



Post Graduate
Programme in
Development Management



PGPDM
Batch 26

Participants Profile Book
2025-26



Abhishek Anand

**Lead, CSR and Sustainability
LIC Housing Finance Ltd.**

Abhishek, originally from Dumka, Jharkhand, is a development professional with 10 years of experience in CSR, strategy, and communication. He holds a BA in Social Work and an MA in Social Work from Indira Gandhi National Open University, and an MBA in Finance and Human Resources from Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi. He has recently started working as an Assistant Manager, CSR with LIC Housing Finance Ltd., New Delhi. Abhishek's last role was with MindLeaders Learning India's Corporate Affairs, Strategy & Communication division. His focus there was on driving long-term and short-term strategic initiatives, with his team orchestrating projects of substantial impact, leveraging his specialised skills in stakeholder engagement and policy advocacy. Previously, Abhishek worked with Public Health Foundation, ACT NOW, FS Realty and Google India.



Abhishek Boobna

**Senior Consultant
ATMA**

Abhishek, originally from Ranchi, is a senior Consultant at ATMA, Mumbai, where he partners with grassroots NGOs to build institutional capacity and drive long-term sustainability. With nearly seven years of experience in the social sector, he combines strategic thinking with a deep understanding of ground realities. An engineering graduate from PES Institute of Technology, Bengaluru, Abhishek's journey into the development sector began through his engagements in programmes like Teach for India Fellowship and the G20 Jagriti Yatra. Such experiences sparked his commitment to social impact, particularly in addressing systemic challenges in education and livelihoods. His work reflects a strong belief in the power of locally rooted solutions and collaborative capacity-building to drive social change.



Anil Kuppili

President SWETCHA

Anil, originally from Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh, has over ten years of experience working in the social sector across various domains, including elderly care, women's & child development, transgender rights, and vocational training. He has completed a Master's in Social Work (MSW) from Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University, Andhra Pradesh, and an MBA in Human Resource Management and Marketing from Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Andhra Pradesh. Anil currently leads SWETCHA, an organisation he founded to address systemic inequalities and promote social inclusion in Andhra Pradesh. With prior experience at reputed organisations such as HelpAge India, WaterAid India, UNICEF, and Magic Bus India Foundation, he brings both field-level insights and strategic management capabilities.



Annu Verghese

Co-President American Club for International Women

Born in Ernakulam, Kerala, and raised in Delhi, Annu brings over 15 years of cross-sector experience from the U.S. and India. She holds a PG Diploma in Manufacturing, Apparel, and Textiles from the National Institute of Fashion Technology, Gandhinagar. She is also trained in culinary arts at the International Culinary Centre in the USA. She began her career in apparel and merchandising, later transitioning to event management and community development. In California, she led corporate team-building events for clients such as Google and Apple. Currently based in Mumbai, she volunteers at American Club for International Women (ACIW), organises more than 50 annual events, and supports charities focused on women's empowerment, education, and health. Her work combines strategy, creativity, and purpose to drive inclusive impact.



Arbindam Bose

Social Sector Professional

Arbindam, originally from Purnea, Bihar, has over five years of experience in the education sector, particularly in system strengthening and governance. He holds a B.Tech in Mechanical Engineering from Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology, West Bengal. After beginning his career in engineering, Arbindam transitioned to the development sector after getting selected for the Gandhi Fellowship, where he worked on grassroots education initiatives, including a key EdelGive-funded project in Gadchiroli, Maharashtra. Prior to joining PGPDM, he served as a Programme Associate at Room to Read in Giridih, Jharkhand, where he was involved in programme design, stakeholder engagement, and monitoring to ensure long-term impact. Known for his inclusive approach and strategic mindset, Arbindam is also an enthusiastic home chef with a special talent for Indian cuisine.



Archana Tekale

Legal and Compliance Officer CORO India

Archana, originally from Thane, Maharashtra, is a law graduate (LLB) from Mumbai University. She has over seven years of experience in litigation, corporate legal compliance, and rights-based legal interventions. She currently works as a Legal and Compliance Officer at CORO India, Mumbai, where she supports grassroots organisations with legal guidance, advocacy, and regulatory compliance. She is also a fellow with the Delhi-based Impact and Policy Research Institute's Young Women Leaders in Public Policy Programme. Committed to rights-based approaches, Archana envisions legal knowledge as a tool for empowering communities and enabling inclusive systemic change.



Asmita Gudadhe

Social Sector Professional

Asmita, born and raised in Amravati, Maharashtra, has four years of experience in the social sector. She holds a Master of Arts in Social Work (MSW) from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai and Bachelor of Arts (BA) from Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University. She recently completed her tenure as an Aspirational Block Fellow with District Administration, Nandurbar, Maharashtra under Aspirational Block Fellowship by NITI Aayog. Previously she worked with Jan Sahas Foundation on women land rights and livelihood projects. Prior to joining Jan Sahas Foundation, she was a part time Lecturer at Matru Sewa Sangh Institute of Social Work, Nagpur.



Debajit Das

Social Sector Professional

Debajit, originally from Bankura, West Bengal, has over nine years of experience in IT, teaching, and education management. He holds a B.Tech in Computer Science from Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology, West Bengal. Recently, as a NIPUN professional he led the NIPUN Bharat Mission in Niwari district in Madhya Pradesh, working to improve foundational literacy and numeracy skills under the New Education Policy. Previously Debajit has worked with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Teach for India, and Alokita. He transitioned from engineering to the education sector; driven by the learning gaps he observed during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Deldan Namgyal

Project Manager Himmothan Society

Originally from Leh, Deldan holds a Master's (MA) in Water Policy and Governance from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. He currently serves as a Project Manager at Himmothan Society, where he leads integrated rural development initiatives in Ladakh. Previously, he has worked as a community mobiliser at Ladakh Ecological Development Group (LEDeG), Leh Ladakh. With nearly three years of grassroots experience, Deldan works at the intersection of water security, livelihoods, clean energy, and health. Grounded in Ladakh's cultural ethos, he is passionate about blending traditional knowledge with sustainable development practices tailored to the mountain context. Deldan is committed to empowering remote Himalayan communities by bridging local wisdom with contemporary development frameworks, ensuring inclusive and resilient growth.



Ganesh Mane

Assistant Manager Kotak Education Foundation

Ganesh hails from Tuljapur, Maharashtra. He is an experienced development sector professional with a Master's (MA) in Sustainable Livelihoods and Natural Resource Governance from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Tuljapur. He currently works as Assistant Manager at Kotak Education Foundation, Mumbai, managing the Kotak Graduate Scholarship Programme. With over 10 years of experience, Ganesh has previously worked with the Gujarat State Rural Development Department and Tata Consultancy Services. He specialises in youth education, programme implementation, and stakeholder engagement. Ganesh is committed to designing scalable education and livelihood interventions that drive systemic change for underserved communities.



Himakshi Das

Project Lead
Myna Mahila Foundation

Born and raised in Rangia, Assam, Himakshi is a public health and gender equity professional with over seven years of experience in community health and women's empowerment. She holds a Bachelor's in Community Health (B.Sc.) from Srimanta Sankaradeva University of Health Sciences, Assam. Currently, as a Project Lead at Myna Mahila Foundation's Mobile Clinic, Mumbai, she designs and implements reproductive health services for underserved urban women in Mumbai. Her career began as a Community Health Officer under National Health Mission (NHM) Assam, followed by focused work on menstrual health and grassroots leadership.



Himanshu Kulshrestha

Deputy Manager, CSR
Ultratech Cement Ltd.

Hailing from Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, Himanshu is a CSR professional with seven years of experience in community development, water conservation, education, and livelihood. He holds an MBA in Rural Development from Govind Ballabh Pant Social Science Institute, Prayagraj, and an LLB from Allahabad University. Currently, as a Deputy Manager, CSR at Ultratech Cement, Kotputli, Rajasthan he oversees health, education, infrastructure, and social empowerment projects, with notable achievements like transforming community land into forests through mass plantation drives. Previously, he led CSR initiatives at DCM Shriram Ltd.



Jayanti Mishra

Social Sector Professional

Jayanti, born and raised in Jaipur, Rajasthan, has six years of experience in the education sector. She holds an MSc in Chemistry from the University of Delhi and was a Teach for India Fellow. Previously, she has worked as a Curriculum and Training Lead at Ashvattha Learning Communities, where she designs contextually relevant curricula, facilitates teacher training, and leads instructional coaching initiatives. Her journey began as a classroom teacher under Teach For India Fellowship and gradually evolved into roles involving curriculum development and system-level capacity building. Jayanti is passionate about empowering communities by strengthening public systems and enabling educators and school leaders to drive sustainable and equitable change.



Kalpana Zubre

Social Sector Professional

Kalpana, born in Latur and brought up in Mumbai, has over four years of experience working with women and adolescent groups. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work (BSW), Master of Arts in Social Work (MSW) from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Tuljapur and an M.Phil in Women's Studies from TISS, Mumbai. Previously, she has worked as a Project Supervisor at Mahila Arthik Vikas Mahamandal (MAVIM), Mumbai. Her expertise includes project management, capacity-building, and community engagement, with a special focus on women's empowerment. Previously, Kalpana has worked with organisations like Naandi Foundation, Apnalaya, and the Sir Ness Wadia Foundation.



Khaidem Nongpoknganba

**Founder and CEO
Tengbang Sintha Foundation**

Khaidem was born and brought up in Imphal. He is the Founder and CEO of Tengbang Sintha Foundation (TSF), a volunteer-led non-profit supporting conflict-affected children through psychosocial support and life skills education in Manipur. With over five years in the social sector, his work focuses on child development, capacity building of local institutions, and inclusive education. He holds an M.A. in Media and Cultural Studies from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. He has worked across various domains like journalism, digital inclusion, and skill development.



Madhuri Gavit

**Project Director and Joint Secretary
Savitribai Phule Mahila Ekatma Samaj Mandal**

Madhuri, originally from Nandurbar, Maharashtra, is a grassroots mental health professional with over 11 years of experience. She holds a Postgraduate Certificate in Psychiatric Rehabilitation from the Maharashtra Institute of Mental Health, Pune, and a BA in Psychology from Savitribai Phule Pune University. As Project Director at Savitribai Phule Mahila Ekatma Samaj Mandal, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar (Aurangabad), she leads mental health, de-addiction, and suicide prevention programmes in tribal and rural areas. Madhuri also oversees multi-sectoral initiatives spanning health, education, National Resource Management (NRM), and livelihoods in her capacity as a Joint Secretary of her organisation.



Maulik Parmar

**Assistant General Manager, CSR
Hindalco Industries Ltd.**

Maulik, born and raised in Nadiad, Gujarat, has over 21 years of experience in the CSR domain. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in English Literature and a Master's in Social Work (MSW) from Sardar Patel University, Gujrat. At Hindalco Industries Ltd. - Birla Copper in Bharuch, Gujrat, he leads flagship CSR projects focusing on differently abled individuals and organic farming. His earlier roles include working with the Adani Foundation, Suzuki Motors, and Gujarat Gas. Known for his expertise in developing and scaling sustainable interventions, Maulik is deeply rooted in community values and passionate about inclusive growth.



