



## **Padma Shri Renana Jhabvala,**

National Coordinator and Chairperson,  
SEWA Grih Rin Limited.



### **Profile of the Chief Guest:**

Padma Shri Renana Jhabvala is an Indian social worker based in Ahmedabad, India, who has been active for decades in organising women into organisations and trade unions in India, and has been extensively involved in policy issues relating to poor women and the informal economy. She is best known for her long association with the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), India, and for her writings on issues of women in the informal economy.

In 1990, she was awarded a 'Padma Shri' from the Government of India for her contributions in the field of social work. In 1995, she became the National Coordinator of SEWA and April 2012, she became Chancellor of Gandhigram Rural Institute, a Deemed University in Tamil Nadu, India.

She has been active in many Government committees and task forces which have formulated policies ranging from National Policy for Street Vendors, to the Law for Social Security of Unorganised Workers, to policies for unorganised workers in various States. She has written widely on these issues in journals and newspapers and has co-authored seven books.

Renana Jhabvala was raised and schooled in Delhi and graduated from Hindu College, University of Delhi, in 1972 with a distinction in BSc (Math). She attended Harvard University to pursue an additional degree in BA Math. She then went on to the Yale University to pursue post-graduate studies in Economics. After completing her studies, Jhabvala joined SEWA in Ahmedabad, in 1977 as an organiser. She worked first with the women workers stitching quilts in the Muslim area of Ahmedabad; she was instrumental in forming the first Cooperative in SEWA.

She is currently fostering the growth of SEWA across India as National Coordinator and Chairperson, SEWA Grih Rin Limited. She is also Chair of HomeNet South Asia, founder member and Chair of WIEGO (Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing) and has been active in the formation of international networks for women workers in the informal economy.



**Padma Shri Shantha Sinha,**

Founder – MV Foundation



### **Session: Chair - Governance and Leadership**

Professor (Retd.), Department of Political Science, University of Hyderabad, former Chairperson National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), Govt. of India, Founder Secretary Trustee of Mamidipudi Venkatarangaiya Foundation (MV Foundation) and India's leading child rights activist.

Recipient of the Albert Shanker International Educational Award presented by Educational International in recognition of outstanding personal contribution for education in 1998, U.S. International Fellow – 1998, Ramon Magsasay Award, 2003 for community leadership and the Padma Shri in 1998 by the Government of India.

Believing in the principle that 'no child must work and every child must attend full time formal day school' as a non-negotiable, she spearheaded a social revolution which was the main driving force responsible for withdrawing over 10 lakh children in the 5-14 years age group from child labour; stopping over 20,000 child marriages and ensuring that all these children have been admitted into government schools by MVF. Every child is tracked until they finish 10th grade. It pioneered the program for mainstreaming children to schools through residential bridge courses. 1500 villages where MVF has intervened have achieved retention of 99% of all children in schools up to 10th class.

She headed the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) as the first Chairperson for two consecutive terms from 2007-2013. In this capacity she addressed issues concerning violation of children's rights in relation to child labour and child trafficking; rights of children in areas of civil unrest; children's right to education; juvenile justice system; corporal punishment, child abuse and violence on children; child malnutrition and so on.



**Ms. Kamayani Swami,**  
Jan Jagaran Shakti Sangathan (JJSS)



**Session:** Governance and Leadership

**Topic:** Women as Social Leader

**Profile:**

Ms. Kamayani Swami started delving seriously in the field of social change and development as a Masters student at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (Bombay). After 17 years of formal schooling, Kamayani, like many others, had a lot to learn and unlearn. She started her learnings and unlearnings in the real world as a full time worker of the Shramik Adivasi Sangathan (SAS, Beitol district, Madhya Pradesh), National Campaign for the People's Right to Information (NCPRI) and was associated with the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS). Her learnings with MKSS have been guiding her work since then.

