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4TH PLAN INDIA IMPACT AWARDS 2021

HONOURING LAST MILE CHAMPIONS



SDG Partner



Process Partner



Digital Partners





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Message from MS RATHI VINAY JHA

The Plan India Impact Awards honour front line heroes who have worked tirelessly and beyond the call of duty to make a real difference.

The Awards have enormous significance, since they help to inspire and boost the morale of these change makers from different parts of India to excel in their service and contribution towards ushering in a better tomorrow for millions of children, women and men.

I congratulate the Plan India team and it's Award partners, United Nations Global Compact Network India, CSR Box, Josh Talks, The Good Sight and Women's Web for their efforts in organising the Plan Impact Awards 2021.

It is indeed a very happy occasion to felicitate the winners of the Plan Impact Awards 2021. My congratulations and good wishes to the winners of the awards this year.

Sincerely,
Rathi Vinay Jha
Chairperson, Plan India Governing Board



Message from MR MOHAMMED ASIF

It is my honour and privilege to be a part of the Fourth Edition of the Plan India Impact Awards 2021 – Celebrating the Last Mile Champions. The 2021 Awards, being held in the shadows of the COVID-19 pandemic, continues to receive the appreciation and patronage from one and all in the social development space; and I take the opportunity to express my thanks to all those who took time from their busy schedule to nominate frontline workers for this edition of the Impact Awards.

This year it is heart-warming to note that 760+ nominations of frontline workers deserving of the Awards have been received from different parts of our country. As in the previous editions, this year too, the National Jury had a tough time in selecting the 30 Finalists from among the illustrious list of 760 frontline development workers and change makers who have been nominated for the 10 Award categories.

Initiated in 2017, the Plan India Impact Awards 2021 now has extensive coverage, receiving nominations from 26 States of our country. The nominations present to us hundreds of inspiring stories of incredible change-makers and frontline development workers who have worked hard and during the pandemic in the past year, to make life better for thousands of children, women and men from underprivileged families in their village communities and urban slums.

Plan India believes that the Impact Awards are an opportunity to recognise, appreciate and celebrate the good work being done at the grassroots levels by millions of frontline workers across our country. Also the Awards helps to inspire thousands of other frontline development workers and change makers to do more, to do better and go that extra mile as the catalyst and champion of development in their respective villages and urban slums. In this year's Awards, we have decided to include new categories to honor more change makers, particularly our COVID warriors, who have extended public health support and services during the pandemic to the poor families.

May I also take the opportunity to thank our partners for the Awards 2021, namely CSR Box, UN Global Compact Network India, Women's Web, The Good Sight and Josh Talks, for joining hands with Plan India to felicitate the Last Mile Champions. Your support has helped inspire frontline development workers and grassroots change-makers. We hope to encourage greater participation from across the country in the coming years as well to highlight and share more stories of change.

Sincerely,
Mohammed Asif
Executive Director, Plan India

About the Plan India IMPACT AWARDS



India is among the fastest-growing major economies in the world, and as such, is well placed to deliver on its commitments towards inclusive and sustainable development. Our national plans and programmes are ambitious and resolute in their aim to eliminate poverty and promote gender equality. They also directly contribute to the advancement of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Each of these large-scale and intensive programmes is driven, from the front, by community frontline workers and volunteers who work tirelessly in their communities and beyond. They are credible, reliable sources of knowledge and support, and play a crucial role in connecting often underserved communities with government service providers. Their efforts over the years, despite numerous challenges, have brought about tangible social change and improved quality of life across generations.

The Plan India Impact Awards were envisioned to recognise these last-mile champions, motivate them to continue their life-changing work, and reinforce and replicate their best practices for enhanced programme delivery and sustainable development across the country.

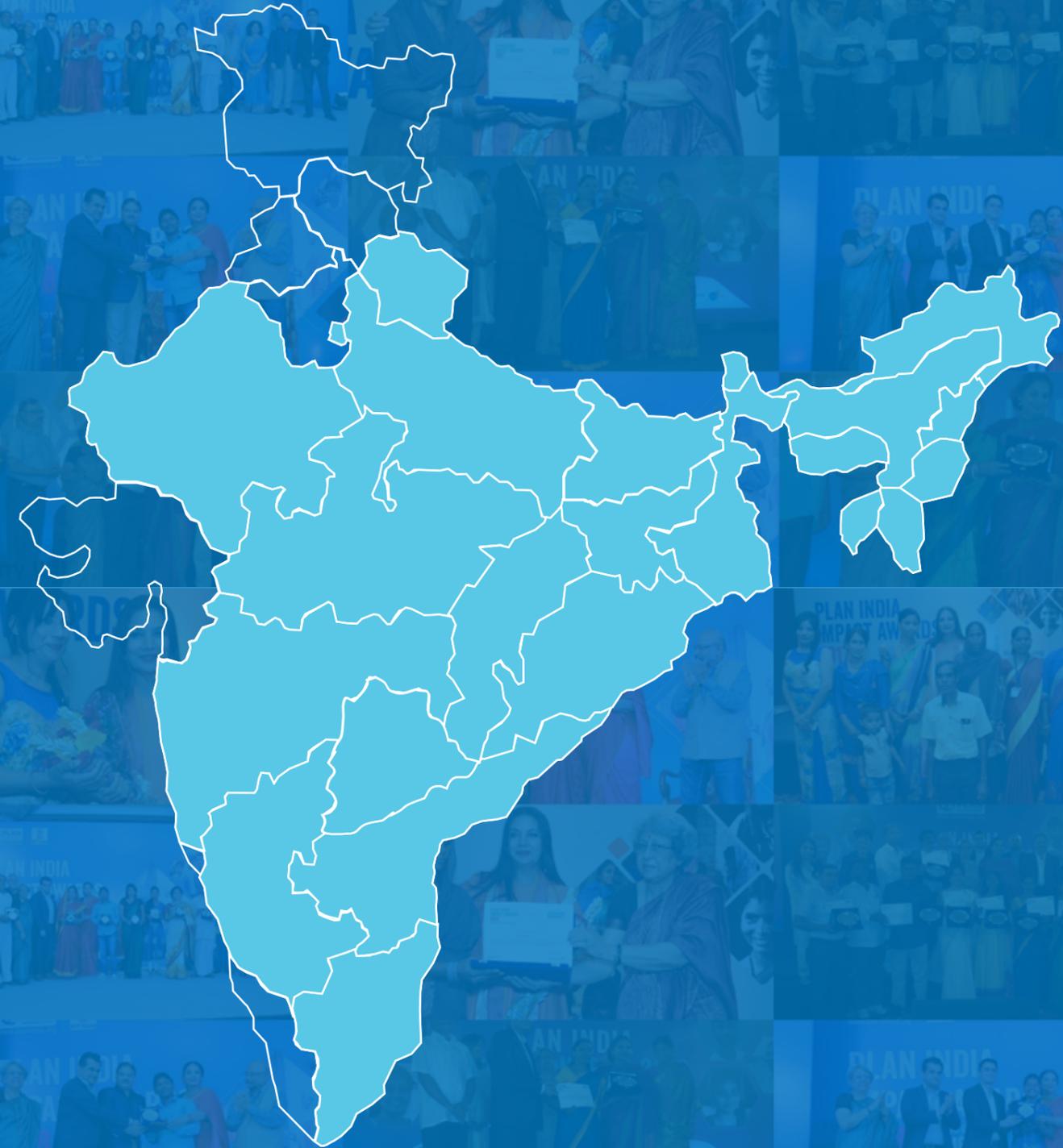
At Plan India, we've made it our mission to honour these unsung heroes and spread the good word. Thank you for joining us.

