



**BIOS OF CHAIRPERSONS
AND PANELISTS**

Aasha Kapur Mehta is Chairperson, Centre for Gender Studies at the Institute for Human Development, Delhi. Prior to this, she was Professor of Economics at Indian Institute of Public Administration for many years. She is a Founder Member of the Feminist Policy Collective. She was invited as an expert to assist NITI Aayog in formulating the Rural Economy chapter for the Vision, Strategy and Action Plan document and was a Member, Working Group of Feminist Economists constituted by the erstwhile Planning Commission for the Eleventh and Twelfth Plans. She chaired the Planning Commission Subgroup on Gender and Agriculture for the 11th Plan and the Subgroup on Gender Mainstreaming and Effective Accountability Mechanisms and Member Working Group on Women's Agency and Empowerment for the 12th Plan. She also served as a Member of the Core Group of the Ad-hoc Task Force constituted by Cabinet Secretariat for reviewing the RFDs or performance targets of Ministries/Departments. She was a Member, MoRD Performance based Payments Committee and Member, of the First, Fourth and Fifth Common Review Missions. She has also served as a Member of Committees constituted by MWCD and other Ministries of Government of India. She led the work of the DFID funded section of the global Chronic Poverty Research Centre in India for over a decade. Her books, articles and working papers are on poverty, poverty dynamics, health, care, human and gender development indicators, reviewing policy for inclusion, gender budgeting, deprivation and gender based data gaps.

Alakh N. Sharma, currently Prof and Director of the Institute for Human Development (IHD), New Delhi, is a well known development and labour economist of India. Earlier he has worked in the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi; V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Noida; Shri Ram Centre for Industrial Relations, New Delhi; and A.N. Sinha Institute of Social Studies, Patna. Prof Sharma has extensively worked in the areas relating to livelihoods, political economy, regional development, employment, labour markets and human development issues. He has authored and edited a large number of books and papers in these areas. He is also the Editor of the Indian Journal of Labour Economics (IJLE), the quarterly journal of the Indian Society of Labour Economics.

Amrita Datta is an Assistant Professor of Development Studies at the Department of Liberal Arts, Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad. Amrita's research interests are in the areas of migration, mobilities, village studies, women's work, and gender and development. She has published on these topics in several edited volumes and journals such as the Journal of Development Studies, Asian Journal of Women's Studies, Children's Geographies, Indian Journal of Labour Economics and the Economic and Political Weekly. Amrita has a PhD in Development Studies from the International Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam, and a M.Phil in the same subject from the University of Cambridge.

Ashwini Deshpande (Ph.D.) and early publications have been on the international debt crisis of the 1980s. Subsequently, she has been working on the economics of discrimination and affirmative action, with a focus on caste and gender in India. She is the author of "Grammar of Caste: economic discrimination in contemporary India", Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2011 (Hardcover) and 2017 (Paperback); and "Affirmative Action in India", Oxford University Press, New Delhi, Oxford India Short Introductions series, 2013. She is the editor

of "Boundaries of Clan and Color: Transnational Comparisons of Inter-Group Disparity" (along with William Darity, Jr.), Routledge, London, 2003; "Globalization and Development: A Handbook of New Perspectives", Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2007 (Hardcover) and 2010 (Paperback); "Capital Without Borders: Challenges to Development", Anthem Press, UK, 2010 (Hardcover) and 2012 (Paperback) and "Global Economic Crisis and the Developing World" (with Keith Nurse), Routledge, London, 2012. She received the EXIM Bank award for outstanding dissertation (now called the IERA Award) in 1994, and the 2007 VKRV Rao Award for Indian economists under 45.

