

Profiles of Motwani Jadeja Impact Fellows



**Motwani
Jadeja**
Foundation



Chaitali Sheth

CEO, Aangan Trust

Chaitali Sheth, CEO of Aangan Trust, brings over 26 years of experience in the development sector with a deep focus on child protection and community empowerment. Her journey in the sector began with key leadership roles at Akanksha Foundation and Teach For India, where she honed her skills in program development, fundraising, and advocacy. Since joining Aangan Trust in 2013, Chaitali has overseen the organization's transformation into a leading force for child safety, scaling its operations from 39 communities to nearly 900 across six Indian states, including Rajasthan, Bihar, and Maharashtra.

Chaitali holds a Master's in Management of Training and Development from the University of Edinburgh, bringing a strong academic foundation to her leadership. Her commitment to evidence-based practices has been central to Aangan's success in preventing child abuse, trafficking, and exploitation. Under her guidance, Aangan has made a measurable impact, preventing over 1,810 child marriages, reducing hazardous work for more than 16,000 children, and enrolling over 30,000 children in education and vocational training programs. Chaitali has also played a key role in shaping trauma-informed policing models in Rajasthan, which have since been scaled across the state. Throughout her career, Chaitali has been driven by her passion for child rights and social justice, consistently pushing for systemic change through community engagement, advocacy, and collaboration with government stakeholders. Her vision for Aangan is to embed child protection into every sector, ensuring that all children, especially the most vulnerable, can thrive in safe environments.

As a Motwani Jadeja Impact Fellow, Chaitali plans to leverage the fellowship's global platform to expand Aangan's reach and forge international partnerships. Her goal is to amplify the importance of child protection on a global stage, building collaborations that can support scalable, sustainable solutions for child safety in India and beyond.

Connect with Chaitali Sheth on LinkedIn to learn more about her work and vision: [Chaitali Sheth LinkedIn](#).

Aangan Trust

Established in 2000, Aangan Trust focuses on child safety and rights, Aangan works in the states of Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, Maharashtra, and Odisha. The organization has significantly impacted children's safety by preventing 1,810 child marriages, reducing hazardous work for over 16,000 children, and enrolling over 30,000 children in education and vocational training. Aangan partners with local communities and governments to create a protective environment for vulnerable children in India.

[Website: Aangan Trust](#)



Priya Agarwal

Founder Director, Antarang Foundation

Priya Agrawal, the Founder-Director of Antarang Foundation, has over 32 years of experience in the education and livelihoods sectors, with a strong commitment to addressing India's youth employment crisis. Her career in the development sector began with leadership roles at the Akanksha Foundation and SNEHA, where she developed innovative programs focused on education and community health. Since founding Antarang in 2013, Priya has led the organization's mission to prepare young people for aspirational career pathways, impacting over 350,000 youth across India.

Priya holds a Master's degree in Business Administration, bringing her expertise in strategy and leadership to Antarang's efforts to embed career readiness education into public school curricula. Her work has resulted in transformative outcomes for young women, with over 55% of Antarang's graduates being female and many moving into high-wage careers in fields such as healthcare, technology, and filmmaking. Under her leadership, Antarang has developed a scalable, systems-integrated model that is now adopted by state governments across five regions. Priya has been recognized as an Ashoka Fellow, ASPI-Re Fellow, and UnLtd India Growth Challenge Fellow, solidifying her impact as a social entrepreneur.

Throughout her career, Priya has been dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty by empowering young people through education and career development. Her vision for Antarang is to empower 10 million youth by 2030, expanding the organization's reach and creating robust career ecosystems in underserved regions.

As a Motwani Jadeja Impact Fellow, Priya plans to leverage the fellowship to strengthen Antarang's global partnerships and secure funding opportunities that will allow the organization to scale its impact. She aims to explore innovative solutions for youth employment and deepen collaborations with international stakeholders to support India's next generation of leaders.

Connect with Priya Agarwal on LinkedIn: [Priya Agarwal LinkedIn](#).

Antarang Foundation

Founded in 2013, Antarang Foundation works to empower youth with education and livelihood opportunities. Operating in Maharashtra, Goa, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Nagaland, the organization has prepared over 350,000 students for careers, with 55% being girls, and helped guide 168,000 youth into high-wage careers. Antarang focuses on bridging the gap between education and employment, helping disadvantaged youth build successful futures.

