



# ECHO

## Roots & Routes



(For Private Circulation Only)

The Quarterly Alumni Magazine of IcfaiTech Hyderabad

Issue: 6

Jan 2025



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**Dr K.L.Narayana**  
Director  
IcfaiTech, Hyderabad

*Dear Readers,*

As we mark the women's day on March 8, celebrating the empowerment of the women both in the society and in the professional world. Women today seen in leading roles as Scientists, Tech Executives, leading innovations covering all spheres of profession. To recognize and celebrate the success of women in professional career and in society we decided to present a special issue of Alumni magazine 'ECHO' on our women alumni. We dedicate this issue to our women alumni and present some inspiring stories and articles from them. It showcases mix of senior and young alumnus, their journey in professional world, passion for work, their achievements and the quest to go on. I feel proud of them and wish the young students in campus to get inspired from the success achieved by alumni and become determined to emulate them in future.

In the past, we have witnessed the publication of many insightful issues of our Alumni Magazine, ECHO, each enriched by contributions from our alumni. These issues have covered a wide range of topics sharing the diverse perspectives and experiences of our alumni and provided valuable knowledge and insight to our students. It has helped in strengthening the bonds within our community.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the faculty and students of the Alumni Relations Cell for their dedication and hard work in bringing this initiative to life. Your efforts have ensured that ECHO serves not only as a platform for alumni engagement but also as a testament to the enduring bonds between our graduates and their alma mater.

I look forward to seeing ECHO continue to grow and evolve in the years to come, serving as a beacon of connection and inspiration for our alumni community.

Message from the Director

# EDITORIAL

## Women Special Edition, ECHO

The grandeur and elegance of Alumni spread over two decades is getting noticed in the Alumni magazine, ECHO. Every issue of the magazine demonstrates the strength and power of our Alumni. Their rich professional experience in industry, research in science and technology comes out in form of deep and profound articles and their success stories. Carrying forward and moving from strength to strength we have decided to feature a special edition of Alumni magazine devoted to women power of our esteemed alumni. What could be more befitting on this women's day than releasing a full issue featuring our women alumni in prominent roles and executive positions reflecting on their experiences and work for the benefit of the students.

We begin with important and motivational article, 'Thriving in Technology', from Mahita Arza. It is full of inspiration and motivation presenting key and important factors needed for becoming a successful Techie. Along with perseverance and hard work, working in cross functional teams, embracing new technologies and platforms like AI and cloud integration is key for thriving in technology driven market and industry. Her talk of industry trends and future prospects provides a clear edge to aspiring professionals in moving up the career ladder. Her passionate appeal to young students to thread path with passion and perseverance in-order to transform challenges into opportunities and avenues of growth.

Another deep and insightful article from young and energetic alumnus, Vedarutvija Joopally, on AI's Next Frontier. It gives peek into rise of Generative AI, significant breakthroughs powering AI to meet newer challenges and capabilities. The increasing reach of AI and wide applications is unsettling and impacting market and industry hugely. The painstaking details collected by her of technologies involved in spread of Gen AI and trends likely to dominate market in future is praiseworthy.

In her leadership role of Data analytics, Ms H.Kasturi emphasises importance of Data-analytics in modern world. The strong academic rigor with B.Tech and MBA at ICFAI, and Master's in information management system at Northern Illinois University (NIU) provided her unique setting and is leading Data-analytics team at NIU. Her insight and deep exposure to academic world helped her to effectively contribute towards data-informed strategies that support the institution's mission at NIU.

Another influencing article by Josna Theresa Gigo working as AI engineer, showcases the strides and success that our young alumni are creating in Industry. Her passion and hardwork in AI & Machine Intelligence domain saw her bagging the prestigious NASSCOM AI Game Changer award while she was working on a computer vision project on object detection for sorting and segregating recyclable waste. This project wasn't just about technical achievement; it aligned deeply with the company's



**Dr Digvijay Vishwanathan Nair**  
Faculty, Incharge Alumni Relations Cell  
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mission to promote sustainability. All of us feel proud of her and wish her many more such awards and recognitions ahead in her life and career. Joining her and working in same company, Mittadoddi Venkat Srujana, provides insightful stories on environment protection and sustainability. She makes a strong pitch for women in country to lead the movement.