Farzana Afridi is a Professor in the Economics and Planning Unit of the Indian Statistical Institute (Delhi), Research Fellow at the Institute of Labor Economics (IZA, Bonn) and Lead Academic of the International Growth Center's (IGC) India program. Her research lies at the intersection of development and labor economics, falling into diverse themes of gender and social identity, human capital and governance. Prof. Afridi's work has contributed significantly to assessing the design and effectiveness of several large public programs in India on education, health and women's well-being. She is currently engaged in projects that analyse and suggest measures to loosen the constraints women face in engaging in remunerative economic activities, the impact of technological change on home and market production, and the role of communities in improving governance. Prior to the ISI, Prof. Afridi was faculty at Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, and the Delhi School of Economics. She holds a PhD in economics from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Gita Sen is Distinguished Professor and Director of the Ramalingaswami Centre on Equity and Social Determinants of Health, Public Health Foundation of India. She was for many years a Professor of Public Policy at the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, and Adjunct Professor of Global Health and Population at the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health. She is a development economist whose research focuses on gender and development. This work has been motivated by a focus on integrating analysis of gender inequality with economic inequality more generally and the political economy of development. This has included work on labour including agricultural labour, population policies, and health. Her work on health equity has examined the intersections of different bases of inequality – economic class, gender and caste, developing in the process new methodologies for such analysis. She has been a member of the Governing Board of the National Health Systems Resource Centre, the Mission Steering Group for the National Rural Health Mission, and the High-Level Expert Group on Universal Health Coverage set up by India's Planning Commission. She delivered the VV Giri Memorial Lecture in 2009, the Krishna Raj Memorial Lecture in 2010, the IGC Special Lecture in 2019, and the Yusuf Hamied Distinguished Lecture in 2020. She is a widely published author and editor of journal articles and books. She has received the Volvo Environment Prize for her work on women, population and development, the Dan David Prize for her work on gender equality, and Honorary Doctorates from the University of East Anglia, the Karolinska Institute (Stockholm), the Open University (UK), the University of Sussex, and the University of Edinburgh.

Hema Swaminathan is an Associate Professor at the Centre for Public Policy. Her broad interests are in the areas of poverty and inequality using a gender perspective. Her recent research focuses on inequality in income and wealth distributions between men and women, female labour participation in India, and survey methodology to collect improved data on several domains (individual-level data asset ownership and wealth, decision making by women, and women's engagement with the labour market). She is currently serving on the Standing Committee of Economic Statistics (SCES), Government of India, whose mandate is to review the framework for India's economic indicators pertaining to the industrial sector, the services sector and labour force statistics. I am also member of the Gender Methods Experts Panel of the CGIAR GENDER Platform Methods Module. Previously, I have served on the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE), and co-author of the report on Food Security and Climate Change, Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, 2011-2012.

Ishani Sen has been working with Pravah for the last 16 years and has over 25 years of experience mentoring teachers, youth leaders, and adolescents. She has been part of Pravah's curriculum designing groups and facilitated mindset change learning programs for both teachers and young people across different states of India. Ishani has conducted the conflict positive curriculum and mentored a large number of teachers in schools and colleges to negotiate their personal and professional roles and also worked on the whole-school transformation to support the leadership development of students, teachers and to create a more inclusive space in schools by creating cross border experiences. She was part of the writer's group for the life skills education guidebook of CBSE. Before joining Pravah Ishani has worked as an Education coordinator with Butterflies - Program of the street and working Children and as a group coordinator of Miranbika - a free progress school in Delhi. She has also worked in rural West Bengal on preventing violence against children in West Bengal to form support groups for adolescents to prevent trafficking and child labour. She is a Post Graduate in Sociology from Kalyani University in West Bengal and hold a Bachelor Degree in Education (B.ED) from Pondicherry university Currently she is Ishani Sen is working as Director – Adolescent Intervention in the Pravah.

