

Dasra Social Impact Leadership Program

Profiles of Organizations and Participants

1. Aangan

Organization profile



Aangan is a child protection organization that promotes safe communities for vulnerable children (*those exposed to isolation, violence, hazardous work, early marriage, trafficking and abuse*) through its work in state-run shelter homes and in communities. In state-run shelter homes, 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 adolescent girls and boys by mentoring them, 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 such as state departments of Women and Child Development, Juvenile Justice Boards and Child Welfare Committees.

Participant Profile (Suparna Gupta, Founder)

Suparna Gupta began Aangan in 2002, after a seven-year career in advertising agencies Ogilvy and Lowe. In Aangan’s early years, she drew heavily on this communication experience while negotiating a space for Aangan within extremely resistant state-run systems of institutional care for children – government-funded rescue homes/shelters that house rescued/trafficked/abandoned/abused children. As a result Aangan has raised state accountability and raised standards of care for these otherwise invisible children in over sixteen states across the country. From 2009, she has also designed interventions for parents, adolescent girls and boys in “high-risk” settings to reduce risks around child harm. Here too, the effort is to ensure that families/children in communities are able to raise state accountability and access protection services like the police or school. Suparna has received national and international recognition for her innovative work. She was awarded the Ashoka Fellowship (2009), Asia Society Young Leader (2010), Ford Foundation Mason Fellowship at Harvard Kennedy School (2012).

2. Antarang Foundation

Organization profile



Antarang Foundation works with economically vulnerable and socially excluded youth, equips them with core employability skills and connects them to employment or entrepreneurship opportunities in the organised sector. They encourage adolescents and young adults in the impressionable 16 to 22 year age group to become self-reliant. Antarang aims to achieve this by training, mentoring, supporting and guiding them through practical modules and relevant experiences. Antarang’s modules cover facets of Life Skills, Career Awareness, Work Ethics and Job Readiness skills. Through this process Antarang hopes to enable thoughtful decision-making to foster positive social change.

Participant Profile (Priya Agrawal, Founder)

Priya Agrawal set up Antarang in response to the growing divide between education and employment, especially for vulnerable and invisible youth. After spending 10+ years in the advertising industry, she moved to the social sector in 2002 with The Akanksha Foundation, where she was the General Manager, responsible for the day to day operations of the organisation and spearheaded the launch of several initiatives like the Public Private Partnership with the BMC, the Learning to Lead Program and the Social Leadership Program which gave focus and definition to Akanksha's offerings. Subsequently, she moved to SNEHA as the COO, overseeing the scaling up, growth and impact focussed strategies of the organisation. At SNEHA, she was instrumental in launching the largest pilot in the country to combat childhood malnutrition. Priya has also been a Senior Advisor at the Aangan Trust and is currently a consultant with the Centre for the Advancement of Philanthropy and is a Trustee on the board of the Chehak Trust.

3. Apnalaya



Organization profile

Apnalaya is a community based development NGO that works with some of the most disenfranchised people in Mumbai, facilitating the creation of self-sustaining communities. Working towards accessing their basic human rights and improving their abysmal living conditions, Apnalaya focuses on women in the community as agents of social change. They run health programs with the objectives of increasing institutional deliveries in hospitals for mothers, thereby ensuring safe childbirth and child health care in the community, bringing down the prevalence of child malnutrition, and providing preventive and promotive health and related services, with eventual ownership of these services by the government.

Participant Profile (Dr Aparna Santhanam, Secretary)

Dr. Aparna Santhanam (MD, DNB) is a well-known dermatologist, cosmetologist and hair and wellness expert working in the field of beauty, health and women's wellness for more than fifteen years. She has held a vast repertoire of varied roles, working in the field of health & dermatology in the academic world, private consulting clinical practice for more than a decade, as well as in the Industry with various pharmaceutical, skin care companies and wellness as a strategic consultant across south East Asia. She is the author of two best-selling books "SKIN DEEP" and "let's Talk Hair", published by Harper Collins. She is currently working on a book on health of women in the 35 plus age group. Inclusive development is a passion for Dr.Santhanam and she has worked with multiple NGOs like FRCH, BLP and Apnalaya in varied roles over the last 15 years in Mumbai. She was on the managing committee of Bombay Leprosy project for a number of years and is currently the secretary of Apnalaya, a community based NGO, working on self-sustainable development in the poorest slums of not just Mumbai, but arguably the world on a number of development issues, including health and women's empowerment.



4. Atma

Organization profile

Atma provides intensive support to education non-profits and social enterprises, helping them solve their daily operational challenges and plan for their future growth. Organizations that are recruited into the Atma Accelerator program receive hands-on guidance and expertise in both management and education delivery. Atma's support enables them to become sustainable, scalable and high impact organizations.

Participant Profile (Mary Ellen Matsui, Executive Director)

Mary Ellen Matsui has worked in education reform in India for the last 6 years. After leaving her native Canada and spending a year working across multiple government school reform programs, Mary Ellen joined Atma as the co-founder in 2008. As Executive Director she has driven Atma's mission to build the capacity of education non-profits and social enterprises with stellar results. With Mary Ellen's big vision and hands on attitude at the helm, Atma tripled its portfolio from 6 to 18 organisations.

5. Aura Herbal Textiles LTD



Organization profile

Aura finds alternative solutions to the existing toxic chemical dyes & process. Through their innovative process of producing herbal process on textiles and dyes, using medicinally rich herbs, plants & natural ingredients, they want their business to help in impeding pollution and harm caused by regularly dyed chemical textiles. Aura Herbal has a wide range of herbal dyed organic cotton textiles & clothing to choose from and thereby promote a healthier lifestyle. They aim to provide the community with a more toxic free alternative for all garments, starting from textiles, intimate wear to shirts, baby wear and t-shirts to towels.