Mehul Lalka

**Deputy Manager
Grasim Industries Ltd.**

Mehul, born and brought up in Mumbai, has over 20 years of experience in Administration, Government Liaison, Public Relations, and Corporate Social Responsibility. He holds a B.Com from Mumbai University. He currently serves as Deputy Manager – Liaison, CSR & Land at Grasim Industries Ltd. - Century Rayon, Thane, Mumbai, leading initiatives that align with the Aditya Birla Group's vision for sustainable community development. His previous roles include key administrative positions at Hiranandani Group, Apeejay Surrendra Group, and Ram Fashion Exports Pvt. Ltd. Mehul has successfully designed and implemented strategic CSR programmes focused on education, healthcare, sustainable livelihood, and infrastructure development, particularly in the Thane region of Maharashtra.



Naveen Kumar

Product Manager Tata Consultancy Services

Naveen, born in Chennai and raised in Tiruchirappalli, is a seasoned professional with over 16 years of experience across industries, including the past three years in CSR. He holds an M.Sc. in Electronics from St. Joseph's College of Arts & Science, Tiruchirappalli, and has worked on programmes in education, climate, and empowerment of marginalised communities. At Tata Consultancy Services, Chennai, Naveen combines technology and social innovation to create impact-driven programmes. A long-time volunteer with Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre (WRRRC), he is passionate about making the world more liveable and inclusive through strategic CSR initiatives.



Nitin Sevak

Volunteer Sadhana Forest

Born in Mandavi, Gujarat, Nitin has 18 years of experience spanning corporate risk management, internal audit, and environmental volunteering. Nitin is a Chartered Accountant, qualified from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, along with certification in Business Responsibility & Sustainability Reporting. Currently volunteering with Sadhana Forest, Tamil Nadu, he leads community coordination, environmental education, and whole-food plant-based nutrition initiatives to foster sustainable, compassionate living. Previously, he worked as Risk Manager in Singapore and held senior internal audit roles at PDS Multinational and Herbalife International.



Omkar Gundayya

Community Outreach Associate Prakruthi Trust

Omkar, born in Kurunda and raised in Basmat in Marathwada region of Maharashtra, holds a Bachelor of Arts (BA) from Savitribai Phule Pune University and Master of Arts in Social Work (MSW) from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai. With five years of experience, he currently works in Mumbai with Prakruthi Trust on prevention of crime against women and children. He conducts community training, builds vigilance groups, and collaborates with law enforcement agencies and government bodies. Omkar is passionate about social justice and aims to build community-led development models in rural India.



Pankaj Kumar

Assistant Manager, CSR Pidilite Industries Ltd.

Pankaj, born and brought up in Prayagraj (Allahabad), has over five years of experience. He holds a Master's (MA) in Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Tuljapur, and a BS-MS in Chemistry from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Bhopal. Currently, he serves as Assistant Manager – CSR at Pidilite Industries Ltd., Mumbai, where he leads sustainable development initiatives focused on women-led enterprises, rural entrepreneurship, and community empowerment. Previously, he has worked as a Young Professional at Rajasthan Grameen Aajeevika Vikas Parishad, Jaipur, and as a Development Coordinator in Shramik Bharti, Kanpur.



Pavan Wasnik

Project Officer, Livelihoods Gram Chetna Kendra

Pavan, born and raised in Yavatmal, Maharashtra, brings over three years of grassroots experience in rural development and livelihoods. Pavan holds a Master's (MA) in Development Studies from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. Currently, as a Project Officer at Gram Chetna Kendra, Jaipur, he leads project planning, implementation, and community engagement. Previously, he has also worked at ICICI Bank and INDUSIND Bank.



Pooja Bhati

Senior Manager Tarun Bharat Sangh

Pooja, born and brought up in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, holds a Master's (MA) in Clinical Psychology from Rajasthan University and brings over 13 years of experience in grassroots project management. As a Senior Manager, People & Projects at Tarun Bharat Sangh, Jaipur. She oversees multiple water conservation and rural development projects across Rajasthan. Her work spans field monitoring, community training, intern engagement, and communication strategies. Deeply rooted in rural Rajasthan, Pooja draws personal inspiration from traditional sustainability practices.



Pranali Moon

**Senior Coordinator
Jan Sahas Foundation**

Pranali, originally from Wardha, Maharashtra, is a passionate development professional who focuses on safe migration, worker protection, and women's empowerment. She holds a Bachelor's in Social Work (BSW) from Dr. Ambedkar College of Social Work, Wardha, and a Master of Arts in Social Work (MSW) from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, with specialisation in Women-Centred Practice. For the past three years, she has been working at Jan Sahas Foundation from Dewas office in Madhya Pradesh, in the Quality and Development vertical, where she designs and delivers capacity-building programmes for field teams. Pranali's work centres on enabling marginalised women and children to thrive through inclusive education and systemic support.



Prerna Killedar

**Assistant Manager, Programme Design
Haqdarshak**

Born in Kolhapur, Maharashtra and raised in Delhi, Prerna is a development and policy practitioner with over six years of diverse experience. Prerna holds a B.Tech in Information Technology from Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women, Delhi. An engineer by training, her career journey led her from writing socket code in telecom to co-creating solar irrigation systems with tribal women farmers. Currently, Prerna works at Haqdarshak at Delhi where she works across welfare-tech, rural livelihoods, and public policy, leading welfare entitlement programmes. Her work includes programme design, strategy, and impact documentation, covering over 280,000 citizens across six states. Previously, she has worked with PRADAN and implemented regenerative agriculture and water projects.



Priya Purohit

Social Sector Professional

Priya, originally from Bikaner, Rajasthan, holds an LLB and a BBA from Maharaja Ganga Singh University, Bikaner. With over five years of experience, she has held key roles in both grassroots development and commercial operations. As a Project Executive at SRIJAN in Shivpuri, MP, she oversaw rural livelihood initiatives across the Bundelkhand region. Her previous engagements with SEWA Bharat and the SBI Youth for India Fellowship centered on fostering women-led enterprises and promoting community involvement. Additionally, she has served as a Commercial Executive at Bikaner Electricity Supply Ltd. (BKESL) in Bikaner. Priya combines legal training with grassroots fieldwork to design inclusive livelihood strategies.



Priyanka Gaikwad

Programme Associate Conexus Social Responsibility

Priyanka, originally from Mumbai, holds a Master of Arts in Social Work (MSW) with a specialisation in women-centered practice from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. With over five years of experience in the development sector, she has worked on issues related to gender, education, and child welfare. Currently, as a Programme Associate at Conexus Social Responsibility, Mumbai, she works on programme implementation and CSR initiatives. Previously, she worked with Catalyst for Social Action in Goa, supporting Child Care Institutions, and mentored adolescent girls during her time with The Gender Lab Fellowship in Mumbai. Honoured with the SAAHAS Award for her work on gender and menstrual health, Priyanka is deeply committed to empowering girls and women from marginalised communities.



Rajalakshmi Sundaram

**Programme Officer
HCL Foundation**

Born and raised in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, Rajalakshmi is a committed social sector professional with over four years of experience in women's empowerment, financial inclusion, and CSR programme management. She holds a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in History and Tourism from Madurai Kamaraj University and a Post Graduate Diploma in Development Management from The DHAN Academy, Tamil Nadu. Currently a Programme Officer at HCL Foundation, Madurai, she oversees research, programme evaluation, volunteer engagement, and multi-NGO partnerships in health and education. Previously, as a Project Executive at DHAN Foundation, she implemented large-scale SHG-based poverty alleviation initiatives.



Rakesh Sahare

**Aspirational Block Fellow
NITI Aayog**

Born in Koregaon and raised in Gadchiroli, Maharashtra, Rakesh is a committed development professional with four years of experience in tribal empowerment, health, nutrition, and livelihoods. He holds a Master of Arts in Social Work (MSW) from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai (TISS), and a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Social Science from Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University. Currently working as Aspirational Block Fellow in Gadchiroli, he facilitates service delivery, SHG strengthening, and participatory planning among PVTG communities. His previous work with TISS involved supporting forest rights and promoting sustainable development among tribal populations in Raigad district of Maharashtra.



Saumya Shukla

Social Sector Professional

Saumya, born and raised in Basti, Uttar Pradesh, is a development professional with nearly nine years of experience leading large-scale impact projects in education across states like Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh. She holds a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Political Science and English from Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gorakhpur University, Uttar Pradesh and Master's degree in Political Science (MA) from Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Avadh University, Faizabad, and is an India Fellow alumna. She is currently working on her passion project, SheMusafir, which aims to empower women through travel. In the past she has worked with organisations such as Peepul, Piramal Foundation, Drishte Foundation, and National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA) where she worked on key initiatives with governments including capacity building and driving systemic improvements in the public education system.



Sharad Kodane

Senior Coordinator Jan Sahas Foundation

Sharad, originally from Bhandara, Maharashtra, specialises in safe migration and worker protection. He holds a Master of Arts in Social Work (MSW) in Dalit and Tribal Studies and Action from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. He also has a Master's degree in Sociology (MA) from J. M. Patel College, Bhandara. He brings six years of experience working on issues related to migrant workers. Beginning his career during the COVID-19 crisis as an MIS Coordinator, he now serves as a Senior Coordinator at Jan Sahas Foundation in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar (Aurangabad), overseeing operations across five districts in Maharashtra. His work includes liaising with government departments, training field teams, and ensuring access to social protection for migrants.



Shivam Pant

Lead Project Coordinator Udyogini

Shivam, born in Delhi and raised in Chamoli, Uttarakhand, is the Lead Project Coordinator at Udyogini, Chamoli. He has over seven years of experience in rural livelihoods and conservation. He holds a B.Sc. in Science from Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University and a Master's in Environmental Sciences (M.Sc.) from Uttarakhand Open University. Previously, he worked with the Forest Research Institute and the Proud Pahadi Society, both based at Dehradun, promoting sustainable practices, women's empowerment, and youth engagement. Deeply rooted in the Himalayas, Shivam advocates for community-led development in ecologically fragile regions.



Shobhit Kaushik

Programme Manager Pratham Education Foundation

Shobhit, hailing from Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, has three years of experience in inclusive education. He holds a Master of Arts in Social Work (MSW) in Disability Studies and Action from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. As a Programme Manager at Pratham, Mumbai, Shobhit is responsible for managing programmes and partnerships, and designing training content that strengthens the capacity of frontline workers, including teachers and Anganwadi workers. His work centres on developing cost-effective, scalable and inclusive education models for children with disabilities and help NGOs build sustainability beyond donor dependence.



Shreya Bhattacharjee

Chief Manager, Education Smile Foundation

Shreya, born in Bokaro Steel City and raised in West Bengal and Jharkhand, brings over 13 years of experience across the corporate and development sectors. She holds an MBA in Finance from Pondicherry University. After beginning her career at KPMG and Goldman Sachs, she transitioned to the social sector with the Azim Premji Foundation. Currently based in Mumbai, she leads Smile Foundation's education programmes across the western region. Her work focuses on strategic leadership, donor relations, and grassroots transformation. Shreya is also a writer, singer, and amateur photographer.



Shreyas J

Strategist, Partnerships and Business Growth Udyogini

Shreyas, born and raised in Bengaluru, began his professional journey as a restaurant entrepreneur before transitioning to the development sector through the India Fellow Programme. He holds a B. Com from Christ University, Bengaluru, and a Master's in Sociology (M.A.) from Indira Gandhi National Open University. With over three years of experience in the development sector, he has worked across Rajasthan and Uttarakhand in livelihoods and women's empowerment. Currently, he leads partnerships, fundraising, and strategy at Udyogini working from Bengaluru. Shreyas is driven by the vision of inclusive and gender-just development through grassroots leadership and long-term partnerships.



