



**DASRA SOCIAL IMPACT  
LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (2016-17)**

**Organization Summary & Participant Profile**



### Aangan

**Organization Profile** ([website](#))



Aangan is a child protection organization that promotes safe communities for vulnerable children through its work in state-run shelter homes and in communities. Aangan provides rehabilitative services to children who are rescued from exploitative conditions and monitors the quality of care. Aangan also has community based prevention programs- Shakti (for girls) and Chauraha (for boys) – to reduce children’s risk of entering state homes. Through these programs, Aangan empowers and mobilizes adolescents by mentoring, engaging parent and community adults, spreading awareness about girl safety and activating government services. Aangan has participated in several policy forums for the advancement of Child rights and has developed strong partnerships with government departments

**Participant Profile: Chaitali Sheth (Director)**

Chaitali graduated from Sophia College with an undergraduate degree in Psychology and Political Science. She then pursued her postgraduate at the University of Edinburgh and has a Masters in the Management of Training and Development. She has been involved in the development sector since 2000 with organizations like the Akanksha Foundation and Teach for India. Her work has largely been around teacher training, general operations and leading expansion and growth for the organizations. She has also worked at the Edinbrugh Voluntary Organizations’ Council as a Development worker. At Aangan, she is responsible for the smooth day-to-day running of the organization and ensures that the strategic vision and operational and programmatic outcomes are achieved.

### Administrative Staff College of India

**Organization Profile** ([website](#))



**Administrative Staff College of India**  
Leadership through Learning

The Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI) is a leading think tank in India and provides policy, training, advisory, knowledge support to local, state and national government in India. Founded in 1956 at the joint initiative of the Government of India and industry, ASCI's has trained more than 2,00,000 Indian and overseas participants in its residential management development programs and completed more than 2000 research and consultancy projects. Its evidence-based research has addressed several development issues and contributed to bringing policy changes and reforms across diverse sectors including water, sanitation, health, education, energy, and urban governance.

**Participant Profile: Dr. Malini Reddy (Associate Professor)**

Malini specializes in marketing, educational quality, behavior change communication, participatory approaches and social entrepreneurship. She has more than 19 years of professional experience working with academic institutions, business organizations, state and local governments in India, international foundations and not-for-profit organizations. Her work focuses on marketing and social marketing spanning the retail, hospitality, education, smart cities, water and sanitation sectors. By taking a synergistic approach of training, action research, consulting and mentoring she aims to contribute to the theory and practice of Social Entrepreneurship. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in schools is an area of interest to her.



### Anarde Foundation

**Organization Profile** ([website](#))



ANARDE is an Indian NGO incepted in 1979 and is committed to the cause of Rural Development since. Their efforts have been acknowledged by The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India and are empanelled for undertaking CSR Projects in the field of Clean Drinking Water and Sanitation. They have successfully built dynamic, vigilant, assertive and healthy communities through our focused developmental endeavors in the fields of providing clean drinking water, basic sanitation units and financial inclusion to the Low Income Settlements in Rural India. Currently they have a strong presence in Gujarat as well as Maharashtra.

#### **Participant Profile: Nita Mahuvakar** (Chief Executive Officer)

With 30 years of experience in the IT sector, Nita has worked with multiple corporates such as RMCMA, Gammon India Ltd., as well as Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank and S.P. Jain institute of Management and Research. She holds a Bachelors of Science with a concentration in Mathematics, Economics and Statistics from St.Xaviers College, and also holds a diploma in Computer Science and Applications from the DATAMATICS Corporation. Nita's knowledge about the IT sector is not only heightened by her years of experience but also, by multiple trainings held by IBM, PMP certification, various domain related trainings, workshops & seminars and SOFT skills.

### Arpan

**Organization Profile** ([website](#))



Arpan – an award-winning organization, based in Mumbai, focuses entirely on addressing child sexual abuse (CSA) in India's sociocultural context, utilizing scientific and well a researched approach, integrating both policy and programs, and engaging multi-stakeholders. They are the largest NGO in India to be working on reducing the occurrence of child sexual abuse and heal its psychological, social, sexual and physical consequences, with a 60 member team. Over the last 9 years Arpan has reached out to over 140,000 children, adolescents and adults directly with its services, 30,000 individuals through advocacy and events and over 530,000 indirectly through training and capacity building.

#### **Participant Profile: Pooja Taparia** (Founder and Chief Executive Officer)

Pooja started work on the issue of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) in 2006 and has mobilized over 2.5 million USD (over 16 cr) for working on CSA. Pooja is a graduate in Applied Art/Graphic Design and in Commerce. She has managed a number of high-profile freelance design print and web media projects for companies and individuals. She is a Director on the Board of UnLtd India and plays an advisory role on their strategies and programs; is the founding member of SAPCAN, SAARC Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect; and is also a member of ISPCAN, International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect. Pooja has been awarded the Architects of the Future Award 2013. Her life work has been permanently put up as a part of the Waldzell Collection, in the Melk Abbey, a museum in Austria. She was also awarded the Karmaveer Puraskar Award in 2010 by ICONGO in New Delhi for her work on Child Abuse.



### Barefoot College

**Organization Profile** ([website](#))



Barefoot College (“BCI” or “Social Welfare Research Centre”) is a global NGO that provides community development solutions to the most impoverished rural populations in the world’s least developed countries by tapping the wisdom, skills and resourcefulness of the poor themselves. BCI focuses on the demystification of technology to sustainably empower impoverished communities by recruiting illiterate or semi-literate, those not formally educated and effectively training them to build and maintain a wide variety of life-changing technologies. Only technologies that can be understood and controlled by rural community have been introduced to improve the quality of life of the poor.

#### **Participant Profile: Meagan Fallon** (Chief Executive Officer)

Meagan is currently steering the establishment of a further 6 Barefoot College Women’s Vocational Training Centers throughout Sub Saharan Africa, Latin America and SE Asia/Pacific. She consults directly to Private Foundations and Social Enterprises through her consulting company, Step Up Consulting, Ltd. Meagan has created and restructured a series of companies since 2005 in both the for-profit and non-profit sectors. Her company MFC Art Consulting Ltd in 2006 deepened her commitment to Empowering mature women, by mentoring rural women artisans in Africa, Asia and Latin America to gain unprecedented livelihood access in the luxury hotel sector. She has also participated in the Geneva Executive Committee Human Rights Watch.

### Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association (BORDA)

**Organization Profile** ([website](#))



BORDA is a specialist organization active in the fields of poverty alleviation, sustainable protection of natural resources and the strengthening of social structures. BORDA was established as a non-profit organization in 1977. The Mission of BORDA is to improve the living conditions of disadvantaged communities and to keep the environment intact through the expansion of Basic Needs Services in the areas of decentralized sanitation, water and energy supply as well as waste water and solid waste disposal.

#### **Participant Profile: Rajesh Pai Halalje** (Senior Technical Advisor)

Rajesh holds a Bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering from the Manipal Institute of Technology (1998) and took a professional certificate course in Urban Infrastructure Planning from Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology (CEPT), Ahmedabad in 2009. With more than 15 years of experience in the development sector mainly in the implementation of sanitation related project of various scales, his domain expertise is in planning, design and implementation of the projects and programs related to decentralized wastewater treatment projects (DEWATS), community based sanitation (CBS) systems & public sanitation and fecal sludge management for small and medium towns. He has worked in coordination with beneficiary communities, private organizations, Non-Governmental and Governmental Organizations. He has also been engaged in formulating city sanitation plans for different cities of India and supported MoUD, GoI for evaluation of city sanitation plan submitted by different cities.