Participant Profile (Sonal Baid, Founder – Director)

The company was co-founded by Sonal & Arun in Ahmedabad for the sheer passion for the environment & the zeal to find solutions to protect the same. No formal training in this sector was undertaken. However the enthusiasm to learn & find different ways to express & deal with normal day to day working Sonal has been attending seminars, conferences & short courses in AMA to find ways to deal with day to day working challenges. Sonal has been invited multiple times to NIFT Gandhinagar & EDI Gandhinagar as a jury member & external speaker on sustainability & textiles. She undertakes various workshops with students & community to raise awareness on sustainable lifestyle, sustainable textiles, natural dyeing etc. As a part of her personal initiative & interests on collaborating Aura with NGO womens groups , handicap womens groups like Gramshree , craftroots , Apang Manav mandal , Andh Jan Mandal to train & impart livelihood skills & mentoring & projects to the beneficiaries.

6. Barrier Break



Organization profile

BarrierBreak has been set up with a single vision to 'break the barriers of knowledge and disabilities'. They create awareness, work towards advocacy, provide training, provide accessibility solutions and also have brought assistive technology to India. BarrierBreak provides equal opportunity to diverse groups including persons with disabilities. 75% of their staff includes persons with disabilities. BarrierBreak works with nonprofit organizations, governments, associations and corporates to create an eco-system that is conducive to empower people with disabilities and work towards bridging the road map for an inclusive society. The accessibility services that BarrierBreak offers includes accessibility testing of websites and mobile applications, conversion of documents like textbooks into digital talking books and accessible videos that provide sign language, audio description and captions. They also offer a wide range of assistive technology products that cater to the needs of people with different types of disabilities- visual impairment, hearing impairment, mobility impairment or learning impairment.

Participant Profile (Shilpi Kapoor, Director)

Shilpi Kapoor is the founder director of BarrierBreak, a brand of Net Systems Informatics (I) Pvt Ltd. With an industry experience of 18 years she has been the protagonist in bringing about revolutionary changes in the lives of people with disabilities through her innovative ideas and initiatives. Shilpi Kapoor is also the recipient of "NCPEDP - Shell Helen Keller Award 2008" for the role model category - Non-disabled role model supporter of increased employment opportunities for people with disabilities. Shilpi Kapoor is also an Ashoka Fellow. Shilpi Kapoor has been instrumental in drafting the National Policy on Electronic Accessibility in association with National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People External Website. The objective of the policy is to provide persons with disabilities equal access to electronic and information and communication technology and services. An active member of NASSCOM Disability Advisory Group and a co-convenor of the National Task Force for Electronic Accessibility. Also being a woman entrepreneur, she believes in giving back promoting women entrepreneurship by working with TiE Mumbai and TiE Stree Shakti.

7. Bella Health



Organization profile

Bella Health is an NGO in India that aims to empower women to increase their ability to make informed family planning and reproductive health choices. Bella Health Care provides health care services that address maternal, child and reproductive health and enhance the health and quality of the life of the women, girls and adolescents in their target areas.

Participant Profile (Colette Smith, Vice President)

Colette Smith has her Masters in Public Health, from Beirut, Lebanon. She has been with BH and living in India for the past 3 years. Colette was instrumental in setting up the infrastructure of BH, conducted stakeholder analysis, attracted and retained a dedicated and qualified team, devised an

elaborate system of monitoring and evaluation and has ensured the program has provided direct health care services to over 50,000 beneficiaries in only 2 years. She is an experienced health care professional, who worked over 10 years in hospitals in the United States, before re-orienting her careers towards Public Health with a specific interest in women's health. She is dedicated to empowering women and is the leading force behind Bella health.

8. Chintan Environmental Research and Action Group



Organization profile

India's growth comes at a price –rising mountains of trash. Yet, across India, waste pickers reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save lakhs of rupees by salvaging trash. Chintan organizes these waste pickers and works with their association, Safai Sena, to enable them to provide professional waste handling services. Chintan has empowered many women and adolescent girls by helping them secure livelihoods. They do capacity building for green jobs for the informal sector, include the urban poor in policy making, research and advocacy on issues of environmental justice and environmental governance, helping adolescents working in recycling to phase out and go to school.

Participant profile (Bharati Chaturvedi, Founder)

Bharati Chaturvedi is a writer and environmentalist, and founder of an India based non-profit, Chintan. Bharati serves on various government committees for policy making. She writes a column for the Hindustan Times, 'Greenpiece'. She has co-directed a number of documentary films on sustainability issues. She has a Masters degree in History from Delhi University and a Masters in International Public Policy from the School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University. She is the editor of 'Finding Delhi: Loss and Renewal in the Megacity,' published by Penguin India (October 2010). Bharati is the recipient of the prestigious 2009 Johns Hopkins Alumni "Knowledge for the World Award". She has previously received the LEAD fellowship and is a fellow at the Synergos Institute, New York.

9. Digital Green



Organization profile

Digital Green is a non-profit international development organization that uses an innovative digital platform for community engagement to improve livelihoods of rural communities across the globe. They partner with local public, private and civil society organizations to share knowledge on maternal and reproductive health, nutrition, improved agricultural practices, and livelihoods. Using locally produced videos and human mediated dissemination they educate new mothers and their families on reproductive health, maternal and new born child health and nutrition requirements, both for the mother and the infant.

Participant Profile (Lakshmi Iyer, Secretary)

Lakshmi began her work experience with the US Department of Agriculture Cochran Fellowship Program. In 2004, she moved to India to design development focused programs. After spending two years working in rural India, she realized that agricultural development was what she wanted to focus on. She moved to Ithaca, NY and obtained an MPS from Cornell University in International Agriculture and Rural Development, where she focused on agricultural extension. After working with the organization CNFA in Washington, DC focusing on large-scale, agriculture value-chain and input supply-focused projects in Georgia and Kosovo, Lakshmi moved to Delhi, India to work with Digital Green.

10. Dimagi



Organization profile

Dimagi has been focused on improving people's lives through the health sector and that has remained their primary goal. They provide specialized health care informatics consulting services to commercial, academic and government organizations worldwide. Dimagi has spent considerable time consulting on mobile health systems for a range of applications. Some of these include systems for community health workers to manage HIV care and safe pregnancy, health education programs, logistics management tools, and medication reminders. The company designs clinical interfaces, health information systems, and mobile technologies to perform patient-level disease management, clinical decision support, and health system monitoring. It also offers consulting services on implementation and maintenance of open-source information and technology.