Ishita Mukhopadhyay is Professor, Department of Economics, University of Calcutta and President, Indian Association for Women's Studies. She has published and supervised research on Gender and Labour, Development Studies, Policy Analysis for the last twenty five years. Some of her cited publications include "The Changing Identity of Rural India : A Socio-historic Analysis" edtd with E.Basile (Anthem Press) in 2009, " Calcutta's Informal Sector: Changing Pattern of Labour use" from Economic Political Weekly ,1998, " Emerging Challenges of Rural Labour Market : Insights from Indian villages " along with N.Roy in Arthaniti in 2019, "Gender Wage Gap: Some recent evidence from India" along with S. Poddar in Journal of Quantitative Economics in 2019. Her forthcoming book "Employment in the Informal sector in India" is coming out in 2022 from Springer Nature. She has been a contributor in several policy researches like CEDAW Alternate Report by NAWO in 2014.

Jahnvi Andharia has been working in the development sector for over 30 years. She received her Master of Arts in Social Work from TISS in 1989 and was awarded PhD for her thesis “Impact of Progressive Laws and Civil Society Facilitation on Empowerment : Women Law Users’ Perspective” from Faculty of Social Work, M.S. University in 2018. For nearly two and a half decades, she worked directly with women from poor and marginalised communities of rural areas of Gujarat and Maharashtra shaping her perspective on feminism, intersectionality, vulnerability, empowerment and leadership. Dr. Jahnvi worked with one of the then largest, Indian Philanthropy, for three years (2008-2011) as Program Officer for the portfolio Civil Society, Governance and Human Rights. Of the two and a quarter years (2018-2020) at the Indian School of Development Management, NOIDA , she was the Program Director for their flagship post graduate program in Development Leadership for a year. She has co- authored several papers put out in the public domain. In 1995, Dr. Jahnvi and her 4 colleagues founded ANANDI, an organisation that followed a collective leadership model, working among the poorest communities of Gujarat. Having started as a small collective, when she left her full time engagement with ANANDI, it had grown to a mid-sized organisation with around 60 full time staff and around 200 community resource persons who reached out to over 15000 women and their families. The programs carried out by ANANDI covered maternal health, ensuring food and livelihood security, disaster response, child rights and child nutrition, women and girl’s safety, promotion of organic farming, and women’s leadership in local governance. Towards the end of her term, she was instrumental in enabling the Leadership Transition at ANANDI and she became part of the ANANDI Technical Support Unit where she offered mentorship to the team working with adolescent and young girls, and led projects of capacity building, curriculum development around gender and livelihood security for government and non-government organizations.

Jeemol Unni is Prof of Economics and Chair of the Masters of Arts in Economics Programme at the Amrut Mody School of Management, Ahmedabad University, Ahmedabad. Earlier she was the Director, Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA). She holds a Ph.D. and M.Phil. in Economics and was a post-doctoral Fellow at Economic Growth Center, Yale University. She is currently a member of the Standing Committee on Economic Statistics, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India. She is a Labour Economist and her research focuses on informal employment, returns to education, social protection and women entrepreneurship. She is on the Editorial Board of the Indian Journal of Labour Economics.

Neetha N is a gold medalist for Post Graduation and has done her M. Phil and Doctoral studies at the Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum. She is the recipient of IWMI/Ford Foundation Fellowship for South Asian Women Doctoral Scholars. She was Associate Fellow & Coordinator, Centre for Gender and Labour at the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, NOIDA during 1998-2006. Her research interests are labour and employment issues of women, domestic workers, labour migration and gender statistics and data gaps.