### Centre for Advocacy Research

*Organization Profile* ([website](#))



CFAR committed to advance the rights of marginalized population like girl child, urban poor, gender minorities, communities at risk of HIV & survivors of violence by networking, facilitate inclusion into social development programs, capacity building, public education & advocacy. Ensures engagement across stakeholders-government, corporate, experts, civil society & COs- is founded on evidence, timely exchange & dialogue. Primarily aim to facilitate these populations using right based approach to challenge unequal power relationships in order to address exclusion stemming from more entrenched structural, systemic barriers & create spaces for policy & program reforms to give less privileged what is due to them.

#### **Participant Profile: Prabhananda Hedge (Project Manager)**

Prabhananda completed his Masters in Social work from Mangalore university on Community Development and has over six years of experience in participatory development issues particularly in the areas of HIV/AIDS and women issues. worked with different departments and institutions for social inclusion of these communities through community centered processes and convergent delivery of schemes and programmes under Single window mechanism. Has previously worked with Action Aid India, and has trained multiple personnel on issues related to HIV/AIDs and women issues.

### Centre for Catalyzing Change (C3)

*Organization Profile* ([website](#))



Center for Catalyzing Change, formerly CEDPA India, is a non-governmental organization that works to mobilize women and girls to achieve gender equality. Their vision is a future in India where women and girls are fully empowered and equipped to realize their rights, access opportunities and achieve gender equality. At the core of their work and approach is a belief that achieving gender equality is essential to development, democracy and global progress. They have reached more than 1 million adolescents and have been using digital technology to build capacities on health, life skills and gender equity issues.

#### **Participant Profile: Dr. Manju Katoch (Manager - Monitoring and Evaluation)**

Manju holds a degree in medicine from Himachal Pradesh University. She has more than 18 years of experience in program designing, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation in social sector. She has designed Monitoring and Evaluation processes and data analysis protocols for projects under various government, nongovernment agencies and donors in India, Lesotho (Southern Africa), and Ghana. She has held roles such as advisor and member of multiple government and nongovernmental organizations. At the Centre for Catalyzing Change, (formerly CEDPA India) she is responsible for providing leadership and technical oversight to all projects (18 projects across 5 states).



### Centre for Policy Research

**Organization Profile** ([website](#))



The Centre for Policy Research (CPR) is a non-profit, independent institution dedicated to conducting research that contributes to a more robust public discourse about the structures and processes that shape life in India. CPR's community of practitioners and academics represents views from many disciplines and across the political spectrum to investigate topics critical to India's future. CPR engages around five broad themes: economic policy; environmental law and governance; international relations and security; law, regulation, and the state; and urbanization.

#### **Participant Profile: Meenakshi Kapoor (Program Manager)**

Meenakshi, in the past, has worked with Kalpavriksh Environment Action Group and GIZ, India carrying out environmental research projects and coordination tasks. She has been researching on government institutions for environment and coastal governance as to how they address local livelihood and citizens' concerns. She has also been associated with Ecoexist- a social enterprise, promoting livelihoods for the underprivileged. In the programme she tracks and monitors the progress and impact of the project. She has also been involved in designing tools for community paralegals for environment justice. Meenakshi has a Masters in Science (Environment Management) from Forest Research Institute.

### Consortium for DEWATS Dissemination (CDD) Society

**Organization Profile** ([website](#))



CDD Society's mission is to provide robust and sustainable post-toilet infrastructure and services for improved health and a cleaner environment. Since its inception in 2005 CDD Society has been implementing decentralized sanitation infrastructure projects, conducting R&D to develop practical solutions, developing capacities of stakeholders, and providing handholding services to ULBs for implementing policies/regulations through collaborations with international and national funding partners.

#### **Participant Profile: Sasanka Velidandla (Chief Executive)**

Sasanka has 16 years of experience in the industry and development sector. Sasanka has sought to demonstrate self-sustaining economic models for managing the solid waste in mid-sized cities. The pilot projects undertaken by his team are now going mainstream and the resultant policy interventions are being adopted by one state government. Sasanka has been working with CDD Society since 2010 – helping develop projects, training modules, and mentoring young engineers. He was instrumental in deploying a technical innovation called the Vortex System, in co-ordination with a research partner, to reduce the foot-print of anaerobic sewage treatment plants by 50%. Before 2009, Sasanka was working with General Motors, Detroit, USA as an Engineer for about 8 years.

# Dasra Social Impact Leadership Program Cohort III

## Organization Summaries



### EnAble India

**Organization Profile** ([website](#))

EnAble India



EnAble India is a non-profit organization working for the economic independence and dignity of persons with disabilities since 1999. They believe that persons with disability engaged in livelihoods are important to the growth of the economy, and that the solutions and models of inclusion built for persons with disability benefits all sections of society. They are thought leaders in livelihoods for persons with disability, pioneers in employability models and workplace solutions. EnAble India also is the driving force behind Enable Academy, India's online collaborative community initiative for mainstreaming livelihoods of persons with disability.

**Participant Profile: Moses Chowdari Gorrepati** (Program Manager - Training and Solutions)

Moses has 6 years' experience in enabling visually impaired to gain IT skills. Moses has trained 200 + personnel (including trainers from United Kingdom, Mauritius, Gambia, Afghanistan and Nepal) for visually impaired in NGOs, PSUs and companies. In his capacity as a 'work-place solutions' specialist he has been instrumental in opening up jobs in sectors like IT, ITES, travel, E-commerce, hospitality and more. He is actively involved in making workplaces inclusive through sensitization programs for employers. He has conducted sensitization programmes at companies like IBM, Hindustan Unilever, etc. and has been instrumental in inspiring a young generation of visually impaired to aspire for computer based jobs through career workshops conducted at different places in India and Mauritius.

### Gramalaya

**Organization Profile** ([website](#))



Gramalaya is a NGO dedicated to promoting safe drinking water, health and overall improvement of the rural, urban population in India. Thus, working for the integrated development activities aimed at health, economic and social development of the communities in the operation areas for the past 30 Years and received National Urban Water Award in 2010 from MDWS. Gramalaya envisions a society in which all people will have equal rights and access to protected water, sanitation, health and improved income status without gender discrimination. Gramalaya was established in 1987 with a group of committed youths in the field of rural development.

**Participant Profile: M. Elangovan** (Executive Director)

M. Elangovan is a post graduate in Commerce and Sociology. He got involved in the developmental sector through the Shepherd Program for the Upliftment of rural poor by educating them on environment sanitation, and tree plantation etc., during his college days at St. Joseph's College, Tiruchirappalli. He joined Gramalaya in 1997 as social worker and made his way to Project Co-ordinator and since 2011 he has been working as Executive Director of Gramalaya. He has 18 years working experience in development sector on WASH and AIDS prevention and Formation of CBOs such as Peer Educators Association, AWASH committee. He has attended many national level conferences and meetings on WASH. He is one of the members in Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission. He is one of the internal resource person of Gramalaya for KRC training program for Water and Sanitation under MDWS, New Delhi.

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### Grameen Foundation India (GFI)

*Organization Profile* ([website](#))



Grameen Foundation India (GFI) is a social business and a wholly owned subsidiary of Grameen Foundation USA that catalyzes double bottom line approaches to serving the poor and the poorest. Its mission is to enable the poor, especially the poorest, to move out of poverty by strengthening institutions and businesses that serve them. GFI aims to achieve this by enabling the growth of truly double bottom line entities that use quantitative and verifiable measures of social results and by demonstrating new business models for serving the poorest. It currently focuses on enabling the provision of financial services and information services.

