

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

Social Sector Advancement through Federations

Conclave on
Social Sector Federations/Collectives

Organised by



Don Bosco Provincial House, Bengaluru

4th & 5th September 2023

Brief Profile of Participants



Mr Jagadananda J, Centre for Youth and Social Development (CYSD)

J. Jagadananda leads the Centre for Youth and Social Development (CYSD), an autonomous development organization working with the tribal and rural poor in Odisha.

He has played crucial role in the advancement of civil society causes in India through different positions. He was State Information Commissioner of Odisha, Member of the State Planning Board of Odisha, Convenor of Odisha Development Initiative, a multi stakeholder platform, Chairperson, Voluntary Action Network India (VANI), the largest national network of social development agencies in India, Chair of Credibility Alliance, Chair of Sa-Dhan, a national network of Community Development Micro Finance Institutions. Presently, he is a Member of the Standing Committee (CSOs) at the NITI Aayog on Institutionalizing Partnership between Civil Society and the Government. His publication 'Civil Society Legitimacy and Accountability' is widely read and is available in many languages -French, Spanish, Arabic and English.



Mr Alex Mathew, Financial Management Services Foundation (FMSF) India

Alex Mathew is currently Grants Management Officer at Financial Management Services Foundation. He brings over 23 years of work experience in the not-for-profit sector.

He has worked for the World Health Organization's polio eradication program, Centre for Chronic Disease Control, and Public Health Foundation of India in various capacities in administration, finance, research administration, and grants management. Alex is a Post Graduate in Business Administration and holds an Advanced Diploma in Computer Applications.



Ms Tarini Ross, Humanitarian Aid International (HAI) and LOCAL (Local Organisations' Coalition for Advancing Localisation).

Tarini Ross is a humanitarian professional based in Delhi, serving as the Senior Programme Manager at Humanitarian Aid International(HAI). she oversees HAI's humanitarian responses including flood and landslide responses, ethnic conflict response, Pakistani refugee programme, and HAI's global engagements in the Charter4Change(C4C) and Pledge for Change.

She also managed the C4C Global Secretariat and currently manages a platform of 20 grassroots and local NGOs called LOCAL (Local Organisations' Coalition for Advancing Localisation) which works on collaboratively strengthening locally-led humanitarian responses, spearheading a Dashboard for Aid Transparency and Accountability (DATA) and advocating for localisation, accountability and safeguarding of frontline responders.



Mr Kashi Nath Metya, Responsible Coalition for Resilient Communities (RCRC)

Kashi Nath Metya is currently National Project Lead (Sustainable Livelihoods) in RCRC(Responsible Coalition for Resilient Communities). With 30 partners in 12 States, RCRC's vision is "where civil society participates and collaborates with Samaj, Sarkar, Bazaar, and Sanchar to build an inclusive, equitable, and just future for and with marginalized communities". He anchors training and capacity building of RCRC partners.

Kashi has worked with leading CSOs; Seva Mandir, PRADAN, ASA, TRIF. Kashi was part of the Farm Livelihoods Team in NRLM, MoRD, where he played key role in actioning training and capacity building of State Rural Livelihood Missions (SRLM).



Mr Atul Kumar, Leprosy Network campaigning for Goodbye Leprosy

Atul Kumar is a Development sector professional with 18+ years of experience.

He is currently engaged with the multiple institutions in leprosy sector namely AIFO India, ALERT-INDIA, GoodBye Leprosy Trust, India Cares Foundation and Resource Network and development (RND) in multiple roles and capacity to design and conceptualize ideas and projects.

His expertise is in the areas of action research, training, programmes, resource mobilization, liaison and coordination with multi-stakeholders.



Ms Lee Macqueen, Sphere India

Lee Macqueen is a Humanitarian and DRR (Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation) practitioner specialising in the UN human rights mechanisms and child rights.

Her work emphasizes vulnerabilities and resilience development from intersectional perspectives, viz., gender, caste, ethnicity and age. Lee's efforts have contributed to inclusive disaster management frameworks and humanitarian programming, enabling disaster survivors to secure their entitlements.

In 2022, she became Sphere India's first woman chairperson, advancing its governance, accountability and transparency policies. A finalist for a UN Women's Award in 2022, she anchors the National Dalit Watch initiative of the NCDHR.



Mr Vikrant Mahajan, Sphere India

Vikrant is the CEO of Sphere India, a national coalition of humanitarian, development, and resilience actors in India which has an extensive membership inclusive of UN, INGOs, N/LNGOs, Corporate Foundations/CSR, Academia, and individual professionals.