Shrikant Deshmukh

Programme Head
Pratham Education Foundation

Originally from Vidarbha and currently based in Panvel, Maharashtra, Shrikant is a Programme Head at Pratham Education Foundation, Mumbai. He has over 16 years of experience in the education and agricultural skill development sector. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (BA) from SMBS College, Khamgaon. He currently leads Pratham's Agriculture Initiative in Mumbai, overseeing skill development in more than 100 Agri-Resource Centres across India. His work focuses on promoting eco-friendly farming, engaging youth, and supporting livelihood diversification.



Shubham Mohod

Assistant Manager
Learning Links Foundation

Shubham hails from Karanja Lad, located in the Washim district of Maharashtra. He holds a Bachelor's (BE) in Computer Science Engineering from Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Technology, Mumbai. With over eight years of experience in the education and development sector, he currently serves as an Assistant Manager at Learning Links Foundation, Mumbai. In this role, he supports life skills and livelihood programmes aimed at empowering underprivileged communities. Shubham has also contributed as a counsellor at Think BYJU's and is a certified Khan Academy (Khan Verge) Trainer, conducting training sessions for government school teachers. Shubham is a Certified Counsellor and Metta Vipassana Guide under the Tranquil Wisdom Insight Meditation (TWIM) lineage. He also serves as Trustee and Secretary of Samatha Vipassana Trust, promoting meditation for peaceful living.



Shubhangi Nanwatkar

Social Sector Professional

Shubhangi, originally from Nagpur, has over five years of experience in women's empowerment, skill development, and women-led MSMEs. She holds a Master of Arts in Social Work (MSW) in Dalit and Tribal Studies and Action from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. Previously, she has worked as a Young Professional at Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (BRLPS), Patna, and as a Consultant at KPMG's Government and Public Services Division in Mumbai. Shubhangi is passionate about building women's entrepreneurial leadership through policy innovation and government schemes.



Shubhankar Bade

Social Sector Professional

Born in Aurangabad and based in Mumbai, Shubhankar is a development professional with over seven years of experience spanning rural livelihoods, environment management, and digital transformation. He holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Forestry Management (Environment Management) from the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, and a Bachelor of Engineering (BE) in Information Technology from Mumbai University. In his recent engagement with Koita Foundation, Mumbai, Shubhankar led digital initiatives to enhance programme delivery, data reporting, and strategic decision-making across health, education, and livelihood sectors. Previously, he worked with Marathwada Gramin Vikas Kendra and Swades Foundation.



Smita Tatewar

Social Sector Professional

Smita, born in Yavatmal, Maharashtra, is a development professional with over three years of experience in youth mentorship and rural governance. She holds a Bachelor's in Social Work (BSW) from Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Maharashtra. In the past, as the Co-Founder and Director of Eklavya India Foundation, Nagpur, she has led mentorship programmes enabling over 1,200 first-generation learners to secure admissions into top Indian institutions such as IITs, TISS, Ashoka, and JNU. Smita is an alumna of the SBI Youth for India Fellowship and was also a Gram Panchayat Council Member.



Sweta Upadhyay

Deputy General Manager Hindalco Industries Ltd.

Sweta, based in Ranchi, is a senior development professional with 18 years of experience in CSR and sustainability. She holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Rural Development from Xavier Institute of Social Service (XISS), Ranchi, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Human Resource Management from Symbiosis Centre for Distance Learning, Pune. Sweta is also certified as a Level 1 Risk Assessor by the Institute of Risk Management, London, and a Sustainability Assessor by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). Currently serving as Deputy General Manager at Hindalco Industries Ltd., Ranchi, Sweta leads various CSR initiatives across bauxite mining clusters in Jharkhand, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh.



Vishal Sodaye

Medical Social Worker
K.J. Somaiya Medical College and Research Centre

Vishal, born and raised in Mumbai, has over nine years of experience in the health and social development sector. He holds a Master's in Social Work (MSW) from the College of Social Work, Nirmala Niketan, Mumbai, and has further completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Disaster Management from Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Sub Centre Latur, Maharashtra. Currently, Vishal works as a Medical Social Worker at K.J. Somaiya Medical College and Research Centre, Mumbai, where he engages in patient counselling, health education, community outreach, and field mentoring of MBBS students. He is also a district-level Kabaddi player and has represented Maharashtra at the national level in Smash Racket.



Yeesakonu Makha Rangini

Social Sector Professional

Rangini, originally from Hyderabad, has over 13 years of work experience. She holds a B.Tech in Electrical & Electronics Engineering and a Master of Arts in Social Work (MSW) in Disability Studies and Action from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. Over the past decade, she has worked in education leadership and employability, launching programmes across geographies and helping underserved youth access formal sector opportunities. She has also coached school leaders and teachers on school improvement strategies. Previously, she has served as an Assistant Programme Manager at TNS India Foundation, Hyderabad. A certified Kathak dancer, Rangini also enjoys painting, gardening, and acting.



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Abhay Kaushik

**Associate Manager (MIS)
Developmental Association for Human Advancement (DEHAT)**

Abhay, originally from Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh, is a passionate advocate for child rights and community empowerment and has over four years of experience in social development. He holds a Bachelor's in Economics and Political Science from Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Awadh University, Uttar Pradesh. He works with the Developmental Association for Human Advancement (DEHAT), focusing on the empowerment of the marginalised communities across the Bahraich, Shravasti, and Balarampur districts. Abhay also founded Parvarish Sewa Samiti and led the 'Pahla Kadam' initiative, reintegrating over 300 dropout students through education camps during COVID-19. As an SBI Youth for India Fellow, he implemented WASH practices in rural Tamil Nadu, and his work on the UNICEF-Dular programme contributed to its expansion across Uttar Pradesh.



Abhishek Dubey

**Key Account Manager
End Poverty**

Abhishek, originally from Sasaram, Bihar, is a Key Account Manager at End Poverty, Gurugram. With eight years of experience in the development sector, he specialises in livelihoods (farm and non-farm), climate change, and environment (water conservation & crop residue management). He holds a Master's in Development specialising in Public Health from Azim Premji University, Bangalore. In his current role, Abhishek focuses on implementing livelihood projects and addressing environmental issues, with the goal of providing livelihood assurance to marginalised communities impacted by poverty and environmental crises.



Aditya Madan

Public Policy Consultant Government of Punjab

Aditya, originally from Delhi, is a dedicated public policy professional with over nine years of experience in governance, policy advocacy, and development initiatives. He holds a Bachelor's degree (B.Tech.) in Electronics and Communication Engineering from Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi. Currently, Aditya serves as a public policy consultant to the Minister of Education, Government of Punjab, where he plays a crucial role in policy reforms, strategic partnerships, and programme implementation across various education departments. With a strong passion for systemic change, Aditya has also contributed to policy formulation at the Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (EAC-PM) and other government entities.



Akanksha Gupta

Creative Arts Trainer

Akanksha, born and raised in Delhi, is a passionate professional with five years of experience in the creative arts and education sectors. She holds a B. Com (Hons) from Shri Ram College of Commerce, Delhi, and her work focuses on integrating arts with education to help individuals enhance their communication and self-expression skills. Currently, based in Mumbai, she works with Arena as a Personality Development Coach for school students in Mumbai. She has worked extensively with schools, colleges, and artists across the country, focusing on communication development through the arts.



Akhila Anil

Researcher and Community Organizer Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)

Akhila, originally from Alappuzha, Kerala, has over two years of experience in the social sector, working to empower marginalized communities, focusing on women and children. She holds a B.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering from A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Technological University, Kerala. Currently, she is working with the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), Kerala, focusing on women's empowerment, social security, and livelihood. Before joining SEWA, she was a SBI Youth for India Fellow and did her yearlong fellowship in a remote tribal village in Madhya Pradesh. Previously, Akhila worked with trade unions covering issues of social security and migration and deepening her advocacy skills.



Amol Shinde

Senior Programme Officer Lend A Hand India

Amol, from Ahilyanagar (Ahmednagar), Maharashtra, has 11 years of experience in education, women empowerment, and child development. He holds a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree in Urban and Rural Community Development (URCD) from CSRD-ISWR, Ahilyanagar. Currently, he works with Lend A Hand India in Pune, where he is committed to building a platform that empowers communities by promoting sustainable livelihoods and ensuring social support for those in need. Previously, he worked as a Programme Manager at the Women and Child Development Department, Government of Maharashtra.



Anandi Bansode

Senior Assistant Manager Kotak Education Foundation

Anandi, originally from Mumbai, Maharashtra, is a Senior Assistant Manager at Kotak Education Foundation, Mumbai. With nearly 12 of experience in the social development sector, especially school education, she focuses on teacher training, parent engagement, and foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN). Anandi holds a BA in Arts (Sociology) and a Master's in Social Work (MSW) from SNDT Women's University, Mumbai. In her current role, Anandi focuses on developing impactful, scalable educational solutions, empowering teachers, and strengthening community collaboration to bridge learning gaps and promote holistic growth for children.



Ankita Chaturvedi

Programme Officer Samaj Pragati Sahyog Sansthan

Ankita, based in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh, is a Programme Officer at Samaj Pragati Sahyog Sansthan, Uttar Pradesh. With a Postgraduate Diploma in Computer Applications from Government Girls Polytechnic, Ballia, U.P., she has more than five years of experience working on social interventions to improve education and livelihoods in rural communities. Over the years, she has successfully supported over 3500 women across 35 villages, enhancing their leadership skills, promoting sustainable livelihoods, and conducting capacity-building workshops. Ankita has also led COVID-19 response campaigns like the "Surakshit Dada Dadi Nana Nani Abhiyan", which focused on community safety and health awareness.



Anu Asthana

**Social Safeguard Expert
Tata Consulting Engineers**

Anu, originally from Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, is a Social Safeguard Expert at Tata Consulting Engineers in Surat, Gujarat, working on India's first Bullet Train Project, the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Project. With nine years of experience in the social sector, she specialises in monitoring & evaluation, grievance redressal, and community engagement in infrastructure development projects. Anu holds a Master's in Sociology (MA) from the University of Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. In her current role, Anu focuses on integrating affected communities' voices into project planning, managing grievance mechanisms, and overseeing the monitoring of construction activities to minimise social impacts.



Anup Kerketta

**Freelance Trainer
Panchayati Raj Institutions**

Anup, born in Simdega and raised in Bokaro Steel City, Jharkhand, is a Trainer in Panchayati Raj Institutions, Simdega, Jharkhand. He has worked for nearly eight years in the corporate banking sector and over six years in the social sector. Anup holds a B.Com from Shri Ram College of Commerce, Delhi, and a Post Graduate Diploma in Human Rights from the Indian Institute of Human Rights, New Delhi. In his current role, he focuses on empowering marginalised communities, particularly through training programs that raise awareness about their rights and potential of government policies under Panchayat Raj Institutions.



Arjun Nallavelly

**Senior Manager
Head Held High Foundation**

Arjun, originally from Godavarikhani in Andhra Pradesh and brought up in Hyderabad, has over 14 years of experience, with more than four years dedicated to the social sector. He holds an MBA in HR from Jyothismathi Engineering & Technology College, Hyderabad. Currently, Arjun is a Senior Manager at the Head Held High Foundation, overseeing operations in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Previously, he worked as a Business Development Manager at Planman HR Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad. During his time at Magic Bus India Foundation, Arjun gained exposure to the social sector, specialising in livelihood and entrepreneurship.



