



CAREMOTHER

DR. SHANTANU PATHAK, CEO & FOUNDER



Dr. Shantanu Pathak is a technology-driven entrepreneur and social innovator who founded CareMother in 2015 and Doto Health in 2023. With a PhD from IIT Bombay and a passion for women's and maternal health, he leads CareMother's mission to transform low-resource settings through AI-powered digital tools that improve maternal and neonatal care. Before CareMother, Pathak honed his technical expertise as Head of ICT at Science For Society from 2010 to 2015, where he co-founded and piloted sustainable health and water-technology solutions for underserved communities. He also gained early international experience at ZTE Corporation in China, working as Technical Manager in network planning and optimization from 2010 to 2011. Under his leadership, CareMother has been recognized for leveraging AI and digital innovation to tackle maternal health challenges. He frequently speaks at healthcare technology events, for instance, highlighting transformational tech in maternal-care at the Stanford Medicine, CAHO Tech event at IISc Bangalore, WHA-HIEEx, Geneva. Combining technical vision, purpose-driven entrepreneurship, and a strong academic foundation, Dr. Pathak positions CareMother at the forefront of scalable digital healthcare innovation for mothers and newborns.

Rooted in Resilience - From Vidarbha to Vision: I was raised in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra now classified as an aspirational district by the Indian government. My educational journey began at Navodaya Vidyalaya, a fully government sponsored school that laid the foundation for my values and aspirations. Losing my father at age 13 made healthcare inaccessibility personal and deeply transformative, shaping my lifelong commitment to building equitable systems.

Academic Excellence with Purpose: I earned my bachelor's degree in Electronics & Telecommunication Engineering from Mumbai University. I later pursued a PhD at IIT Bombay, a pivotal phase that allowed me to explore problem solving through technology. I also worked in Shenzhen, China, gaining early industry experience in telecom systems before returning to India with a focus on socially driven innovation.

Personal Experiences, Not Professional Legacy, Fueled My Direction: When people ask if I come from a family of doctors, I say: "No, I come from a family of patients." This personal lens helped me understand the pain and delays in accessing basic healthcare, especially for mothers and newborns in underserved areas. These formative experiences led me to work on grassroots innovations as early as 2011, including water filters, solar dryers, and LED lighting systems.

Discovery of a National Problem Worth Solving: I identified maternal and newborn health as a critical area India contributes significantly to global maternal deaths, and over 50% of these are related to undetected high-risk pregnancies. Hypothesis was if frontline workers were equipped to detect anemia, gestational diabetes, and pregnancy induced hypertension early, many of these deaths could be prevented.

Research That Reaches Real Lives: At IIT Bombay, I had the opportunity to work with Professor Rohit Srivastava, whose support enabled me to conduct translational research. This unique approach allowed me to pilot solutions in the field while working on my PhD. During this period, we published impactful data and tested technology directly with health workers and communities to validate our approach, ensuring solutions were both practical and effective.

The Shift to Entrepreneurship: Making Innovation Sustainable: I realized that innovation must be sustainable to scale. This insight led to my transition from researcher to entrepreneur. I had to learn business fundamentals like reading balance sheets, understanding P&L statements, hiring and building teams all while staying grounded in my social mission. Entrepreneurship, I learned, is dynamic blend of science, art, and constant adaptation.

Human Centered Innovation in Action Saves Lives: One case from Bengaluru during COVID-19 stands out: a third trimester patient monitored at home using our

Building CareMother - Technology with Compassion: I founded **Doto Health**, better known as **CareMother**, a digital health company focused on maternal and newborn care. Our product suite includes:

- Last mile kits for detecting high risk pregnancies
- Integrated labor and fetal monitoring systems
- Newborn monitoring solutions
- A connected care platform with AI based decision support

We've completed over 2,000 installations across 200+ towns in India and 6 other developing countries.

fetal monitoring kit showed signs of distress. The alert led to a timely C-section, preventing what could have been a stillbirth. Another example in tribal India showed the emotional power of hearing a baby's heart beat so compelling that families returned just to hear it again. Over time, we even began sharing heartbeat audio clips via WhatsApp to deepening family engagement making maternal care more personal and emotionally connected.

Global Expansion with Local Impact: To date, CareMother has touched over 600,000 pregnancies. In the next five years, we aim to reach 5 million pregnancies worldwide. We've already piloted our solutions in 3 Asian and 3 African countries, with plans to enter developing markets like Middle East Africa and Southeast Asia by 2026, and developed countries like UK and US by 2027, using health care provider led or homecare-based models.

Collaborations that Shape the Future: Key partnerships with government innovation programs like DST, BIRAC, and incubation centers enabled early growth by funding R&D and field trials. We've also received grants to test global hypotheses. Attending events like the World Health Assembly in Geneva opened doors for international collaborations, strategic planning, and engagement with policymakers. These alliances are critical to scaling our vision for equitable maternal care across geographies.