For the past decade she has been working in the field of social change and justice. In 2008 she became part of the effort to mobilize workers of Bihar and formed a rural workers trade union called Jan Jagaran Shakti Sangathan (JJSS). JJSS has empowered rural communities of 6 districts of Bihar to struggle for their basic rights. The work of the JJSS at the district and state level has helped workers get work under the NREGA and avoided distress migration. JJSS has also been instrumental in initiating wide scale social audits, of MNREGA. In 2012, JJSS was part of conducting ICDS Social audits, in East Champaran (Motihari) district, along with the ICDS directorate. The work of JJSS has led to greater awareness about the rights among the rural poor.

Ms. Kamayani feels that JJSS, with it's gender, caste, class, and minorities lens, has tried it's best to build a democratic and progressive organisation, within, while fighting the system outside.

Ms.Kamayani is also a Trustee Member of Mosamat Budhiya Shiksha Nirman Sangathan (MBSNS). The trust in its own limited ways ensures that work is done with justice in our heart and in our actions. The initiative of the Trust is to strengthen, as Dr. Ambedkar said, "Shikshit Ho! Sangathit ho! Sangharsh Karo! Sangharsh Karo!" and to JJSS shiksha is not limited to formal education, but an encompassing engagement with getting the where with all to lead better lives.



## **Hon'ble Justice Mridula Mishra, (Retd.)**

Vice Chancellor, Chanakya National Law University



**Session:** Governance and Leadership

**Topic:** Women in Politics

### **Profile:**

- ✓ She was the Former Judge of Patna High Court.
- ✓ She Graduated with Economics (Hons.) from Patna Women's College, Patna University.
- ✓ She completed her LL.B. from Patna University and immediately she did not join the legal profession.
- ✓ In the year 1982 she joined legal profession and started practising as an Advocate, Patna High Court.
- ✓ She was appointed as Government Pleader of the State Government.
- ✓ In the year, 2004 she was elevated to the Bench as the Judge of the Patna High Court.
- ✓ After her retirement in the year, 2011 she was appointed as Chairman of the Bihar Land Tribunal.
- ✓ She continued as the Chairman of the Tribunal for five years.
- ✓ In March, 2018 she has been appointed as Acting Vice-Chancellor of Chanakya National Law University, Patna.



## **Dr. Neelam Maheshwari,**

Ph.D. in Gender Studies from the State University of  
New York in Buffalo



**Session:** Governance and Leadership

**Topic:** Women in Business

### **Profile:**

Dr. Neelam Maheshwari has received her Ph.D. in Gender Studies from the State University of New York in Buffalo in 2012, and her Masters in International Development from Brandeis University in Boston in 2007. She has over twenty years of experience in scaling social enterprises and building nurturing ecosystems.

Dr. Neelam has invested past decade in creating bottom-up ecosystem in second tier cities of Karnataka and Varanasi. Besides enabling over 80+ social enterprises, she had chaired one of India's largest social impact conference called Development Dialogue. She had initiated a unique program called, "Navodyami", that has assisted over ten thousand small entrepreneurs. In 2015 she had launched Navodyami.com a marketplace for artisans.

She has taught several courses on entrepreneurship and gender at SUNY Buffalo before she left her job to return to India and delve into social entrepreneurship.

She had previously worked at Professional Assistance for Development Action (PRADAN), an award winning organization working to promote livelihoods in poorest regions in India, tending to her interests in academia, activism and entrepreneurship.

Dr. Neelam runs her enterprise, mentors a budding social entrepreneurs and as well as writes about challenges of building social enterprises and gender equality.

She considers raising her three year old son her biggest achievement!