Participant profile (Devika Sarin, Partnerships and Development Manager)

Devika is driven by an interest in understanding international development at the grassroots level and the role of technology in bringing about change. At Dimagi, she started as a Field Manager designing and deploying mobile health tools for community health workers in rural India. She now leads Partner relationships and Business Development for Dimagi in Asia, working with a wide range of NGOs, foundations and government organizations to devise technology solutions for front line workers. Prior to joining Dimagi, Devika worked in financial and economic consulting at National Economic Research Associates (NERA)/Oliver Wyman Group in New York, USA. In addition to working in finance, she also has a wide range of past work experiences which include research on effective team leadership at Harvard University, co-founding Roshni, a non-profit to fund scholarships for underprivileged girls, and fundraising & business development for two Indian NGOs. Devika studied at Franklin & Marshall College & Oxford University and has a double major in Business and Psychology, along with a minor in Computer Science.

11. Eco Femme



Organization profile

Eco Femme is a global women's empowerment initiative. Rising from rural India and reaching out to women around the world, they promote and revitalise menstrual practices that are healthy, dignified, affordable and eco-positive. They address this normally secretive subject by encouraging girls and women to talk together about menstruation. In the safety of small groups, they learn about the importance of hygienic practices and begin to accept and develop a healthier view of themselves through the process of exploring the myths and taboos that surround menstruation in India. The Eco Femme project also provides a livelihood opportunity - women learn to stitch washable cloth pads which provide an inexpensive, non-polluting alternative to disposable pads which are heavily polluting and rapidly gaining acceptance across India.

Participant profile (Kathy Walkling, Founder)

Originally from Australia, Kathy Walkling became a permanent resident of Auroville in 1997 – an emerging international township in South India. Coming from a western culture yet living among rural Indian communities, she developed a keen interest in gender issues, integral rural development and ecology. In 2006, she started a community centre in a neighbouring village of Auroville called Thamarai which gave her her first taste of actual work in rural India. In 2008 she began work with Auroville Village Action Group – a grassroots NGO working with about 4000 women in self-help groups for community and economic development. Here, she became aware of the challenges that rural India is facing for sustainable development and gender equity in a much more nuanced way. She developed an interest in social enterprise as a potentially powerful vehicle for achieving improved economic development for rural women while contributing with social and environmental solutions to real problems. This led to the research and design of the Eco Femme project. Eco Femme is entering its 4th year of operations and brings together her passion for systems approaches to social change, co-creative partnerships, women's empowerment and environmental sustainability.

12. Educate Girls



Organization profile

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 (Parvez Kotadia, Head- Finance and IT)

With over a decade of experience in the development sector, Parvez has expertise in strategic planning & management, financial & management accounting, developing & implementing control

mechanisms, Government and external liaison and introducing CSR programme. He has worked with various organisations such as Aga Khan Education Service, India, Aga Khan Social Welfare Board for India, Society of Chemical Industry (SCI-UK) and Society of Dyers & Colourists (SDC-UK) gaining widespread experience on financial and operational management. A volunteer since age 11, Parvez has been associated with various education and community development projects in addition to his continued association with scouting & guiding movement. As part of Sr. Management he is currently heading the Finance and IT departments for Educate Girls which is working on girls' education in critical gender gap districts in India.

13. Frontier Markets

Organization profile



Frontier Markets' philosophy is that each and every household deserves access to goods and services that will enhance their health, wealth, and productivity. They are a for-profit business with a social mission: to eradicate deadly killers like kerosene and ensure a more energy-equitable future for millions of BOP households. Frontier Markets offers best in class solar technology solutions and deployment methods to meet the needs of organizations. They focus on commercial viability and after sales service to ensure investments meet expectations. Frontier Markets' create last mile solar retail points, have 135+ active retail points and have sold over 20,000 solar solutions.

Participant profile (Ajaita Shah, Founder / CEO)

Ajaita is the Founder/CEO of Frontier Markets and the President of Frontier Innovations Foundation. Frontier Markets is a rural marketing, sales, and service distribution company providing access to affordable and quality solar solutions to low-income households in India. She has been working in India for 10 years in microfinance and clean energy distribution. She is a 2006 Clinton Service Corp Fellow, 2012 Echoing Green Fellow, 2013/2014 Cordes Fellow, has been awarded the most influential award in Microfinance for people under 30, and Business Week's 30 under 30 award, and most recently, Forbes Magazine's Top 30 Under 30's Social Entrepreneur of the Year. She has been an active educator, collaborator, and catalyst in helping scale clean energy access globally. She is an active member of the UN Practitioner's Network, Asian Development Bank's Energy For All Partnership. Ajaita Shah holds her B.A. in International Relations from Tufts University.

14. Gramvaani

Organization profile



Gram Vaani [meaning 'voice of the village'] is a social tech company based at IIT-Delhi. Through rural radio stations, they run different information campaigns on issues such as stopping violence against women, gender equality, HIV/AIDS, water conservation etc. Mobile Vaani is their answer to building a social media platform for rural areas. Their flagship deployment in Jharkhand now has over 100,000 users that call over 2000 times per day, and discuss wide ranging issues on culture, local updates and announcements, government schemes, and information sharing.

Participant profile (Dasami Moodley, Vice President Marketing)

Dasami Moodley's role is to grow Mobile Vaani's network through partnerships and effective marketing techniques. Previously to working with Gram Vaani, Dasami was employee number five at the Google Ventures backed company InVenture, a mobile-based money management and accounting service targeted to the unbanked. Dasami served as the operations and business development lead in India, and helped the business scale from 100 to 17,500 users in just eighteen months. She was also heavily involved in InVenture's expansion into Kenya and South Africa. Dasami's expertise is in behavioural science and marketing to the rural poor and has developed a quantitative marketing methodology, which has been tested across several early stage start-ups. Other than building tech start-ups geared toward the hard to reach, Dasami has founded a co-working space for artists and entrepreneurs in Bandra, is the founder of a "self confidence" fellowship program for youth in low income schools, serves as a strategic advisor to Mumbai's first pop-up restaurant and Atma - an education focused NGO in Mumbai. Dasami holds a BA in Psychology from McGill University.