#### **Participant Profile: Dhara Vyas** (Head – Strategy and Operations)

Dhara brings over 15 years of experience in management, operations and strategic planning with the Financial Services and Development sectors. Prior to joining GFI, Dhara has worked with Accion International and Swadhaar FinServe within the microfinance sector. Dhara has also worked with financial institutions like Kotak Mahindra Bank, HDFC Bank and erstwhile ANZ Grindlays Bank in India where she has undertaken diverse assignments in areas of Operations Management, Process Compliance, Project Management, Service Quality and Learning and Development. Dhara has a Master's degree in Human Resource Management and Commerce and Bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

### Human Rights Law Network

**(Socio-Legal Information Centre (SLIC))**



*Organization Profile* ([website](#))

HRLN was founded in 1989, by a group of young lawyers committed to workers' rights. Now they are made up of a network of more than 200 activists (lawyers, social workers, accountants and others) spread across 24 offices in 22 states of India working on a vast range of human rights law issues. HRLN has earned worldwide recognition and awards for landmark judgment promoting fundamental rights. HRLN provides pro bono legal services, conducts public interest litigation, engages in advocacy, conducts legal awareness programs, investigates violations, publishes 'know your rights' materials, and participates in campaigns. HRLN is a division of the Socio-Legal Information Centre.

#### **Participant Profile: Pritisha Borah** (Programme Manager)

Pritisha holds a masters in Political Science from JNU and another in Human Rights from the Indian Institute of Human Rights. Prior to working with HRLN, she worked at Gateway Research Worldwide for a year as Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, and at Development Alternatives as a Project Assistant. , she is currently working in the Reproductive Rights and Law Unit and focusses on building state level teams to undertake fact findings which will enable the lawyers to file Public Interest Litigation in the High Courts and District Courts.

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### Impact India Foundation (IIF)



**Organization Profile** ([website](#))

Impact India Foundation is an International Initiative Against Avoidable Disablement established through a United Nations' General Assembly Resolution, was launched by the Government of India on 2nd October 1983. Its aim is to act in partnership with the Government as a catalyst bringing together the corporate sector, Non Profit Organizations, professionals and the community in mass health projects of National priority, using existing delivery systems and available infrastructure. Their vision is Action today to Prevent Disability Tomorrow.

**Participant Profile: Dr. Rajnish Gourh** (Chief Operating Officer)

Dr. Gourh is a trained public health professional with more than 9 years of experience and is committed towards positive and substantial changes in Public Health. Dr. Gourh has headed Impact India's Lifeline Express (the world's First and India's only Hospital Train) for more than 5 years, which delivers free of cost Quality Health Services in rural and remote areas of India. The vast experience of working with the Lifeline Express project exposed him to the Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA)(Government health activist at village level) to policy makers, in more than 15 states and international Public Health platforms to deal with diversified situations and problems while co-ordinating with Government, Railway Administration and corporate officials. Dr. Gourh has also worked on NABH accreditation of Government hospitals and with SEARCH, Gadchiroli.

### Jaipur Rugs Foundation



**Organization Profile** ([website](#))

Jaipur Rugs Foundation's mandate is to reach out to remote rural areas and establish bonds with the village communities, enabling them to start weaving not just rugs but also their own lives. It is done through two intertwined verticals: 'entrepreneurship development' and 'social development'. Entrepreneurship development focuses on the economic well-being of the artisans and their communities through skill development and livelihood support & social development focuses on their social well-being through interventions, awareness generation and linkages.

**Participant Profile: Yash Ranga** (Stakeholder Engagement Partner)

Yash provides strategic vision to the two intertwined verticals of Jaipur Rugs Foundation: Entrepreneurship development and social development, through engaging multiple diverse stakeholders and by curating an effective partnerships platform that maximizes impact at scale. Prior to joining Jaipur Rugs Foundation, He was associated with a New York based Boutique IT company inspired by the disruption in technology that is taking place with Big Data, Predictive Analytics, Mobility, Machine learning and the Cloud. His niche areas include Conscious Capitalism, Founders' Mentality, Social Entrepreneurship and Multi-Stakeholder partnerships for development, Sustainable Development Goals and Base of the Pyramid Innovations. With a background in software engineering, entrepreneurship and business strategy, he is also a national boxer and a theater artist.



### Karuna Trust

**Organization Profile** ([website](#))

**Karuna Trust**

Instituted in 1986, Karuna Trust is a public charitable trust as a response to the high prevalence of Leprosy in Yelandur Taluk, Chamrajnagar District, Karnataka. Over the years, the Trust has expanded its scope of work to Comprehensive Health Care and advocacy areas. Karuna Trust believes in providing need based, people oriented and culturally acceptable methods using appropriate technology with minimum cost to the community. Reaching the unreached is the Karuna Trust's mission. They reach out to those who are in the remote and inaccessible areas, hilly and tribal regions, Naxalite and insurgency areas with poor roads with no connectivity.

#### **Participant Profile: Venkat Narayana Chekuri (Joint Secretary)**

Prior to Karuna Trust, Venkat joined Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari as a full time worker. After initial training, he went to Arunachal Pradesh to be part of the Integrated Tribal Development programme. He worked as the Secretary of the project at the time of leaving the organization in the year 1998. He then joined Dr. Sudarshan in Tribal and Rural Development organisations namely Vivekananda Girijana Kalyana Kendra (VGKK) and Karuna Trust. Venkat has worked in different capacities in both organizations and became the Trustee of Karuna Trust in the year 2002. He has been Joint Secretary since 2010.

### Katha

**Organization Profile** ([website](#))



Katha has been working in the areas of children's education, teacher training, and book publishing since 1988. Their education model puts the child at the center of all learning and makes learning a fun, creative, holistic experience and also relevant to the world outside the classroom. They also train teachers to creatively engage students using Katha's Story Pedagogy and to design classroom activities that make learning interactive and fun. They have published more than 300 illustrated children's stories out of which 124 have been recommended collectively by CBSE and NCERT.

#### **Participant Profile: Parvinder Kaur (Executive Director)**

Parvinder currently oversees all of Katha's educational and publishing programs including the Katha Lab School, the I Love Reading program and Katha's teacher training program called KREATE (Katha Reading Excellence and Teacher Education). Ms. Kaur joined Katha as a volunteer in 2000 and worked her way from being an English teacher, to a part of Katha's Senior Management Team. Parvinder has also headed multiple programs, a few of them being an Innovative Educational Program under MHRD and an educational program under UNICEF and UNESCO. Ms. Kaur has a B.A. in English Honors and an M.A. in English Literature from Delhi University, India. She has traveled and gained extensive experience working with NGO partners and Government Education Departments in different districts in the states of MP, Bihar, Maharashtra.



### Lend A Hand India (LAHI)

**Organization Profile** ([website](#))



Lend-A-Hand India is the outcome of an idea nurtured over five years by founders, who firmly believe that their education helped them transcend socioeconomic barriers and achieve success. Since then, LAHI has focused its efforts on refining the vocational curriculum and developing a robust delivery mechanism that can be sustainably replicated across rural India. LAHI has evolved from a small self-funded non-profit organization to a multi-donor medium-sized organization over a period of one decade. With LAHI's efforts, the vocational course delivered in high schools has received State as well as National government recognition under the National Skills Qualification Framework.

#### **Participant Profile: Aniruddha Bansod** (Senior Manager - Operations & Development)

Aniruddha has 10 years of professional experience in Operations and Accounts. In his work experience prior to LAHI, he has field experience as a part of the Azim Premji Foundation, in Bhopal as a part of their operations team. He has also worked with Lokmat media and had his own Accounting and Taxation practice in Nagpur. Aniruddha holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from Dhanwate National College, Nagpur, and a C.A. (Inter) C.A., from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. A firm believer in creativity, Aniruddha plays the Tabla, Harmonium and Synthesizer.

### Madhyam Foundation

**Organization Profile** ([website](#))



Over the years, Madhyam's mode of engagement has remained three-fold; (1) direct action projects (2) network projects (3) need-based capacity building & technical support. There are widely held perceptions that small holder operations cannot be sustained and does not offer solutions to the needs of the poor. Madhyam Foundation's thrust has been to dispel such myths through appropriate programming in small holder operations – be it agriculture, livestock or any other livelihood activities. Madhyam has been able to effectively leverage financial resources from several stakeholders and dovetailed these resources efficiently into the livelihoods financing at the household level.