Padmini Swaminathan is a former Director of the Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai, where she also held the post of the Reserve Bank of India Chair in Regional Economics till her retirement from the Institute in 2011. After retirement, she was invited to join the faculty of the newly opened Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Hyderabad where she became Professor and Chairperson of the School of Livelihoods and Development and held the post till May 2017. From June 2017 to February 2019 she was Visiting Professor at the Council for Social Development, Hyderabad. Swaminatha's research work covers the areas of industrial organization, labour, occupational health and skill development – all from a gender perspective. Her recent publications include: (co-edited) Volumes on Telangana Social Development Report 2017; Telangana: Gender, Access and Well-being 2018; a co-authored book on Feminist Methodologies: Interdisciplinary Explorations published by Routledge in 2017; an edited volume on Women and Work published by Orient BlackSwan in 2012, among others. She is currently on the editorial boards of several journals including Gender Technology and Development, and the Indian Journal of Gender Studies. She is also a Board member of several institutions such as the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi; SAMA- Resource Centre for Women, New Delhi; Anusandhan Trust, Mumbai. Periodically her services have also been requisitioned by the state: such as the High Court of Madras, the erstwhile Planning Commission and the Government of Kerala.

Radhicka Kapoor is a Senior Visiting Fellow at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). Prior to joining ICRIER, she worked at the Planning Commission and at the International Labour Organization. Her broad areas of research interests include poverty and inequality, labour economics and industrial performance. Over the last five years, she has worked extensively on the various facets of India's labour market, in particular, in the areas of the informal sector, the impact of technological changes on the world of work and the measurement of employment and unemployment. She has authored several research papers, reports and articles in leading newspapers on these subjects. She has co-edited a book "Towards a Just, Dignified and Secure Future of Work: Lessons from India". She completed her undergraduate degree in Economics from St Stephen's College, Delhi University and holds a Masters and PhD degree in Economics from Cambridge University and the London School of Economics respectively.

Rashmi Singh is an IAS officer and is the current Executive Director, National Mission for Empowerment of Women at Ministry of WCD, Government of India. And with additional charge of Special Secretary and Director, Social welfare, Govt of Delhi. Her career spans working in the state government of Delhi, UT of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Ministry of Women and Child, Govt of India to the Urban Local bodies in Delhi. Dr. Singh has been honoured nationally and internationally for her various initiatives and work. Ms. Singh received her Bachelor's Degree from Lady Shri Ram College, Delhi University and has a MPA from Hubert Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, USA. She also has a Post graduate Diploma from the I.H.S, Erasmus University, Netherlands. She has completed her PhD degree from the University of Lucknow.

Ratna M. Sudarshan is a Trustee and former Director of the Institute of Social Studies Trust, New Delhi; has been a National Fellow at NIEPA (2013-15) and has worked on the research staff of the National Council of Applied Economic Research. She has researched and published in the areas of women's work, the informal economy, and education; employment, education and social change; research, action and policy linkage; gender and evaluation. She received a DSE Distinguished Alumni Award from the Delhi School of Economics in February 2017.

Ravi Srivastava is a former Prof of Economics, Centre for the Study of Regional Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He is currently Director, Centre of Employment Studies, Institute of Human Development, Delhi. He is a leading researcher on labour migration, employment, and the informal economy, and was a full-time member of the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector, Government of India.

Renana Jhabvala is an economist best known for her 40 year long association with the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), a trade union of women in the informal economy, and for her writings on women in the informal economy. She is presently the President of SEWA Bharat, the All-India Federation of SEWAs. She received the Padmashree in 1990 and from 2012-2017 she served as the Chancellor of Gandhigram Rural University. She is Chairperson of Home Net South Asia, She was a member of the UN Secretary General's High-level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment and was honoured with the FICCI Lifetime Achievement Award.

Shalini Sinha is India Country Representative for WIEGO (Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing). WIEGO is a global research-policy network that seeks to improve the status of the working poor, especially women, in the informal economy. Shalini work focuses on developing and documenting decent work and livelihoods opportunities for women workers in the informal economy. Currently, she is developing and anchoring WIEGO's Focal Cities program for Delhi, which includes supporting member-based organizations of women informal workers in their capacity building and advocacy efforts at the city level. Before joining WIEGO, Shalini has worked as a development consultant for over a decade, specializing in labour, gender and social development issues with several national and international organizations. She has written several papers and articles on women informal workers, including an edited volume, *Redefined Labour Spaces*.