Ashish Thakur

**Fundraising Associate
Centre for Education and Health Research Organization**

Ashish, originally from Bihar and raised in Delhi, is a Fundraising Associate at the Centre for Education and Health Research Organization, Gurugram. With four years of experience in the education sector, he holds a B.A degree from Motilal Nehru College, Delhi University. He is also the Founder and CEO of C4 Cause Digital Pvt. Ltd., a company based in Gurugram dedicated to helping organizations and individuals enhance their impact through videography and storytelling. Ashish is also deeply engaged in social tourism. In 2023, he worked with Aasraa Trust in Uttarakhand, and in 2024, he contributed his time and skills to the ATMA Foundation in Kerala.



Chintan Barbhaya

Managing Director Flow & Process Consulting

Chintan, based in Mumbai, is the Managing Director at Flow & Process Consulting, specializing in optimizing business operations. With 16 years of experience in Manufacturing and Supply Chain, he holds a Master's in Industrial Engineering from the University of Oklahoma, United States, and a Bachelor's in Production Engineering from Mumbai University. Certified as a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt, he has successfully helped organizations streamline operations and boost productivity. While in the US, he actively supported social initiatives like United Way and Habitat for Humanity. In 2024, Chintan returned to Mumbai and is now transitioning into the development sector, focusing on education and employment.



Chirag Patil

Programme Specialist Aga Khan Rural Support Programme

Chirag, originally from Amalner, Maharashtra, and raised in Vyara, Gujarat, has over seven years of experience in livelihood, entrepreneurship, and education. He holds a Master's in Development Studies from Azim Premji University, Bangalore, and a Bachelor of Engineering from North Maharashtra University. Currently, he works with the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (India) in Gujarat, focusing on enterprise interventions in tribal regions of South Gujarat. His work is centered on empowering marginalized communities, particularly tribal populations, by promoting sustainable livelihoods, rural enterprises, and inclusive growth. His professional journey includes working with organizations such as Bodh Shiksha Samiti in Rajasthan, the IIT Madras-based startup Involve, and the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India.



Dipali Madavi

Senior Associate, Community Outreach & Engagement Prakruthi Trust

Dipali, born and raised in Bhandara, Maharashtra, is a Community Outreach Associate at Prakruthi Trust in Nagpur, Maharashtra. With nearly four years of experience in education and community development, she holds a Master's in Education from Azim Premji University, Bangalore, and a Master's in Sociology from Nagpur University. At Prakruthi Trust, she currently oversees the Young India Unchained programme, where she works to provide youth with the tools to bring about social change.



Disa Ray

Programme Manager Guardbook Conservation Foundation

Disa, originally from West Bengal, holds a Master's in Public Policy and Governance from Azim Premji University, Bangalore. As a Programme Manager at Guardbook Conservation Foundation, based in Kolkata, she leads initiatives that empower marginalized communities, such as helping tribal women in the Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra create value-added products from non-timber forest produce. While working at Guardbook Conservation Foundation, she has also worked on climate solutions, including introducing zero-emission electric vehicles in national parks to reduce carbon footprints and support biodiversity.



Harinath Dinkar

Senior Manager
Head Held High Foundation

Harinath, originally from Bellari, Karnataka, has 11 years of experience in the training and skill development sector. He holds a Master of Computer Applications (MCA) degree from RYMEC College, Karnataka, affiliated with VTU University. He began his career as a part-time lecturer before joining Head Held High Foundation as a trainer. In his current role at Head Held High Foundation, Bangalore, he oversees the quality and impact of various training projects, ensuring they meet established guidelines and deliver high-quality outcomes.



Jaya Ray

Project Lead
Kriti Social Initiatives

Jaya, originally from Patna, Bihar, has two years of experience in the social sector, focusing on women empowerment, youth development, and community leadership. She holds a Bachelor's in Biotechnology from the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of IT and Biotechnology, Bharati Vidyapeeth, Pune. Currently, she is a Project Lead at Kriti Social Initiatives, Hyderabad, overseeing Project Pehchaan, which empowered 500 women through Self-Help Groups, and the Reviving Livelihood Project on Lac Bangles in Hyderabad's urban slums. Her case study on Pehchaan led to an invitation to a panel discussion at the Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship in Delhi. Jaya has also participated in the UK-India Interfaith Leadership Programme at Hyderabad and won gold medals in the International Mathematics and National Science Olympiads. She also practices Mandala Art, blending creativity and mindfulness into her work.



Manisha Motwani

Project Coordinator Chhattisgarh Agricon Samiti

Manisha, originally from Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, is a Project Coordinator at Chhattisgarh Agricon Samiti, Raipur, with four years of experience in climate change, agriculture, and livelihood projects. She holds a B.Tech in Agricultural Engineering from Swami Vivekanand College of Agricultural Engineering and Technology, IGKV, Raipur. Her work focuses on sustainable soil management, grounded in a strong foundation in agricultural studies, with a focus on implementation that aligns with long-term development goals.



Mesang Sherpa

Programme Manager Eastern Himalayan Foundation

Mesang, originally from Darjeeling, West Bengal, is a dedicated professional in the development sector with nearly seven years of experience, specializing in education and training. She holds a Master's degree (M.A.) in Development from Azim Premji University, Bangalore. Currently, Mesang works as a Program Manager at the Eastern Himalayan Foundation in Darjeeling, where she focuses on a fellowship program to solve local community problems and enhance educational opportunities for youth in the Eastern Himalayan region. Her work empowers young people to reach their full potential through education and skill development programs.



Mrinmoy Saha

Independent Professional

Mrinmoy, originally from West Bengal and raised in Chhattisgarh, is currently based in Pune. He holds an MBA in Marketing from ICFAI Business School, Gurugram. With 18 years of experience in the Auto and Telecom sectors, including roles at Axis Bank, RIL, CMC, M&M, Hyundai, KEC, and Reliance Jio, he has built expertise in sales planning and project management. Now, Mrinmoy aims to transition to the social sector with a vision to ensure that underprivileged communities have access to essential healthcare and sanitation services.



Namita Shukla

Programme Manager Piramal Foundation

Namita, raised in Dehradun and Assam, is a dedicated education professional with over 14 years of experience in systemic education transformation. Currently, she is a Programme Manager at Piramal Foundation, Bhopal. Namita holds a Master's in Education from Kota University and another Master's in Communication from Makhn Lal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Communication, Bhopal. She started her career in journalism with Bhaskar.com. She later joined the Kaivalya Education Foundation, where, as a Gandhi Fellow and Programme Leader, she focused on leadership development for school principals and school improvement. She also held key roles at the Azim Premji Foundation and Tata Trusts, working with Anganwadi centers and schools, and served as Principal at VITS School Satna.



Naveen Jha

Director, Resource Mobilization ISAP India Foundation

Naveen, originally from Darbhanga, Bihar, is a seasoned development sector professional with over 24 years of experience in resource mobilization, project implementation, and strategic planning. He holds a Bachelor's degree (B.Sc.) in Chemistry from Magadh University, Bihar, and a Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Applications (PGDCA) from CDAC, Delhi. Currently, Naveen serves as a Director, Resource Mobilization at ISAP India, where he plays a crucial role in securing funding, fostering partnerships, and expanding the organization's outreach to underserved communities. His work focuses on livelihood development, skill-building, and enhancing economic opportunities for marginalized groups.



Neelendra Tripathi

Programme Manager Medha Learning Foundation

Neelendra, born in Banda, Uttar Pradesh, and currently based in Jaipur, Rajasthan, is a Chancellor's Gold Medalist with a B.Sc. in Agriculture (Hons.) from Banda University of Agriculture & Technology, Uttar Pradesh. With over three years of experience in training, skill development, and programme management, Neelendra has contributed significantly to youth and farmer empowerment. At Medha Learning Foundation, he has empowered over 2,500 students with employability and entrepreneurial skills, fostering transformative career pathways. Previously, at DeHaat, he trained over 15,000 farmers in sustainable agriculture practices. Neelendra also served as state secretary and university president for All India Agricultural Students Association, Uttar Pradesh, showcasing his leadership skills.



Pankaj Gupta

**Head of HR, IT & Administration
OneStage**

Pankaj, originally from Talbehat in the Lalitpur district of Uttar Pradesh, is the Head of HR, IT, & Administration at Delhi-based organisation OneStage (Registered as Charities Aid Foundation India). With over 10 years of experience in both corporate and non-profit sectors, Pankaj completed Post Graduate Diploma in Human Resources from Institute of Management Development and Research, Pune and holds a Master's degree in Sociology (M.A.) from IGNOU. In his current role, besides HR, IT and Administration, Pankaj has been also involved in the strategic aspects of social interventions his organisation runs. Pankaj's dedication to the social sector stems from his upbringing in Bundelkhand, a drought-prone region in Madhya Pradesh, where he witnessed social challenges like poverty, water scarcity, and gender inequality.



Parmeshwar Jogdande

**Assistant Manager
Kotak Education Foundation**

Parmeshwar, originally from Tiwarang, Yavatmal, Maharashtra, has over eight years of experience in the water, livelihood, and education sectors. He holds a Master's in Social Work (MSW) degree from Nagpur University. Currently, he is working as an Assistant Manager at Kotak Education Foundation, Pune, where he leads the Kotak Kshamata Capacity Building Programme. Additionally, as Co-Founder and COO of the Sankalp Foundation, he works on equipping youth with practical skills to improve livelihoods. In the past, he also worked with Lend a Hand, Pune, and Kaivalya Education Foundation, Gadchiroli, Maharashtra.



Penki Chittaiah

Coordinator
Dalit Bahujan Shramika Union (DBSU)

Penki hails from Vizianagaram District, Andhra Pradesh. He has over 15 years of experience working on empowering marginalized communities, focusing on child rights and welfare. He holds a Master's in Social Work (MSW) from Punyagiri Degree & PG College, Srungavarapu Kota, affiliated with Andhra University, Visakhapatnam. As a first-generation learner in his family, he is passionate about improving the lives of marginalized communities through education, livelihoods, and child rights. As a coordinator at DBSU, Penki works on training and skill development programmes, aiming to create sustainable change for the most vulnerable groups.



Pratik Ambekar

CSR Associate
Makarand M Joshi & Co. (MMJC)

Pratik, originally from Kolhapur, Maharashtra, has eight years of experience working across diverse sectors, including education, skill development, and community development. Currently, he works with Makarand M Joshi & Co. (MMJC) at Mumbai as a CSR Associate. He is passionate about creating social impact, with a vision to uplift disadvantaged individuals to improve their economic status. He graduated with a B.Sc. from Mumbai University and holds a Master's in Social Work (MSW) from IGNOU.



Pratima Kamble

Social Sector Professional

Pratima, originally from the Marathwada region of Maharashtra, has nearly three years of experience in the development and education sector. She holds a Ph.D. in Social Work from Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded, focusing on educational barriers in rural girls' education. She also holds a Master in Social Work (MSW) from BAMU, Aurangabad, and a B.Tech in Food Technology from Agricultural University, Parbhani, Maharashtra. She previously served as a Project Coordinator at Vowels of the People Association (VOPA) Pune, where she worked on school transformation projects to improve educational access for marginalized communities.



Pravin Thote

Senior Program Coordinator & Gender Educator Men Against Violence and Abuse

Pravin, originally from Bhandara, Maharashtra, holds a Master's in Development from Azim Premji University, Bangalore. He has eight years of experience in gender advocacy. Currently, he works with Men Against Violence and Abuse (MAVA), Mumbai, where he leads gender sensitization programmes aimed at dismantling stereotypes and promoting healthier expressions of masculinity. Previously, he worked as a programme associate with the Equal Community Foundation and Aangan Trust.