#### **Participant Profile: Subrat Kumar Singhdeo** (Executive Director)

Subrat holds a Masters in Sociology from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and has completed certificate courses on enterprise promotion and universalizing socio-economic security for the poor from Harvard University, USA and Institute of Social Studies, the Netherlands, respectively. He worked as the Executive Director of RGVN (a national level funding agency sponsored by IFICI, IDBI and NABARD), Guwahati prior to setting up the Madhyam Foundation in 2004. He has executed more than 60 consulting assignments for national and international agencies such as the Ford Foundation, Lutheran World Relief, OXFAM, Action Aid, Sir Dorabji Tata Trust. Subrat has also co-authored a book on Human Security: From concept to Practice, published by World Scientific, Singapore (2011).

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## Organization Summaries



### Magic Bus

**Organization Profile** ([website](#))



Magic Bus steers children, adolescent girls and boys towards a better life with better awareness, better life skills, and better opportunities, in the journey from childhood to livelihood. Their Activity Based Curriculum (ABC) is a unique model that uses games to make change. They have 40 sessions per year – each with a lesson; teach children and youth about education, gender, health, and key issues affecting them. The games excel in building physical, social, and personal skills. With a strong youth focused program, Magic Bus also does state level consultation on Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health.

**Participant Profile: Sajan Thomas** (Director – Human Resources)

Sajan has 25 years of experience in Human Resources with leading organizations in Corporate India, covering manufacturing, IT and Telecom Industries. Prior to joining Magic Bus in 2011, he has headed HR for one of the group companies of Reliance ADAG, and H.K. Infoware Limited. He was also the Senior Officer post at PSL International. Sajan holds a Bachelor and Master of Arts as well as a post-graduate diploma in Human Resource Management from XLRI Jamshedpur.

### Mahila Housing SEWA Trust (MHT)

**Organization Profile** ([website](#))



Mahila Housing SEWA Trust (MHT) is an autonomous organization promoted by the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in 1994, with the vision to realize the right to shelter and dignity for all. MHT believes that all citizens, irrespective of their residential status, have a right to equal access to basic civic services and entitlements, and that they have a right to be treated uniformly and justly by service providers. The most effective way to achieve this is through community empowerment, and facilitating people's engagement with the government and the private sector.

**Participant Profile: Bijal Bhrambhatt** (Director)

Bijal is a civil engineer by training and is a recognized expert in habitat improvement, community development and housing finance. She has worked on renewable and efficient energy issues for the poor with various stakeholders including the Government of India and private sector. She is representing MHT on several Government advisory committees including expert committee on Rajiv Awaas Yojana, Affordable Housing task Force by the Prime Minister's office in 2008 and steering committee of planning commission for the 12th five year plan. She is on board of SEWA Grih Rin, a housing finance company for the poor women and is also as an advisor to poor women credit cooperatives. She was felicitated by 'Women Change Makers, Switzerland in 2013 for her work on Women's empowerment.



### Mahiti

**Organization Profile** ([website](#))



Since 2002 Mahiti has been building ICT tools and solutions for the social sector to enhance programme quality and the impact on communities for Partners in Health, HIV and AIDS, Education, Gender Equality and Economic Security especially in Agriculture, As one of the few technology companies to focus on the social sector, Mahiti empowers governments, international development agencies, civil society organizations and disadvantaged communities in remote locations to effectively use technology. Mahiti has built and deployed 1000+ multi-platform, multi-lingual and multi-media-enabled web/ intranet/ kiosk/ mobile applications across five continents.

**Participant Profile: Sreekanth S Rameshaiah** (Chief Executive Officer)

Sreekanth completed his engineering from University of Bangalore and MS in Information technology from Sikkim Manipal University. Sree moved on to co-found Mahiti Infotech providing Information and Communication Technology solutions to non-profits using free and Open Source Technology. He has over 18 years' experience in conception, information analysis, design and implementation of medium, largescale management and technology solutions. Has handled various project from different agencies including in Government, NonGovernment and Private projects. Many successful healthcare, disaster management and other impactful solutions have been developed by him. He is also well known as a strong open source advocate and member of many open-source technology boards.

### MAMTA Health Institute for Mother and Child (MAMTA)

**Organization Profile** ([website](#))



MAMTA-Health Institute for Mother and Child is a non-profit organization registered in 1990 under the Society Registration Act-1860 of Government of India. The organization vision is to empower underserved and marginalized individuals and community for achieving optimal and sustainable health and development. The work is guided by its mission of being committed to working together in building a world that is just, equitable and inclusive. The organization continuously endeavors to apply best approaches and practices towards integrating health and development issues in the context of poverty, gender and rights under its four thematic areas.

**Participant Profile: Murari Chandra** (Assistant Director)

Murari holds a M- Phil from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and MBA in Human Resource Management. He has more than 16 years of experience in the development sector. He is a certified trainer on gender and sexuality by RFSU- Sweden and has completed evidence based project monitoring and evaluation on the issue of global health conducted by Oregon State University (OSU) USA. He has also been trained by International Centre for Local Democracy (ICLD-Sweden) on the issue of gender and local democracy. While working with MAMTA he has contributed towards strengthening Adolescent Reproductive Health program with public health system, piloting and replicating sexuality education and building evidence on application of Gender Transformative approach for effective implementation of social interventions.



### Medha Learning Foundation

*Organization Profile* ([website](#))



Medha has been working on employability crisis in India for the past five years to better prepare India's youth for life after school. Medha provides 21st Century skills training, career guidance, mentorship, on-the-job training, and placement support to low-income and disadvantaged students between the ages of 16 – 25. Since 2011, Medha has trained over 3,000 students across 25 degree colleges, worked with 200 leading employers and built a public-private partnership with the government of Uttar Pradesh. Medha aims to bridge the gap between education and employment by eventually mainstreaming its programs into the existing public sector education system.

#### **Participant Profile: Sarita Upadhyay** (Vice President – Student Relations)

Sarita has over 13 years of experience in client and customer services, training and development, and operations management. She has vast corporate and academia experience. Sarita is also a member of the Senior Management Team and is involved in all strategic decisions related to the Medha program. Prior to Medha, Sarita worked with Aviva U.K for more than 6 years in Pune as Credit Control Manager before moving back to her hometown of Lucknow. Aviva has recognized Sarita on a number of occasions for her exceptional performance in different roles. She was chosen to pilot a process and system change in the Pune office and successfully implemented Oracle systems. She also led a team of trainers that trained over 400 employees in three months. Sarita is a science graduate from Lucknow University and has also earned an M.B.A – HR and Information Management degrees.

### Population Foundation of India

*Organization Profile* ([website](#))



PFI is a national level NGO that works for improving the quality of life through increased access to quality family planning and reproductive health services, at the national, state, and district levels. They work with the government both at national and state levels and NGOs in the areas of community action for health, urban health, scaling up of successful pilots and social and behavior change communication. A central feature of PFI's work is to advocate for effective formulation and implementation of gender-sensitive population and development policies and programs, functioning as a think tank to discuss and debate crucial population issues.