THE PLAN INDIA IMPACT AWARDS: 2017, 2018 AND 2019

Established in 2017, the Plan India Impact Awards have grown from year to year. In the first three editions, multi-level nomination, screening and selection took place, validated through technical process partnerships with notable accounting and advisory firms Grant Thornton and PricewaterhouseCoopers respectively.

Nominations submitted by partner organisations associated with Plan India were long-listed by Sub-Jury Committees comprised of technical experts, government officials, academicians and more, to ensure due protocol and transparency in the selection of state and regional nominees. Selected nominations were then filtered and shortlisted by process partners following review and application of technical parameters. Subsequently, National Jurors came together, reviewed top nominations and selected a national winner for each category based on evaluation criteria provided by process partners.

In the last three years, 26 outstanding community champions have been recognised through Award events at the national stage. Their unique initiatives and immense contributions were lauded and celebrated by luminaries including the CEO of the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Mr Amitabh Kant, and National Award Winning Actress and philanthropist Ms Shabana Azmi, among others.



23
STATES



730+
NOMINATIONS



26
NATIONAL
WINNERS

NATIONAL WINNERS



- Anganwadi Worker – Ms Madina, Rajasthan
- Anganwadi Helper – Ms Seema Devi, Rajasthan
- Auxiliary Nurse Midwife – Ms Meera Devi, Uttar Pradesh
- Accredited Social Health Activist – Ms Vinita Negi, Uttarakhand
- Ahana Worker – Mr Sharif Uddin Tapadar, Assam
- Outreach Worker – Ms Basanti Jarika, Jharkhand
- Community Volunteer – Mr Bhagaban Mohanta, Odisha
- Youth Champion – Ms Shalini, Uttar Pradesh
- Special Recognition – Mr Sanjay Murmu, Bihar
- Special Jury – Ms Bharati Biswal, Odisha



- Anganwadi Worker / Anganwadi Sahaika – Ms Kanaklata Raula, Odisha
- Accredited Social Health Activist / Auxiliary Nurse Midwife – Ms Anupam Singh, Uttar Pradesh
- Outreach Worker / Frontline Worker / PPTCT Worker / Swachhagrahi – Mr Pitabas Majhi, Odisha
- Community Volunteer – Mr Bhagirathi Mohanta, Odisha
- Youth Champion for Girls' Rights – Ms Pari, Jharkhand
- Best Child Welfare Committee – Child Welfare Committee Thane, Maharashtra
- Best School Management Committee – School Management Committee Jhajju, Rajasthan



- Anganwadi Worker - Ms R. Sundari, Tamil Nadu
- Auxiliary Nurse Midwife - Ms Padmabati Naik, Odisha
- Outreach Worker - Mr Mohammed Taher, Telangana
- Prerak / Field Officer - Mr Yogendra Pathak Uttar Pradesh
- Community Volunteer - Ms Alka Gujnal, Maharashtra
- Youth Champion for Girls' Rights – Female - Ms Sarathi Jharkhand
- Youth Champion for Girls' Rights – Male - Mr Prafull, Maharashtra
- Best Child Welfare Committee - Child Welfare Committee-Adilabad, Telangana
- Best Child Welfare Committee - Child Welfare Committee-Mumbai City-II, Maharashtra



**4TH PLAN INDIA
IMPACT AWARDS
2021
HONOURING LAST
MILE CHAMPIONS**


www.planindia.org

PLAN INDIA IMPACT AWARDS 2021

Achieving quality and scale

Building on the success of previous editions, the Plan India Impact Awards 2021 reinforced key learnings and greater participation from across the country to recognise community frontline workers, youth and volunteers who drive uptake and delivery of much-needed services at the village, district, state and national level.

Given the pandemic situation this year, for the first time the entire process has been done virtually including the filing of nominations, evaluation and the award ceremony. The scale and scope of the categories were also increased to 10 with the addition of one special category for the last mile champions and another for recognising the efforts and contribution of Self Help Groups. The criteria for shortlisting the nominations also looked upon the support extended during COVID-19.

In the spirit of recognising the contributions of all last-mile champions, the Awards exceeded beyond Plan India's intervention areas to involve expert Civil Society Organisations that are working on various verticals and themes and contributing to the national development agenda.

The winners were rewarded with a sum of INR 10,000 and the runner-ups with INR 7,000 for each category. The Awards also benefited from strategic partnerships with several notable organisations and entities committed to advancing the development agenda. These include United Nations Global Compact, Women's Web, The Good Sight and Josh Talks.

CATEGORIES FOR 2021

This year, the Awards featured two new Award categories- Champions for Girls Rights and Women SHG Groups - working to create lasting impacts under challenging times and adverse situation. The ten categories for this year include:

1 ANGANWADI WORKER

Anganwadi Worker (ANW) ensures antenatal and postnatal care for pregnant women and immediate diagnosis and care for newborn children and nursing mothers. An ANW administers immunisation to all children below six years of age and supervises the distribution of supplementary nutrition to said children as well as pregnant and nursing women. ANW also delivers services at Anganwadi Centre, often performing the role of a teacher to provide pre-school education to children between 3 - 5 years.

2 ACCREDITED SOCIAL HEALTH ACTIVIST/AUXILIARY NURSE MIDWIFE

An Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) is a community health worker instituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India as part of the National Rural Health Mission. An Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) is a village-level female health worker who is the first contact between the community and health services.

Both ASHAs and ANMs act as health educators and promoters in their communities. They motivate women to give birth in hospitals, bring children to immunisation clinics, encourage family planning, treat basic illness and injury with first-aid, maintain demographic records and improve village sanitation.

3 CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE

Designated by law as the final district-level authority for the care, protection, treatment, development and rehabilitation of children in need of care and protection. Constituted under section 27 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

4 & 5 YOUNG CHANGEMAKER – FEMALE & MALE

Changemakers for girls' rights in the communities, who engage, develop and empower young and adolescent girls. Inspire and motivate their peers and also facilitate collective action of young people to influence duty bearers to create lasting impact.