## **Ms. Rekha Masilamani,**

Founder member and (currently) honorary secretary of Agravami India, Former Country Director of Pathfinder International



### **Session: Chair - Healthcare and Sanitation**

#### **Profile:**

Ms. Masilamani is a development professional committed to improving the quality of life of the poor through the use of integrated development approaches – changing social norms and individual behaviour, and improving access to essential services in health, primary education, and skill building for employment and livelihoods. She is a founder member and (currently) honorary secretary of Agravami India, an Indian NGO that works to improve the lives of the urban and rural poor in Bihar and the slums of Delhi. She contributes significant time, on a volunteer basis, to building the capacity of Agravami's staff and to program development and review in the organization. She serves on the boards of REACH India, and SRJAN- both these Indian NGOs work for the development of the underserved in rural India.

Ms. Masilamani moved to the development sector in 1989, from a career in industry where she had worked for 18 years, mostly in the Tata group of companies, in the area of organization and management development and corporate planning.

Between 1989 and 1999, she served in the United States Agency for International Development (USAID/India). As Chief of the Health Services Division, she managed projects that funded scientific research in vaccine and contraceptive development. She shaped USAID/India's early HIV/AIDS strategy and program for India, as well as its approach to developing the capacity of NGOs to design and implement maternal and child health programs.

From 1999 to 2010, Ms. Masilamani was Pathfinder International's Country Director in India. In this time she set up and established the organization's operations in India, developing a high quality program in adolescent reproductive health, and in maternal health including improved access to safe abortion. She has been an early innovator in the area of youth fertility programs, and has pioneered intervention approaches that reduce youth fertility through an emphasis on behaviour change so that youth delay and space childbearing. She designed and led the implementation of Pathfinder's RHEYA and PRACHAR Projects- the earliest programs in India that worked to reduce youth fertility and population momentum. She has co-authored a peer reviewed paper on the results of the extremely successful PRACHAR Project.

Since 2010, in addition to her volunteer work with Agravami India, Ms. Masilamani has been an independent public health consultant. She has carried out program design, evaluation, and technical assistance assignments for UNFPA, PATH, ICOMP, the Packard Foundation, the Aga Khan Foundation, Janani, and Engender Health. She is from IIM, Ahmedabad.



## **Prof. (Mrs.) Vijaya Khader,**

Former Dean, Acharya N. G. Ranga Agricultural University



**Session:** Healthcare and Sanitation

**Topic:** Women and Nutrition

### **Profile:**

Prof. (Mrs.) Vijaya Khader, Former Dean, Acharya N. G. Ranga Agricultural University has been actively engaged in nutrition research and teaching for over thirty three years. Worked as First Principal at College of Home Science, Bapatla and also at college of Home Science, Hyderabad. Headed the Department of Foods and Nutrition, PGRC, Rajender Nagar as the Director, Center of Advanced Studies in the field of Foods and Nutrition, which is the only one in the country.

She is instrumental in starting an Inter-faculty P.G. Program in Food Science and Technology and worked as a Program Director. She has successfully completed 22 independent research projects on Socio Economic empowerment of rural, Farm, Fisher & Tribal Women, and has received two patents and licensed the technology. She has written 4 university level text books receiving Royalty till date. Also worked as Dean P.G Studies, Director of Extension and Dean of Student affairs.

Visited four universities in U.S.A.; Four universities in U.K.; Seoul; Malaysia; Singapore; Egypt; Netherlands ; Italy ; Beijing ; Kunming ; Shanghai ; Australia, Bangladesh, Taiwan, Cairo, Kuala Lumpur , Kandy ( Sri Lanka ) and Bangkok, Thailand .

She had received several recognitions like State Best Teacher Award; Appreciation Certificate from ICAR; Women of the year; Fellow of Association of Food Scientists and Technologists, FAO Fellow; Outstanding Woman Professional Award; Eminent Women Scientist Award and 3rd Dr. Rajammal P. Devdas Memorial award . She has also served as Member Board of Management of A.N.G.R.A.U. highest body of the University. Prof. Vijaya Khader is also involved in developing recent portal on Rice in Human Nutrition.