15. iMerit



Organization profile

In India, there are 75 million under and unemployed rural youth; of the population that has found work, over 80% participate in the informal sector without a guaranteed salary or benefits. iMerit was created with the vision of bringing the power of the Internet economy to rural youth and women to create jobs, build sustainable livelihoods, and empower marginalized communities. Combining technology innovations and strong account management, its beneficiaries become its employees delivering high quality IT services such as Digital Publishing, Data Analytics, and Application testing to global clients including multinational corporations, libraries, academic institutions, major non-profits, and start-ups among others.

Participant profile (Joydeep Mukherji, Group Chief Financial Officer and VP-Operations & HR)

Joydeep Mukherji has over 27 years' senior leadership experience across industries, geographies and roles. Joy has been part of Financial Services, Automotive, Consulting and Engineering industries in Germany, US, Russia, Korea, India and the Middle East. After working internationally with Siemens, Coopers&Lybrand, AutoNation USA and General Motors, Joy returned to India, where he has worked with American Express, MetLife Insurance and HSBC Life as Chief Financial Officer. Joy leads all Finance, Treasury, Planning, Accounting, Operations, HR and other corporate functions across iMerit and Anudip Foundation. Joydeep is a Chartered Accountant from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and has a First Class Bachelor's degree in Commerce from St. Xavier's College. He has completed a number of Executive Leadership Management Programmes at INSEAD, France.



16. Industree Crafts

Organization profile

INDUSTREE FOUNDATION with INDUSTREE SKILLS TRANSFORM PVT LTD a hybrid organization, seeks to build an enabling ecosystem for Producer Owned Creative Manufacturing Enterprises, by incubating enterprises, to connect to markets, access capital, upgrade skill and capacity with new technology and product design. Industree Foundation organizes artisans into producer enterprises, aggregated into Producer companies, handholds them while ISTPL, provides Skill, entrepreneurial and leadership training, along with lean manufacturing and design skills, to ensure that capacity and capability meet market needs. Industree Crafts with its brand Mother Earth is one of the market channels these producer companies can use to reach end customers. Industree Foundation seeks to build the next 2% of India's share in the Global Market of Creative Manufacturing, through ethical supply chains.

Participant profile (Jacob Mathew, CEO)

Jacob was trained as a product designer at India's National Institute of Design. Jacob is co-founder of Idiom Design and Consulting Ltd one of India's largest design consulting firms. At Idiom Jacob also established the Design for Social Change initiative. Jacob was a founding partner of Tessaract Design, which later merged with Esign to form Idiom. Jacob with Tessaract and Idiom architected many of the major concepts in organized retail business in India, including Big Bazaar, Central, Hometown, Pantaloons, Levi's, Adidas, Weekender etc. While at Tessaract, Jacob co-founded Dovetail Furniture one of the leading retail fixture and contract furniture manufacturers in India. Jacob is Co-Founder with Paul Polak, of Spring Health Water India Pvt Ltd, a company that uses a radically decentralized model to distribute safe drinking water in small rural communities in Eastern India and seeks to design and build income-raising businesses by stimulating entrepreneurial activities among low-income populations to deliver products/services that meet critical needs. Jacob led Spring Health for a little over 2 years as its CEO, is now Executive Board Member. Jacob has worked closely with Industree Crafts and its customer facing brand Mother Earth, and currently heads its Foundation and Skill training company. Jacob enjoys working at the cusp of Design Intelligence, Business design, technology and Capital and to this end is setting up a Lab, Incubator Accelerator for early stage Impact Businesses.

17. Intellecap

Organization profile



Intellecap is a pioneer in providing innovative business solutions that help build and scale profitable and sustainable enterprises dedicated to social and environmental change. Their unique positioning at the intersection of social and commercial business sectors allows them to attract and nurture intellectual capital that combines the business training of the commercial world with the passion and commitment of the social world to shape distinctive solutions.

Participant profile (Atreya Rayaprolu, Director – Investment Banking)

Atreya has more than 15 years of experience in handling strategy consulting engagements, financial structuring and investment facilitation in various sectors. He leads the Investment Banking Services at Intellecap and manages a team that has intermediated over USD 200 Mn into businesses in India. Atreya has personally led engagements related to raising equity capital with various entities in different sectors and across different stages of their growth cycles like BASIX, Bandhan, Equitas and Green Building India Systems and Solutions. He also conceptualized and led the first ever consolidation in the Microfinance Sector in what is now regarded as a landmark transaction for the sector - the acquisition of Arohan by Intellecash in 2012. Before Intellecap, Atreya was associated with the ICICI Bank as a Senior Manager in the International Banking Group where he focused on designing and setting up offshore fund structures and processes. He did his graduation at the Indian Institute of Technology in Delhi, and his post-graduation at the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad.

18. LAHI

Organization profile



Lend-A-Hand India's program integrates job and life skills training in existing school curricula to make high school education more practical and relevant. The multi-skill vocational education program provides students with hands-on experience in subjects such as electrical wiring, welding, agriculture, animal husbandry, etc. ensuring that they develop problem solving, teamwork and entrepreneurial skills. The program is delivered by local trade practitioners who teach their trade at rural high schools for one day a week over three years. Over the past seven years, Lend-A-Hand India's program has successfully decreased drop-out rates in government aided high schools, increased enrolment in technical education and enabled its students to start their own micro-enterprise.

Participant profile (Raj Gilda, Co-Founder)

Raj is Co-Founder of Lend A Hand India, an NGO engaged in integrating vocational training as part of mainstream secondary school education since 2004 working with over 13,000 young boys and girls from rural India. Having started his career selling life insurance while studying Engineering, Raj moved on to work across three continents to work in marketing, finance and information technology with Citibank and Deloitte Consulting in New York, British Telecom in Belfast, and National Stock Exchange and IL&FS in Mumbai.

