KAWACH SAFE CHILDHOODS FOR A THRIVING INDIA सुरक्षित बच्चे, समृद्ध भारत | British Asian Trust | MIRACLE FOUNDATION -INDIA-

Eleventh Edition of

Leadership Dialogues

Innovate. Collaborate. Strengthen.

Towards a Safer Future for Our Children.

SPEAKER BIOS



Dr. Deeksha

Assistant Professor, School of Excellence in Panchayati Raj (SoEPR), National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad

She holds a PhD in Social Work from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai. A Commonwealth Scholar and Dalai Lama Fellow, her research and teaching focus on social development, with an emphasis on gender empowerment, public health, child rights, education, and the role of local governance in driving inclusive growth, across rural and urban India.



Smt. Rajeshwari B, IAS

Director, Directorate of Panchayati Raj, Government of Jharkhand

Rajeshwari B. is a distinguished Indian Administrative Service officer of the 2011 batch, originally from Karnataka. She holds a Master's degree in Political Science and a Master's degree in Public Policy. She cleared the UPSC Civil Services Examination in 2010 and joined the IAS in 2011. Over the years, she has held several key administrative positions across Jharkhand, demonstrating strong leadership in governance, rural development, education, social welfare, and district administration.

Her major postings include Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO), Bundu, Ranchi District; Deputy Development Commissioner (DDC), Ramgarh; Deputy Commissioner (DC), Garhwa; State Project Director, Jharkhand Education Project Council, Department of School Education & Literacy; Deputy Commissioner, Ramgarh; Deputy Commissioner, Dumka; Commissioner, MGNREGA, Rural Development Department; CEO, Jharkhand State Watershed Mission; Director, Jharkhand State Child Protection Society; Director, State Nutrition Mission, Social Welfare Department; Currently serving as Director, Panchayati Raj Department.
During her tenure as Deputy Commissioner, Ramgarh, she received the Safaigiri Award for her exemplary work under the Swachh Bharat Mission and was also shortlisted for the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration for the same initiative.

Her career reflects a consistent commitment to public service, grassroots governance, and impactful policy implementation.



Mr. Pankaj Pandey

National Program Officer -Transform Rural India Foundation, placed in Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), Government of India

A dynamic Development Professional with 23 years of rich experience in working with Central Government, State Government and Philanthropic NGOs in core areas of Governance, Financial inclusion and literacy to rural women SHGs and Community institutions strengthen in rural India. He is also serving as a National Resource Person for National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR).



Mr. Chunya Kujur

Mukhiya, Koro Chhatarpur Panchayat, Raidih Block, Gumla District, Jharkhand

With over 3 years of experience in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), he has developed a deep understanding of the needs and challenges faced by children in rural areas. His expertise lies in designing and implementing initiatives that promote child protection, education, livelihood, health and infrastructure development within the panchayat. As a dedicated PRI representative, he is committed to creating a protective and nurturing environment for children to thrive. He has been instrumental in ensuring children's participation in panchayat planning and development process linking it with Child Friendly Panchayat Theme as part of the Gram Panchayat Development Plan.



Mr. Om Prakash

District Program Manager, Bal Kalyan Sangh, Jharkhand

Mr. Om Prakash has over *17 years of experience in the development sector, with extensive experience working on various social development issues, particularly **child protection*. Over the years, he has developed strong expertise in community-based interventions, child rights, vulnerability assessment, and strengthening child protection mechanisms.

He has played a key role in conducting the *SAMVARDHAN Vulnerability Mapping Study, focusing on understanding the vulnerabilities of families and children. The study was conducted by **BKS with the support of NCPCR*.

With his rich field experience and deep understanding of child protection issues, Mr. Om Prakash brings valuable expertise in working with communities, families, and children to strengthen protection systems and promote child rights.