Rajib Nandi, is Associate Director and Research, Fellow, Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST). Rajib Nandi having completed his M.Phil in Applied Economics from Centre for the Development Studies (CDS) and PhD in Sociology from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) started working with the Institute of Social Studies Trust since 1998 with progressively greater responsibilities over the years, in research, project management and other administrative duties. Dr. Nandi has worked on a range of research projects funded by the government, UN agencies and other national and international donor agencies. The research projects ranges from gender and development, women and work, social and solidarity economy, livelihood issues, ICTs, environment, HIV/AIDS, social movements and ethnicity

to programme evaluations and evaluative studies. His expertise lies in both quantitative and qualitative research techniques and field based research. He has written several research reports, published in edited books and reputed journals and have presented research findings both in national and international meetings, seminars and workshops. He has taken part in various debates and discussions focused on social issues and policy implications of social research. Dr. Nandi has also coordinated international research projects with both national and international partners, organized seminars and workshops. He has participated and acted as a resource person in several training/evaluation workshops. Dr. Nandi is a founder and core group member of Evaluation Community of India (ECOI) and a member of Board of Directors, Community of Evaluators - South Asia.

Ritu Dewan is the Vice President of the Indian Society of Labour Economics, Vice President of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics, Visiting Professor at the Institute of Human Development, Trustee of The India Forum, and President of the Indian Association for Women's Studies (2014-17). She was, till her retirement, the first-ever woman Director of the Department of Economics, University of Mumbai, and the founder-member of the first Centre for Gender Economics in Asia. She has over 150 publications, including 40 books and monographs, encompassing a wide range of issues related to Development Economics, Gender Studies & Gender Economics, Rural and Urban Development, Infrastructure, Labour Markets, Environmental Displacement, Peace Studies, etc. She was a member of the Feminist Economists' Group for Engendering the 12th and 11th Five Year Plans appointed by the Planning Commission, Government of India. She is also Consultant to UNDP, UN Women, ILO, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, World Wildlife Fund, Action Aid, etc. Her other honorary posts include National Executive member of the Pakistan India People's Forum for Peace and Democracy, Honorary Advisor to the Kashmir Foundation for Peace and Development Studies, and Board of Trustees of the Centre for Budget Governance and Accountability. She is closely associated with training and capacity- building related specially to gender budgeting and gender issues, and has conducted numerous workshops for the Central Government and also several state governments including Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, etc. Her research focus – which interlinks academics, advocacy and action – is the result of issues related to the marginalised, her last two books focusing on theoretical-empirical analysis of Paid-UnPaid Work and of Demonetisation.

Soumya Kapoor Mehta, as the Head of IWWAGE, New Delhi, India, leads IWWAGE's efforts to generate, leverage, and synthesize evidence on women's economic empowerment. Soumya has an experience of nearly 18 years in the development sector, spanning research around gender, women's empowerment, poverty reduction strategies, social inclusion challenges and policy levers to alleviate them around the world.

Prior to joining IWWAGE, she was working as an independent policy advisor for the World Bank, UNICEF, the Government of India, the Centre for Policy Research and the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA), helping these institutions mainstream inclusion and gender issues in their research and projects ranging from investments in women's

collectives (NRLM), to sectors such as water, agriculture, infrastructure, urban development and environment and climate change. She has co-authored several World Bank and UNICEF research outputs, including some of their flagship reports and has two widely acclaimed books to her credit. Between 2003 and 2009, she worked as full time staff for the World Bank anchoring a large cross-country study on poverty and strategies to reduce it. Soumya has a Tripos Degree from the University of Cambridge in Economics and a B.A. (Hons.) in Economics from St. Stephen's College, Delhi University. She has also been a Visiting Fellow to the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