6 COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER (INCLUDING COVID WARRIOR)

A community Volunteer is a frontline worker who gives freely his/her time and labour for community service. During the current scenario, he/she is a COVID warrior as they have saved /served people selflessly by risking their life while others preferred to stay at home during the pandemic.

7 WOMEN'S SELF HELP GROUP

Women Self Help Groups (SGHs) are informal groups of 8-10 women who come together to address their common problems. While SGHs might imply a focus on the individual, one important characteristic of them is the idea of mutual support - people helping each other. Women's SGHs meet weekly or monthly basis, collect money from their members, connecting them to banks and loaning them money at low interest rates for their needs.

8 SPECIAL AWARD - LAST MILE CHAMPION FOR GIRLS RIGHTS

Last Mile Champion for Girls is a dedicated social worker who has done exemplary work to promote the rights of the girls thereby bridging the gender gap in society and bringing lasting change in the life of girls especially young girls.

9 PLAN INDIA AHANA PRERAK

Ahana Prerak is responsible for establishing linkages to government programmes and ensuring the Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS as part of Plan India's Project 'Ahana' which works towards an AIDS-free generation.

10 PLAN INDIA FRONTLINE WORKER (SAMGRA BAL VIKAS MITRAS) AND OTHER PROJECT LEVEL FRONTLINE WORKER

Samgra Bal Vikash Mitra (SBVM) and other project-level frontline workers are Plan India's on-the-ground focal point for the implementation of girl-centred community development programmes under the themes of Inclusive and Quality Education of Education, Skills and Opportunities for Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship, Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights, Protection from Gender-Based Violence, Inclusive and Quality Nutrition, and Resilience in Emergencies.

AWARD STAGES AND PROCESS

To facilitate proceedings with necessary robustness, scale and transparency, knowledge and process partner CSR Box came on board earlier this year, and in conjunction with the technical team at Plan India, developed the framework for the Plan India Impact Awards 2021.

This included new and revised award categories; an online dashboard, online nomination docket (including category-specific guides and FAQs for evaluators and juror orientation decks; programme schedule, and national rollout in conjunction with validation exercises.

10
CATEGORIES

26
STATES

760+
NOMINATIONS

10
WINNERS

Stage 1

Award roll-out: Online nominations invited across India over 10 categories on April 26, 2021

760+ Online nomination forms submitted on May 18, 2021

Stage 2

CSR Box screened and shortlisted 100 nominations on May 25, 2021

Stage 3

Evaluators screens and shortlisted nominations in 10 categories through an online process by May 31, 2021

Stage 4

National jury identifies 10 national winners on June 12, 2021

Online live winners felicitated at Awards Ceremony on June 23, 2021

Evaluation Indicators

The applications would be evaluated based on 3 unique parameters – the 3 ‘I’, as mentioned below. Each ‘I’ addresses an essential component that makes the story a success and receives 33.3% weightage in the whole process. Aggregating the marks received under respective ‘I’ would provide the total marks/ grading by an evaluator. Further to this, an average of these were taken based on the number of evaluators/ jurors in each team.



Impact

Generating a long-lasting impact on the community and the changes they have brought about in the community



Inclusion

Focusing on the ability of the nominee to identify quality (gender, social exclusion, minority groups, differently-abled persons) and the steps taken to promote inclusion



Innovation

Focusing on the ability of the nominee to identify quality (gender, social exclusion, minority groups, differently-abled persons) and the steps taken to promote inclusion

Tabulation of Nominations

No.	Category	No. of Nominations
01	Anganwadi Worker	203
02	Accredited Social Health Activist/Auxiliary Nurse Midwife	46
03	Child Welfare Committee	16
04	Young Changemaker (Male)	52
05	Young Changemaker (Female)	69
06	Community Volunteer (including COVID Warrior)	216
07	Women's Self Help Group	47
08	Special Award - Last Mile Champion for Girls Rights	88
09	Plan India Frontline Worker (Samgra Bal Vikas Mitras) and Other Project level Frontline Worker	16
10	Plan India Ahana Prerak	07
	Grand Total	760

Evaluation Methodology

Stage-1: Screening by Process Partner

More than 760+ nomination received and screened by the process partner under the parameters of completeness, eligibility, responses received under each indicators and authenticity and verification of the submitted documents. In this stage, 100 nominations were shortlisted.

Stage-2: Screening by Domain Expert Evaluators

Evaluators assessed the applications based on the 3 Is- Innovation, Impact and Inclusion and shortlisted 30 best nominations across all categories.

Stage-3: Screening by Esteemed National Jury Panel

A 7-member national jury panel was set up to shortlist the winner and the runner-up. The jury re-assessed the applications based on the 3Is evaluation criterion under each category and selected the final winners for the Plan India Impact Awards

EVALUATORS



Mr Abhishek Choudhary
Co-founder, Saajha

Abhishek Choudhary is one of the founders of Saajha. An impact organisation missioned to transform the public education system through parental and community participation. Saajha began its operation with 50 schools in 2014 and scaled its operations to 3 states (Delhi, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Jharkhand), reaching up to 2000 schools. Abhishek transitioned out from his full-time role of CEO and now engaged in a volunteer capacity. He is currently working at 9dot9 Education, founded by Dr Pramath Sinha. Abhishek is a recipient of Echoing Green Global Fellowship 2014 and Forbes 30Under30 young Achiever Award 2015. He is a Young India Fellow (Ashoka University) and a Gandhi Fellow from 2012.



Ms Debbie Paul
Consultant, UNICEF

Debbie has more than 15 years of experience as a programme management professional working on various issues of health, mother and child care, HIV prevention, ending child marriage, nutrition, research and communication for development. Working in UNICEF India for more than 10 years, she is currently the IMPAct4Nutrition Secretariat Lead from UNICEF, managing all programmatic, coordination and collaboration aspects and functioning of the I4N platform with the private sector.



Dr Deepika Bahl
Research Consultant, PHFI

Dr Deepika Bahl is a public health researcher, with an interest in research, health promotion and health advocacy. She has an experience of 8 years in designing, implementing, managing researches on various health issues. Dr. Bahl has published scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals and has presented her work in international conferences. Currently, Dr Bahl is working as a research consultant and is managing eCourse on Tobacco Control since 2018 at Health Promotion Division, Public Health Foundation of India.



Ms Elizabeth Soby
Assistant Program Manager, Kudumbshree NRO

Elizabeth Soby completed is a rural development professional working with PRI- CBO Convergence Project of Kudumbashree – National Resource Organisation from 2015. She was leading the state of Assam for PRI-CBO Convergence project from 2017 to 2021 February. The project tries to ensure convergence between local governance and the SHG structures to strengthening rural governance and participatory planning.



