

Candidate for Executive Council Member
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Vipul Shah

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India

BIOGRAPHY

As Global Head for Education & Skilling at TCS CSR, Vipul Shah oversees CS/STEM education programs in K-12 in over 43 countries and skilling programs for marginalized youths in India. Before that he worked as principal scientist at TRDDC in Software research for over 30 years. Vipul founded ACM India's CSpashala initiative in 2016. He designed and taught a course on CT for the MA in Education program at TISS.

Vipul is active in the international K-12 CS education community, serving on the board of the Bebras International community. He is the national organizer for Bebras challenge in India.

STATEMENT

The quality of computing education in K-12 and undergraduate programs in most institutions is poor. Through CSpashala initiative, my goal has been to find practical ways to address the issues at the primary and middle school levels. CSpashala has been successful in its ability to influence policy (NEP & NCF), create curriculum and content for K-8 that is followed by hundreds of thousands of students and train thousands of teachers over the past 8 years. TN-SCERT integrated CT into the mathematics curriculum and other states are in discussion.

While we have made significant progress, a lot needs to be done. The success at K-8 level can be attributed to the ability to a) bring educators, teachers, academicians, researchers, and industry together – nationally and internationally b) build cross-sector volunteer pool c) set up structures to sustain the efforts.

As an ACM India Council member, my priorities would be to:

- a) Connect with state and national bodies - NCERT, CBSE, SCERTs in states, and AICTE to contribute towards policy recommendations to improve computer science education based on ACM India recommendations
- b) Leverage role in TCS to grow ACM membership and provide mentorship to students
- c) Extend the success to undergraduate CS education