He has also been supporting development of IAGs (Inter Agency Group), similar collaborative spaces for humanitarian and resilience building at state and district levels in India which now exists in all states in India.

He comes with over 27 years of versatile professional experience having worked across sectors with the Governments, UN, NGOs, Corporates, Academia, and the Armed Forces. He is a passionate humanitarian and has been on the front line of most disasters in India and the region over nearly two decades.



Mr SR Hiremath

S. R Hiremath is an Indian environmental and anti-corruption crusader based in the state of Karnataka. He is the founder president of Samaja Parivarthana Samudaya, a Non Governmental Organization working for the Promotion of people oriented policies and legislation.

Hiremath also founded National Committee for Protection of Natural Resources. He is best known for his relentless fight against the Illegal Mining mafia that took place in Karnataka and successfully challenging many political heavyweights and government executives associated with illegal mining. His organization is the recipient of the highest Environmental honour in India, Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Puraskar. Hiremath worked as an Investment Banker in various public and private corporations in the US including in Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago as a Manager. Mr Hiremath is the founding member of FEVORD -K (Federation of Voluntary Organisations for Rural Development-Karnataka) and also India Development Service, an acclaimed NGO.



Mr Bharath Bushan, Ex-Convenor AP Child Rights Alliance

Bharath Bhushan is presently Project Coordinator of Telangana State Gazetteer Unit, and Research Consultant, Centre for Economic & Social Studies (CESS), Hyderabad.

He has over three decades of experience of social work, institution building and policy research. Mr. Bharat Bhushan has deep experience in the work of Collectives and policy advocacy.

He was the founder Convenor of AP NGOs Network on Joint Forest Management, and AP Alliance for Child Rights. He was also the Convenor of Aranyika (an inter-state network of NGOs, civil society groups against tribal displacement under Polavaram Dam) and Co-Convenor of Adivasi Sangheebhava Committee (Tribal Solidarity Forum) in erstwhile Andhra Pradesh. He has done many research assignments in subjects related to social sector.



Mr L. A. Samy, Federation Building and Advocacy

Prof. L.A.Samy is the founder and executive director of the NGO AREDS (Association of Rural Education and Development Service). AREDS has been working for the development of Dalits, women, children and the rural poor in Karur district in Tamil Nadu, India.

Prof. Samy has been Co convener of Tamil Nadu Land Rights Federation (TNRLF) working both in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. He has led Campaigns, and pursued advocacy on different issues like sand mining, Child Rights, Dalit rights, abolition of bonded labour system, campaign for food security, campaign against child labour etc. He was also involved in creation of video documentation for lobby and policy advocacy.



Mr Basavaraj VS, Ex-Commissioner Disability

Mr Basavaraj comes with deep experience of over three and half decades in the Disability sector. He headed one of the large NGOs in the disability sector - Association of People with Disability (APD). Basavaraj immensely contributed to the creation and growth of a network - Disability NGOs Alliance (DNA) as the Founder Secretary and first CEO. DNA has over two hundred member organizations.

In a rare gesture, recognising his contributions to the disability sector, Govt of Karnataka appointed him as the State Commissioner of RPWD Act from 2018-2021.



Mr Harsh Jaitli, CEO of Voluntary Action Network India (VANI)

Mr. Harsh Jaitli is the Chief Executive Officer of Voluntary Action Network India (VANI) a leading voice of voluntary sector in India with over 600 members. Harsh has played key role in many committees formed by Government. He was member of expert committee formed by Government of India to develop National Voluntary Guidelines for ethical business behavior. He is member of NGO Cell created by NITI Aayog and member of Sub-committee on Enabling Environment. He is also member of committee formed to design CSO portal for Ministry of Corporate Affairs. Prior to VANI, he worked as Director in Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), looking after assignments of capacity building, research, advocacy and networking. He has worked on the themes like environment, health, local governance, Right to Information, organizational development etc.

VANI works towards strengthening Civil Society Organizations in India. This includes enabling regulatory environment and internal capacity enhancement of CSOs.



Mr N.M Prusty, Vice Chair of The Coalition for Food and Nutrition Security

Mr. Nilamadhab Prusty, Board Vice Chair of The Coalition for Food and Nutrition Security; is a recipient of Global Best Practice award for Innovation in Social Housing and finalist for the NASSCOM Foundation's Tech for Social Good innovation award, the Hubert Humphrey Fellowship and Ramon Magsaysay Award. He has a distinguished career spanning over 45 years in Government, Corporate, International Development Agencies and NGOs both national and international.