Ratnadeep Athawle

State Coordinator
Utkarsh Global Foundation

Ratnadeep, originally from Miraj, Maharashtra, and brought up in Kalyan, is the State Coordinator at Utkarsh Global Foundation, Maharashtra. With over seven years of experience in the development sector, he has worked across education, livelihoods, and public health. Ratnadeep holds a Master's in Social Work (MSW) from TISS Mumbai and an LLB from the University of Mumbai. In his current role, he leads the state-wide health initiatives of Utkarsh Global Foundation, focusing on eliminating rabies from communities and working towards making Maharashtra rabies-free by 2029. In the past, he worked with the organizations such as The Shield Foundation, Atal Incubation Center-Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhani (AIC-RMP), Child Fund India, and Habitat for Humanity India.



Rohit Meshram

Assistant Manager
Learning Links Foundation

Rohit, originally from Bhandara, Maharashtra, has two years of experience working in education and development. He completed his M.A. in Education from Azim Premji University, Bangalore. He is currently serving as an Assistant Manager at Learning Links Foundation, Maharashtra, where he is dedicated to fostering educational opportunities for marginalized communities. He is also a professional hockey player and was selected by the Sports Authority of India, Mumbai.



Sanjeevani Pawar

Project Director
Apeksha Homoeo Society

Sanjeevani, based in Amravati, Maharashtra, is a passionate development professional with 13 years of experience in child rights, livelihood development, and community health in rural and tribal areas. Currently serving as Project Director at Apeksha Homoeo Society, Amravati, she leads programmes that empower marginalized communities through education, healthcare, and sustainable livelihood initiatives. She holds an M.A. in English Literature from Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Maharashtra. Through her role at Apeksha Homoeo Society, Sanjeevani is dedicated to promoting inclusive growth and creating lasting opportunities for vulnerable communities, working to drive meaningful social change.



Satyam Shrivastav

Founder & Director
Chaitanya Kul

Satyam, based in Mau, Uttar Pradesh, is the Founder and Director of Chaitanya Kul, a transformative educational initiative for underprivileged children. With a Bachelor's in Technology (B.Tech.) in Electronics and Instrumentation from Sir Chhotu Ram Institute of Engineering and Technology, Meerut, U.P., he has over nine years of experience in alternative education. Through Chaitanya Kul, he has designed and implemented innovative learning models that prioritize Peacefulness (harmony with self and the world) and Usefulness (employability and social contribution). He has also played a pivotal role in supporting over 4,000 migrant laborers during the COVID-19 pandemic with relief campaigns providing essential supplies and medical aid. Satyam is also an active volunteer and organizer in cultural initiatives, including the Malwa Kabir Yatra.



Shailesh Vichare

Senior Assistant Manager Kotak Education Foundation

Shailesh, originally from Mumbai, Maharashtra, is a dedicated leader in the social sector with over 15 years of experience in education and community development. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce (B.Com) from Prahladrai Dalmia Lions College, Mumbai. Currently, Shailesh is a Senior Assistant Manager at the Kotak Education Foundation in Mumbai, where he focuses on developing sustainable technology-driven educational solutions for underprivileged communities. Previously, he worked at the Nathani Charitable Trust in Mumbai, empowering children and families through education and scholarship initiatives.



Shireen Ansari

Programme Officer Udaan India Foundation

Shireen, a resident of Dharavi, Mumbai, has over four years of experience working in the education sector with Udaan India Foundation, Mumbai. She holds a Bachelor's in Management Studies (Marketing) from Khar Education Society's College of Commerce and Economics, Mumbai. As a Programme Officer, she works in Bombay Municipal Corporation (BMC) schools, impacting over 1,100 students through programmes focusing on critical thinking and holistic learning. During the COVID-19 lockdown, Shireen launched a project for teenage girls in Dharavi to improve their English communication skills, boost their self-confidence, and expose them to new opportunities.



Shivani Kakkar

Programme Manager Aasraa Trust

Shivani, originally from Dehradun, has five years of experience in the social sector, primarily focused on education, career guidance, and skill development for underserved communities. She holds a Master's degree in Psychology from IGNOU and is a certified Expressive Art Therapist. Currently, she works at Aasraa Trust at Dehradun, where she manages the higher education department, which aims to empower children to become independent and responsible citizens. After completing her MBA in Logistics and Supply Chain Management from the University of Petroleum, Dehradun, Shivani started working in the corporate sector. After working for four years, she shifted to the social sector.



Shreya Bagde

Programme Manager ENpower

Shreya, originally in Lakhani, Bhandara district in Maharashtra, is a Programme Manager at ENpower, with four years of experience in the education sector. She holds a Master's in Regulatory Governance from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai. Her passion for quality education drives her to find practical solutions to challenges students face and create opportunities for better livelihoods. She is a passionate dancer and storyteller, using expressive narratives to help students relate books to real-life experiences. Through her work at ENpower, Shreya strives to make quality education accessible to all, especially to marginalized communities.



Shubham Kumar

Project Officer
Maharashtra Social Housing and Action League

Shubham, originally from Nalanda, Bihar, has five years of experience in social development, focusing on informal jobs, affordable housing, and livelihood. He holds a Master's Degree In Urban Policy and Governance from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai. Currently, he serves as a Project Officer at MASHAL, an NGO based in Pune, where he works on improving the living conditions of marginalized communities, especially migrants, by assessing housing policies. He has also worked with a Mumbai-based startup called Bandhu Urban Tech for over four years. He is passionate about addressing challenges in the unorganised job sector and expanding access to affordable housing, particularly in urban areas.



Vaishali Gajbhiye

Programme Manager
Magic Bus Foundation

Vaishali, originally from Nagpur, Maharashtra, has four years of experience in the social sector with a focus on education. She holds a bachelor's degree in social work from Tirpude College of Social Work, Nagpur, and a Master's in Social Work (Children and Family Studies) from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. Currently, she serves as a programme manager at Magic Bus India Foundation, Indore, where she manages three projects in the district, overseeing planning, execution, monitoring, and team management. Previously, she worked as a researcher at the Bombay Natural History Society, focusing on human-wildlife conflict in Central India. Vaishali also served as a Junior Research Fellow at the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal.



Vikas Sharma

**Senior Manager - CSR, Corporate Communication & Events
PPG Asian Paints Private Limited**

Vikas, originally from Hoshiarpur, Punjab, and raised in Western U.P. and Uttarakhand, has 27 years of experience in sales, HR, CSR, and corporate communications. He holds a PGDBM in Marketing Management from Jagan Institute of Management Studies, Delhi. Currently, he is a Senior Manager at PPG Asian Paints Private Limited, Mumbai. With 14 years of experience in sales, Vikas transitioned into HR to align organizational practices with business goals and build a performance-driven culture. In 2018, Vikas took on a role in CSR, where he spearheads social initiatives and partnerships to create sustainable change in communities.



Vineet Singh

**Assistant Vice President
Medha Learning Foundation**

Vineet, originally from Mau and raised in Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh, has over eight years of experience in the skill development and livelihood sector. Currently serving as Assistant Vice President at Medha Learning Foundation, Uttar Pradesh, he works to empower underprivileged youth. He has delivered impactful training programmes across Gorakhpur, Agra, Prayagraj, and Lucknow. He earned a Master's in Social Work (MSW) from Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia University, Uttar Pradesh. While at Uttar Pradesh Kaushal Vikas Mission, Vineet contributed to state-led skill-building initiatives.



Vipul

Founder Project Vyom

Vipul, based in New Delhi, has 12 years of experience in theatre and social work, specializing in using theatre as a tool for education and empowerment. As the founder of the Project Vyom Foundation and Ibaarat Nukkad Festival, he aims to make theatre accessible to underserved communities, using its power to transform mindsets, build confidence, and inspire leadership. He has worked with the Asmita Theatre Group, attended the SOPE Workshop by Adishakti in Auroville, and been a part of the Jagriti Yatra, an entrepreneurial train journey, seven times. Vipul holds a B.Com degree from IGNOU.



Virushi Shah

Director Heetu Chemicals & Alkalies Ltd.

Virushi, from Mumbai, has four years of experience in the chemical trading industry. She holds a Post Graduate Business Analytics & Applications Certificate from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Trichy. She earned her Bachelor's in Mathematics from Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania, in the United States. Currently, she is the Director at Heetu Chemicals & Alkalies Ltd., Mumbai, leading innovation, marketing, and client development initiatives. Previously, she worked at KPMG India for five years, managing audit clients and markets while developing expertise in analysis, strategy building, and client management. Keen to increase her work in the social impact sector, she is also the CSR Manager for the Smart Village Movement (an alliance with UC Berkeley), where she drives impactful community development projects that create sustainable change. Virushi is also an accomplished Kathak dancer.



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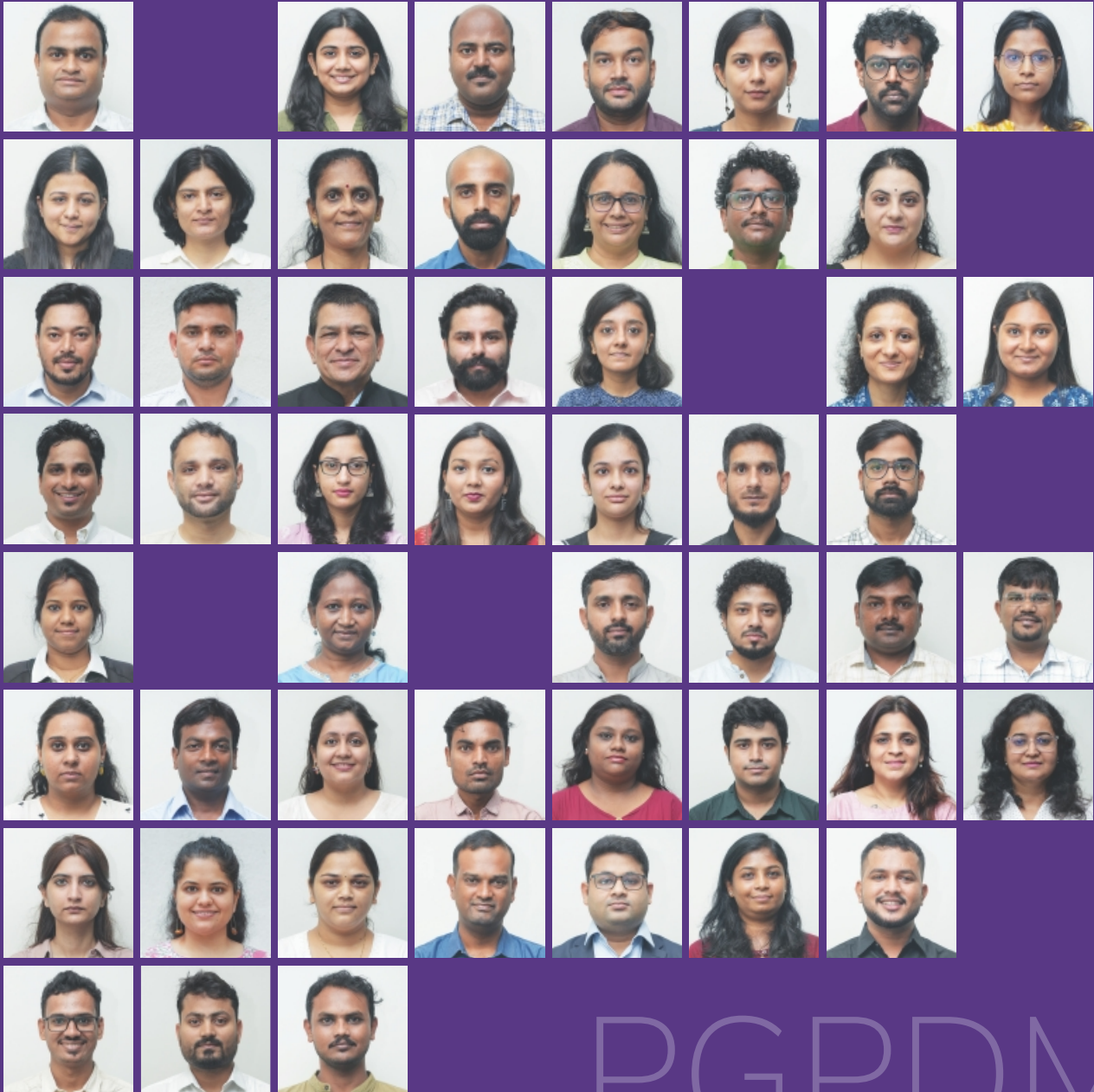