#### **Participant Profile: Bijit Roy** (Team Leader)

Bijit has over 17 years of experience in planning, implementation and management of large scale nutrition, maternal and child health and HIV/AIDS programs. Bijit is managing implementation of the scaling up grant funded by the MacArthur Foundation. He has facilitated several trainings for government officials and NGOs on Scaling Up Management. Bijit also coordinates Secretariat of the Advisory Group on Community Action (AGCA), providing technical support to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and State Governments to strengthen and scale up implementation of community action for health under the National Health Mission (NHM). He has previously worked with CARE in the Policy and Advocacy Unit at the headquarters and managed implementation of the Reproductive and Child Health, Nutrition and HIV/AIDS (RACHNA) program in the states of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

# Dasra Social Impact Leadership Program Cohort III

## Organization Summaries



### Population Services International



**Organization Profile** ([website](#))

PSI is a leading global health organization working in HIV, reproductive health, child survival and non-communicable diseases. Partnering with the public sector and harnessing the power of markets, PSI provides life-saving products, services and communications that empower vulnerable populations to lead healthier lives. PSI's mission is to make it easier for people in the developing world to lead healthier lives and plan the families they desire by marketing affordable products and services.

**Participant Profile: Abhilash Jacob Philip** (General Manager-New Business Development)

Abhilash has 14 years of experience managing diverse health projects in seven states across India. He has considerable experience in the areas of reproductive & child health, HIV/AIDS, TB and non-communicable diseases with focus on designing, developing, and implementing public private partnerships. He has written proposals on Reproductive Health, Pneumonia, Nutrition, Cervical Cancer, TB, Tobacco Control and NCDs. Abhilash is the focal point for managing PSI/India's relationship with key stakeholders in government, the social sector, and the corporate sector. He holds a Master's degree in Social Work and graduated from St. Stephen's College, Delhi University.

### Project KHEL



**Organization Profile** ([website](#))

Project KHEL is a non-profit, which uses playful and interactive methods to engage with children and arm them with 21st century Life Skills, provide them with various educational and leadership development opportunities, and also awareness on crucial issues thus taking education beyond the classroom and into the play spaces. It also aims to transform adolescents into responsible members of the society, who are able to make informed decisions and eventually become positive agents of change within their communities.

**Participant Profile: Akshai Abram** (Founder and Director)

Akshai founded Project KHEL in 2012 – an amalgamation of his love for sports and co-curricular and his interest in working for the underprivileged at the grassroots level. An MBA from the prestigious Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal, he has over 10 years of experience including 8+ years in the social sector. Prior to this, he was the Program Head of the Development Metrics Group at the Center for Development Finance (CDF) – IFMR, Chennai. Akshai has also been involved with social sector studies commissioned by international agencies such as the World Bank, USAID, UNICEF, etc. and also worked with Aide-et-Action, an international NGO where he worked in fund-raising and education development programs. He is also an avid sportsman and enthusiast.

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## Organization Summaries



### Reality Gives

*Organization Profile* ([website](#))



Reality Gives, formed in 2009, is the sister organization of the ethically run tour company: Reality Tours and Travel, which commits 80% of their post-tax profits to support their work. Based in Dharavi, our work has centered on the local communities desire for further education. Sharing this belief on the importance of education they have created a range of programs to help young people from these communities to expand their horizons and maximize their potential. These programs are centered on bespoke, quality curricula which they deliver through teachers they train and develop themselves, in collaboration with sector experts.

#### **Participant Profile: Letizia De Martino** (Executive Director)

Letizia is Italian and has been in India Since 2007. She completed her studies in Oriental Cultures and Language with a major in Chinese, but ended up in India following my passion for the social sector. Her interest in Asia, passion for travelling and social work brought her to India through an Italian Government volunteer program, supposed to last for one year, but she never went back. She worked for two years on an Income Generating Program for women of Mumbai slum, after which she joined the corporate sector for three years at the Indo-Italian Chamber of Commerce and finally she met Reality Gives and realized her dream of running an NGO doing really good work for slum communities.

### SAHAJ – Society for Health Alternatives

*Organization Profile* ([website](#))



SAHAJ founded in 1984 strives to make a practical difference in lives of marginalized people both through direct action in the communities as well as through action research and policy advocacy work. They believe in developing programs based on the expressed needs of the communities that they work with. Over the years, they have come to believe that their work has to result in building capacities of the communities they are engaged with. Their work, they believe is to inform people about their entitlements and organize them so that they can assess these entitlements.

#### **Participant Profile: Sunanda Ganju** (Board Member)

Sunanda has a post graduate degree in Social Work from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai (1985). From 1987 to 2015, she worked extensively in programs related to Reproductive, Sexual and Maternal health in NGOs like Baroda Citizens Council and Deepak Foundation located at Vadodara, Gujarat and has also been a visiting faculty at the Faculty of Social work, M.S. University of Baroda. She has undertaken several evaluation studies related to maternal health and women's empowerment and was contributing to Women's Feature Service, an international news agency. Sunanda also worked as an Executive Director in Baroda Citizens Council from 2006 -2007 and later as a Project leader in the project on 'Enabling Community Action for Maternal Health' (supported by MacArthur) from 2012 -2015 at SAHAJ. At present she is also a board member in Bal Bhavan Society. She is currently compiling stories of women in pre and post-independence period of Kashmir.

# Dasra Social Impact Leadership Program Cohort III

## Organization Summaries



### Sahara Aalhad



**Organization Profile** ([website](#))

Sahara CFRCAR is a 30 year old organization, whose mission is to empower people facing difficult situations due to substance use and HIV/AIDS/TB. Sahara CFRCAR has implemented a range of strategies to empower people, strengthen poorer & marginalized communities, to encourage safer behavior and to aid in the reintegration of people into society. Sahara CFRCAR projects sites in Pune: A 32 bed inpatient facility Care Home in Wagholi, A Clinic at Yerwada & a Drop in Centre in Pimpri, Nagaland and Hyderabad: Duke Research Project. All of which address either substance use or HIV/AIDS/TB, as well as poverty.

**Participant Profile: Elizabeth Selhore** (Executive Director)

Elizabeth has been working in the field of empowering vulnerable populations since 1983, when she started working with the UNHCR as a Community Worker in the Refugee Section. During her tenure with Sahara, Elizabeth has initiated non formal schools for street children, Asia's first AIDS Care Hospice – Michael's Care Home, a Women and Children's Shelter, Creche facilities, business enterprise models of income generation, and a pure water project providing drinking water to people in need. Elizabeth has also provided technical support to various UN and governmental bodies across the region in her field of expertise with women who use drugs.

### Salaam Baalak



**Organization Profile** ([website](#))

Over more than 25 years, Salaam Baalak Trust is working to provide a holistic "safety net" of services to street and homeless children, within an environment that is conducive to their optimum development. With a direction to integrate them into mainstream society, Salaam Baalak Trust respects and supports the rights of children and believes in offering choices. SBT caters to the individual needs of street children in Mumbai, covering all the areas of a child's development from physical and medical needs to the educational, creative and social ones.

**Participant Profile: Bhavesh Bhatt** (Chief Executive Officer)

Bhavesh's learning over the last 25 years has been maximized while engaging with niche audiences across diverse markets. Being responsible for development of revenue, Bhavesh enjoyed key roles while working with Vh1 India (India's Premier International Entertainment Brand); Haymarket India, MTV Networks, The Times Group, and Xerox Corporation. Managing Independent Units, his role covered, among others, representation of Business Interests with High Value Clients within Government, Public & Private Sectors. Subsequently, he served the Viacom18 Strategy Board which steered Nickelodeon, Colors, MTV, Vh1 and Comedy Central. Bhavesh is a keen Yoga enthusiast; a Certified Yoga Shastri and is pursuing academic distinctions in the field.

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## Organization Summaries



### Save The Children India (SCTI)

**Organization Profile** ([website](#))



Save The Children India (STCI) is a non-profit organization established in 1988, and registered under Bombay Public Trust and Society registration Act. STCI Works towards preventing exploitation and all other forms of discrimination of vulnerable women and children, and empowering them to lead a life of dignity, self-respect, and independence. Save The Children India has been awarded "Best NGO in INDIA - 2011 "by the Indian NGO Awards. Early Childhood Association has unanimously selected Save the Children Balwadi program, the Best NGO working towards Preprimary Education in the state of Maharashtra.