[Website: Antarang Foundation](#)



Uthara Narayanan

Co-Founder, Buzz Women

Uthara Narayanan, the Co-Founder and Chief Changemaker of Buzz Women, brings over 15 years of experience in women's empowerment and community-led development. She co-founded Buzz Women in 2012, with a mission to empower underserved rural women through financial and social training, enhancing their decision-making, leadership, and economic capabilities.

Uthara's journey in the sector includes consultancy roles with leading organizations like the UNODC and Accountability Initiative, where she worked on anti-corruption and panchayat finance projects. Her deep understanding of grassroots challenges has been key to Buzz Women's transformative work, impacting over 600,000 women across Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh.

Uthara holds a B.Com, ICWAI certification, and a Diploma in Youth Development, all of which inform her strategic leadership at Buzz Women. She has developed innovative programs focused on financial literacy, business development, and leadership for women, with results showing that 79% of participants have cultivated savings habits and 69% have grown their enterprises. Under Uthara's leadership, the organization has expanded its model internationally to countries such as The Gambia and Georgia, positioning Buzz Women as a global player in women's empowerment.

Driven by a passion to create lasting change, Uthara has nurtured over 10,000 local female leaders, known as Gelathis, who drive community-level change. Her long-term vision is to scale Buzz Women's reach to 1 crore women across 62,000 villages in India by building a robust network of local changemakers. Uthara's leadership and dedication to women's economic empowerment have been recognized through her selection as an Acumen Fellow and her advisory role in the Acumen Academy. As a Motwani Jadeja Impact Fellow, Uthara aims to use the fellowship to deepen global connections, build partnerships for Buzz Women's expansion, and advocate for increased funding for women's empowerment. Her goal is to further scale Buzz Women's impact, ensuring that rural women are at the forefront of social and economic transformation.

Connect with Uthara Narayanan on LinkedIn: [Uthara Narayanan LinkedIn](#).

Buzz Women

Buzz Women was founded in 2012 with a mission to empower women through financial, personal, and social development working across Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Maharashtra. Buzz Women has impacted over 600,000 women, helping 79% of them develop a savings habit, with 69% participating in household decision-making. The organization nurtures local women leaders to foster community-driven social change.

Website: [Buzz Women](#)



**MOTWANI JADEJA
IMPACT FELLOWSHIP**

Indrani Bhattacharya

CEO, Child in Need Institute (CINI)

Dr. Indrani Bhattacharya, CEO of Child in Need Institute (CINI), brings over 26 years of expertise in social anthropology and child rights, with a focus on healthcare, education, and nutrition for vulnerable populations. Since joining CINI, Dr. Bhattacharya has led the organization's mission to safeguard the rights of children, adolescents, and women across India, particularly in marginalized communities. Under her leadership, CINI has expanded its reach to over six states, including West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Odisha, impacting millions through its child-friendly community model and integrated health and education interventions.

Dr. Bhattacharya holds a PhD in Social Anthropology and has published widely in national and international journals. Her academic background and extensive fieldwork have shaped CINI's evidence-based approach to addressing child protection, maternal health, and adolescent empowerment. She has successfully fostered partnerships with various state governments and international bodies, ensuring CINI's sustainability and growth. Dr. Bhattacharya's leadership has been instrumental in scaling CINI's adolescent health and nutrition programs, which have received recognition from the Government of India and international organizations such as UNICEF and WHO.

In her career, Dr. Bhattacharya has played a pivotal role in advocating for policy changes, focusing on reproductive and child health, and driving CINI's influence on national and international platforms. CINI's impact includes improving the health and well-being of over 50 million women and children, and Dr. Bhattacharya's contributions have been recognized through multiple national awards, including the prestigious National Award for Child Welfare.

As a Motwani Jadeja Impact Fellow, Dr. Bhattacharya plans to leverage the fellowship's global platform to advocate for child protection and gender equity, aiming to establish partnerships that enhance CINI's work. Her vision is to scale CINI's innovative models to reach even more vulnerable populations and influence global discussions on child rights and protection.

Connect with Indrani Bhattacharya on LinkedIn: [Indrani Bhattacharya LinkedIn](#).

Child in Need Institute (CINI)

Established in 1974, CINI focuses on women and child empowerment, healthcare, education, and nutrition. With a presence in West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Assam, Tripura, and Madhya Pradesh, CINI has impacted over 50 million lives. It has pioneered the "Child Friendly Community" model and received multiple national awards, including the National Award for Child Welfare twice. CINI plays a key role in health and education systems, scaling its models nationally.