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Abhay Srivastava

**Head, Skill Development and Vocational Training
TCI Institute of Logistics**

Abhay, originally from Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, has over 16 years of extensive experience in the social sector. He holds a degree in Botany, Chemistry, and Zoology from Udai Pratap Autonomous College, Varanasi, and a Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Management from the Institute of Rural Management, Jaipur. Currently serving in a leadership capacity at TCI Institute of Logistics (the education wing of Transport Corporation of India) in Gurugram, Haryana, Abhay oversees the implementation of market-led and CSR-funded skill development projects, road safety, and financial literacy projects. Previously, he held managerial positions at prominent organizations such as Wipro GE Healthcare Pvt. Ltd. in Gurugram, Future Sharp Skills Ltd (a Big Bazaar company) in Mumbai, and Modelama Skill Development Limited in Gurugram.



Aishwarya Aher

Social Sector Professional

Aishwarya is born and brought up in Mumbai and holds a Bachelor of Commerce from R.A. Podar College of Commerce and Economics, Mumbai University. She also pursued her Master of Commerce (M.Com) from Mumbai University. Before her involvement in rural development, she gained experience as a Junior Marketing Manager at Dumpling Delights in Mumbai. She has recently completed the SBI Youth for India Fellowship in rural Bikaner, Rajasthan where she was engaged in projects focusing on self-governance among nomadic pastoralists in the Thar Desert.



Akhileshwar Singh

Social Sector Professional

Akhileshwar, hailing from Bhabua District, Bihar, has dedicated over a decade to community development and welfare. With a Bachelor of Arts in History from Patna College, Bihar, and a Post Graduate Diploma in Development Management from Tata Dhan Academy, Madurai, Tamil Nadu, Akhileshwar has accumulated extensive experience working with various non-governmental organizations. His career spans several roles, including positions at Deepak Foundation, Gujarat, Aga Khan Rural Support Programme India (AKRSPI) in Gujarat, BAIF in Bihar, Charutar Arogya Mandal in Gujarat, and DHAN Foundation in Bihar. His experience is further enriched by part-time work with Gramin Development Services in Uttar Pradesh.



Aniket Kalaskar

Coordinator, Shillim Institute

Aniket Kalaskar, from Pune, Maharashtra, is the Coordinator at Shillim Institute, Pune, where he manages institute operations and leads educational and conservation programmes along with livelihood and community development. His focus includes sustainable living, conservation of the northern Western Ghats, and local educational initiatives. Aniket holds a BCA from Sinhgad College of Science and an MCA from NBN Sinhgad SOMS, both from Savitribai Phule Pune University. Previously, he was a Programme Manager at the British Council in Mumbai where he managed a statewide education program that significantly improved English language proficiency among teachers, impacting over 30,000 educators.



Anjali Singh

Senior Coordinator, Jan Sahas

Anjali, originally from Kotma, Madhya Pradesh, is a mental health professional leveraging her extensive educational background with an undergraduate degree in Psychology from Banaras Hindu University and masters in Applied Psychology from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. She has worked with Jan Sahas, Bhopal for three years where she spearheaded initiatives focusing on mental health training, aiming to enhance community empowerment through sustainable mental health practices. She has also worked with Doctors without Borders, New Delhi. She is currently associated with Jan Sahas, Delhi.



Anuvind K

Assistant Programme Manager, Hemophilia Federation India

Born and raised in Kozhikode, Kerala Anuvind has a background in Electronic and Communication Engineering from Sri Krishna College of Technology, Anna University, Tamil Nadu. He now serves as Assistant Programme Manager at Hemophilia Federation of India in New Delhi. In the past he worked with Hemophilia Society of Calicut based out of Kozhikode. Anuvind's current role involves strategic planning, resource management, and capacity-building initiatives for Hemophilia treatment centers across India. He collaborates closely with government stakeholders, coalition partners, and donors to design and implement effective solutions and ensure seamless project execution.



Archana Shinde

Project Coordinator, Vigyan Ashram

Born in Pune, Maharashtra, Archana is currently employed as a Project Coordinator at Vigyan Ashram in Pune. With a Bachelor's degree in Arts and a B.Ed from Savitribai Phule Pune University, Archana has spent over six years in the education sector, focusing on vocational training, special education, and scholarship programmes for girls. Before her current role, Archana was a Resource Teacher at Morris Foundation, Pune where she developed tailored learning experiences for children with learning disabilities across four schools. Her earlier positions include a Field Coordinator at Yojak, Pune and a Teacher at Adarsh Vidyalaya, Pune.



Asmita Bhardwaj

Strategy Associate, End Poverty

Born in Ambala and raised in Faridabad, Haryana, Asmita currently serves as a Strategy Associate at End Poverty and is based at Gurugram. Asmita crafts fundraising strategies, manages donor databases, and writes compelling proposals to ensure sustainable funding streams for programmes aimed at alleviating poverty. She holds a BA in Business Economics from Gargi College, Delhi University, and a Master's in Women's Studies from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Hyderabad. Prior to her current role, Asmita got exposed to social sector in various capacities including her association with Nand Ghar project in Jodhpur Rajasthan in collaboration with Vedanta.



Binnie Thakur

**Deputy Manager, CSR
UltraTech Pvt. Ltd.**

Binnie Thakur, from Palampur, Himachal Pradesh, holds a degree in Business Administration from Degree College, Dharamshala, and an MBA in HR and Marketing from Central University of Himachal Pradesh. Her social sector journey began with PRADAN in South Bastar, developing impactful grassroots projects. Currently, as Deputy Manager in CSR at UltraTech Pvt. Ltd. in Baga, Himachal Pradesh, she leads initiatives in health, education, livelihood, infrastructure support, and social awareness. Her role includes conducting village needs assessments and designing targeted community development projects. Binnie has also worked with the Piramal Foundation, Bajaj CSR, and the ICICI Foundation.



Chhaya Jadhav

**Lead Faculty,
Muktangan Education Trust**

Chhaya, originating from Mumbai, is an accomplished educator and faculty leader at Muktangan Education Trust, Mumbai. With a robust educational background, holding a B.Com from GN Khalsa College and an MA in Education, alongside a B.Ed from KGS B.Ed College, all affiliated with Mumbai University, Chhaya has dedicated her career to enhancing educational outcomes of underprivileged children and teacher training. As Lead Faculty in Muktangan she spearheads teacher training programmes. Her career is marked by a passion for nurturing educational development within underserved communities in Mumbai, especially focusing on empowering women and facilitating their employment in local schools.



Debayan Chakraborty

**Manager, Erection and Maintenance
Coal India Ltd.**

Debayan originally from Sodepur and based in West Bardhaman, West Bengal, oversees the electrical and mechanical installations at Coal India Ltd's Jambad Open-Cast mines. A graduate from the National Institute of Technology Rourkela, Odisha, Debayan is responsible for the complete management of electrical machinery and mechanical installations within the coal mine. His role also involves significant engagement with local communities surrounding the coal mines to ensure smooth supply of water and power to local colonies and villages. Debayan is keen to bring a development management perspectives and knowledge into the social development aspect of his work.



Deval Parekh

**Vice President-Products,
Blue Pencil Strategies Pvt. Ltd.**

Deval, a Mumbai native, combines 14 years of IT experience with a strong commitment to social impact. Holding a B.Sc in Chemistry from R.D. National College, Mumbai University, Deval transitioned from IT to social enterprise, focusing on empowering socio-economically disadvantaged women through education and technology. Currently as a Vice President of Product at Blue Pencil Strategies Pvt. Ltd. in Mumbai, she leads the development of user-friendly IT platforms to foster social investments and manage programmes in food distribution, skill development, and entrepreneurship. Previously, she served as AVP Delivery at Milessoftware Solutions for Financial Services in Mumbai, and as Senior Principal Consultant at Oracle Financial Services Software Ltd. in Mumbai.



Dhananjay Sayare

Director, Nisarg

Hailing from Amravati, Maharashtra, Dhananjay is a dedicated professional in rural development and biodiversity conservation, focusing on the Melghat region of Maharashtra. He holds a B.Sc. in Environmental Science from Shivaji Science College, Amravati. Throughout his career, he has collaborated with several organisations, including the Centre for Environment Education in Pune and the Paani Foundation in Mumbai. He is currently the Director of Nisarg Institute for Social Action Research Guidance and Assessment and based at Amravati.



Garima Rohilla

Communication & Training Manager, Koru Foundation

Garima, originally from Delhi, currently serves as the Communication and Training Manager at Koru Foundation in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand. With a BA in Economics from Bhagini Nivedita College, Delhi University, and a Master of Arts in Visual Art from Ambedkar University, Delhi, Garima has channelled her academic insights into impactful social sector initiatives. In her present role based out of Jamshedpur, Jharkhand she is instrumental in designing curricula and leading comprehensive training programmes. Previously she has been associated with Slam Out Loud and Culture and Language Department under Delhi government where she was involved in arts-based education and management of cultural programmes.



Goutam Mahanty

**State Anchor,
Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India**

Goutam is from Jamshedpur, Jharkhand and has more than eight years of experience in the livelihoods sector. He is currently serving as the State Anchor for the Startup Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) at Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) in Kamrup, Assam. Goutam holds a BBA from Xavier Institute of Tribal Education, Gamharia under Ranchi University, Jharkhand and an MA in Development (Livelihoods) from Azim Premji University, Bangalore, Karnataka. Additionally, he has completed a Programme in Public Policy from Indian School of Public Policy, Delhi.



Govinda Pawar

**Assistant Manager-Production Planning and Control,
Honda Motorcycle India**

Govinda, originally from Sohna, Haryana, has been expertly managing production planning and control at Honda Motorcycle India, Gurgaon for the past ten years. His educational qualifications include a BA in Economics from Kalinga University, Chhattisgarh, and an MA in Economics from Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak, Haryana. Acutely aware of the educational problems of marginalized children, in his voluntary capacity, he leads the educational initiative 'Education for everyone,' providing free educational opportunities and coaching to underprivileged children who aspire for higher education.