Mr Himanshu Gupta
District Youth Officer, UNDP

Himanshu is a Policy and SDG consultant by profession and enthusiast change maker by motivation. He is passionate about designing and implementing scalable solutions arrived at using an evidence-based and strategic approach while working at the intersection of public policy, politics and economics. He had worked in programmes and projects on SDG, Innovation-Startup ecosystem, Capacity building, Livelihoods Development, Good Governance and Public Service Delivery etc.



Mr Navin Sellaraju
CEO, Railway Children

Navin is the CEO of Railway Children India (RCI). Over the last 14 years with Railway Children (RC), Navin has been instrumental in shaping the growth story of RCI and working towards making all Railway Stations child-friendly across India. His contributions range from incubating the fundraising and advocacy vertical at RCI, nurturing strategic relationships with the Government, training and capacity building of key stakeholders in child protection and creating strong child rights programme models. He has led the process of Railway Children's transition from a Liaison Office to a Section 8 Indian company. Navin has previously worked with youth at risk, raised funds to support geriatric work and supported factories in creating positive work environment.



Mr Priyesh Kumar Rathod
Senior Manager – Engagement, IMPAct4Nutrition

With over 16 years of experience working in the social sector, Priyesh joined IMPAct4Nutrition secretariat as Senior Manager–Private Sector Engagement. He provides strategic thinking while creating space for and driving programmatic activities and network operations. Previously, he has served at POSHAN Abhiyaan, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt. of India as a Manager, prior to which, he has worked with Population Services Int'l (PSI India), UNDP, Handicap International, National Association for the Blind and several other organisations in various capacities.



Mr Ramesh Savalia
State Program Manager, American India Foundation

Ramesh Savalia has more than 25 years of professional experience in the area of Rural Transformation, Environment Education and Education for Sustainable Development from grassroots level implementation to international programs. He holds a PGDM from S. P. Jain Institute of Management and Research (SPJIMR), Mumbai and PGC in Environmental Education from University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, U. K. He extensively worked with diverse partnership programs with various project stakeholder partners i.e. CBOs, NGOs, Central and State Departments, the line department, UN agency, International Development Agency, Corporate, CSR Foundation, and International and bilateral organisations, Academic and Research Institutes.



Dr Rubina Mandlik

Project Manager, Hirabai Cowasji Jehangir Medical Research Institute

A nutritionist, academican and researcher, Dr. Rubina Mandlik, has an extensive experience of over 10 years in both, the nutrition as well as education spheres. She is an alumna of the Interdisciplinary School of Health Sciences, Savitribai Phule Pune University and holds a Masters and a PhD in Health Science. Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition has been the focus of most of her career. She is presently working as a Project Manager at the Hirabai Cowasji Jehangir Medical Research Institute, Pune. Dr. Rubina is member of the Nutrition Society of India (NSI) and Indian Dietetic Association (IDA). She has several publications in international journals of high repute.



Ms Sakshi Srivastava

Founder Director, Anubhuti

A visionary leader with 8 years' experience in development sector, skilled in developing and maintaining a broader impact, cultivating excellent relationships with stakeholders, and communicating vision effectively across the organisation to build focused and productive teams. An independent and self-motivated professional with excellent research and writing skills; Ambitious, flexible team member who enjoys learnings.



Ms Saloni Sacheti

Founder, Baansuli

Saloni is a lawyer turned social entrepreneur. She did her graduation from Delhi University and LL.B. from Banaras Hindu University. After working in a law firm as an Associate Advocate in Delhi for more than a year, she joined SBI youth for India fellowship where she spent 13 months in the rural area of Dangs. She started Baansuli as a project during her fellowship. Baansuli or Bamboo Artisan Socio Economic Upliftment Initiative is made with an aim of giving the tribal of Dangs a regular source of income and stop seasonal migration by providing them livelihood opportunities. She has won 3M CII Young innovator challenge Award under Rural Category in 2018 and Best start up award under sustainable livelihood category by Ministry of rural development and NIRD Hyderabad in 2019. She was also at top 18 social innovator at NSCI PIC in 2018. Recently she made into list of Forbes 30 under 30 Asia.



Ms Shruthi Iyer

CEO, FMCH

Shruthi currently works with FMCH as the CEO. Prior to this, she was an independent consultant in the development space focusing on strategy, fundraising, and business model development. Before this, she was working with Mentor Me India, an NGO based out of Mumbai in the capacity of the Executive Director. As the ED, she led fundraising, oversaw program operations and team management. She also worked with Hippocampus Learning Centres in Bangalore managing the Teacher Training vertical for early childhood education. She is an engineer from VTU and worked with Infosys before doing the Teach for India Fellowship. She is also an Acumen Fellow.

NATIONAL JURORS



Mr Lov Verma

Retired Union Secretary (IAS), Empowerment of People with Disability, Government of India

Mr Verma is an officer of the Indian Administrative Service of the 1978 batch, Uttar Pradesh Cadre with over 37 years' experience, including three years as Secretary to Government of India. He has played a seminal role in the successful campaign for eradication of Polio, introduction of free third line treatment for HIV/AIDS patients and the mainstreaming of accessibility issues for persons with disabilities

in India. While handling delivery of health services, he engaged with issues of financing, personnel, creation of infrastructure and extensive coordination with multilateral agencies in the field of public health. He superannuated on January 31, 2016 as Secretary to Government of India, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disability, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.



Ms Upma Chawdhry

IAS, Retired as Secretary, Government of India. Former Director, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration

Upma has an experience of more than 35 years in the Indian Administrative Service with work encompassing a variety of responsibilities in public dealing, service delivery, programme implementation, policy formulation and co-ordination across sectors including HR, finance, education, tourism, animal husbandry, sports, youth affairs, energy, agriculture, art & culture, industry, women & child development.

Upma has represented India at various bilateral, multilateral and international fora including Codex Alimentarius, WTO, OIE and dealt with several UN organisations such as UNICEF, UNESCO, UNV, WHO etc. At the UN, she is a member of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA), New York. She was also the Rapporteur of the Committee in 2018 and the Chairperson of the Working Group for the United Nations Public Service Awards in 2019 and a member of that Working Group for 3 years.

Breaking the glass ceiling, she was the first woman Director, and the only one to-date of the prestigious Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration in Mussoorie that trains officers of the Civil Services of the Government of India and Bhutan. Upma retired from the senior most administrative post of Secretary to Government of India in December 2020.



Ms Sonali Khan

Managing Director Sesame Workshop India

Ms Khan is the Managing Director of Sesame Workshop India, an educational initiative to create innovative and engaging content to help children grow smarter, stronger and kinder.