Raj is member of National Skill Development Agency (NSDA) appointed by Government of India and an advisor to the Government of Maharashtra for vocational education apart from being member of various state committees regarding vocational education. He was selected by the UK Government, as a "Chevening Gurukul Scholar" at The London School of Economics and a member of the "India-UK Young Leaders Forum" and "Commonwealth Study Conference" hosted by HRH Duke of Edinburgh. He was also recognized as a top 100 alumni of University of Texas at Austin and has received an award for exceptional community service from the President of the United States. An Electronics Engineer from University of Pune, CFA, and MBA from University of Texas at Austin, Raj is an avid marathon runner.

19. Learning Links



Organization profile

Learning Links Foundation (LLF), is a not for profit organization, working in the field of formal and non-formal education, dedicated to improving learning levels, promoting innovation, fostering 21st century skills and enabling systemic changes in the ecosystem. LLF works with partners from private, public and not for profit sectors to identify opportunities, address challenges and transform the education landscape. Learning Links Foundation believes that quality education is a basic human right and a public imperative, and with this belief, over the last 15 years it has been advocating strengthening school systems and learning environments. Its work in schools and with teachers focuses on the one most important beneficiary of the education ecosystem - the learner. It works extensively with the ecosystem to help adolescents, both girls and boys to stay in school by providing relevant learning opportunities and reach his or her greatest potential.

Participant profile (Agnes Nathan, Senior Vice President)

Agnes Nathan is responsible for managing and growing the Foundation's Capacity Building and Content Portfolio. Her role as a 'change leader' predominates other areas of her responsibility and focuses on supporting and accelerating the growth and development of competencies in the key domains (Education, Community Development and Social Innovation) while ensuring all practices followed in doing so align with the organizational mission of 'Empowering Lives' and are governed by the Foundation's Code of Ethics. Agnes has extensive experience in curriculum design and delivery across diverse requirements, segments and geographies. As a key pillar of LLF, she works with teams to ensure quality in delivery for all content and capacity building initiatives. She has widespread understanding of various curriculum development strategies and delivery methods. With her team at LLF, she has successfully led a wide variety of content development, localization, adaptation and translation projects (in 32+ languages) for renowned institutions and government bodies within India as well as across the world to help them make a significant move towards an enhanced and effective system of imparting education. Her expertise includes enabling educators to achieve extraordinary results and guiding domestic and global partners achieve transformational success.

20. Magic Bus



Organization profile

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 (Pratik Kumar, CEO)

Pratik Kumar has a career spanning over 24 years in the UN, International NGOs, Indian Government and the private sector. He has extensive experience of managing large scale programmes in a leadership role. He has worked in the Indian government as a civil servant at national and state levels. He has also worked with bilateral donors, UN agencies, international NGOs, corporate industry and foundations, print and electronic media. He has engaged closely with hundreds of NGOs at management level and at the grassroots. He has vast experience of NGO appraisal, capacity building, monitoring and evaluation etc. and conducted several multi-media communication campaigns on social issues. He has developed policies and led advocacy efforts on various issues and has extensive experience in the areas of Health, Education, Gender, Leadership and Livelihood. He now strongly believes that sport and activity based learning techniques have the power to change lives. At Magic Bus he is on a mission to take a million children and youth out of poverty.

21. Make A Difference



Organization profile

Make A Difference's mission is to ensure the most vulnerable children in society are able to realize equitable outcomes by empowering children and enabling institutions. They provide family-like care to children living in orphanages and street shelters. Their goal is to ensure that every child has a caring adult in her life especially during the adolescent phase of her life, which is the most vulnerable age. Make a Difference also helps the adolescent both girls and boys discover their true strengths and unleash their full potential by connecting them to volunteers who mentor and guide them through this tender age.

Participant profile (Jithin C Nedumala, CEO and Co-founder)

Jithin C Nedumala is the CEO and Co-founder of MAD (Make a Difference). MAD employs 3000 high potential college students from the top colleges in the country to deliver high impact family support at substantially lower costs to children living in orphanages and street shelters.

Founded in 2006, today MAD reaches out to 5000 children in 23 cities in India. Mr. Nedumala believes that the most important support that a child in a shelter home needs is a family and if the community comes together, we would be able to provide every child a family they can fall back on.

Mr. Nedumala has spoken on this topic in many forums including Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Indian Institute of Management Bangalore, Indian School of Business and Multiple Tedxs. Mr Nedumala is one of the few social entrepreneurs personally supported by Michelle Obama through her International Youth Engagement Program and was one of the contenders for the Forbes India 30 under 30 list. Before the age of 24, Mr. Nedumala has been awarded the Ashoka Global Youth Social Entrepreneur award, Karmaveer Puraskar, Cordes Fellowship, Dasra peer grant and Youth Actionnet Fellowship for his contribution to society.

22. Masoom

Organization profile



Masoom is an NGO with a passion for establishing quality education in night schools with a focus on the youth, to encourage them to learn while they earn. Most of their students are adolescents and young people who work during the day to support their families, but still nurture a thirst for learning. The Night School Transformation Program is specifically tailored to improve academic performance as well the standard of living of students, including providing opportunities for higher studies and better employment after graduation. Masoom grades a school on various parameters and after grading a school works closely with the school to upgrade it to the next level. The school transformation program includes programs focusing on adolescent girls with the key objective to make the girls aware about health and hygiene, sanitation, safety and types of touches. Sessions are also done on sexual awareness to help these adolescents understand their own body. Masoom also offers interest mapping and career counselling sessions for students.

Participant profile (Nikita Ketkar, CEO and Founder)

Nikita Ketkar is the founder and CEO of Masoom. She has been a passionate guide and mentor for the fledgling NGO that has chosen to tread a different path by focusing on the night schools of Mumbai. Nikita worked in different capacities before qualifying for the prestigious Union public Services commission. After spending over 3 years in various administrative positions in DRDO, Air headquarters and NCC directorate, Nikita felt the urge to do something beyond and left the service to work for various NGOs. While working on a social project she came across night schools accidentally and eventually started Masoom in 2008 an organization focused on improving the night schools. Nikita has been conferred with awards by several forums for her work and social impact on the society.