We conclude the special edition on women alumni with an all-important article by Dr Meenakshi Bhairavi Kannan, on significance of genes and it being cause of many disorders and ailments affecting a person. She being a Medical Genetic Consultant lays out importance of genetic counselling and need to evaluate specific genetic conditions that may otherwise lead to severe complications and difficulties in future. The advances made in genetic tests allows individuals to assess the medical conditions in better manner and help them lead healthy life.

As special moment we together congratulate Phaneesh Kumar Nagalla (Alumnus, Icfaitch, 2016-20) on completing graduation in Masters in Business Analytics, University of Wisconsin, Madison. He was awarded prestigious "Award of Excellence", University of Wisconsin, Madison on graduation day.



# IcfaiTech

Faculty of Science & Technology (FST)

IcfaiTech provides quality education and training in the fields of science and technology

## Programs offered @ IcfaiTech

- ▶ B.Tech
- ▶ M.Tech
- ▶ B.Sc.
- ▶ BCA
- ▶ Ph.D (Full-time & Part-time) in Sciences

## Body of Knowledge

IcfaiTech integrates into its learning system an innovative and emerging body of knowledge. The following are its highlights:

- ▶ Cutting-edge course curriculum capturing the contemporary and effective pedagogy, with emphasis on both fundamentals and applications.
- ▶ Encouraging students to not only articulate science and technology needs but also provide appropriate solutions.
- ▶ Developing appreciation for synthesized multidisciplinary learning by way of internships, measurement techniques, workshop practices and other group learning assignments.

## Objectives

- ▶ To acquire a reputation as a highly purposive, innovative institution setting the pace for workable reforms in professional education, suitable and most relevant for the Indian cultural milieu.



- ▶ To provide high-quality, cutting-edge and career-oriented education programs in science and technology, to student population across the country.
- ▶ To provide highly motivated and successful science and technology graduates to meet the current and projected needs of the knowledge-workforce.

**IcfaiTech**  
Faculty of Science & Technology (FST)



# Alumni Reflections





# Thriving in Tech: Learning, Adapting, and Breaking Barriers



**Mahita Arza**

Senior Software Engineer, Z2 Data  
IcfaiTech Hyderabad, 2018-22

Technology is a fast-paced, ever-evolving field that offers both challenges and immense rewards. As an alumna who has navigated this space, I am excited to share my journey, the lessons I have learned, and insights that may help those stepping into this ever-evolving industry.

## **The Beginning: Embracing Technology**

My journey in tech began with a curiosity to build, create, and solve problems. Over the years, I have worked extensively in frontend development, specializing in React.js, Next.js, and React Native. I had the opportunity to lead mobile application development at a startup, where I not only contributed as a developer but also helped shape the product through strategic decision-making and team collaboration.

## **Challenges and Growth**

Like any industry, technology presents its own set of challenges. Debugging critical issues under tight deadlines, keeping up with rapid advancements, and navigating the complexities of different tech stacks require persistence and adaptability. One of my biggest learning experiences was working with cross-functional teams to integrate seamless user experiences, optimize performance, and ensure scalability. The ability to learn quickly, adapt, and stay resilient has been instrumental in my growth.

## **Industry Trends and Future Prospects**

The industry is moving towards AI-driven development, cloud-native applications, and

highly interactive user interfaces. As a result, developers must adapt by learning AI-enhanced development tools, gaining proficiency in cloud platforms, and refining their skills in creating seamless and engaging user experiences. Modern developers benefit from proficiency with tools like GitHub Copilot, a solid grasp of cloud platforms, and experience integrating AI-driven applications. As we progress, the demand for well-optimized, scalable, and accessible digital products will continue to grow.

### Advice for Aspiring Tech Professionals

For those aspiring to enter the tech world, my advice is:

1. Master the Fundamentals – A strong foundation in core technical concepts, problem-solving, and software development principles will set you apart, regardless of the technology stack you choose.
2. Build Projects – Practical experience trumps theory. Work on real-world applications to strengthen your skills.
3. Stay Curious – Tech is ever-changing. Keep learning, experimenting, and staying up to date with trends.
4. Collaborate and Network – Join communities, participate in open-source projects, and seek mentorship.