**Participant Profile: Sushila L Shashtri** (Program Director- Education)

Sushila has 23 years of experience in the Social Sector in a Senior Management Role. She has been involved with STCI since 1991, prior to which she was the Project in Charge for Education and their Child Sponsorship Project at the Maharashtra Lokhit Seva Mandal and PREPARE (Raigad, Orrisa) as their Project Officer. At STCI, Sushila's projects got selected for a field partnership in the School Excellence Program Funded by Unicef and she also facilitated Livelihood opportunities for the mothers and young women in the communities by tying up with other NGOs. Sushila holds a MBA in Social Entrepreneurship from NMIMS Mumbai and holds multiple Certificates in courses such as 'Business Management for Voluntary Service Organizations', Women Entrepreneurs and 'Researching Adolescent Health-A Training Program on Research Methods in Adolescent Health'.

### Shelter Associates

**Organization Profile** ([website](#))



Shelter, based in Pune, has been working on urban planning to improve the quality of life for the poor. They use data and technology to bring transparency and accountability into designing and providing infrastructure and housing to slum dwellers and enabling them to pursue their right to dignity. A pioneer and global leader in GIS mapping (Geographical Information Systems) within poor communities, Shelter offers information on existing infrastructure and socio-economic conditions on urban slums, allowing efficient allocation of viable resources. The organizations is currently advocating a 'one home one toilet' vision to cities by providing individual household toilets, waste management facilities, and behavior change workshops for communities.

**Participant Profile: Pratima Joshi** (Executive Director)

Pratima has worked in the area of sustainable low cost housing and sanitation for the urban poor for nearly 25 years. She is widely recognized as a leading planner and designer of slum infrastructure. She holds a master's degree in Building Design for Developing Countries from the Bartlett School of Architecture and Planning, London. Identified in October 2005 by the BBC as one of the "leading slum architects of India", she is an Aga Khan scholar, Ashoka fellow, and the recipient of several awards. She has spoken at several international seminars and workshops including the 24th World Congress of Architects in Tokyo. Pratima has participated in policy discussions and advised government programs including the Rajiv Awas Yojna (RAY). She has participated in several talks and discussions to present this work extensively across the world at universities, to government and other social sector organizations.

# Dasra Social Impact Leadership Program Cohort III

## Organization Summaries



### Society for Education, Welfare and Action (SEWA) Rural

#### Organization Profile ([website](#))



SEWA Rural (Society for Education, Welfare and Action–Rural) is a voluntary development organization involved in health and development activities in rural tribal areas in the Jhagadia block in southern Gujarat since 1980. The organization's work draws inspiration from the ideals and ideas of Swami Vivekananda and Mahatma Gandhi. Aiming for overall development of the rural, poor and tribal population Bharuch Dist., the organization has encompassed various fields including hospital, community based outreach health care, comprehensive eye care, health training centre, vocational training institute for rural youth and women development center for promoting women empowerment.

#### **Participant Profile: Shrey Desai** (Trustee and Research Coordinator)

Shrey is an internist with advanced degree in public health and preventive medicine from the Johns Hopkins University (JHU). His goal is to help create enabling environment in which underprivileged communities become empowered to satisfy their primary health-care needs. He spent my childhood in Jhagadia where SEWA Rural is located. After receiving a medical degree from M.S. University, Vadodara, India, he moved to the US and completed Internal Medicine residency from the Saint Barnabas Medical Center, New Jersey which is an affiliate of Mount Sinai Hospital, New York. During his residency at Johns Hopkins University, he also completed a Master of Public Health (MPH). Subsequently, he had opportunity to work at US Food and Drug Administration, WHO and Indian Health Service. He joined SEWA Rural in 2009 as research-coordinator and clinician. He has also led a maternal and newborn health project using mobile-phone technology.

### Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini

#### Organization Profile ([website](#))



Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini (SSSVV) is the education outreach program of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust (SSSCT). The focus of the program is in transforming schools into places of holistic and integrated learning. The focus extends beyond excellent academic education to the development of the complete personality of every student. SSSVV, calls this approach 'Integral Education', and implements this model using a practical framework called the IIEPx4C Matrix. SSSVV currently partners with 96 schools across 20 states and has over 5,000 registered volunteer's pan-India. The motto of SSSVV is Education for All and Education by All.

#### **Participant Profile: Satyajit U Salian** (Director)

Satyajit believes in imparting holistic education by harnessing the power of collaborative ideas, people and technology. He has a successful track record of building SSSVV from the ground to a program currently impacting 95 schools, students in 19 states across the country and directs all aspects of the program with a 9-member steering committee, 28 employees and over 1000 volunteers. Satyajit has graduated from the Sri Sathya Sai Higher Institute of Learning with a Master of Business Administration (Finance) degree, Master of Science (Chemistry) degree, and a Bachelor of Science (Hons) degree.



### STIR Education

*Organization Profile* ([website](#))



Teachers make the biggest difference in determining whether children learn, yet in practice lack the requisite motivation, skills and support structures. STIR takes a fundamentally different approach. Rather than seeing teachers as the problem, it sees them as the solution – and is building a genuinely teacher led movement to improve children’s learning, from within the system itself. STIR also actively supports teachers in its movement to positively influence their peers, and reclaim the moral purpose and noble status of teaching within an education system.

**Participant Profile: Anamika Srivastava** (Director – Finance and Administration)

Anamika has more than 18 years of experience overseeing financial management systems with premier organizations, International NGOs, the United Nations and Corporates. She has volunteered for various startup NGOs in building financial systems and provided capacity building trainings. Her areas of professional expertise includes strategic financial planning, development of financial processes and systems, working capital management and building up reserves, budgeting/forecasting, financial reporting/modelling, project management, setting up of new offices and conducting feasibility studies for entering new countries. She holds a Master’s degree in Financial Management and has undertaken various international training certifications in the similar field.

### Study Hall Education Foundation (SHEF)

*Organization Profile* ([website](#))



Study Hall Educational Foundation (SHEF) was founded in 1994 to provide quality education to girls, boys & children with special needs in urban & rural settings in India. Through their multiple schools & education initiatives they focus on girls’ education & empowerment. They keep the Girl Child and her development at the center of all their initiatives. Their initiatives range from Class room teaching, Teacher training, Non-form education centers, Vocational training, Feminist-based pedagogy, and Adolescent empowerment through discussions on social issues to theatre, drama & community mobilization.

**Participant Profile: Shibani Sahni** (Director)

Shibani has experience in girls’ education, empowerment, gender, community mobilization, and corporate education. Her overall experience spans across private and public sector organizations and schools in rural, urban settings, and in communities across villages in India. She has worked across geographies, in India, the United States and the United Kingdom. She is also a Director and founding member of a social venture DiDi’s that helps women from extremely poor backgrounds fight poverty, poor quality of life and low self esteem through vocational training. She is an empaneled Education consultant with UNICEF India and CARE India working primarily on the effectiveness of media & technology in Education. Shibani has two graduate degrees in Management, from University of California Berkeley, in the United States and from Monash University, Australia. She has her undergraduate degree in Psychology from Lady Sri Ram College in India.

# Dasra Social Impact Leadership Program Cohort III

## Organization Summaries



### Swasth Foundation

**Organization Profile** ([website](#))



Swasth is a nonprofit social enterprise that operates a network of self-sustainable primary health centers, conveniently located in the slums of Mumbai. Each center provides comprehensive primary preventive care services (i.e. doctor and dentist consultation, medicines, diagnostics, day care procedures, disease management programs, school health programs) at half the market rates to a catchment of 100,000 lives. Swasth has serviced over 250,000+ customer visits and has reduced out of pocket expenditure on healthcare by over Rs. 43 million.