23. MHT

Organization profile



MHT is an autonomous organization promoted by the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA). Founded with the mission of building sound housing and living environments for poor women in the informal sector, MHT's programs address basic civic and housing infrastructure needs, including water, sanitation, drainage, solid waste management, roads, electricity/energy, low-income housing and secured land tenure. MHT facilitates access to information and financial, legal and technical services in housing, water and sanitation, and energy sectors with a focus on improving the quality of lives and livelihoods of poor women. Their work in providing basic water and sanitation, building toilets has a lasting impact in increasing the economic productivity, improving health, and improving overall quality of life of adolescent girls and young women.

Participant profile (Dharmistha Chauhan)

Dharmistha is an economist by training with 13 years of experience in the development field. She works as a programme director for the Sanklit SEWA (Integrated Services) programme in Tapi district

of South Gujarat. She is also supporting Mahila Housing Trust for developing the sustainability plan of the organization. She specialized in promotion of sustainable livelihoods with special focus on agriculture, water, energy and enterprise promotion. Her work has involved linking informal sector workers for skill enhancement; credit provision and market linkages to realize better incomes and assets. She is focused particularly on expanding opportunities for women, tribal and other marginalized communities. She has worked extensively in the States of Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Nagaland. She has worked at grassroot level with Non-Government Organizations like Gramin Vikas Trust, Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (India), Naandi Foundation, Fair Trade Companies like Zameen Organics. She has also worked as a consultant on Gender and Climate Change to the Government of Gujarat and as a UN Women Consultant on Gender Budgeting with the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India. Herein she was involved in the twelfth five year plan process as also for the development of gender budgeting and gender audit guidelines. She speaks regularly at national and international conferences on gender and livelihood issues.

24. Muktangana

Organization profile



Muktangan is an innovative model of education located within mainstream Government schools providing quality, child-centred, inclusive English-medium schooling to thousands of underprivileged children in Mumbai. Started in response to the challenges inherent in the Indian education system, its community-based methodology has demonstrated results over last 10 years in seven English-medium Municipal schools in Mumbai. Muktangan teachers come from the same communities as the students, and therefore act as motivated change agents for their local communities. The slum women are provided with one year of comprehensive pre-service training and regular in-service training for their continuous development to become effective educators.

Participant profile (Vineeth Iyer, Manager-Partnerships and Strategic Initiatives)

Vineeth is a postgraduate in HRM from Pune University. He has been associated in leadership positions with top organizations like Capgemini, Ingersoll Rand and Exide Technologies before plunging into the social development vertical in early 2013. Vineeth is extremely passionate about communities that develop swarm intelligence to find sustainable solutions and is keen to spend a major part of his life working with and creating such ecosystems.

25. Naz Foundation

Organization profile



Naz has been working on HIV/AIDS and sexual health since 1994; it works to prevent spread of the disease, provides support to people living with the infection and their families, and engages in advocacy initiatives. Naz also provides training and capacity building support to organizations on integrating HIV related modules within their programs. Over 12 years of work, Naz identified 'young women' as the most vulnerable group in the fight against HIV/AIDS. In 2006, the Goal program, a sports based initiative focusing on life skills and leadership building, was started to empower

adolescent girls (12 – 20 years). Topics range from sexual health and gender-based violence to effective communication and financial literacy.

Participant profile (Kalyani Subramaniyam, Founder)

Kalyani has been working with Naz for the last 11 years. She began her career with Naz as the Chief Operating Officer for all programs. She was instrumental in helping initiate the Goal program in 2006 and since then has been involved full-time with the development of Goal.

26. Rural Education And Development (Read) India



Organization profile

READ believes empowering rural communities is critical to alleviating global poverty. READ's proven and replicable model focuses on Community Library and Resource Centers (READ Centers) as a vehicle for social and economic transformation. READ Centers provide a powerful platform to empower adolescent girls, women and other marginalized groups - they are often the only safe space in a community to gather, learn and advocate. READ Centers offer a dedicated space, specialized educational resources, and programming for women and girls. Organized self-help groups and savings cooperatives give adolescents girls and women stronger positions in their communities. Health services are also available, including check-ups, awareness programs, and counseling on HIV/AIDS and family planning.

Participant profile (Geeta Malhotra, Country Director)

Ms Geeta Malhotra has been working in the development sector from the last more than 25 years, having extensive experience in research, advocacy and communications in health and development. She has been a member of the Senior Management Team in the Organisations she has been serving in the recent past and heading various programmes related to promoting and using ICTs for localizing MDGs at the grassroots level and advocating the related issues at the policy level. She has also been responsible for Research and Impact Studies being carried out for the Action-Oriented Development programmes. She is double Post Graduate in Sociology and Population Studies and is currently pursuing her PhD in Women's Empowerment vis-à-vis Reproductive and Child Health. She is presently the Country Director of Rural Education and Development (READ) India. Earlier, she has been working with OneWorld South Asia, since 2005 as Head, ICT Advocacy, Grassroots Communications and Capacity Building. Earlier, she was with Population Foundation of India, working in the field of Health, Population and Environment.

27. Safe Harvest Private Limited (SHPL)



Organization profile

Safe Harvest believes in the idea that consumers would be willing to pay a modest premium for widely available, guaranteed safe food produced by India's poorest farmers, which is a win-win situation for both consumers and producers. By connecting farmers to mainstream outlets, they

offer consumers a range of affordable, healthy and pesticide-free foods. SHPL has raised income levels of small and marginal farmers by 15-20%. By promoting pesticide free agriculture, SHPL offers solutions to the serious problem of chemical pollution of the environment.