[Website: CINI](#)



**MOTWANI JADEJA
IMPACT FELLOWSHIP**

Aarti Sridhar

Founder Trustee, Dakshin Foundation

Aarti Sridhar, Trustee and Programme Head at Dakshin Foundation, has over 24 years of experience in environmental governance and community-led conservation. Aarti's leadership at Dakshin Foundation, which she co-founded in 2008, has positioned the organization at the forefront of marine conservation and sustainable livelihood development in India. Her expertise spans coastal governance, fisheries management, and socio-legal interventions that prioritize community welfare alongside ecosystem protection. Under her guidance, Dakshin has expanded its operations across multiple coastal regions, including the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, and Odisha, advocating for sustainable ocean and fisheries management.

Aarti holds a Master's in Social Work from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) and has recently completed her PhD thesis on Fisheries Science at the University of Amsterdam. Her deep academic and research background has shaped Dakshin's interdisciplinary approach, blending environmental research with grassroots action to drive sustainable outcomes. Aarti has played a key role in developing India's long-term sea turtle monitoring programs and facilitating multi-stakeholder collaborations that include local communities, policymakers, and scientists. She is also the co-principal investigator of the Southern Collective, which works to democratize marine knowledge and promote sustainable ocean governance in the Northern Indian Ocean.

Aarti's work has received national and international recognition, positioning her as a thought leader in environmental conservation and climate adaptation. Her efforts have empowered coastal communities, providing them with the tools and knowledge to manage resources sustainably while preserving their cultural and ecological heritage.

As a Motwani Jadeja Impact Fellow, Aarti plans to leverage the fellowship to build strategic partnerships within the global conservation community, with a focus on climate change and marine ecosystems. Her goal is to enhance Dakshin's impact, particularly in mobilizing resources and scaling its flagship initiative, SeaChange, which aims to secure the livelihoods of coastal communities while protecting marine ecosystems.

Connect with Aarti Sridhar on LinkedIn: [Aarti Sridhar LinkedIn](#)

Dakshin Foundation

Founded in 2008, Dakshin Foundation operates with a focus on climate action, environmental sustainability, and livelihood empowerment. Dakshin works in Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andaman, Nicobar, and Lakshadweep Islands. The foundation has pioneered India's long-term sea turtle monitoring programs and led community-based fisheries management. Through its SeaChange initiative, Dakshin integrates ecosystem protection with community support across 1,000 fishing hamlets.

[Website: Dakshin Foundation](#)



**MOTWANI JADEJA
IMPACT FELLOWSHIP**

Susan Bhaktul

Senior Director, Industree Foundation

Susan Bhaktul, Senior Director at Industree Foundation, brings over 25 years of experience in the textile, garment, and social sectors. Her leadership at Industree Foundation has been instrumental in empowering marginalized communities, particularly women artisans and farmers, by connecting them to national and international markets. Susan's expertise lies in sustainable livelihoods, inclusive growth, and supply chain management, ensuring that women-led enterprises thrive in a competitive marketplace while adhering to ethical and sustainable practices.

With a background in operations, sourcing, product development, and sustainability, Susan has led transformative initiatives at Industree, which has positively impacted over 600,000 artisans across India. Her strategic approach has driven the development of innovative models that enhance the economic and social well-being of rural communities. Under her leadership, Industree has facilitated over \$60 million in cumulative sales for these communities, providing them with the skills, resources, and market access needed to build sustainable enterprises. Susan's commitment to promoting systemic change in the creative manufacturing sector is evident in her role in scaling the organization's impact both nationally and globally, including expanding its model to Ethiopia.

Susan's extensive experience working with global brands has sharpened her ability to lead large-scale operations while maintaining a strong social focus. She is passionate about driving systemic change through inclusive growth strategies that promote financial independence and resilience among women producers.

As a Motwani Jadeja Impact Fellow, Susan plans to leverage the fellowship to build global partnerships and expand Industree's reach to more communities across India and beyond. Her vision is to further integrate sustainability into Industree's model and advocate for increased investment in women's economic empowerment on a global platform.

Connect with Susan Bhaktul on LinkedIn: [Susan Bhaktul LinkedIn](#)

Industree Foundation

Established in 2000, Industree Foundation operates in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and Ethiopia. Focused on livelihoods, women's empowerment, and inclusive economic growth, Industree has positively impacted over 600,000 people and generated \$60 million in cumulative sales. The foundation empowers marginalized communities by enhancing market access for artisans and farmers.