**Participant Profile: Garima Kapila** (Trustee and Chief Operations Officer)

Garima graduated from IIT Delhi in 2005, with a B. Tech in Computer Science & Engineering. She has worked with organizations such as McKinsey & Company's Social Sector Office setup in 2008. Garima moved on to join the core start-up team of 5 staff members during Teach For India's inception. In 2012, Garima joined Swasth, where she managed multiple verticals over the next 3 years Professional Development, HR, Supply Chain, Fund-raising – focusing on improving performance/productivity, institutionalizing systems/processes for scale and training staff to manage operations independently. Garima is currently pursuing a PG Diploma in Yoga Therapy, from S-VYASA, a deemed Yoga University, after having completed a Yoga Instructor's course in 2013.

### Swasti

**Organization Profile** ([website](#))



Swasti is a health resource centre established in 2002, registered in 2004, with a focus on achieving public health outcomes for those who are socially excluded and poor. Swasti is a niche service provider in the public health sector, delivering end-to-end solutions as well as short and long term support and facilitation, combining research and practice. Their mission is Empowering people and communities, particularly poor and marginalized, to make the right choices to lead healthy lives; through innovation, knowledge, technical support and policy shaping.

**Participant Profile: Joseph Julian K G** (Director)

With over 17 years of experience in the development sector (Public Health and in particular HIV), Julian has been working with range of stakeholders from grassroots to policy level in the South Asia/South East Asia, West African Region. He holds postgraduate degree in Social Work and English Literature, and has undertaken assignments for partners of NORAD, USAID, AUSAid and DFID, UN organizations (UNIFEM, UNAIDS, UNODC, UNDP, World Bank), Government machineries (National AIDS Control Organization - India, National Drug Control Boards – Sri Lanka and Nepal, State AIDS Control Organization – India, Railways-India, National Centre for AIDS and STD Control – Nepal, National AIDS/STD Program – Bangladesh, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) in Nigeria, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Kerala, India), DFID supported HIV prevention programs in India, GFATM programs, Save the Children UK - Bangladesh etc.

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## Organization Summaries



### SWAYAM

**Organization Profile** ([website](#))



Swayam is a Kolkata based feminist organisation committed to advancing women's rights and ending inequality and violence against women and girls, established in 1995. Swayam takes a multi-pronged approach to addressing these issues and works both at the curative and preventive levels. Swayam's holistic approach includes comprehensive and direct services for women facing violence, influencing public opinion and action through education and awareness; producing and sharing information and expertise; networking and advocating for socio-legal and policy level changes; and mobilizing women, men and youth in rural and urban communities to access rights and address violence against women.

**Participant Profile: Anuradha Kapoor** (Director)

Anuradha is an activist, trainer and consultant for women and human rights organizations, academic institutions and UN agencies and has also contributed to research and manuals addressing violence against women. She is actively involved in advocacy on women's rights and keenly advocated for the introduction of The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (2005). She has also contributed to numerous other legal and policy initiatives including the Civil Society Alternative Report for India to the CEDAW Committee in 2014. She is both an Ashoka Fellow and an Eisenhower Fellow and a member of the Civil Society Advisory Group for UN Women's Multi-Country Office for India, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

### Swayam Shikshan Prayog

**Organization Profile** ([website](#))



Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) was founded in 1989 in Mumbai, India as a development women's organization facilitating self-education activities and networks of women initially in relation to issues of livelihoods, credit, and access to and management of resources in rural Maharashtrian communities. With a long term vision of supporting a movement where women's groups in poor rural areas are able to socially transform their communities, SSP helps women become a critical mass through inter-village and larger federated associations that control information, assets and represent constituencies.

**Participant Profile: Upmanyu Patil** (Associate Director -Programs)

Upmanyu has led Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP)'s pioneering effort in rural energy starting with the partnership with BP energy leading to development of an advanced biofuel cook-stove and clean bio-fuel pellets, thereby reducing indoor pollution and improving women's health and productivity. He went on to co-create a similar clean energy product for the rural markets with Godrej, named Chotukool. Currently, he is the Project Director of USAID/India's wPOWER Program which has launched over 1,000 women entrepreneurs in Maharashtra and Bihar, he is also serving as Associate director -programs for SSP. His work has been recognized by the Sankalp - Global Cookstove Alliance Award for Innovation in Clean Cooking Solutions in 2013. He became a finalist for the 2014 International Ashden Awards.

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## Organization Summaries



### The Hunger Project

**Organization Profile** ([website](#))



The Hunger Projects (THP) work in India focuses on building and strengthening the leadership of elected women representatives in gram panchayats so that they are empowered to address issues of development, gender justice and social justice in their constituencies. THP builds upon the Government of India's commitment to strengthening grassroots democracy. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment in 1992 gave formal constitutional recognition to rural local self-governance units - Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs). It also reserved 33.3% seats for women in PRIs, which has increased to 50% in most States, thereby enabling more than a million women to become public office holders.

**Participant Profile: Ruchi Yadav** (Director - programs)

Ruchi has over 20 years of experience in the development sector and in advertising. She has worked on women's rights and human rights issues in South Asia and South East Asia. At THP, Ruchi oversees strategic management, program design, policy and operations. This includes engagement and dialogue with multiple stakeholders, including over 50 community based organizations across India. The communication, knowledge management, training, monitoring, evaluation and learning portfolio within THP is also supervised by her. Most recently Ruchi has been involved in the effort led by THP Global towards "Global Strategic Dialogues". She co-led an international team on the strategic group "Learning Organization" and was a member of the strategic group "Strategic Planning".

### Vacha Charitable Trust

**Organization Profile** ([website](#))



Vacha has been inspired by the women's movement. Starting as library and cultural center for women in 1987, it was established as Charitable Trust in 1990. From 1995 Vacha has strategically focused on adolescent girls. Vacha believes, its work is constructive and preventive to challenge low status of women. They engage with marginalized girls and boys in the second decade. Their work with girls includes coordinating 'learning community'. Vacha is active on issues related to gender and human rights through campaigns; and publishes materials for and about adolescent girls. It organizes seminars to address issues of girls and girlhoods in India.

**Participant Profile: Medhavinee Namjoshi** (Executive Director)

Medhavinee is Executive Director of Vacha Charitable Trust. She has 18 years of experience of working with adolescents and young people from diverse backgrounds such as tribal, rural, institutionalized and urban poor. She is an advocate of child and girls Rights and has published articles on issues concerning children. She has presented papers at Seminars including the IAWS- Indian Association of Women's Studies Conference and internationally at the 9th world Congress of the International Association of Adolescent Health in Malaysia and at the 6th Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive Sexual Health and Rights in Indonesia.

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## Organization Summaries



### Vatsalya

**Organization Profile** ([website](#))



Vatsalya is a resource center for health that strives to improve health and social development indicators with a specific focus on the upliftment of women and children. It achieves this through research, advocacy, program implementation, trainings and capacity building of Community Based Organizations (CBOs). Initially focused on preventing sex-selective abortion, it has broadened its focus to include other areas such as nutrition, child-rights protection, child survival, sanitation and implementing & monitoring government schemes such as Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and National Health Mission.

#### **Participant Profile: Dr. Neelam Singh (Founder)**

Dr. Neelam, a gynecologist by profession, has 20 years of experience and technical expertise in the development and public health sector. She also works on adolescent health issues from a human rights' perspective and experiments to create replicable models of change. She has served as a member of Central Supervisory Board. She is currently a member of the National Inspection and Monitoring Committee (NIMC). She serves as guest faculty at the National Judicial Academy (Bhopal) and has been taking regular gender sessions of Chief Judicial Magistrates (CJM), Senior Prosecuting officers (SPO) & civil judges. She has been awarded the Rani Laxmi Bai Award, 2016, the Dasra Girl Power Award, 2015, the 15th Rotary India Award 2006 and the Acharya Vinoba Bhave National Volunteer Award, 2001.