She presently spearheads Galli Galli Sim Sim, a multiplatform initiative that combines the power of mass media with educational outreach to prepare children for school and life. She is also a global advocate for

human rights and for ending violence against marginalised communities, with an emphasis on girls and women. In the past, she has also spearheaded organisations like Dasra and Breakthrough. A former member of Plan International Board, Sonali is also a proud recipient of the Nari Shakti Puraskar (Women's Empowerment Award) from the President of India. In 2016, she also received the Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship for her work on ending child marriage.



Ms Avani Singh

CEO, SpiceHealth Initiatives

Avani Singh, 24, is the CEO of SpiceHealth. At a time when Covid-19 was at an all-time high in India, SpiceHealth, under Avani's leadership, disrupted the RT-PCR testing space by offering tests at Rs. 499 as opposed to the then existing rate of Rs. 2400, bringing down Covid-19 testing cost dramatically across the country.

SpiceHealth was the first to introduce mobile testing laboratories that could be placed in remote areas, containment zones, villages where access to hospitals and medical facilities was and remains a challenge. It has conducted 3.5 million RT-PCR tests in the short period since its launch and is currently operating 21 labs and collection centers across nine cities.

SpiceHealth has been actively involved on multiple fronts in the country's fight against Covid-19 – be it the setting up of the first genome sequencing laboratory at Delhi airport or testing pilgrims attending the Kumbh Mela or importing thousands of oxygen concentrators to help fight the second Covid wave.

Avani was born in Delhi. Her father, Ajay Singh, is the CMD of SpiceJet, India's second-largest airline. She completed her schooling from Modern School, Barakhamba Road. In school, she founded a non-profit called 'Ummeed' with the mission to empower economically disadvantaged women. Her non-profit was featured in TED Blogs and she was featured in Buzzfeed's list of '25 women under 25 everyone should look up to'. She then went on to complete her Bachelor's and her Master's both from Stanford University in the US. While at Stanford, she was involved in philanthropy, was awarded the 'student activities and leadership fellowship,' and did internships at JetBlue Technology Venture and the United Nations.

Avani received her Private Pilot License in 2020. Before spearheading SpiceHealth, Avani was working as a Business Analyst at McKinsey & Company.



Mr Manoj Dawane

Founder and CEO, Vtion Digital Analytics

Mr Manoj Dawane has 27 years of experience in business post his Engineering and MBA from Mumbai University. He was CEO and Board Member of some of the earliest venture funded companies in India. He did a long tenure with Ericsson India as Technology & Policy and Strategy & Solutions Head, being involved in the roll out of hi end data networks in the country with telcos. Now a full time entrepreneur having started his own venture in the high tech field of Digital Consumption Measurement in Real Time on Smart Devices. He has held various

industry offices with Assocham, European Business Group and IAMA and works closely with the ecosystem to further technology development & deployment in India. He is also an angel investor and mentor to select start-ups in the fields of high technology and analytics.



Ms Kanta Singh

Country Programme Director, UN WOMEN

Kanta has over 25 years of experience in the management of pro-women development programmes. Kanta has worked with national and international organisations to promote women in formal economy, sports and politics. Kanta's last assignment was with UNDP where she spent 9 years. Currently, Kanta is the Country Programme Manager in UN Women India where she works on education, employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for women. She is a former national level Volleyball Player. Kanta is a Chevening Gurukul Fellow from University of Oxford.



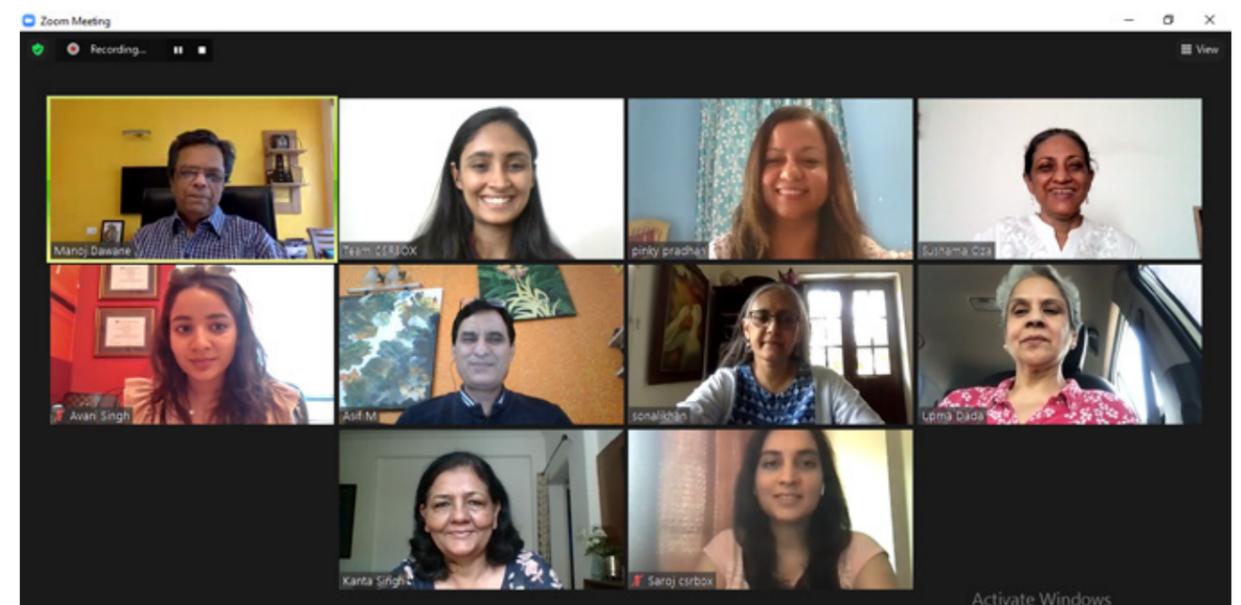
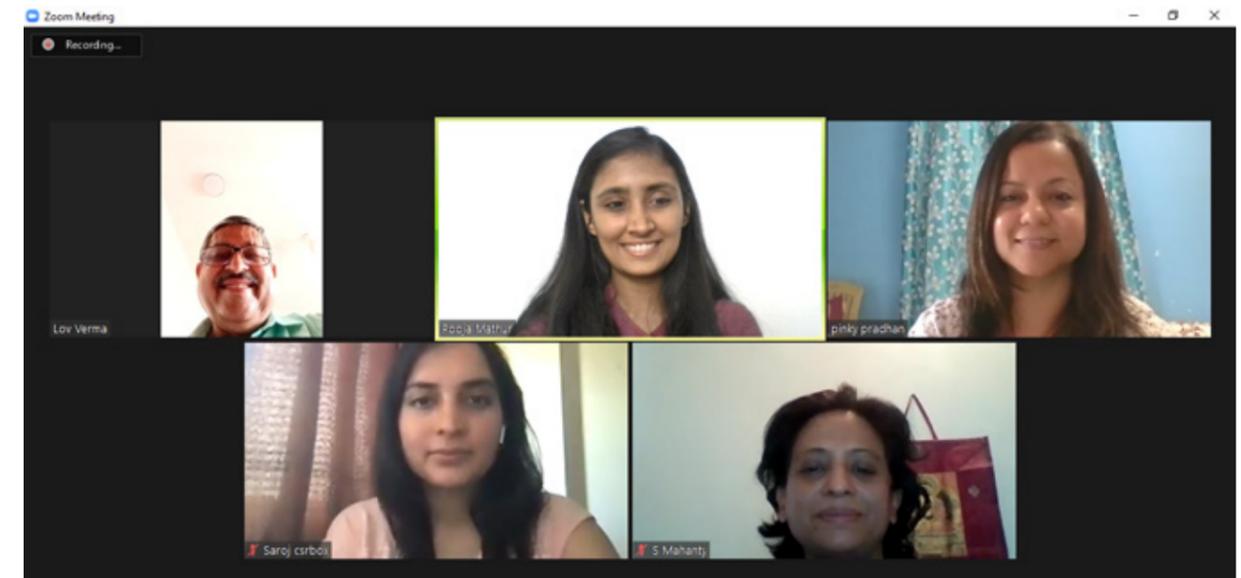
Ms Sushama Oza