Hemraj Patel

**Assistant General Manager, HR-CSR
Grasim Industries Ltd.**

Born in Ankleshwar, Gujarat, Hemraj is Assistant General Manager of HR-CSR at Grasim Industries Limited in Vilayat, Bharuch, Gujrat. He holds a Master's degree and a Bachelor's degree in Rural Studies from Veer Narmad South Gujarat University. In his current role, Hemraj oversees corporate social responsibility initiatives and local liaisoning for three plants of Grasim. He has been instrumental in launching impactful projects such as the Grasim Miyawaki and Green Belt Development and the transformative Project Udaan. Previously, Hemraj served at Reliance Industries Ltd. for 11 years, where he managed CSR activities, apprenticeships, and training coordination, significantly contributing to local community support and development.



Hiten Kapila

**District Development and Panchayat Officer,
Government of Punjab**

Hailing from Chandigarh, Punjab, Hiten holds a B.Tech in Biotechnology from Thapar University, Patiala. With 14 years of experience in rural development, he currently serves as the District Development and Panchayat Officer for the Department of Rural Development and Panchayats, Government of Punjab. Hiten is dedicated to empowering marginalized communities and delivering justice. Previously, he served as the Additional Deputy Commissioner (Development), Punjab. He also worked as a Food Inspector with the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, ensuring the procurement, distribution, and quality-check of essential commodities.



Jill Gada

Freelance Visual Designer

Jill, based in Mumbai, holds a Diploma in Applied Arts from Sophia Polytechnic, Mumbai. With over seven years of experience as a visual designer, Jill is now a freelance designer focusing on leveraging design for social impact. Most recently she has worked with Final Mile, Mumbai as a Project Intern leveraging her design skills for the social transformation projects. In the past she has worked with Landor in Mumbai as a Senior Designer, Strategy in Mumbai as a Senior Designer and Ordinary and Starting Monday Design and Branding Co., as an Art Director also in Mumbai. Jill is keen to transition to social sector and deploy her design skills for crafting innovative visual strategies to empower communities and reimagine possibilities of social change.



Kavita Chandak

Senior Programme Manager, Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust

Kavita, originally from Rajasthan and born and raised in Kolkata, West Bengal, transitioned from a background in fashion design to social development. She currently oversees projects at Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust, Mumbai, where her work spans across health, education, and disaster relief, utilizing her skills in project management and creative problem-solving. Holding a BA in English and MSW from IGNOU, and a certification in Fashion and Clothing Technology from NIFT, Kavita's expertise extends beyond social development. Her previous roles include Cluster Head for Unnati at Kotak Education Foundation, and working with NGOs like Vol. ASEEMA Charitable Trust, Mumbai Smiles, and Mentor Me India. She also worked as an investigation officer on a UNICEF project. In addition to her social development work, Kavita has embarked on an entrepreneurial journey with her own brand, Anukriti, specializing in women's wear and retailing across India.



Kavita Verma

**Senior Officer-CSR
JSW Cement Ltd.**

Kavita from Patna, Bihar holds a BSc in Zoology from the College of Commerce, Arts and Science, Magadh University, Patna. Her professional journey includes significant roles at Tata Motors and being an SBI Youth for India (YFI) fellow, where she gained extensive experience in grassroots initiatives and consultancy. Currently, she leads critical initiatives at JSW Cement CSR at Nagaur, Rajasthan focusing on empowering women and enhancing education, health, and livelihoods in Rajasthan.



Krishnakumar Yadav

**Manager - Health, Safety, Security and Environment
Summit Digital Infrastructure Ltd.**

Krishnakumar from Mumbai, holds a BE in Biotechnology Engineering from Mumbai University and an M.Tech in Environmental Science and Technology from North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon. On top of that a Post Graduate Diploma in Environmental Law and Policy and a Post Graduate Diploma in Advance Diploma in Industrial Safety. Currently serving as the Health, Safety, Security, and Environment (HSSE) Manager at Summit Digital Infrastructure Ltd., Mumbai, he boasts over a decade of experience championing environmental sustainability and safety. He has worked with Siemens Ltd. and J Kumar Infra Projects Ltd, Mumbai in the past. Krishnakumar excels in designing and implementing training programmes that empower communities to achieve sustainable development goals effectively.



Laukesh Jaiswal

Project Officer, BAIF Institute for Sustainable Livelihood Development

Laukesh, originally from Chhattisgarh, has transitioned from an electrical engineering background to a dedicated social sector professional. He holds a B.E. in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from Bhilai Institute of Technology, Raipur. With 3.5 years of experience in IT solutions and social enterprises, Laukesh is currently a Project Officer at BAIF Institute for Sustainable Livelihood Development in Vadodara, Gujarat. His work focuses on leading projects for women empowerment and rural livelihoods, including establishing tribal women-led enterprises and managing Farmer Producer Organisations. Laukesh is committed to sustainable development and community empowerment.



Marzina Maner

Social Sector Professional

Marzina, from Koregaon, Maharashtra, has over three years of experience in community and mental health. She graduated with a BA in Economics from Chhatrapati Shivaji College, Satara, affiliated with Shivaji University, Maharashtra and has also completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Community Health Management from the DHAN Academy, Madurai, Tamil Nadu. Marzina continued with DHAN and responsible for implementation of Health activities. Her most recent role was, as a Project Associate at Vowels of the People Association in Pune, Maharashtra focusing on enhancing mental health awareness and treatment.



Megha Kshirsagar

Programme Coordinator, CORO India

Megha, born in Satara, Maharashtra, and raised in Ambernath, Thane, Maharashtra, is a passionate advocate for social change. She leverages her expertise in gender sensitization and urban planning to promote constitutional values and equity at CORO India, Mumbai, where she currently serves as the Programme Coordinator for the Samata Fellowship. Megha holds a Master of Arts in Social Work from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, and a Bachelor of Management Studies (BMS) from Mumbai University. She has also completed a Urban Fellowship programme from Indian Institute of Human Settlements, Bengaluru. In the past she worked with Manas Foundation, New Delhi as a Gender Trainer.



Mimansa Parolia

Project Assistant, TEER Foundation

Originally from Firozabad, Uttar Pradesh, Mimansa holds a B.Sc in Forestry from Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University, Dehradun, Uttarakhand. She has also completed a Post Graduate Diploma (online) in Environmental Law & Policy from National Law University, New Delhi. She currently serves as a Project Assistant at TEER Foundation, Nashik, Maharashtra. In current role based out of Nashik, she investigates and supports the implementation of Forest Rights Act (FRA) and Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas Act (PESA) across seven states of India. Previously she has been associated with Everain Global Services, drafting People's Biodiversity Register for Haryana State Biodeversity Board.



Mohammad Rafi

**Founder,
LEAP The Village School**

Mohammad Rafi hails from Doda in Jammu and Kashmir. Armed with an MBA from Global Business School and Research Centre at Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune, and a B.Com. from Kashmir University, Mohammad founded LEAP. The Village School with a vision to make quality education accessible in remote areas of Kashmir. Since April 2018, as Founder and Chairperson, he has overseen the school's operations, championing inclusive policies and sustainable development practices. Mohammad's career journey reflects his diverse expertise, including roles as a Customer Success Executive at Infybytes AI Pvt. Ltd. in Bangalore and at Amazon in Pune. In the past, he also worked with Mercy Corps International Development Agency, Srinagar for 7 years.



Naveen Chourasia

**Gandhi Fellow,
Piramal Foundation**

Born in Bihar and raised in West Bengal, Naveen is a Gandhi Fellow at the Piramal Foundation, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh where he is responsible for managing stakeholders, conducting teacher training programmes, mobilizing communities, and designing as well as implementing educational projects that address various social and economic challenges. With a robust background spanning over three years in the social sector and digital marketing, Naveen holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from H.D. Jain College, Ara Bihar. His vision revolves around fostering holistic education and sustainable development to uplift underprivileged populations.



Nirupama Barik

**Assistant Officer-CSR
Utkal Alumina International Ltd.**

Born in Talapada and currently based in Tikiri, Odisha, Nirupama serves as an Assistant Officer, CSR at Utkal Alumina International Ltd., Rayagada, Odisha. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Karanjia College, North Odisha University and a Master's degree in Social Work from VISWASS Utkal University, Odisha. Nirupama specializes in education, health, livelihood and women. Prior to her current role, Nirupama worked as a Senior Programme Associate at the Centre for Youth and Social Development in Koraput, where she was instrumental in promoting and strengthening SHG Producer Groups. Her earlier role as an Outreach Officer at Hindustan Latex Family Planning Promotion Trust in Balasore involved disseminating information on reproductive health.



Niyoti Tudu

Social Sector Professional

Hailing from Giridih, Jharkhand, Niyoti completed her undergraduate studies in Economics at Ram Krishna Mahila College and a Master's in Economics from Nalanda Open University. She also holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Human Rights from the Indian Institute of Human Rights, New Delhi. Recently, she served as Communication Officer at Abhvyakti Foundation, creating content, liaising with stakeholders, and managing digital media. Previously, she was a Block Coordinator at Badlao Foundation, managing capacity building and training initiatives. She has also been associated with Social Welfare Directorate in Ranchi.



Pradeep Gujar

**Programme Manager,
Vardhishnu Social Research and Development Society**

Born in Shirpur, Maharashtra and currently based in Jalgaon, Maharashtra, Pradeep is a Programme Manager at Vardhishnu Social Research and Development Society. With a graduation in science from K.T.H.M College, Nashik and a Master's in Botany from Savitribai Phule Pune University. He transitioned from a science background to social work through the Chief Minister's Rural Development Fellowship in Nandurbar district, Maharashtra, focusing on holistic village development. Currently, as a Programme Manager at Vardhishnu Social Research and Development Society, his efforts span across various initiatives, including capacity building of community-based grassroots organisations and direct involvement in field operations that address the immediate needs of underprivileged communities, enabling organisations to grow and scale.



Priyankush Kalita

**Founder & President,
Xondhan Foundation**

Priyankush, a native of Abhayapuri, Assam, is the Founder and President of Xondhan Foundation, empowering marginalized communities through education and sustainable development. With 12+ years of experience, including 7 in IT, he holds a B.Tech in Electronics and Communication Engineering. His diverse background includes roles at Child Help Foundation, Dassault Systemes, and Tata Consultancy Services, as well as internships with the Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights and We Are Young Foundation. Through Xondhan Foundation, Priyankush focuses on disaster risk reduction, education, WASH, climate education, and sustainable livelihoods, aiming to bring quality education to vulnerable children and a dignified life to marginalized Assamese people, building resilience against annual floods.



Rajshekhar Kumbar

Project Manager, Head Held High Foundation

Rajshekhar, originally from Bidar, Karnataka, brings nine years of experience in empowering underprivileged communities through skill development and livelihood projects. He holds an MCA from Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), Karnataka, and a BCA from Gulbarga University, Karnataka. Currently, he is a Senior Manager at Head Held High Foundation in Bangalore, where he leads and manages the overall operations of the organisation. Rajshekhar is committed to leveraging technology and data-driven insights to create lasting social impact.



Ravindra Nannavare

Documentation, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, CORO India

Ravindra, from Jalgaon, Maharashtra, holds a Master of Social Work (MSW) from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, and a Bachelor in Social Work from College of Social Work Nirmala Niketan, Mumbai, with a Post Graduation Diploma in Research Methodology. He has four years of professional experience in the development sector. Prior to his current role, he worked with organisations such as YUYA Urban Initiative, The Akanksha Foundation, and Jan Sahas Foundation. Currently, he serves as Documentation and MEAL Officer at CORO India for the Samta Fellowship, which works on embedding constitutional values in society, focusing on education, migrant worker upliftment, urban poor development, gender sensitization, and vocational training.