### Vrutti

**Organization Profile** ([website](#))



Vrutti is a Centre for Sustainable Livelihoods, enhancing people's well-being through knowledge, innovation and transformative actions. Our passion is to bring about solutions at a scale that eliminate inequities and marginalization, and create wealth for the marginalized. Towards this, we develop market-based models to reach scale. They emphasize on working across levels; They (a) design innovative solutions; (b) collaborate with partners to implement at a scale; (c) support development partners to improve their strategies and results; (d) generate evidence and share knowledge for adoption; and (e) make meaningful engagement for shaping policies for sustaining change.

#### **Participant Profile: Pramel Gupta (Chief Executive Officer)**

Over the last 19 years, Pramel has supported various development and research partners on agriculture based rural livelihoods, institutional development, sustainable agriculture and market linkages, Value chain development, participatory monitoring and evaluation in India and also in different countries of South Asia. He has more than a decade of experience working directly at the grassroots with community groups and poorest households/farmers for enterprise development and livelihoods promotion. His experiences are a. Designing, developing and implementing social entrepreneurship models that work across the agriculture commodity (Soya-bean, cotton, pulses, wheat, paddy etc.) value chains to increase profitability of small and marginal farmers through Agriculture Enterprise Facilitation Centre (AEFC). This idea was established under the NABARD rural innovation fund in Madhya Pradesh and was winner of prestigious WORLD BANK marketplace development Award 2013

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## Organization Summaries



### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Institute

**Organization Profile** ([website](#))



The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Institute in Kodaikanal, established during the year 2008, is a registered non-profit Technical, training, research and development organization dedicated to providing practical solutions to a wide range of water, sanitation, hygiene and environmental issues across South Asia particularly India. WASH Institute also has its branch offices at Patna, Bihar, Dindigul, Tamilnadu and New Delhi. WASH Institute activities are involved the following 4 verticals ; i) Technical assistance to National and State Govt., ii) training and capacity building (formal and non-formal), iii) Sanitation & FSM research and iv) direct implementation of projects.

#### **Participant Profile: Kalimuthu Arumugam Pillai (Program Director)**

Arumugam Kalimuthu has 27 years of experience in the development sector with a strong focus on water supply, sanitation and hygiene. Before joining WASH Institute, AK worked with Water For People, WaterAid India, WaterAid Nepal and Plan International (India). As a technical expert, AK is representing top level committees of Government of India namely SACOSAN-VI Planning Committee and Committee on Ganga Action Plan on Sanitation technology of Ministry of Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation (MoDWS) and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). Also, AK is part of Program Coordination Mechanism (PCM) of Global Sanitation Fund (GSF) and Eminent Jury member of FICCI Award on Sanitation and Water Digest Water Awards. AK has published several technical papers and guidebooks on water and sanitation. AK holds a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Coimbatore Institute of Technology, Bharatiar University, India, and a Master of Science degree in Water and Environmental Engineering, University of Surry, UK.

### QUEST Alliance

**Organization Profile** ([website](#))



QUEST Alliance is a not-for-profit trust that focuses on researched innovations in the field of education, employability and entrepreneurship with effective use of ICT tools. It develops learning materials, strategies & systems using self-learning interactive content, games & teacher training programs. It engages with educators, civil society, government and corporate organizations to demonstrate and enable scalable and replicable solutions.

#### **Participant Profile: Aakash Sethi (Executive Director)**

Aakash is the Executive Director at Quest Alliance. He got involved when the organization was an USAID project, contributing under the role of India Director of the International Youth Foundation. He then led Quest Alliance's take-over by an Indian trust fund. His prior experience ranges from founding India's first youth-led learning network on CSR to developing digital inclusion programs promoting education quality and youth employment in Microsoft's Istanbul's office. He is a board member of Science meets Dharma, an initiative from the Dalai Lama promoting the science education for Tibetan monks and Dalit Shakti Kendra, a residential vocational training center in Ahmedabad. He is an Asia Society fellow, and an Economics graduate from St. Xaviers College.

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## Organization Summaries



### 17000 ft Foundation

**Organization Profile** ([website](#))



17000 ft Foundation is a Not for Profit focused on improving lives of people living in remote mountainous hamlets that lie isolated and neglected due to harsh terrain. Their mission is to draw attention to these ancient communities, provide them with support and resources to lead better lives, thereby preserving their culture and slowing their desperate exodus to faraway cities. Their programs seek to improve education, empower youth and generate livelihood opportunities for its people. The Foundation's work today spans the entire geographical region of Ladakh, one of the toughest inhabited mountainous terrains of the world.

#### **Participant Profile: Sujata Sahu (Founder and Director)**

A techie by profession, Sujata worked for 12 years in Corporate IT in India and the U.S. before she decided to move back to India 2002. Over the next few years, Sujata held multiple roles working with children, as a facilitator, and as a teacher in one of India's leading private schools. She finally chose to work with children in remote and forgotten areas, after a particularly difficult solo trek in Ladakh. Sujata is the passion behind the Foundation, and the backbone behind 17000 ft's educational initiatives. When not teaching in remote schools in Ladakh, Sujata is travelling the country, carrying the story of the region and its people to the outside world, a crusader for the rights of forgotten tribes of remote Himalayan regions.

### Educate Girls

**Organization Profile** ([website](#))



Educate Girls systematically challenges structural, cultural and socio-economic barriers through a combination of community mobilization strategies and child-centric learning and teaching techniques. They improve the quality of education and school infrastructure by leveraging existing resources and empowering rural communities. They engage girl students, teachers, schools, communities and government officials within existing frameworks to create a sustainable, scalable and holistic platform in each village.

#### **Participant Profile: Zeeshan Sumrani (Senior Manager - Programs)**

Zeeshan's association with the development sector began as a volunteer teaching life skills through sports to marginalized and at-risk children. On realizing the immense happiness and fulfillment that the work offered, he chose to make a career in this sector. Presently, Zeeshan has more than 10 years work experience in the development sector in various capacities including program design, management M & E and training. With a Master of Business Administration in Social Entrepreneurship, he has worked with the Aga Khan Development Network, Times Foundation and the Magic Bus India Foundation. He has also been associated as a visiting faculty at the MBA courses of MMK College and Center for Management and Technical Education. He is also on the board of two non-profit organizations viz. Srujna and Darwesh and is helping them in strategic management and sustainability. Despite being involved in his intense professional commitments, Zeeshan continues to volunteer with various organizations both as a grassroots worker and as an adviser to keep the passion for making a difference alive in him.

# Dasra Social Impact Leadership Program Cohort III

## Organization Summaries



### The Gujarat State Women's Sewa Cooperative Federation Ltd



**Organization Profile** ([website](#))

The Gujarat State Women's Sewa Cooperative Federation Limited (GSWCF) has been working for and with women workers of the informal economy since 1992. Promoted by the Self Employed Women's Association, SEWA the GSWCF is committed to women's economic empowerment and self-reliance through their own cooperatives. Currently, the Federation has organized 2,90,000 women into 106 primary cooperatives categorized in six major groups; artisan, dairy, land-based, savings & credit, service & labor, and vendors, with an annual turnover of Rs 233 Crores. These cooperatives are used, managed and owned by women workers as shareholders and through democratically elected boards.

#### **Participant Profile: Shree Kant Kumar (Project Director)**

While working with the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA), Shree Kant has implemented different multi-stakeholders projects, including in the thematic areas of microfinance, micro insurance, livelihoods, health and child care and capacity-building in Gujarat and in African countries. He holds a MBA with specialization in rural marketing, microfinance and social businesses from Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM). His commitment to working with grass-root level social businesses led him from ICICI Prudential Life Insurance to the VimoSEWA, the first multi-state insurance cooperative in India, serving as its Chief Marketing Officer.