Advisor Centre for Development Management and Communications - Mudra Institute of Communications

Ms Sushama Oza retired on December 31, 2019 as a Director, Strategy & Sustainability at Adani Foundation, Ahmedabad and is now the Advisor, CDMC-MICA. She was also the CEO of Adani Foundation from May 2007 to October 2014 and has been playing a pivotal role in shaping the CSR for Adani conglomerate for more than thirteen years. She has represented the organisation at many national and international

forums. Ms. Oza has over 38 years of experience in the development field, out of which 21 years have been as the head of the organisation in India and the USA. She has strategized and spearheaded projects in sectors of education, primary health care, sustainable livelihood development and rural sports. She has led several capacity building programs all over India in the field of CSR. Before retirement, she was spearheading two centre of excellence projects Swachhagraha and SuPoshan which were being implemented nationwide. She continues to support Sustainability/ESG efforts and reporting as a part of Sustainability leadership committees and in a consultative role for the Adani conglomerate.

National Jury Meeting



TOP 30 NOMINEES

ANGANWADI
WORKER

- Kumari GN
Karnataka
- Gowamma
Karnataka
- Modi Hetalben C
Gujarat

ACCREDITED SOCIAL
HEALTH ACTIVIST/
AUXILIARY NURSE
MIDWIFE

- Bharti Menaria
Rajasthan
- Nilam Devi
Jharkhand
- Vibha Kumari
Bihar

CHILD WELFARE
COMMITTEE

- Child Welfare Committee
Muzaffarpur, Bihar
- Child Welfare Committee
Saran, Bihar
- Child Welfare Committee
Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu

YOUNG
CHANGEMAKER
(MALE)

- Ashish
Bihar
- Ajinkya
Maharashtra
- Pradip
West Bengal

YOUNG
CHANGEMAKER
(FEMALE)

- Palak
Rajasthan
- Suman
Uttar Pradesh
- Disha
Rajasthan

Arun Daniel Yellamaty
TelanganaParitosh Pant
MaharashtraMecanzy Dabre
MaharashtraShishukla Katare and
others, MaharashtraPancham Mahila
Swayamsiddha Bachat Gat,
MaharashtraMaa Ranghanta SHG
OdishaGeeta Suthar
RajasthanYogesh Kumar
DelhiProf. Bipinchandra
Chaugule, MaharashtraMahender Nath
DelhiSamirul Islam
BiharYashmin
DelhiTh. Dashumati Devi
Imphal-East, ManipurAlbert Lalremsanga
Aizawl, MizoramSoibam Kunjeshwori Devi
Imphal-West, ManipurCOMMUNITY VOLUNTEER
(INCLUDING COVID
WARRIOR)WOMEN'S SELF
HELP GROUPSPECIAL AWARD -
LAST MILE CHAMPION
FOR GIRLS RIGHTSPLAN INDIA FRONTLINE
WORKER (SAMGRA BAL VIKAS
MITRAS) AND OTHER PROJECT
LEVEL FRONTLINE WORKERPLAN INDIA
AHANA PRERAK

PLAN INDIA IMPACT AWARDS 2021

TEN NATIONAL WINNERS



ANGANWADI WORKER

Ms Kumari GN

Karnataka

Kumari GN is a dedicated Anganwadi Worker working in Anekal Taluk in Bengaluru for 12 years. She is known for her excellent rapport with the community and commendable networking skills with different stakeholders. She took proactive steps to reduce the incidence of malnutrition among children by mobilising community women to work for a kitchen garden in the Anganwadi premises. She mobilised 45-50 mothers who joined her in the initiative.

Kumari also works closely with 164 children in the age group of 0-6 years, 13 pregnant women, 14 lactating mothers and 40 adolescent girls who are enrolled under her centre.

She went beyond her call of duty last year at the outbreak of Covid-19 and helped 50 families with hygiene kits and nutrition kits for children and ensured smooth education of 120 pre-school children by distributing stationery kits and sending learning materials through Whatsapp. She surveyed 550 households and conducted a door-to-door awareness campaign on Covid appropriate behaviour.

Kumari identified 217 minority families in the community of Shanubhoganahalli who faced caste-based discrimination and ensured that these families were involved in all the Anganwadi activities and community work. With the support from United Way Bengaluru, she empowered women and adolescent girls from the community through focused group discussions and training on financial literacy.



ACCREDITED SOCIAL HEALTH ACTIVIST/AUXILIARY NURSE MIDWIFE

Ms Bharti Menaria

Rajasthan

Bharati Menaria is an exemplary ASHA worker from the "City of Lakes", i.e., Udaipur, Rajasthan. Having worked as an ASHA for 10 years, she took proactive steps to support vulnerable people in the community during the pandemic. She strategically prioritized high-risk individuals and supported them with essential items. She also took lead in reporting health and other issues arising due to COVID-19 to higher health department officials.

Her work created a significant impact in her village Seriya. During the lockdown in 2020, she surveyed households in her village and made a list of 15 people who were in dire need. She made ration kits and delivered them personally. Then, with her own money, she went on to make cloth masks. With the help of her husband, she distributed over 300 masks in her village for free. She screened over 500 people for Covid-19 and arranged quarantine facilities.

Not only she was determined to help people, but she was also inclusive in her approach. She made sure to reach out to all age groups of different castes and classes, people with disability, and the most vulnerable of all, senior citizens.