Ridhima Sharma

**Education Specialist,
Ashvattha Learning Communities**

Ridhima from Jaipur, Rajasthan, brings a passion for educational equity to her role as Education Specialist at Ashvattha Learning Communities. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature (Hons.) from Shyam Lal College, University of Delhi. Ridhima's career journey includes a transformative experience as a Teach for India Fellow, where she taught and focused on foundational literacy and numeracy for third graders. At Ashvattha Learning Communities in Jaipur, Rajasthan, she currently serves as City Manager, overseeing operational teacher training projects aimed at enhancing educational quality. Ridhima is dedicated to creating sustainable educational solutions, improving teacher effectiveness, and bridging educational gaps in underprivileged communities.



Rohit Shrivastva

**Officer, CSR
UltraTech Cement Ltd.**

Originally from Daltonganj, Jharkhand. Rohit is currently stationed at UltraTech Cement Ltd. in Dalla, Uttar Pradesh. With a robust career spanning 17 years in the corporate social responsibility (CSR) sector, Rohit is deeply involved in developing and implementing initiatives across five critical areas: Education, Health, Sustainable Livelihood, Social Welfare, and Infrastructure. Rohit holds a Bachelor of Arts from Ranchi University and MA in the Rural Development from Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU). In the past he worked with Hindalco Industries Ltd. in Balrampur, Chhattisgarh and Society for Rural Industrialization in Ranchi.



Sanhita Ganekar

Social Sector Professional

Sanhita, a Mumbai native, holds a B.E. in Civil Engineering from M.H. Saboo Siddik College of Engineering, Mumbai University, and an M.Tech in Structural Engineering from the National Institute of Technology, Jalandhar. Originally focused on engineering, she transitioned to the social sector during the COVID-19 pandemic volunteering with Project Mumbai dedicating herself to environmental projects such as plastic waste collection and beach clean-ups in Mumbai. As a Project Officer with Project Mumbai, she managed environmental initiatives, coordinated with volunteers, and drove awareness to promote sustainable community development. Sanhita's commitment to a zero-plastic waste lifestyle and impactful environmental work underscores her dedication to fostering positive change.



Sanket Wairagade

Programme Manager, Guardbook Conservation Foundation

Born in Chandrapur, Maharashtra Sanket holds a Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering from MIET Bhandara under Rashtrasant Tukdoji Maharaj Nagpur University and a Master's in Water Policy & Governance from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. Currently, as a Programme Manager at Guardbook Conservation Foundation in Gadchiroli, Maharashtra, he is responsible for overseeing conservation and community development projects. Before this assignment he worked with the same organisation on initiatives such as watershed programmes in Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan. Previously, he worked with All India Institute of Local Self Government in Chandrapur and UltraTech Cement Ltd. in Rawan, Chhattisgarh.



Saptadeepa Biswas

Programme Manager, Head Held High Foundation

Born and raised in Kolkata, Saptadeepa is currently working as a Programme Manager at Head Held High Foundation. She holds a B.A. in Tourism Studies from Indira Gandhi National Open University, Delhi. In her role at Head Held High Foundation, Saptadeepa works on breaking the cycle of poverty by training passionate youths and promoting dignified living through education and skill development in multiple states – Gujarat, Maharashtra, Odisha, Karnataka, Bihar, West Bengal and Jharkhand. Her dedication to fostering sustainable solutions for social issues is rooted in her early experiences in Kolkata, where she was deeply involved in community service.



Sayantan Banerjee

Assistant Manager - Communications, Tech Mahindra Foundation

Originally from Bally, Howrah, West Bengal, Sayantan holds a Bachelor of Arts in English (Honours) from Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira, University of Calcutta, and a Master of Arts in Media & Cultural Studies from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. Sayantan is deeply committed to advocating for disability rights and fostering inclusivity within society. His career journey includes roles such as Assistant Manager at Tech Mahindra Foundation, Delhi where he currently manages both internal and external communications, and previous experience as a Communications Associate at Gnothi Seauton, Delhi, and Assistant Producer at Newsreel Asia, Noida.



Sheetal Kalra

Consultant, CSR
DSP Asset Managers Private Limited

Sheetal Kalra, born in Mumbai, is a professional in the finance sector, currently focusing on Corporate Social Responsibility at DSP Asset Managers Pvt. Ltd. There, she oversees the entire CSR process. Following her B.Com from R A Podar College of Commerce and Economics, Mumbai University, Sheetal started her career with HSBC Bank. Sheetal has also served as AVP and Zonal Head for Client Response and Operations at DSP Mutual Fund at Mumbai. She played a key role in DSP BlackRock Mutual Fund's marketing team, spearheading the Winvestor initiative focused on educating women investors.



Shilpa Hulsurkar

Head of Fundraising and Partnerships
Vowels of the People Association

Shilpa, originally from Marathwada, Maharashtra, transitioned from engineering to the social sector. She holds a Bachelor of Engineering from Government College of Engineering, Aurangabad, Maharashtra. After a seven-year career in the automotive industry with Mahindra Two Wheelers and Bajaj Auto, she joined Lighthouse Communities Foundation, an NGO in Pune in 2021. For over three years, she led a skilling and livelihood programme, impacting urban disadvantaged youth by providing logistic sector-specific skills. Recently she joined Vowels of the People Association, Pune as Head of Fundraising and Partnerships.



Shreya Setia

Teach Manager, U&I Trust

Shreya, originally from Panipat, holds a B.Sc in Zoology from Hansraj College, University of Delhi, an M.Sc in Biotechnology from Chandigarh University, Chandigarh, and a B.Ed from Tau Devi Lal College of Education, Chaudhary Ranbir Singh University, Haryana. She is currently the Teach Manager at U&I Trust, Bangalore where she has dedicated the past year to enhancing educational outcomes for underprivileged children, overseeing operations in Surat, Gujarat, and Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Additionally, she has also been associated with Make a Difference in Goa, as a volunteer for four years.



Srishti Chhatwal

Sustainability Manager, PhyFarm

Born in Bhopal, Srishti is currently managing sustainability initiatives for PhyFarm's regenerative farming platform in Mumbai. Srishti is a graduate in Economics from Sardar Arjit College, Barkatullah University, Bhopal and holds a Master's in Commerce and Business Management from NM College of Commerce and Economics, Mumbai University. She has further enriched her academic portfolio with a qualification in Counselling Psychology from St. Xavier's College, Mumbai University. Previously, Srishti honed her skills at the Atal Incubation Center at NITI Aayog, advising startup founders on creating impactful social enterprises. Her work has spanned various initiatives, from promoting electric vehicles in India to promoting STEM education in remote villages.



Sukanya Jadhav

Organizer, YUVA Foundation

Sukanya Jadhav, from Raigad, Maharashtra, with a Bachelor's in Mass Media from Ruia College, Mumbai University, specializes in community empowerment in Navi Mumbai. At YUVA Foundation, she strengthens community-based organisations, enhancing their leadership and capacity through targeted workshops and discussions. She plays a key role in initiatives like the Ghar Haq Sangharsh Samiti for housing rights and the "Water for All" project, ensuring access to water for informal settlements. Additionally, she documents activities and conducts workshops on leadership, self-help groups, and workers' rights, aiming to improve community access to essential services.



Titus Samuel

HR Delivery Process Owner, IBM India Pvt. Ltd.

Titus, originally from Madurai, Tamil Nadu, has a robust background in HR operations spanning over 14 years across various multinational corporations. He holds a B.Sc. in Statistics from Madras Christian College and a postgraduate certificate in management from IIPM, Chennai. Titus is passionate about integrating sustainable development and social innovation into business practices, aiming to transition into social entrepreneurship. His career highlights include various roles such as HR Operations Specialist at IBM India Pvt. Ltd. in Bengaluru, Karnataka, Deputy Manager at EY GBS India LLP in Trivandrum, Kerala and HR Assistant at The World Bank in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.



Udayan Mohapatra

**Project Associate,
United Nations Development Programme, India**

Hailing from Kalahandi, Odisha, Udayan Mohapatra is a skilled professional in programme and policy development for the Tribal Development Department, Government of Maharashtra. He holds a B.Tech in Manufacturing Engineering from Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology, Bhubaneswar, and a Certificate in Public Policy from IIM Bangalore. As a Mahatma Gandhi National Fellow, he developed district skill plans in Kalahandi. Previously, he was a Field Service Volunteer with the Society for Training Action Research and Rehabilitation, Bhubaneswar, supporting tribal communities in Odisha.



Vaishali Sadafule

**Senior Assistant Manager,
Kotak Education Foundation**

Vaishali is a dedicated professional with over 12 years of experience in the social sector, focusing on education, health, and community empowerment. She holds a Master's in Social Work (MSW) from SNDT Women's University, Mumbai and a Master's in Population Sciences from the International Institute For Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai. Currently, she works as Senior Assistant Manager at Kotak Education Foundation, where she manages operations for the Model School Project. Previously, Vaishali worked as a Programme Officer at the Family Planning Association of India, focusing on counselling diverse groups such as women, adolescents, and transgender individuals, and at Vacha Trust, empowering adolescent girls.



Vidyasagar Zubre

Social Sector Professional

Vidyasagar, based in Mumbai, is a development professional with five years of experience in project management, stakeholder engagement, and government liaising. He holds a BA in Sociology from Shri Bhausaheb Vartak Arts, Commerce & Science College, Mumbai University, and an MA in Social Science specialising in Sustainable livelihood, natural resources and governance from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Tuljapur. Vidyasagar's most recent assignment was with Village Social Transformation Foundation (VSTF) in Mumbai as a Mission Associate. In the past he worked with Collectives for Integrated Livelihood Initiatives (CINI) in Pune and Department of Agriculture, Government of Maharashtra in Aurangabad and Jalna.



Vikas Sargar

Area Manager, Swayam Shikshan Prayog

Vikas, born and raised in Mumbai, is an Area Manager at Swayam Shikshan Prayog in Dharashiv, Maharashtra where he leads the implementation of government schemes focused on water conservation. With a B.Tech in Agricultural Engineering from Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krushi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli, Maharashtra Vikas has spent over six years in irrigation system design and project management across multiple organisations including Mahindra EPC Irrigation Ltd. Currently, he manages community development projects in Lohara and Tuljapur blocks of Dharashiv district, guiding block coordinators and village leaders on training, surveys, and government initiatives.



Vikash Kumar

Cluster Manager, Grant Thornton

Originally from Bokaro, Jharkhand, Vikash brings over nine years of experience in social development, focusing on sustainable agriculture, child protection, and women's empowerment. Holding Master's degrees in Commerce from Nalanda Open University, Patna and Masters in Social Work from IGNOU, he has progressed from managing grassroots level projects to leadership roles, previously serving as a Cluster Manager at Grant Thornton, Bokaro, Jharkhand. In his current role at Ernst and Young (E&Y), he aims to further his impact in social entrepreneurship, leveraging his extensive experience to promote socio-economic development.



Yogiraj Bhende

Social Sector Professional

Hailing from Yavatmal District, Maharashtra, Yogiraj has dedicated four years to addressing issues related to violence against children within underprivileged communities. With a BA in Arts from The Government Vidarbha Institute of Science and Humanities, Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati, Maharashtra, and an MA in Media and Cultural Studies from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, Yogiraj is driven by his passion to make quality education accessible to backward communities. In his most recent role, he served as a Programme Coordinator at Jan Sahas in Dewas, Madhya Pradesh.



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