### Women in Tech: Breaking Barriers

As a woman in technology, I have encountered both unique challenges and meaningful opportunities. At times, navigating a traditionally male-dominated industry has required me to demonstrate my technical expertise with confidence and persistence. Through continuous learning, strong communication, and mentorship, I have been able to grow and contribute effectively. Breaking into leadership roles involved actively seeking opportunities for professional development and demonstrating my capabilities. Over time, I have witnessed a positive shift towards inclusivity, and I am committed to supporting this

progress by mentoring aspiring professionals and fostering an environment where diverse perspectives are valued. It is inspiring to see more women taking leadership roles, innovating, and mentoring the next generation. Diversity in tech leads to richer perspectives and better solutions. Encouraging more women to enter and thrive in this space is something I am deeply passionate about.

### Innovation, Impact, and the Road Ahead

Technology is not just about coding—it is about solving real-world problems, collaborating, and continuously evolving. For instance, I once worked on optimizing an event management application where users struggled with real-time updates and scheduling conflicts. By implementing a more efficient state management system and integrating third-party calendar APIs, we significantly improved the app's performance and user experience, demonstrating how thoughtful problem-solving can make a tangible impact. I encourage students to embrace the journey with passion and perseverance. The path ahead is filled with opportunities, and with curiosity, adaptability, and dedication, success becomes a natural outcome.

Technology is ever-evolving, and staying on top of the game requires continuous discovery, learning, and adaptation. Through this journey, I was able to triple my salary within two years of my first job—not by chasing money, but by focusing on honing my skills, staying ahead of industry trends, and taking on bigger responsibilities. When you commit to learning and growth, the opportunities and rewards will follow. Embracing new technologies has not only expanded my skill set but also opened doors to valuable connections, job opportunities, and greater responsibilities. I encourage the next generation of tech enthusiasts to remain curious, explore emerging trends, and seize opportunities for growth. Let's keep exploring, innovating, and shaping the future of technology together!

# AI's Next Frontier: Bridging Academia and Industry with Generative Artificial Intelligence



## **Vedarutvija Joopally**

Generative AI Engineer, CloudJune Technologies  
IcfaiTech Hyderabad (2019-2023 )  
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The rapid evolution of technology has ushered in groundbreaking advancements, with Generative AI emerging as a transformative force. As a graduate of the Data Science & Artificial Intelligence program at ICFAI, my journey from academia to developing real-world AI applications has been both enlightening and rewarding. This article explores the rise of Generative AI, its impact on industries, and how aspiring professionals can prepare for a career in this dynamic field.

### **The Rise of Generative AI**

Generative AI refers to models capable of creating text, images, code, and even speech by learning from vast datasets. Breakthroughs such as Generative Pre-trained Transformers (GPT), multimodal AI, large-scale diffusion models, Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs), and Variational Autoencoders (VAEs) have redefined how businesses operate. From automating customer interactions to enhancing creative workflows, AI has transitioned from research labs to becoming a key driver of industrial innovation. One of my most impactful experiences in the industry involved working on Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) applications. These systems integrate AI with knowledge bases to generate context-aware responses, powering chatbots, document management platforms, personalized meal plan generation and advanced speech-to-speech AI applications such as CallGPT. Such innovations are revolutionizing customer service and voice-based interactions, showcasing the practical applications of Generative AI.



## Building Career in AI

For those aspiring to build a career in AI, gaining hands-on experience with industry-relevant tools is crucial. The following steps provide a practical roadmap to get started:

### 1. Academic Foundations

Develop a strong understanding of machine learning, deep learning neural networks, and statistical concepts, with a focus on generative AI across multiple modalities:

1. **Text:** Master transformer architectures, embeddings, and Large Language Models (LLMs) for tasks such as text generation, summarization, and reasoning.
2. **Images:** Explore Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs), Variational Autoencoders (VAEs), and diffusion models for image synthesis, super-resolution, and style transfer.
3. **Audio & Speech:** Study Text-to-Speech (TTS) and speech synthesis models, including autoregressive and diffusion-based approaches like WaveNet and Jukebox, for generating realistic speech and music.
4. **Video:** Understand AI-generated video synthesis, motion prediction, and frame interpolation techniques for generating high-quality dynamic content.
5. **3D & Multimodal AI:** Investigate AI-generated 3D models, avatars, and multimodal learning frameworks such as CLIP and Sora, enabling cross-domain understanding and generation.