Participant profile (Neju George Abraham, Chief operating Officer)

Neju George Abraham has over 15 years of experience working with the grassroots producers and building social businesses working across financing, production, business development and management. As the head of Industree Foundation, part of the hybrid social enterprise Mother Earth, he led efforts in 11 states by creating bottom of the pyramid enterprises servicing over 22000 families in the traditional creative industries space. During this time Industree won several accolades including the Peer Grant Award for Non-Profits at Dasra Social Impact Cohort (2011), the India Development Market Place 2011 Competition of the World Bank for empowering Producer Owned Business enterprises. He was instrumental in setting up the Global Natural Fibre Forum an initiative of the Commonwealth Secretariat UK with membership from 53 countries in 5 continents promoting the interests of small producers in the natural fibre industry. As lead consultant and manager of the GNFF International secretariat he worked with several countries in the global south setting up and developing their natural fibre industries. He has lived and worked in some of the most backward villages of India working on rights based issues, development and management of natural resource based enterprises, watershed management and sustainable agriculture. In the wake of the disastrous tsunami of 2004, he spent 2 years towards restoring livelihoods of coastal communities in 18 districts in South India.

28. SNEHA

Organization profile



A secular, Mumbai - based non - profit organisation, SNEHA believes that investing in women's health is essential to building viable urban communities. SNEHA targets four large public health areas - Maternal and Newborn Health, Child Health and Nutrition, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Prevention of Violence against Women and Children. It recognises that in order to improve urban health standards, its initiatives must target both care seekers and care providers. It works at the community level to empower slum communities to be catalysts of change in their own right, and collaborates with existing public health systems and health care providers to create sustainable improvements in urban health.

Participant profile (Vanessa D'Souza, CEO)

Vanessa holds a graduate degree in Economics (Hons) and a Master's degree in Business Administration (Marketing). She attended an Executive Development Program on Leadership and Strategy at Stanford University, sponsored by Citibank. She has worked with Citibank India for 21 years across different divisions viz consumer, corporate and private banking. In her last position she worked as Director - Citigroup Private Bank.

She took a sabbatical and in that period she volunteered with SNEHA for two years assisting with fund raising and building the Livelihood generation program. Thereafter she joined SNEHA as an

Executive Director before moving to her current role of Chief Executive Officer. She has been full time with SNEHA since February 2013.

29. SughaVazhvu Healthcare



Organization profile

SughaVazhvu Healthcare, a rural primary healthcare non-profit, functions at the interface of human resource and technology innovation to provide basic healthcare services to inaccessible populations. SughaVazhvu has launched a women's health program in the community, with an emphasis on cervical screening using the VIA/VILI tests. Given the invasive nature of this examination, and the cultural sensitivity of the region, an active community engagement strategy is followed by reaching out to the women through local self-help groups (SHGs). Before conducting the screening, the women are invited to participate at regular meetings and discussions on women's health topics and the services offered at our clinics, thus enabling them with the tools to make the right decision. Similar target interventions such as school based anaemia interventions have been launched and pregnancy diagnostic assessments, treatment and lifestyle modification advice is given.

Participant profile (Dr. Bejoy Daniel, Chief Administrative Officer)

Dr Bejoy Daniel is a dental surgeon by education and has also worked as a healthcare business consultant in medical devices. He is now the Chief Administrative Officer at SughaVazhvu Healthcare and oversees hiring and training of physicians, internal audit and compliance, and supply chain management. Previously, Dr Daniel worked at WNS Global Services as a Group Manager for Operations and as a Manager for Research and Analytics where he was responsible for client liaison and project delivery. He has strong domain expertise in healthcare consulting and market research in the medical device industry and has been instrumental in building up a database for healthcare - Pharmaceuticals and medical device in a very unique and fragmented methodology. Dr Daniel has been involved in market research and business consulting projects involving regulatory approval, market access, competitive intelligence, pricing and reimbursement. Dr Daniel has also worked in the same domain with companies such as Frost and Sullivan, GlobalData and lately with WNS Global Services. He also has over 9 years of experience in practicing dentistry in rural parts of Kerala.

30. Tara Machines



Organization profile

TARA Machines and Tech Services Pvt Ltd is a social enterprise which has developed business packages for green building material production technologies. Based on these innovative technologies, the company provides Waste to Wealth business solutions for an expanding network of micro, small enterprises (MSMEs). The TARA Machines product range is unique and developed specifically for the Indian market place. Through these enterprises, affordable and green building products for construction are made available in rural India. By setting up local enterprises, the TARA Machines business model ensures every enterprise acts as a multiplier for both environmental and social value, creating a true triple bottom line impact.

Participant profile (Pranay Samson, Deputy General Manager)

Pranay Samson currently works as Deputy General Manager in TARA Machines & Tech Services. Since joining TARA Machines, he has been instrumental in charting the future growth plan for the company, working closely with both investors and board members. He has also been an integral part of the Development Alternatives group, helping to set up a new company, TARA Life Sustainability Solutions Pvt Ltd. He has also been focussing on initiatives in affordable housing, particularly the green building centres in collaboration with ACC.

Prior to this, he worked as a Senior Relationship Manager in HSBC Commercial Banking in New Delhi and Bangalore. He has also worked in HSBC in Mumbai as a part of the strategy and planning team within Commercial Banking. He has a Post Graduate Diploma in Management from the Management Development Institute, Gurgaon, and is also a qualified architect from the School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi. During his free time, he enjoys playing football, reading fiction and playing the guitar.

31. The Research Society

Organization profile



'The Research Society for the Care, Treatment & Training of Children in need of Special Care' (TRS) is a 69 year old NGO working with the Mentally Challenged (MC). It is one of the oldest and largest NGOs in this space and its spectrum of services includes: Diagnosis and Therapeutic Intervention-children assessed for early detection, diagnosis, treatment, training & rehabilitation. It uses this data to write research papers. In its Jai Vakeel School, apart from functional academics, students learn dance, music, sports etc. It has a separate Autism Centre for students with MC & Autism and a Vocational Training & Rehabilitation Centre, where different vocations are taught based on aptitude & ability.