## **Dr. Shagun Sabarwal,**

Associate Director of Policy and Training,  
J-PAL South Asia



**Session:** Healthcare and Sanitation

**Topic:** Women and Healthcare

### **Profile:**

Dr. Shagun Sabarwal is the Associate Director of Policy and Training at J-PAL SA. She is also the Director of the CLEAR (Center for Learning on Evaluation and Results) SA center. Shagun leads J-PAL's efforts to build partnerships with policymakers in the region and works with policymakers, J-PAL affiliated researchers and J-PAL SA staff to disseminate lessons from randomized evaluations and promote evidence-informed decision-making and scale-ups of successful social programs.

As head of training Dr. Shagun also provides strategic oversight and leads the capacity building portfolio under CLEAR South Asia where she works on strengthening monitoring and evaluation capacity in the South Asia region.

Dr. Shagun has a doctoral degree in public health from Harvard University. She is currently a principle investigator on a randomized evaluation of the ultra-poor program in Bihar.





## **Ms. Meena Narula,**

Country Director, Water for People India and  
Managing Trustee



**Session:** Healthcare and Sanitation

**Topic:** Women and Hygiene

### **Profile:**

Ms. Meena Narula is the Country Director, Water For People India and Managing Trustee, Water for People India Trust since March 2016. She has over 20 years of experience in program quality and effectiveness, resource mobilization, grants management, capacity building, research and evaluation and building alliances. During the course of her career, she has led and managed multidisciplinary teams and nurtured partnerships with donors, NGOs, state and national level governments. Significantly, Ms. Meena has led development of Strategic Plans for programs and institutional development in her past experiences.

She comes to Water For People from Plan International (India), where she was since 2011. Prior to this she was working with the Aga Khan Foundation and ORG Centre for Social Research.

She completed her Masters in Regional Planning from School of Planning and Architecture (Gold Medallist), New Delhi, prior to which she finished her Masters from Jawaharlal Nehru University.



## **Prof. (Dr.) Tara Nair**

Gujarat Institute of Development Research, Ahmedabad



### **Session: Chair - Financial Inclusion**

#### **Profile:**

**Dr. Tara Nair** is a Professor at the Gujarat Institute of Development Research (GIDR), Ahmedabad. She completed her M.Phil. (Applied Economics) and Ph.D. (Economics) from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi (through the Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum).

Her research mainly concerns issues in policy and institutional development in the areas of small and microfinance, financial education, women and development, livelihoods and political economy of media. She has published widely on these themes; these include the following books: *Microfinance India: State of the Sector Report 2013* (Sage, 2014), *Inclusive Finance India Report 2014* (Oxford University Press, 2015) and *Microfinance in India: Approaches, Outcomes, Challenges* (Ed.) (Routledge, 2018).

She has been a visiting scholar at the Queen Elizabeth House, at the University of Oxford, UK; Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'homme, Paris, France; and Media Management and Transformation Centre, Jönköping International Business School, Jönköping University, Sweden.

She is currently leading a multi-institutional and interdisciplinary research on the implications of financialisation on household economies. She is particularly interested in qualitative research and has been teaching research methods at several institutions across India.



## **Mr. Mukesh Chandra Sharan,**

Coordinator-Financial Inclusion-Cum-Chief Operating Officer, BRLPS - JEEViKA



**Session:** Financial Inclusion

**Topic:** Women and Financial Inclusion-Progress and Challenges

### **Profile:**

Mr. Mukesh Chandra Sharan has done his schooling from Sainik School Tilaiya and did his MBA from Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal. He lent a helping hand in development of Micro Finance activities in the undivided Bihar by starting the operations of Basix. He worked with Basix between May 2001 to June 2006. Thereafter he contributed toward establishment of the system in Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (Jeevika) as State Project Manager – Micro finance and then as Program Coordinator – Financial Inclusion. He has also been designated as Chief Operating Officer - Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana within Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (Jeevika).