A strong grasp of transformer-based architectures and generative modeling techniques is essential for advancing in these domains, enabling the development of cutting-edge AI applications.

### 2. Hands-on Project Development

- ▶ Engage in real-world projects, participate in hackathons, explore open-sourced GenAI models and contribute to open-source repositories to gain valuable experience.

### 3. Internships & Research

- ▶ Gain exposure to industry-grade problems through internships and research assistantships to understand practical AI implementations.

### 4. Technical Proficiency

- ▶ Build strong programming skills in Python as Python remains the dominant programming language in the field of AI. Familiarize yourself with frameworks like TensorFlow, PyTorch, LangChain, Hugging Face libraries, and OpenAI's GPT models. Learn SQL and NoSQL database concepts essential for building scalable applications.

### 5. Cloud & MLOps Expertise

- ▶ Knowledge of cloud platforms (AWS, Azure, GCP), containerization (Docker, Kubernetes), and model

deployment (MLflow, FastAPI) is invaluable as AI solutions scale.

### 6. Soft Skills & Networking

- ▶ Effective communication, problem-solving, and networking through LinkedIn, conferences, and AI communities can open doors to exciting career opportunities.

### Emerging Industry Trends

Generative AI is reshaping industries through innovations such as OpenAI's GPT-4, Google Gemini, Meta's Llama, and DeepSeek's R1. Some of the most significant trends include:

#### 1. AI-Augmented Software Development

- ▶ Tools: AI-powered coding assistants like GitHub Copilot, AmazonQ, Codeium, and Tabnine enhance developer productivity by assisting with code generation, bug detection, and automated testing.
- ▶ Impact: Streamlining software development processes and enabling faster deployment of solutions.

#### 2. AI in Cybersecurity

- ▶ Applications: AI is used for real-time threat detection, anomaly identification, and automated responses to cyberattacks.
- ▶ Impact: Security solutions increasingly rely on AI to combat sophisticated threats and safeguard critical infrastructure.

#### 3. Edge AI & On-Device Processing

- ▶ Optimization: AI models are optimized for edge computing, enabling real-time processing on devices rather than relying on cloud infrastructure.
- ▶ Applications: Smart cameras, IoT devices, autonomous vehicles, AI-powered wearables, and industrial automation.

#### 4. AI in Healthcare & Biotech

- ▶ Innovations: AI is revolutionizing drug discovery, medical imaging, and disease prediction.
- ▶ Leaders: Companies like DeepMind and NVIDIA are pioneering AI-driven medical research and developing AI-powered digital twins for personalized medicine.

#### 5. AI-Powered Automation & Autonomous Agents

- ▶ Transformation: AI-driven automation is transforming logistics, retail, and finance by efficiently handling repetitive tasks.
- ▶ Impact: The rise of AI-powered "co-workers" is streamlining enterprise workflows and enhancing operational efficiency.

#### 6. Explainable AI (XAI) & AI Ethics

- ▶ Priorities: Transparency and fairness are becoming priorities as AI decisions impact critical sectors.
- ▶ Regulations: The EU AI Act is pushing for responsible

AI development, increasing investment in AI governance, model interpretability, and bias detection.

### 7. AI in Finance & Algorithmic Trading

- ▶ Applications: AI is transforming risk assessment, fraud detection, and financial trading algorithms.
- ▶ Impact: AI-powered chatbots and robo-advisors are enhancing customer interactions in banking and investment sectors.

### 8. AI-Driven Document Management & Knowledge Retrieval

- ▶ Improvements: AI is improving document search, summarization, and automated insights.
- ▶ Deployments: Enterprises are deploying AI-powered document management systems and RAG applications for efficient knowledge management.

### 9. AI & the Metaverse

- ▶ Role: AI is crucial in building immersive metaverse experiences.
- ▶ Technologies: AI-generated 3D environments and intelligent avatars are gaining traction for customer engagement.

### Technologies Shaping the Future

The AI landscape is evolving rapidly, and staying ahead requires focusing on emerging trends:

#### 1. Multimodal AI

- ▶ Future AI models will seamlessly integrate text, images, audio, and video to create more interactive and immersive applications.