When Bharati realized that many people were facing hunger and did not have masks, she did not wait for instructions from her seniors or wait for NGOs to provide relief. She raised funds for food, got in touch with the local trader, bought the food, prepared ration kits, and distributed these. She took lead to report ground realities to health department officials. She used her sewing skills to prepare over 300 masks and distributed it to the needy in her community. She displayed both individual initiative and leadership by mobilising the community to help the underprivileged.



CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE

Child Welfare Committee-
Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu

Child Welfare Committee - Kancheepuram has created an impact on the innumerable lives of children who were rescued after they went missing. Between January 2020 to December 2020, the Committee members rescued 50 such young lives including 20 from other states like Orissa, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh as well as neighbouring countries like Nepal and handed them over to their parents.

The Committee's work includes rendering service to differently-abled children in their education, halting child marriages, taking care of newborn babies, providing awareness and sensitising session for children as well parents regarding ill effects of child marriage and facilitating adoption as per the government guidelines etc.

It ensured that special care and protection are given to the homeless, orphan, socially backward, poor and needy children and made sure that they are admitted in government homes and recognised NGOs.

The Committee also tried to ensure that children with disabilities are included in games and other sports and thus spread the message of inclusion. During the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, it provided 446 children along with their families with groceries, masks and sanitisers. In coordination with the wheelchair fencing federation of India, it also provided wheelchairs, artificial limbs, and study materials for children with disabilities.

When a child enters the Committee, its members makes them feel comfortable and safe by involving them in games, making them busy with toys or sharing stories by Rabindranath Tagore, Abdul Kalam which has strong messages about education and well-being. The Committee has thus been a strong force in bringing stability to the lives of a lot of children.



YOUNG CHANGEMAKER-MALE

Mr Ajinkya
Maharashtra

Ajinkya is a young changemaker from Pune, Maharashtra with a work experience of 5 years. He is the Founder and CEO of Padcare Labs, a tech-based intervention to dispose of used sanitary napkins through sustainable green technology. The tech-savvy intervention based on the 5Ds i.e., Disinfection, Deodorization, Decolorization, Disintegration and Deactivation of absorbent is truly remarkable. The intervention is not only environment-friendly but also addressing various social issues such as unsafe disposal of sanitary waste, menstruation-related stigma and taboo, providing a dignified life to sanitary workers.

During the COVID-19 outbreak, he developed UV base disinfection system for inanimate objects and after rigorous testing, it was deployed at hospitals and corporates. This timely innovation is helping 250 doctors on daily basis in India. His intervention is serving more than 500 young girls and women, and 10+ sanitary workers/waste pickers on a daily basis. Around 1500+ soiled pads have been disposed of and recycled in the last 6 months and saved 2 MT of carbon from getting released.

Ajinkya is pursuing his dream for a sustainable society with his 3P's, which are passion, perseverance, and persistence. These qualities get noticed by his practical innovations. He worked upon the idea of sanitary napkin disposal in India, where talking about mensuration is taboo. His practical and actionable green-tech innovations show out-of-box thinking. His efforts have been recognized by WIPO, TBC, WSSCC, UnLTD India and the Government of India.



YOUNG CHANGEMAKER-FEMALE

Ms Disha
Rajasthan

Disha Tandon is a young changemaker from the Churu district of Rajasthan. She has been working in this space for 3 years, however, 2020 has been the most important year for her.

She sets a perfect example of how effective community-led innovative approaches can lead to the social upliftment of vulnerable sections in society. She identified the strengths of the artisans' community and launched a brand for 'Bandhani' designs and made one of the artisans the Director of the brand. This most importantly bridged the gap between an artisan and a designer and helped the brand to address the root level problems. Now women in groups actively participate in producing the season's collection which has helped them become financially independent. Since women started earning and contributing financially to household activities, they are given a role in making decisions for their families.

Disha achieved this by forming small groups of women and making them aware of their rights who persuaded other women and so on. She perfectly blends the easy-to-use tech-based interventions with conventional approaches for awareness generation activities. She uses audio-visual media for financial literacy, body image, narrating inspiring stories etc. and nukkad nataks and chetna geets for awareness generation activities.

She has been working on the social upliftment of 200 artisans. She also works with young girls and women of all age categories belonging to different caste and class.



COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER

Mr Paritosh Pant
Maharashtra

Paritosh is a restaurateur with experience of 3 years who was running a chain of two bespoke cafes in Navi Mumbai, which subsequently had to be closed down.

When the lockdown was announced in March 2020, he realized that the daily wagers of Govandi had lost their only means of livelihood, and were facing slow, but certain death due to starvation. He started a community kitchen with the help of local volunteers, who could cook, pack, and distribute nutritious food packets to the neediest people in their area. He set up a safe and efficient system to solve a local problem through community participation, financially supported by donors spread all over the world. He not only provided relief in the form of both cooked food and dry rations but also gave agency to the local community member by taking their help in identifying the beneficiaries.

His innovative crowdfunding campaign attracted more than 8000 donors from around 220 cities globally to contribute approximately INR 3.6 Crores till date. These funds have been utilised to home-deliver more than 17 lakh meals till date. Due to his efforts, one of the lead volunteers now feels motivated enough to stand for the municipal elections to solve deep-rooted problems in the local administration, through the on-ground implementation of policies.

His initiative included diverse groups – all genders, socially excluded groups, people with disability, minority groups, women, and children. With no background in the development sector, he spearheaded this initiative solely through sheer hard work, dedication, and a pure will to help and empower disadvantaged communities in an urban ghetto.



WOMEN'S SELF HELP GROUP

**Pancham Mahila
Swayamsiddha Bachat Gat,
Maharashtra**

Pancham Mahila Swayamsiddha Bachat Gat based in Raigad in Maharashtra has been working as a Self-Help Group (SHG) for about four years now. It focuses on women empowerment, the health of children and youth and drinking water interventions.

Initially, Watershed Organization Trust was involved in the formation of the SHG group and capacity building. The members were taught how to help the community in matters of health, education, social issues etc. Different types of enterprises were started through SHGs members like the detergent base product, incense stick making, food items.

The members now conduct monthly weight and height monitoring of children aged between 0 to 5 years under childcare growth monitoring as well as organize health camp, anaemia detection camp, capacity building of village-level adolescent girls and distribute sanitary pad which are reusable. The women also took leadership in the construction of drinking water tank for the village with people's contributions. Most of these women started small enterprises and now they are financially sustainable. This has enabled more men in giving respect to women as well as involving them in decision making. Children's malnutrition rate in the age group 0-5 has been reduced by childcare growth monitoring activity, adolescent girls regularly use sanitary pad because of which they go to school regularly and comfortably without any hesitation. The village gets sufficient safe drinking water, which has reduced water-borne diseases and ultimately reduced expenditure on health issues that are caused due to intake of contaminated water.