## **Mr. Akhand Jyoti Tiwari**

Senior Manager, MicroSave (MSC)



**Session:** Financial Inclusion

**Topic:** Models and Financial Products in Financial Inclusion

### **Profile:**

**Mr. Akhand Jyoti Tiwari** is an Associate Partner at MicroSave (MSC). Mr. Akhand has over 12 years of experience in research and technical assistance with financial service providers in multiple countries.

Mr. Akhand spearheads MSC's flagship approach to behavioral research and design for financial services—MI4ID.

Mr. Akhand's area of expertise includes the application of design thinking and behavioral economics in the financial services domain. He has worked on microfinance, digital financial services (DFS), SME finance, gender centric designs, customer research and customer segmentation, user experience.

His experience in program design covers areas, such as financial capability, marketing, and communication. Akhand has worked with diverse financial service providers including MFIs, Fin-techs, insurance companies, banks, agent network managers, telecom companies offering DFS, the Government of India, and central banks.



## **Mr. Manas K Satpathy,**

Former CEO of PRADAN, Delhi, India  
Serves on the Board of Livolink (a Tata Trust initiative)  
and a few more non-profit organizations



### **Session: Chair - Sustainable Livelihoods**

#### **Profile:**

After serving as the CEO of PRADAN for five years from 2012-2017, Manas is presently integrating its efforts on Research and Advocacy to influence outcomes affecting the lives of the rural people.

PRADAN is one of India's foremost non-profit organizations empowering rural communities to lead a life of dignity. PRADAN has deployed around 500 professionals to work directly with around three million people now in 7,000 villages across seven of India's poorest States. The belief is that well-educated professionals working within communities can bring both the empathy and knowledge needed to help poor people improve their lives. PRADAN organizes the women from the disadvantaged families into collectives that help them earn a decent living and support their families by accessing financial services from banks, government programs and other entitlements as citizens.

He joined PRADAN in 1990 and directly worked with poor communities in some of the poorest pockets of India. He innovated and grounded a unique model of Community Managed Irrigation Project in Jharkhand, India. Subsequently, the model has been widely replicated by Government and NGOs in hilly and undulating poverty regions of Eastern and Central India. He subsequently led development action by PRADAN teams across regions to improve quality of life of rural poor. He has provided thematic leadership for natural resource management and contributed to a number of research and evaluations of projects on poverty alleviation. Guiding and mentoring young development leaders have been one of his most meaningful engagements.

He has earned his M Tech Degree in Water Resources Development and Management from IIT, Kharagpur and B Tech in Civil engineering from NIT, Rourkela.



**Ms. Sumita Ghose,**

Founder and managing director of Rangсутra



**Session:** Sustainable Livelihoods

**Topic:** Value Chain in Livelihood

**Profile:**

Ms. Sumita Ghose is the founder and managing director of Rangсутra, a social enterprise which works for socio economic development in rural India by engaging both: the community and the market.

Rangсутra is owned by over two thousand artisans- most of whom are rural women. Rangсутra provides design, marketing, technical and organizational support needed to make crafts and allied rural industries into viable enterprises, so that they provide regular village based employment to rural artisans.

Prior to setting up Rangсутra in 2006, Sumita lived and worked in different parts of rural India for over 10 years working with rural communities in the URMUL network, Western Rajasthan, for social change and economic development. She is on the Board of several Development and Social Work organizations.

Ms. Sumita has a Masters degree in Economics and in Conflict Resolution. She is a recipient of several fellowships and awards, the latest being the Nari Shakti Puraskar, awarded by the President of India, on 8th March 2016.

She is a Yoga practitioner and a certified Yoga teacher.





## **Dr. Somnath Bandyopadhyay,**

Associate Professor at the School of Ecology and  
Environment Studies, Nalanda University



**Session:** Sustainable Livelihoods

**Topic:** Climate Change and Livelihood Resilience

### **Profile:**

Dr. Somnath Bandyopadhyay is an Associate Professor at the School of Ecology and Environment Studies, Nalanda University since 2014, where his teaching and research focus on the interface of environment and development, particularly in the context of water resources. As a Founding Faculty, Dr. Bandyopadhyay has contributed to the Academic Framework of the University, the unique interdisciplinary Master's curriculum at the School and the outreach program in the neighbourhood. He is also supporting the Government of Bihar as a Member of the State Wildlife Board and a member of the standing committee for the State Wetland Development Authority.