#### 2. AI-Powered Automation

- ▶ Industries are leveraging AI-driven automation for business intelligence, process optimization, and workflow enhancement.

### 3. Edge AI & Federated Learning

- ▶ Privacy concerns are driving the adoption of AI models that operate on local devices instead of central servers, ensuring data security and compliance.

### 4. AI in Healthcare & Finance

- ▶ AI-driven personalized medicine, fraud detection, and risk assessment are creating new job opportunities and transforming these critical sectors.

### 5. Quantum Computing & AI

- ▶ Although still in its infancy, quantum AI holds the potential to revolutionize optimization problems and complex simulations.

### Conclusion

The transition from academia to industry in the field of AI requires continuous learning, adaptability, and a problem-solving mindset. As the demand for AI-driven solutions grows, professionals who acquire both theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience will be well-positioned for success. By leveraging online resources, participating in hackathons, and engaging with industry mentors, aspiring AI engineers can bridge the gap between education and real-world applications. Moreover, the responsible development of AI systems ensuring fairness, transparency, and inclusivity remains a critical priority. The future of AI is poised for significant advancements, and those who embrace its evolving landscape will play a pivotal role in shaping its trajectory.



## Bridging the Gap: From ICFAI to a Leadership Role in Data & Analytics



**H.Kasturi**

Data and Analytics Lead,  
Northern Illinois University, USA  
IcfaiTech Hyderabad, 2012-2016  
(BTech in Computer Science)  
Icfai Business School Hyderabad, 2016-2018  
(MBA in Finance)  
Northern Illinois University, 2021-2022  
(Master's in Management Information Systems)

Education is the foundation upon which we build our careers and aspirations. My academic journey, beginning at ICFAI University and culminating in a leadership role at Northern Illinois University (NIU), has been an enriching experience filled with challenges, learning, and professional growth. As an alumnus of ICFAI University with a bachelor's in Computer Science and a master's in Business Administration, I had the privilege of acquiring a diverse set of skills that have played a crucial role in my career progression.

Currently, I serve as the Data and Analytics Lead at the Budget Office of Northern Illinois University, where I leverage my expertise in data-driven decision-making to optimize financial planning and institutional strategies. This role requires a blend of technical prowess, analytical thinking, and leadership, all of which were nurtured during my years at ICFAI and later refined through my master's degree in Management Information Systems at NIU.

### **Building a Strong Foundation at ICFAI**

My time at ICFAI University laid the groundwork for my career in data and analytics. The rigorous curriculum in Computer Science equipped me with a deep understanding of algorithms, programming, and database management. Simultaneously, my MBA studies enhanced my strategic thinking, business acumen, and leadership skills. This combination of technical and managerial knowledge became a unique



asset, allowing me to approach problem-solving from multiple perspectives.

At ICFAI, I was exposed to various academic and practical experiences that prepared me for real-world challenges. Engaging in case studies, group discussions, and projects helped me develop a problem-solving mindset that continues to be valuable in my professional role. Furthermore, ICFAI's emphasis on research and innovation encouraged me to think critically and explore data as a valuable asset for organizational growth.

### **Bridging Technology and Business at NIU**

After completing my studies at ICFAI, I pursued a master's degree in Management Information Systems at NIU, which further strengthened my expertise in data analytics, business intelligence, and financial analytics. This program was instrumental in deepening my understanding of how data can drive decision-making at an institutional level.

My transition from academia to the professional world was marked by significant learning experiences. At NIU's Budget Office, I apply my knowledge to analyze financial data, improve budgetary forecasts, and contribute to data-informed strategies that support the university's mission. Working in a dynamic higher education environment has provided me with a unique opportunity to utilize my analytical skills to enhance institutional efficiency and effectiveness.

### **Lessons and Insights from My Journey**

Reflecting on my journey from ICFAI to NIU, several key lessons stand out:

#### **1. Interdisciplinary Knowledge is Powerful:**

Combining technical skills with business insights has enabled me to make more impactful contributions in my field.

**2. Continuous Learning is Essential:** The field of data analytics is constantly evolving. Staying updated with the latest technologies and trends is crucial for long-term success.

**3. Effective Communication is Key:** Translating complex data into meaningful insights requires strong communication and storytelling skills, an area that my education at ICFAI greatly helped me develop.