LAST MILE CHAMPION FOR GIRLS RIGHTS

**Mr Yogesh Kumar
Delhi**

Hailing from the capital of India, Yogesh Kumar, through his initiative called Even Cargo, has successfully trained over 600 girls in two-wheeler-riding skills and provided direct employment to over 350 girls as Delivery Associates in the e-commerce logistics industry. Due to this employment opportunity, these girls have experienced a major transformation in their lives. Firstly, the jobs have led to their active financial inclusion. Secondly, the jobs also led to their digital inclusion by making them work with technology-driven organisations such as Amazon. Thirdly, they also experienced a transformation in their personalities. By having women employed and confident in public spaces, more women are feeling safe to come forward and do the same. Around 50% of the delivery girls employed at Even Cargo have turned up through word-of-mouth publicity in their communities.

Additionally, Kumar has also engaged with present business partners to build more gender-inclusive workplaces. Growing up, he witnessed first-hand the multi-layered gender discriminations.

With the inception of Even Cargo, Kumar has challenged these gender norms by providing employment opportunities to girls in sectors that were traditionally male-dominated. He also developed an asset-light model, wherein the female needs to just have her scooter. In many cases, they provide their e-scooters to girls who need them the most.

His idea was to challenge gender norms by bringing women into the professions that have been traditionally inaccessible to them. Even Cargo became India's first women-only e-commerce logistics company and this captures the success of the initiative.



FRONTLINE WORKER

Mr Samirul Islam
Bihar

Samirul Islam- SBVM is a Plan India Frontline Worker in Murshidabad district, West Bengal. For the past 14 years, he has been working on the issue of child marriage and developing community-based child protection mechanisms. The SBVM was helpful in the creation of 96 Village-Level Child Protection Committees (VLCPC) and conducted 420 VLCPC sessions in the year 2020. He was able to secure Rs.2,40,000 to train 97 VLCPCs.

With the help of the block administration, he was able to prevent eight child marriages and enrol them in schools. He has also established a fund for high-risk pregnant women and connected many women to various government programmes and girls with vocational skill development training. He developed a three-tier framework for the adolescent girls at the Panchayat level where they expressed their worries and issues to government authorities.

Besides this, a child monitoring registration was also established, in which children assisted in the surveillance of other kids in the neighbourhood, ensuring that they were regularly attending schools, visiting ICDS centres, and taking advantage of government programmes.

During the pandemic, he was also involved in relief efforts such as the distribution of dry rations and hygiene kits. He discovered various vulnerable groups through reporting and interpreting in 15 gram Sansad. Migrant workers (60), HIV positive (9), high-risk pregnant and new mothers (132), TB patients (10) and children with impairments (40) were among the beneficiaries. The Block Development Office recommended him for an award on behalf of the block administration, however, due to the second wave of COVID-19, the award is still pending. He has been nominated for Plan India Impact Award for his hard work and sincerity towards the cause of children.



AHANA PRERAK

Th. Dashumati Devi
Imphal-East, Manipur

Th. Dashumati Devi has been working as one of the active People Living with HIV (PLHIV) community volunteers in Imphal East, Manipur for the past 16 years now. Over the years, she has developed good rapport with Integrated Counseling and Testing Center (ICTC), Anti-retroviral Therapy Centre (ARTC), Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS (PPTCT) and sub-centres staff. With her strong affinity, she influenced community members' behaviour by providing counselling to HIV Positive Pregnant Women (PPW), their children and families on nutrition, hygiene, safe sex, breastfeeding, ART adherence, family planning, etc.

She ensures that all the pregnant women are tested for HIV and Syphilis linked to ART and anti-natal check-up, their spouses are tested for HIV, and all babies are tested for Early Infant Diagnosis. During the entire lockdown, when people were struggling with transportation and were forced to stay home, she worked earnestly so that all PPW had access to the needed drugs.

Being a dedicated worker she has also been connecting orphan children to Carmel Jyoti (a home for orphans). She has also been training the PLHIV community widows so that they can earn their living and has linked them to the widow pension scheme. She has influenced and advocated elected members for giving grants and other benefits to the PLHIV community. With her ideas of innovation, she has helped families solve their disputes by suggesting rehabs to drug addicts and has helped many to earn livelihood and live peacefully. With the project AHANA, she has impacted a lot of lives in the PLHIV community.

PLAN INDIA IMPACT AWARDS INTERNAL CORE COMMITTEE

The committee was responsible for the overall strategising, conceptualising and execution of the Plan India Impact Awards 2021.

Mr Mohammed Asif, Executive Director, Plan India

Ms Pinky Pradhan, Director, Communications and Strategic Partnerships, Plan India

Ms Rajni Wadhwa, Director, Program Implementation, Plan India

Ms Shompa Mahanty, Media & PR Manager, Plan India

Mr Tushar Kanti Das, Sr. Program Manager – DIPU (South), Plan India

Mr Satyajit Ghosh, Program Manager, Child Protection (North West), Plan India

Mr Suresh Balodi, State Manager, Uttarakhand, Plan India

Mr Soumen Ghosh, Senior Manager, Monitoring Evaluation, Research & Learning, Plan India

Ms Sangita Dasgupta, Senior Manager PPTCT, Plan India

OUR PARTNERS

SDG Partner



Network India

Process Partner



Digital Partners

The Good Sight

women's web
for women who do



LOOKING AHEAD

Even during the unprecedented pandemic situation, we have kept our commitment to honour and celebrate the contributions of relentless frontline workers, youth and volunteers who selflessly reached out to remotest communities providing health, nutrition and early learning support. We acknowledge the tremendous dedication and unshakeable resolve of the last mile champions, captured through nominations across the length and breadth of the country.

We would thank the national winners and all the nominees for their life-saving work in their communities and beyond. A big thanks to our partners, especially CSR Box, UN Global Compact Network India, Women's Web, Josh Talks and The Good Sight, for joining hands with Plan India in curating the event and felicitating the last mile champions. Your support has helped us to inspire thousands of frontline workers and grassroots changemakers.

With more than 760 nominations from across 26 states in 10 categories, Plan India Impact Awards 2021 witnessed excellent initiatives from some phenomenal individuals who have performed exceptionally well during these challenging times.

We are confident that Plan India Impact Awards would continue to grow in scale in the coming editions and collaborate with larger civil society to honour every last mile champion who are working at the grassroots to bring positive social change.



ABOUT PLAN INDIA

Plan India is a nationally registered not for profit organisation striving to advance children's rights and equality for girls, thus creating a lasting impact in the lives of vulnerable and excluded children and their communities.

Since 1979, Plan India and its partners have improved the lives of millions of children and young people by enabling them access to protection, quality education and healthcare services, a healthy environment, livelihood opportunities and participation in decisions which affect their lives.

Plan India is a member of the Plan International Federation, an independent development and humanitarian organisation that advances children's rights and equality for girls. Plan International is active in more than 70 countries.



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