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## Early Autism Diagnosis Gets Smarter with AI-Powered Social Recognition

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What if a six-minute video could unlock a child's future? All is making it possible and its time for corporate and government leaders to take notice.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) affects 1 in 54 children globally, yet the average diagnosis lags two to six years behind initial symptoms. That's years of missed opportunities for life-changing interventions. Enter AI-powered social recognition technology - a revolutionary tool that's redefining early autism screening with speed, scale, and precision. For decision-makers in corporate and government sectors, this isn't just innovation; it's a mandate for action.



#### **Decoding the Tech: A Digital Detective at Work**

Picture AI as a master sleuth, scanning subtle social cues - eye contact, facial expressions, gestures that signal ASD in infants as young as 12 months. Developed by institutions like South Korea's Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute (ETRI), this technology analyzes six-minute video interactions using "social interaction-inducing content." It tracks gaze, mimics, and responses to names with machine learning precision, sidelining

the subjectivity and delays of traditional methods. The result? A scalable, objective screening tool that could transform pediatric care.

### **The Evidence: Numbers That Speak**

Recent advancements are electrifying:

ETRI's "Social Interaction Recognition AI" screens toddlers in real-world settings like preschools, backed by five years of data from 3,531 cases.

A 2025 Nature study hit 91.33% accuracy with facial expression analysis using a hybrid deep learning model.

These aren't just stats - they're proof of concept (POC). Early detection unlocks interventions when brains are most adaptable, slashing developmental gaps.



#### The Power of AI in Unlocking Early Insights

Al-powered social recognition uses advanced machine learning to analyze subtle social cues like facial expressions, eye movements, and behavioral patterns—with speed and objectivity. Unlike subjective human observation, Al offers a scalable and rapid screening method.

A breakthrough example is ETRI's "social interaction recognition AI," which analyzes video footage of infants and toddlers in just six minutes to screen for ASD, dramatically reducing the traditional diagnostic timeline of 2–6 years.

This has powerful implications for large-scale wellness and public health programs. Early, efficient screening enables timely intervention, improving developmental outcomes

significantly. Research shows that targeted support between ages 2 and 3 - when the brain is most adaptable - can lead to profound progress, with some children even moving off the spectrum.

This technology brings us closer to a future where every child has the chance to thrive from the very start.



# **Bridging the Gap: Impact on Corporate and Government Sectors**

Investing in AI-powered early autism screening empowers corporations to enhance CSR and employee well-being while reducing long-term care costs. Offering it as a benefit supports families and promotes inclusion. Governments can integrate this tech into pediatric care and education, enabling early, equitable detection. With objective, bias-free assessments, AI ensures broader access across communities—bridging healthcare gaps and transforming early intervention into a scalable, impactful solution.

Beyond Labels - How CSM Tech is Building a Future for Individuals with Autism

At CSM Tech, we believe that inclusion is not just a policy, it's a purpose.

Through pioneering initiatives like Project AURA and PECS Cafe, we are creating meaningful pathways for individuals with autism to thrive. Project AURA, our flagship CSR intervention, is designed to establish a Centre of Excellence focused on sustainable employability and workplace integration for individuals on the spectrum. With global benchmarking and stakeholder collaboration, we're shaping models that can be

scaled and replicated.

Our PECS Cafe, run by young adults with autism, is more than just a vocational space - it's a powerful platform where communication, confidence, and community intersect. It nurtures social and vocational skills while fostering empathy and awareness among the public.

We also actively host awareness events, engaging experts and partners like My Wings, and the Zain Foundation to promote neurodiversity and break stigmas.

At the heart of our efforts is the recognition that every individual has unique potential. By empowering neurodivergent individuals through skill-building, advocacy, and collaboration, we're not just creating opportunities - we're building a more inclusive and compassionate world.

#### The Road Ahead: Challenges and a Vision for the Future

Al holds great promise for early autism screening, but challenges remain. Diverse datasets are crucial to avoid bias, as current models may underperform across ethnic groups. Seamless clinical integration and broader validation are essential. The future is promising: Al could personalize interventions, track progress, and predict optimal therapies using data like speech, eye movements, and retinal scans—empowering families, clinicians, and policymakers with a holistic, data-driven approach to autism care.

### Your Role in Shaping the Future

The revolution in early autism screening is here, driven by the power of AI. For corporate leaders and government stakeholders, the time to act is now. Embrace this technology, invest in its development and deployment, and champion its integration into our healthcare and educational systems. By doing so, you are not just adopting a new tool; you are investing in the well-being of future generations, fostering a more inclusive society, and unlocking the full potential of every child.

Join us in building a future where every child with ASD receives the earliest possible support. Six minutes today could mean a lifetime tomorrow. Let's make it count.



AUTHOR:

Jayajit Dash

Senior Manager- Corporate Communications (Marketing) ght CSM Technologies, Level-6, E/56, Infocity, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar, Odisha - 751024