**4. Leadership and Adaptability Matter:** Managing data initiatives and collaborating with various stakeholders demand adaptability and leadership skills, both of which are nurtured through real-world experiences.

### **Giving Back and Staying Connected**

As an alumnus of ICFAI University, I take pride in staying connected with my alma mater and contributing to the field of data analytics. I strongly encourage current students to embrace an interdisciplinary approach, develop a passion for data-driven decision-making, and seek opportunities to apply their knowledge practically.

The journey from ICFAI to a leadership role in data analytics has been incredibly fulfilling. With the right mix of technical expertise, business acumen, and continuous learning, aspiring professionals can carve out a rewarding career in data and analytics. I am grateful for the strong educational foundation that ICFAI provided and look forward to contributing further to the field of data-driven decision-making in higher education and beyond.

# From College Classrooms to Real-World Impact: My Journey as an AI Engineer



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## **The Beginning: Foundations in AI and Innovation**

The journey from a curious student to a professional AI engineer has been nothing short of transformative. In 2023, I graduated with a B.Tech in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence from Icfai tech. Those years weren't just about theory; they were about discovering what life is and exploring what life has to offer. The projects I undertook during my college days, guided by insightful faculty, laid the foundation for my career.

## **Shaping a Career in AI: Machine Learning and Computer Vision**

Transitioning from the classroom to the company desk was a significant leap—a shift where theories turned into practical implementations and real-world problem-solving. It wasn't an easy transformation, as the challenges of adapting to a fast-paced industry required resilience and continuous learning. Yet, this shift also marked the beginning of my professional journey.

Today, as an AI Engineer at Rapidue Technologies pvt ltd(Recykal), I specialize in machine learning and computer vision projects, contributing to innovative solutions in these fields. One of my proudest moments was when a computer vision project I worked on—focused on object detection for sorting and segregating recyclable waste—was recognized with the prestigious NASSCOM AI Game Changer Award. This project wasn't just about technical achievement; it aligned deeply with the company's mission to promote sustainability and create a better future for everyone.

In addition to this, I've worked on cutting-edge initiatives like transformer-based image recognition and image-to-text models, all of which enhance the company's offerings and contribute to its impact-driven goals. At Recykal, the emphasis isn't just on delivering technology but also on using AI as a force for good. This alignment of values inspires me to innovate further and make meaningful contributions to the company's success.

### **The Role of Icfai Tech in My Success**

If I'm living my dream of working in my desired field within a year of graduation, it's largely thanks to the immense support and guidance I received from icfai tech. The faculty have been a cornerstone of my journey—not just during classes but throughout my internship and even after graduation. Their unwavering encouragement ensured I could seamlessly transition from student to professional.

Beyond academics, the college provided an environment that nurtured holistic growth. Extracurricular activities, group projects, and hands-on experiences taught me skills that go beyond textbooks. From fostering collaboration to encouraging creativity, my time at icfai tech shaped me into a well-rounded professional ready to take on real-world challenges.

### **A Message for Aspiring Innovators**

For students and alumni, I'd like to emphasize the importance of embracing opportunities. Technology evolves rapidly, and staying curious is key to staying

relevant. Don't shy away from challenges—they are the best teachers. Build a strong foundation in the fundamentals, but also engage in projects that align with your passions and values.

Additionally, recognize the importance of mentorship. My journey has been shaped by the guidance of incredible faculty and colleagues who pushed me to think beyond limits. For me, success isn't just about mastering technology but about applying it to create positive change.

### **Looking Ahead: Innovating for a Sustainable Future**

As I continue my journey in AI, I'm excited to delve deeper into areas where technology can address pressing global challenges. At Recykal, we believe in leveraging AI to promote sustainability and improve lives. This mission motivates me every day to innovate and contribute to a brighter future.

To further enhance my expertise, I am currently pursuing a Master's in AI-ML through BITS Pilani's Work Integrated Learning Programs (WILP) for working professionals. This program provides me with the opportunity to balance advanced education with practical experience, equipping me to achieve even greater milestones in my career.

To Icfai Tech: Thank you for being the Launchpad of my dreams. I carry the lessons, values, and inspiration gained from my time there in every step of my professional journey.