He had the privilege of getting mentored by legendary leaders like late Dr. V G Patel and late Dr. V Kurien.

The Coalition for Food and Nutrition Security is a diverse group of policy makers and program leaders which works towards the shared vision of "sustainable food and nutrition security for all."



Mr Biraj Patnaik, Executive Director National Foundation of India (NFI)

Prior to joining NFI, Biraj was formerly the Principal Adviser to the Commissioners of the Indian Supreme Court in the Right to food case for close to a decade. He has been part of the right to food campaign in India since its inception. He co-founded the 'Mitanin' community health worker program that trained and deployed 70,000 health workers in Chhattisgarh.

Biraj has post-graduate degree in management from the Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA), and was a Chevening Gurukul Senior Scholar at the London School of Economics and Social Sciences.



Mr T.R. Raghunandan IAS (Retd), Co-Founder Avantoka Foundation, International Consultant

Raghunandan is International consultant and advisor to international development agencies, governments and non-profit institutions on anti-corruption and decentralised public governance.

Director and co-founder of Avantika Foundation, a non-profit engaged in building the Museum of Movement, an effort to showcase India's romance with transport. Raghunandan has more than twenty six years of experience as a high ranking civil servant (in the Indian Administrative Service) holding executive, corporate management and policy making positions in state (provincial) and national Government.

He is specialist in formulating policy with respect to local governments, decentralisation and anti-corruption. His special interest is in training and mentoring on the above aspects of governance.



Mr Somesh Dayal, Deputy Director SRO & Finance Sa-Dhan

Somesh Dayal is the Compliance Officer to RBI under the SRO function of Sa-Dhan (Association of Community Development Finance Institutions). Under this role he is responsible for rolling out the SRO framework that includes undertaking field investigations, COCA assessments, surveillance tools, grievance redressal mechanism, SRO committee meetings, reporting to RBI and so on. Prior to this he has performed various other roles that includes policy advocacy, association management, governance, administration and financial management of Sa-Dhan, Somesh worked at senior positions like Director of Marketing and PR for Carrefour India, Mastercard India and other companies. He has left the corporate carrier and joined the cause of development sector in the year 2010.

Sa-Dhan is the first and largest association of community development finance institutions in India formed over two decades back for supporting and strengthening the agenda of fostering Inclusive Impact Finance in India.



Mr CS Reddy, APMAS Mahila Abhivruddhi Society

C.S. Reddy Founder and CEO of APMAS and President of Sadhikaratha Foundation, not-for-profit national level technical support organizations with a vision "Sustainable Women Self Help Movement in India."

He has over 30 years of experience in the development sector, particularly in the microfinance and livelihood sectors focusing on community based model of microfinance and livelihoods.

Mr. Reddy works closely with Government of India and State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, Telangana, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh on various policy issues and advise them on program implementation.

Mr. Reddy has extensively written and spoke about the women SHG movement in India and the strategies to sustain the movement. Mr. Reddy worked with CARE International in India for a period of 12 years. He provides advisory and consultancy services to the IFAD, World Bank, DFID, CGAP, GIZ Germany, DGRV Germany, CARE, CRS, Raks Thai Foundation of Thailand, State Governments & Government of India.



Mr Y Mariswamy, Ex Convenor Samajika Parivartan Jana Andolana

Mr. Y. Mariswamy is a dedicated social worker with a wealth of experience in championing child rights and marginalized communities' welfare. His impressive career includes roles as the Former Chairperson of Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) and Managing Trustee of Ananya Education & Empowerment Trust (AEAET). He has received several awards for his contributions, including an honorary doctorate for child rights advocacy.



Dr Thelma Narayan, Society for Community Health Awareness, Research and Action (SOCHARA)

Dr. Thelma Narayan is a distinguished scholar-activist with a strong commitment to health equity. She holds a medical degree from St. John's Medical College, Bangalore, along with an MSc in Epidemiology and a doctorate in public health policy from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Dr. Narayan's has taken many leadership roles at SOCHARA and currently serves as the Director of Academics and Health Policy Action at SOCHARA, Bangalore. She has been a valued advisor to various national health initiatives and has contributed significantly to public health and primary healthcare policies in Karnataka and Orissa states. Active in the People's Health Movement, she has played key roles in WHO commissions, inter-ministerial forums, and international conferences on health equity.