Participant profile (Archana Chandra, Board Member & (Hon) Administrative Director)

Archana Chandra presently serves as Board Member & (Hon) Administrative Director of The Research Society (aka Jai Vakeel School), one of the oldest and largest NGOs serving the mentally challenged. She joined the board of Centre for Advancement of Philanthropy (CAP) in 2013. She is also a member of the Advisory Board of Annamrita (part of the ISKCON Food Relief Foundation), one of the largest NGOs in the country serving mid-day meals to less privileged children. Prior to her current positions, Archana has worked in various Marketing, PR, and HR roles at The Akanksha Foundation, Informix (a division of IBM), and Bennett & Coleman. She has a B.Com from Mumbai University and has a Diploma in Management. Archana is married and has one daughter.

Participant profile (Neha Shah, Head-Jai Vakeel Vocational Training Centre & Sheltered Workshop)

Neha Shah heads the Jai Vakeel Vocational Training Centre & Sheltered Workshop run by The Research Society (TRS). In addition to this leadership role, she is the Executive Assistant to the Admin Director of TRS. Prior to TRS, Neha volunteered at Seva Sadan, Mumbai, an NGO working towards development of the disadvantaged girl child and disenfranchised women. She was instrumental in the set up of the Computer Lab and the Curriculum for the Pre-Primary & Primary English School.

She also taught Computers from 2011 to 2013 to the primary students. Prior to entering the NGO sector, she was working with The Imaging Source, an imaging IT company located in North Carolina, USA. She has done her Computer Engineering from Mumbai University and Masters in Computer Science from University of North Carolina.

32. Voice 4 Girls



Organization profile

VOICE 4 Girls provides marginalized adolescent girls with the information and tools they need to become decision makers in their own lives. Through activity based camp programming focused on critical information, communication, and life skills, VOICE helps girls take charge of their own futures, delay marriage, and stay in school. VOICE partners with organizations, schools, and governments who have access to networks of girls to run camp programs during the school year as well as holidays. Local college students are trained to run programming and create safe spaces for girls. VOICE aims to develop a generation of adolescent girls who can transform their communities from within and break harmful cycles of economic and social inequality.

Participant profile (Anusha Bhardwaj, Executive Director)

Anusha Bharadwaj is a development sector professional since 2002. She is currently the Executive Director of VOICE 4 Girls. Anusha leads the strategic development, growth, and vision of the organization. She oversees the VOICE team and guides them as they work to empower marginalized adolescent girls while tackling issues of scale and sustainability. In the past, she has worked closely with government-led program and community-based organizations in the development of policy and practice in the areas of Education and Public Health. Other leadership roles: Board Member and Treasurer (Bodhi Education Society), Advisory and Board Member at UnLtd. Hyderabad, Co-Founder of The Blinking Barrel. Anusha holds an MBA from Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA), MA Sociology from Annamalai University and PG Diploma Certification (Asia Pacific Leadership Fellow) from East West Center (USA).

33. Wildlife Conservation Trust



Organization profile

Wildlife conservation trust (WCT) strives to help protect India's biodiversity and threatened wildernesses by supporting and motivating forest departments, non-government organizations and individuals, and working closely with communities residing inside or in the vicinity of forests. WCT visions a world in which tigers and other wild species are safe from harm and humans are encouraged to live in climate-harmony with natural ecosystems. WCT strengthens the protection mechanism of 89 national parks and sanctuaries across 17 states. WCT recognizes that the safety of forest and wildlife is in the hands of the forest staff and that it is important to have healthy and motivated forest staff. Thus, WCT provides the staff with preventive care inputs which includes regular health check-ups and laboratory tests. WCT provides the local communities with better

livelihood options through intensive skill training programs in order to reduce their dependency on the forest. WCT also strengthens government schools and provides health care in villages situated in and around tiger reserves.

Participant profile (Anish Andheria, President & Executive Director)

Dr. Anish Andheria is the President and Executive Director of the Wildlife Conservation Trust that conserves forests and wildlife through government and community participation. He has been awarded the prestigious Carl Zeiss Conservation Award 2008. He is a Fellow of LEAD-India. He helped set up Kids for Tigers, a conservation education programme during his tenure with Sanctuary Asia in 2000-2001. The programme reaches out to nearly half a million school children every year. After completing his Ph.D. from Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai, he pursued a masters degree in Wildlife Biology and Conservation from the National Center for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru. He is a large carnivore specialist with field knowledge on predator-prey relationships. A wildlife photographer of repute, he has photographed some of the most remote wildlife reserves of India. He has co-authored two books on Indian wildlife and has contributed to several other books and publications, including scientific papers. He runs a wildlife rescue center in Mumbai for over two decades and is a Trustee of the 'Conservation Wildlands Trust' and 'The Climate Reality Project India'. He is one of India's leading motivational speakers, and has introduced thousands of young people to the joys of nature and the rationale for nature conservation.

34. Youth for Jobs

Organization profile

Youth4Jobs (Y4J) helps companies build an inclusive workforce. The organizations' expertise lies in the entire value chain of taking the youth from unemployment to an organized sector job. This means identifying, motivating, training to demands of the market, inviting companies to recruit the youth and mentoring youth in their new work place. The focus is on youth from underprivileged families, adolescent girls and boys, dalits, tribals and PwDs (Persons with Disability). In the process, Y4J helps the country to reap its demographic dividend and bridge the inequalities in society.



Youth 4 Jobs

Participant profile (Tapan Kumar Das, Co-Founder)

Tapan Kumar Das has graduated from Xavier Institute of Management (XIM) Bhubaneswar, Rural Development Management program with 15 years of experience in diverse sectors, with a focus on the livelihoods of Rural, Tribal and Disabled youth. He has worked nationally in states like Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar. In all his work, whether for state or national government poverty alleviation projects, he has brought three important stakeholders on one platform, communities of poor, government and companies. In project management he believes in technology for transparency and the importance of scale. He has conducted studies for International NGOs like Plan International, Leonard Cheshire Disability (LCD) and comprehensive state skilling strategies for youth for the state governments in Odisha.