# Sustainability and Environmental Protection



**MITTADODDI VENKAT SRUJANA**

Marketing Executive,  
Rapidue Technologies Pvt Ltd ( Recykal )  
Icfaitech Hyderabad (2019-23)

It has always been deeply rooted in my values. From a young age, I learned the importance of energy conservation, waste reduction, and water efficiency. At school, I actively participated in practices like recycling paper and plastic and contributing to initiatives like ITC WOW. At ICFAI University, I witnessed the significant environmental impact of low-carbon mobility through electric vehicles and sustainable infrastructure, such as solar panels and rainwater harvesting systems. These initiatives inspired me to recognize how small, conscious actions can reduce carbon footprints and contribute to a more sustainable world.

**"A woman is the full circle. Within her is the power to create, nurture, and transform."**

– Diane Mariechild

Sustainability and environmental protection were like a seed sown early in my life, with deep roots in my values. Now, that seed is growing into a thriving plant, blossoming in my work at Recykal—where I help drive innovative waste management solutions, promote resource efficiency, and enable the circular economy. Here, I am able to channel my passion for reducing environmental impact into tangible actions, contributing to a more sustainable, zero-waste future.

As a woman in the sustainability and tech sector, I believe in the power of women to drive change. One quote that truly resonates with me is: With a foundation in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence from my B.Tech course, I found a

natural synergy between technology and marketing. The fusion of data analytics and marketing strategy has been an intriguing and rewarding combination. My expertise in coding and data extraction allows me to conduct in-depth market research, extracting valuable insights from multiple webpages and databases to pinpoint the ideal target audience. This enables me to provide tailored waste management solutions that drive organizations towards a more sustainable circular economy.

Leveraging competitive intelligence and data-driven insights, I refine marketing strategies and ensure we reach the most relevant prospects. I work on dashboards using data visualization, a core subject I studied in college, now applied in real-world business scenarios to derive meaningful comparisons and insights. This not only helps track lead conversion but also enables me to fulfill both work targets and environmental impact goals. Achieving these targets provides a sense of fulfillment, as I'm able to contribute to sustainability while meeting professional objectives. This unique combination of personal and environmental achievements drives me to continuously innovate and excel in my work.

My commitment to environmental advocacy is deeply ingrained. Today, my role at Recykal goes beyond just fulfilling personal and professional objectives; it's about innovating, solving complex challenges, and indirectly advancing sustainability goals through data and technology.

Great Initiatives for which my projects are based on these solutions.

**Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR):** Digitally track and trace EPR targets, transactions, and performance.

**Recykal8 (Marketplace):** A B2B managed marketplace for purchase & sale of PCR resins & yarn.

**Managed B2B Marketplace:** A managed marketplace for aggregators & recyclers of plastic, metal, paper & e-waste.

**Digital Deposit Refund System:** Incentivising responsible waste disposal and enhancing recycling opportunities.

**Retrace:** A cloud based USI printing solution to tackle product counterfeiting.

**Circularity Platform:** SaaS based track and trace platform to manage industrial and facilities waste.

**Rethink+:** A technology-first approach to engage, enable, drive and monitor employees to deliver sustainable transformations.

In this modern world, women must be bold enough to speak, make powerful decisions, and embrace the freedom to make mistakes and grow. Just as nature, symbolized as feminine, is the ultimate provider—abundant in resources that sustain all life—women have the power to shape their own futures and provide for those around them.

Be the woman who commands respect, not through dependency, but by taking charge of your own destiny. Let your skills be honed and your confidence sharpened, so you can stand firm as a provider of solutions. Own your decisions with pride, and lead with the strength and resilience that comes from within, just like nature, which supports and sustains everything it touches.

Women are the catalysts for change in every field, and as we step into roles of leadership, we shape not only our careers but the future of our planet. By leveraging our skills and confidence, we can drive sustainability and create a lasting environmental impact. My journey from ICFAI University to Recykal has taught me that when women lead with purpose, they don't just grow—they transform the world. Let's continue to break boundaries, fuel progress, and build a future that's both equitable and sustainable.