Dr. Bandyopadhyay combines his core expertise in ecological sciences with broad-based knowledge of environmental economics and experience in public policy. From a basic degree in biological sciences, he broadened his horizons progressively to cover Marine Sciences (MSc from Calcutta University) and Environmental Sciences (MPhil and PhD from JNU, New Delhi in 1994). His doctoral thesis explored the fundamental relations between hydrologic regimes and macroinvertebrate communities in a floodplain wetland.

Over the next two decades, he worked in the areas of public policy and development actions with both state agencies and international civil society organisations. He studied Environmental Economics and Policy Analysis at the Harvard Institute for International Development, Harvard University, USA in 1999 and Market Systems Development at the Springfield Centre, UK in 2008. He led the production of the first State Environment Action Plan, with support from the World Bank in 2003. He worked on chronic poverty, promoted civil society innovations, and developed a Multi-Input Area Development for Bihar, before focusing on water issues through his stints at the National Ganga River Basin Authority and the Safe Water Network.



**Mr. Kirti Prasanna Mishra,**  
Co-founder of Ecociate Consultants



**Session:** Sustainable Livelihoods

**Topic:** Micro and Small Enterprises

**Profile:**

Mr. Kirti Prasanna Mishra, Masters in Statistics and SMP-IIMC , he is the Co-founder of Ecociate Consultants. He carries expertise of designing and delivering Innovative Business Solutions impacting low income communities.

He has over 24 years of experience in working with various donors, international agencies, governments and corporate.

Mr. Kirti is one of the leading consultants in India on rural enterprise, livelihoods and agribusiness promotion and has been working with World Bank, GIZ, Endeava, Swisscontact, FAO etc.

He is a great believer of Sustainable Business & Inclusive Marketing and specializes in establishing large scale pro-poor innovative business solutions through private sector partnership.

He has been part of Missions of IFAD, World Bank, GIZ, DFID, OXFAM and others for program ideation and concept development. He has designed and conducted various market led programs in the areas of Rural Enterprise promotion, Agriculture, Skill Development and Sanitation.

He has led bi-lateral and multi-lateral projects in Odisha, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan. His global engagements include consulting assignments in Bangladesh, Nepal, Malaysia, Mozambique and Kenya. Other than several prestigious forums of CII and others in India, he has presented at some International forums like, Subsistence Marketplaces, University of Illinois, USA; SEEP Network, USA; Social Innovation, Japan; BoP Innovation, Bangladesh; Livelihoods and Enterprise, Sri Lanka.



**Ms. Kalpana Pant,**

Director, Chaitanya



### **Profile:**

Kalpana Pant has been working with Chaitanya for eight years and is currently its Deputy Director. In the past, she has also worked with an education centred NGO, Nirantar in New Delhi and at the Women's Studies Unit, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. Kalpana has skills in video and written documentation, apart from field based experience on organizing self-help groups. Kalpana is a member of the Capacity building Sub-group of Sa\_Dhan and Advisor to the first federation of SHGs in Maharashtra, the Grameen Mahila Swayamsiddha Sangha. Kalpana has a Masters in Modern History and M.Phil in Modern History - Women's Studies from Jawaharlal Nehru University. Kalpana was on the IDRC panel for the American Evaluation Association held at St. Louis to present the paper, "Those Who Dream Make a Difference". Some of Kalpana's written work includes, a study titled Sexual Harassment in University Campus, published in the TISS Journal; a national level study on Federations coordinated by Sa\_dhan; Networking of SHGs - a case study of Devoshi village, published in Swaskhati journal; etc and is currently engaged in a national level research study on the impact of microfinance on dalit women.