Sunita Sanghi is an Indian Economic Service Officer of 1984 Batch. She has been actively involved in shaping the Skill Development & Employment landscape in India since 2008 and has been working at the senior management level in the Government of India. She has worked in various sectors including Agriculture, Finance, Capital Market, Petroleum, Education, Minorities, Voluntary Action, Labour, Employment and Skill development. For more than a decade, she has been deeply involved with labour sector and has been actively associated with the work relating to Skill Development. She has the experience of coordinating and putting in place the 12th Plan document and drafting reports like restructuring of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (Chaturvedi Committee) and Subgroup of Chief Minister on Skill Development which have wider ramifications on the economy. As Principal Adviser, Ministry of Skill Development she worked on the Skill Program with a focus on bottom up approach by involving districts and prepared a 5 year strategy for the skill space and was actively involved in developing the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Skill Regulator, NCVET. She has contributed a number of policy papers in national and international journals on various issues.

Suneeta Dhar is a Gender Specialist with over four decades of experience on advancing women's empowerment and human rights. She has worked with civil society and international organisations. She has been the Coordinator of the India preparatory process for Beijing '95 Conference, mobilizing grassroots women's voices from across the country. She has worked with UNIFEM at their Delhi and New York offices, where she was Manager of the UN Trust Fund to end Violence Against Women. Suneeta was formerly Director of Jagori, and is currently Senior Advisor with them. She is Co-Founder/Chair of the South Asia Women Foundation India, a Women's Fund. She provides technical support to a few organisations in the country. She has designed multi-stakeholder programmes, on engendering rural women's livelihoods and institution building processes, ending violence against women, and building safer spaces for women/girls. She has written on women's safety, gender and SDGs, and women's rights. As a policy advocate, she has served on Expert Committees of the National Commission for Women, and the Supreme Court's Committee on *Widow's Rehabilitation*. She is a member of the Beijing+25 and Civil Society Advisory Group of UN Women (India), a member of the '*Global Coalition on Inclusive and Safe Spaces for Women/Girls*', participating in the Global Leadership meetings for the *Generation Equality Action Coalition on Gender Based Violence*. Suneeta has a Master's degree in Social Work from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, and has been a recipient of Fulbright (1982) and Advocacy Institute Fellowships (1996) for Development Practitioners.

Tanuka Endow is Professor at the Institute of Human Development. She is co-author of background country-level study for India, which formed the basis for the South Asia Regional Study under the Global Initiative for Out of School Children, UNICEF. She contributed to and was Associate Editor for the Delhi Human Development Report 2013, published by Delhi Government and IHD. She was also co-author for working papers on education and skills as part of RECOUP (Research Consortium on Outcomes of Education and Poverty), a multi-country consortium funded by DFID. The work was done in association with CORD. She is currently working on a project on urbanisation in Bihar.

Vinita Aggarwal is working as Executive Member, National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET), the newly formed Skill regulator. Prior to this she was Director General, National Skill Development Agency and Senior Economic Advisor in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. She is an economics graduate from Delhi University and has done her PhD in Economics from Jamia Milia Islamia University. She joined Indian Economic Service in the year 1985. Although she has worked in various fields, she has over 20 years of experience in Social Sector- having handled challenging assignments in Ministries like Labour, School Education-HRD, Women and Child Development and in Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. She has a wide range of experience in formulation of legislation, undertaking economic analysis and rendering advice for designing and formulating development policies, strengthening delivery systems, and monitoring and evaluating the public programmes.

Yamini Atmavilas is the India Lead for Gender Equality, India Country Office, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. In this role she leads the foundation's new work to implement their Women's Economic Empowerment strategy, and build gender data and evidence to foster gender transformative policies. She served for nearly 4 years as Senior Programme Officer, Measurement, Learning, and Evaluation at the India Country Office. Yamini's career has spanned more than 18 years, with a focus on evaluation, research, and capacity building in human development including gender, health and education, and economic development. Yamini has a PhD in Women's Studies from Emory University where she worked on women's labour migration.