Mr Sabyachi Das, Revitalizing Rainfed Agriculture Network (RRAN) & Director, WASSAN

Dr Sabyasachi Das, having 20+ years of experiences in the Development sector, is currently national Coordinator of Revitalising Rainfed Agriculture Network. He is one of the Director in WASSAN (Watershed Support Services and Activities Network). He travels extensively within the country and collaborate with several CSOs, CBOs and policy makers. He has contributed in organizing and deliberating several policy dialogues on Rainfed Agriculture, Millets, Livestock and pastoralism.



Ms Swarna Bhat, GRAKOOS (Gramina Kooli Karmikara Sangha)

Ms. Swarna's activism began in 1992 when she joined SPS battles led by S.R. Hiremath in Ranibennur. She later worked with sanitation workers and women in Khanapura, Belagavi, until 2009. From 2009 onwards, she dedicated herself to advocating for NREGA workers' rights, founding and leading the Grakoos organization. Throughout her journey, she actively collaborated with national and state-level movements, including Bahutva Karnataka, Yeddhelu Karnataka, Aaharadha Hakku-Namma Hakku, Committee of Land and Housing Rights Deprived, and Samyukta Kisan Morcha, demonstrating her unwavering commitment to social justice and grassroots activism.



Mr MJ Aravind, Co-Founder and Advisor, Dhvani Foundation

Aravind has been extensively involved with the social sector in both executive and advisory capacity. He was on the Board of The Association of People with Disability for eight years. He is also an Advisor to the Disability NGO Alliance, Bengaluru. He is the Co-Founder of Dhvani Foundation Bengaluru.

MJ Aravind has over 30 years of global experience with large multinational corporations including Compaq, DEC, and Xerox in areas. Aravind was a co-founder and VP Operations of Daksh eServices, one of India's earliest and largest independent BPO companies. Post Daksh, Aravind leveraged his operational experience and extensive network to help set up the India operations of Artiman Ventures, an early-stage Venture Capital firm.



Mr Krishna Kumar, Advisor, Dhvani Foundation

Krishna Kumar has spent most of his career in early stage startups, where he was involved in setting up new centres and engagements for companies like UBICS, Page Point Motorola and GECIS/Genpact across multiple geographies. His key skills include setting up and scaling operations, process improvement and team building. KK is an alumnus of XLRI, Jamshedpur.

He is actively volunteering in the social sector for the past 7 years and has been an Advisor to Dhvani Foundation, mentoring and setting up new initiatives and programmes.



Mr KN Gopinath, Executive Director, Dhvani Foundation

Gopinath has over 25 years of diverse experience in the social sector with a long stint at The Association of People of Disabilities (APD), as its Executive Director (Operations) in Bengaluru. He is the Managing Trustee of Motivation India, a subsidiary of the Motivation UK one of the leading international organisations in the field of wheelchair provisioning. Gopinath is also a sought-after resource person in the sector.

At Dhvani, he is responsible for the overall strategic direction, growth, and impact of the organisation. He has been working on developing innovative models that could enhance NGOs process and systems to increase visibility and scale of the grassroots organisations. He works very closely with the leadership of NGOs, Federations, and other key social sector players to promote credibility and accountability of social organisations.



Mr Vijay Kulkarni, Senior Consultant, Dhvani Foundation

Vijay has over 42 years of multi sectoral experience working in 8 sectors and 9 institutions. Beginning his career in the banking sector, He became founder director of 2 RUDSETIs, and later served in Canara Bank.

He started Micro Finance institutions emerging in India as an alternate financial institution to serve economically poor in the early 90s. He also set up DRC, an incubator to start NGOs in Dharwad and has served as a consultant to many organisations such as NABARD, SIDBI etc.

He worked with Akshara Foundation to expand their programme to 8 districts of North Karnataka.



Mr Rabbi Jayakaran, Team Leader, Dhvani Foundation

Rabbi has worked for over two decades in the social development sector, both in rural and urban contexts. He has engaged in strengthening capacity of NGOs through organization building process, strengthening social movements, interfacing with government departments and advocating child rights policies. Rabbi is also the founder and Managing Trustee, Peacemakers Trust which works in the space of prison reforms, restorative Justice and mental health and serves as Guest Faculty, Department of Psychology, Christ (Deemed to be University).



Dhvani Foundation

Dhvani Foundation delivers innovative and sustainable solutions to improve the efficacy and credibility in the social sector. Dhvani also works with the Government, Donors, NGO Federations, Academia and other stakeholder to promote a vibrant and credible social sector.

Centre for Youth and Social Development

CYSD works with the tribal, rural and urban poor in Odisha, helping communities identify and initiate development measures, providing capacity-building support to pro-poor organizations and individuals, and carrying out research and advocacy in favour of the under privileged people especially the tribal.

