest of the world, is facing a severe shortage of high quality computer scientists who can build this future. According to a study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, even though India produces the world’s largest number of Computer Science graduates, those in the US are far more skilled. To remain competitive in the world, India needs to dramatically increase the number of high quality Computer Science graduates it produces.

On the other hand, India has a large population of very bright underprivileged children who do not reach their full potential due to lack of educational resources. There are three major efforts in India to address the educational needs of bright underprivileged children.

1. Navodaya Vidhyalayas aim to provide “good quality modern education to the talented children predominantly from the rural areas without regard to their family's socio-economic conditions.” Navodaya is a residential program which brings all the selected students in a district to the same school. There are a total of 661 Navodayas in the country.

2. Sitare Foundation aims to “improve fifty thousand lives through education by 2050.” Sitare finds bright underprivileged children entering sixth grade, and provides them with high quality education in a non-residential setting. Sitare partners with some of the best private schools in the cities it works in--currently Bhopal, Indore, Jaipur, and Jodhpur--and students get educated by some of the top teachers in the country working with academic staff in the school.

3. Vidyagyan by the Shiv Nadar Foundation is very similar to the Navodaya program. It aims to "identify and nurture gifted students from economically underprivileged rural backgrounds and transform them through high-quality education into future leaders."

The data is sparse, but given the tough competition to get into elite colleges in India, most bright underprivileged students coming out of these programs struggle to get a great college education. In addition, selection into elite colleges in India has become more of a measure of how well coached a student is in test taking, and not a full reflection of a child's intellect. We aim to change that.

Sitare School of Computing aims to produce one thousand high quality Computer Science graduates every year in India.

- Amit Singhal, Founder Sitare Foundation

To bridge the supply-demand gap of computing professionals in India, and to build some of the best Computer Science professionals, but from the underprivileged society, Sitare Foundation has decided to build a new Sitare School of Computing which will provide FREE world class Computer Science undergraduate education to the brightest minds coming out of the above programs (Navodaya, Sitare, and Vidyagyan) for the underprivileged.

We will start a pilot program for the 2022-2023 admission year where we will select hundred students from the above programs for admission to the new school. The students will be selected based upon their CBSE performance in twelfth grade, as well as an interview and a background check.

Confidential, please do not share

Here is an initial list of faculty and advisors (*all tentative, conversations have not happened yet*).

Founding Guest Faculty

- Amit Prakash: PhD, University of Texas at Austin - Co-Founder and CTO, Thoughtspot - (previously) Google; Microsoft
- Amit Singhal: PhD, Cornell University - Founder, Sitare Foundation - (previously) SVP Google; AT&T Labs
- Angela Lai: MS, University of Pennsylvania - Founder, BetterOmics - (previously) CTO, Grail; VP, Google; Principal Engineer, Silicon Graphics
- Benedict Gomes: PhD, University of California, Berkeley - SVP Google - (previously) Sun Microsystems
- Kiran Panesar: PhD, Georgia Institute of Technology - Staff Software Engineer, Google - (previously) Intel
- Krishna Bharat: PhD, Georgia Institute of Technology - Distinguished Research Scientist, Google - (previously) Digital Equipment Corporation
- Pandu Nayak: PhD, Stanford University - Head of Search, Google - (previously) Stratify, NASA
- Sridhar Ramaswamy: PhD, Brown University - Founder, Neeva - (previously) SVP, Google; E.piphany; Bell Labs
- Sriram Sankar: PhD, Stanford University - Principal Engineer, Uber - (previously) Facebook, LinkedIn, Google, Vmware

- Vibhu Mittal: PhD, University of Southern California - Founder, Mettle Works - (previously) CEO, Edmodo; Google; Carnegie Mellon University
- Vishal Sikka: PhD, Stanford University - Founder, Vianai - (previously) CEO, Infosys, CTO, SAP

Founding Academic Advisors

- Claire Cardie: Cornell
- Kavita Bala: Cornell
- Mehran Sahami: Stanford
- Moses Charikar: Stanford
- Samir Khuller: Northwestern

Founding Program Advisors

- Ajeet Singh: Thoughtspot
- Ash Lilani: Saama Capital
- Neeraj Arora: HalloApp
- Ravi Adusumalli: Elevation Capital
- Shashin Shah: Think Capital
- Vijay Shekhar Sharma: Paytm