

I am Soma Biswas, currently an Associate Professor at Department of Electrical Engineering, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India. I was awarded the Shri Pralhad P Chhabria Award in 2018.

First, I would like to thank everyone in the Hope Foundation and Research Centre, Pune for giving me this honour. It was a wonderful moment for me, my institute and my family. This has helped me in several ways to advance in my career.

I work in the area of Computer Vision and Machine Learning, specifically in the areas of cross-modal matching, face recognition, incremental learning, etc. Recently, the state-of-the-art approaches in this area employ deep learning techniques, which requires significant amount of compute power. It is always a challenge to have sufficient amount of computing facility for all the students in the lab. The award significantly helped me to improve the computing facility of my lab, (Image Analysis and Computer Vision Lab). This in turn has immensely helped the students in progressing in their research activity and publish their work in top-tier conferences and journals.

The remaining amount of the award was also used for other requirements of the students. One of the important requirements of the students is support for attending conferences for presenting their accepted papers. Because of the high cost, especially for international travel, it is required to arrange for external funds in addition to the amount given by the institute. But attending top-tier international and national conferences is extremely important for the student, to not only present their research and meet the top researchers in the field, it helps to boost their self-confidence and represent the institute and country in a positive light in the international academic community. I used the remaining amount for partially supporting conference registration and to cover some amount of the travel expense.

In conclusion, this fund has helped me and my students in several ways and has really helped me to advance in my career. I would once again like to whole-heartedly thank everyone in the Hope Foundation for this honour. I am sure this award will help many more researchers to advance in their research and achieve their goals.