# Deciphering your health & your family's future: one gene at a time



## **Dr. Meenakshi Bhairavi Kannan**

MS Medical Genetics (UK). PhD Experimental Medicine (Canada)  
Medical Genetics Consultant.  
Icfaitech Hyderabad, 2003-07

### **DNA: THE BLUEPRINT**

Our DNA is like an instruction manual that dictates how the body should function, develop and remain healthy. Our DNA influences our health by determining inherited traits, including susceptibility to diseases like cancer or diabetes. Genetic variations can impact how our bodies process nutrients, respond to medications, and fight infections. Mutations in specific genes may lead to genetic disorders or increase the risk of chronic conditions. DNA also affects physical characteristics like metabolism, immune function, and aging processes. While genetics play a key role, lifestyle and environment also shape overall health outcomes.

### **GENES: THE CODE FOR HEALTH**

Many health conditions including neuromuscular disorders, hearing impairment, autism, intellectual impairment, cancer, cardiac anomalies, blood disorders, and metabolic disorders, have a genetic link. Genetic causes can also be linked to pregnancy losses and infertility in couples. Some health conditions are almost completely determined by our genes, while others may be influenced by lifestyle and environment. Knowing our genetic make-up and potential risks of developing a condition allows for preventive care tailored specifically to an individual and/or their family. Some diseases are caused by genetic mutations that are inherited from one or both parents. These mutations can be present in every cell of the body and are passed down through generations.



### GENES INFLUENCING CANCER RISKS

Genetic testing for cancer helps identify inherited mutations that increase the risk of developing certain cancers. It allows for early detection, personalized prevention strategies, and targeted treatments based on an individual's genetic profile. Even if a person has a mutation in a gene, the way that gene is turned on or off can influence disease. For example, some genes are activated or silenced inappropriately in diseases. Genetic counselling helps identify early cancer risk by assessing family history and genetic predispositions. It involves evaluating inherited mutations linked to cancer susceptibility, such as BRCA1 and BRCA2 for breast cancer. Counsellors provide guidance on genetic testing, which can detect potential risks before symptoms appear. Early detection through genetic counselling allows for proactive monitoring and preventive measures to reduce cancer risks.

### IDENTIFYING A GENETIC CONDITION IN THE WOMB

To define the risk of having a child with an inherited genetic condition, couples may choose to have genetic testing before having children if you have a high risk of a specific genetic disorder to determine if you are carriers for the same condition. Current medical protocols allow for assessing the foetal DNA before it is born. Prenatal diagnosis helps identify genetic disorders by analyzing foetal DNA through tests like amniocentesis and chorionic villus sampling (CVS). Early detection allows parents and doctors to prepare for medical interventions or specialized care. While valuable, these tests carry some risks and ethical considerations.

### GENETIC COUNSELLING

Genetic counselling helps understand complex genetic information and the most suitable options available for genetic testing. Personal medical history and family health history will be carefully reviewed. Genetic test results will be explained and meticulously interpreted. Advances in genetic testing allow individuals to understand their genetic predispositions to certain diseases. In some cases, genetic counselling can help individuals and families assess the risk of inherited conditions. Genetic tests can help us understand our risk for inherited diseases, guide medical decisions, and enable early detection of conditions like cancer or genetic disorders. They provide personalized insights into how our bodies respond to medications, aiding in more effective treatments. Prenatal and newborn screening can identify potential health issues early, improving outcomes. Genetic testing also helps individuals make informed lifestyle choices to reduce health risks.

**IcfaiTech**  
Faculty of Science & Technology (FST)



**Apéro with Alumni on  
24/01/2025**

## A Candid Conversation with Nitish Gattepalli (Alumnus, IcfaiTech Hyderabad, 2017-21)



The Alumni Relations Cell (ARC) hosted another engaging edition of Apéro with ARC, featuring Nitish, an esteemed alumnus who shared his journey, insights, and experiences with students. The session provided a platform for candid conversations, career guidance, and networking opportunities. Nitish delved into his professional growth, lessons learned along the way, and valuable advice for aspiring students. With insightful discussions and a strong sense of connection, the event reinforced ARC's commitment to fostering meaningful alumni-student interactions, inspiring students to navigate their own paths with confidence and determination.



**Alumni Achievements:  
Congratulations!!!!**

### Phaneesh Kumar Nagalla

(Alumnus, Icfaitch, 2016-20)

Masters in Business Analytics , University of Wisconsin, Madison

Conferred prestigious "Award of Excellence", University of Wisconsin, Madison on 5/9/2024





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