[Website: Industree Foundation](#)



**MOTWANI JADEJA
IMPACT FELLOWSHIP**

Mallika Biddappa

Lead – Knowledge Management, Karnataka Health Promotion Trust (KHPT)

Mallika Biddappa, Lead for Knowledge Management at Karnataka Health Promotion Trust (KHPT), brings over 18 years of experience in public health and development. With expertise in knowledge management, results delivery, and social behavior change, Mallika has played a pivotal role in shaping KHPT's strategies for maternal and child health, tuberculosis, adolescent health, and primary care. Her leadership has been instrumental in KHPT's growth, driving impactful programs that have improved health outcomes across several states in India. Mallika holds a PhD in Development Studies and a Master's in Social Work from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai. Her academic foundation and practical experience have enabled her to design innovative models that integrate community-centered approaches with evidence-based practices. She has led efforts to reduce neonatal mortality, improve TB care through community engagement, and empower adolescent girls with health and education resources. Under her guidance, KHPT has developed models that are now recognized as national best practices and have been adopted by the Government of India.

Throughout her career, Mallika has been dedicated to addressing health inequities, with a focus on empowering the most vulnerable populations, including women and children in underserved communities. She has collaborated with major global health organizations, such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and UNDP, driving research and implementation projects that have had a transformative impact on public health systems.

As a Motwani Jadeja Impact Fellow, Mallika aims to leverage the fellowship to build international partnerships that can scale KHPT's innovative models to other parts of the world. She envisions using this opportunity to strengthen KHPT's position as a leader in health system transformation, ensuring that their models continue to drive sustainable and equitable health outcomes.

Connect with Mallika Biddappa on LinkedIn: [Mallika Biddappa LinkedIn](#).

Karnataka Health Promotion Trust (KHPT)

Established in 2003, KHPT operates with a focus on women empowerment, healthcare, and adolescent health across 14 Indian states, including Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh. KHPT's neonatal and HIV prevention models have been adopted nationally, reducing neonatal and infant mortality by 10%. With a vision to impact 250 million lives in the next five years, KHPT leads innovative public health interventions.

[Website: KHPT](#)



**MOTWANI JADEJA
IMPACT FELLOWSHIP**

Siddesh Sarma

Co-Founder, Leadership For Equity (LFE)

Siddesh Sarma, Co-Founder and Chief Programs Officer at Leadership For Equity (LFE), has over 13 years of experience in the education and non-profit sectors. His career has been dedicated to fostering equity in public education systems, working closely with local and state governments to enhance education quality at scale. Since founding LFE in 2017, Siddesh has been instrumental in the organization's efforts to impact over 8.8 million students across India, through teacher education, academic leadership empowerment, and policy development.

Siddesh holds a Master's degree in Social Work from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, and is a Teach For India Fellow. His leadership has contributed to significant improvements in student learning outcomes, with LFE's programs achieving an 11-30% improvement in multiple states. Siddesh's expertise in educational governance has positioned him as a key figure in shaping state and national educational committees, and he has supported state governments in developing strategic education reforms that reach the most vulnerable students.

Throughout his career, Siddesh has championed public education as a path to social equity, driving LFE's mission to create systemic change in India's education landscape. His strategic leadership has secured support from major funders like The World Bank and Amazon, and he serves on the advisory boards of Teach For India and the Dr. Anjali Morris Education and Health Foundation.

As a Motwani Jadeja Impact Fellow, Siddesh plans to leverage the fellowship to strengthen LFE's global connections, build partnerships with international education networks, and explore innovative solutions to further scale LFE's impact. His vision is to expand LFE's reach to 15 million students by 2027, continuing his commitment to making high-quality education accessible to all

Connect with Siddesh Sarma on LinkedIn: [Siddesh Sarma LinkedIn](#).

Leadership For Equity (LFE)

Founded in 2017, LFE operates with a focus on education, academic leadership, and policy development across Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tripura, Haryana, and Nagaland. LFE has impacted 8.8 million students and over 300,000 teachers and officials. The foundation is recognized globally for its co-created education programs and partnerships with the World Bank and other major donors.

[Website: LFE Foundation](#)



**MOTWANI JADEJA
IMPACT FELLOWSHIP**

Mannat Anand

Senior Director, Make A Difference (MAD)

Mannat Anand, Senior Director of Growth and Operations at Make A Difference (MAD), has over 12 years of experience in youth empowerment, education, and social impact. Mannat's journey with MAD began in 2012, and she returned in 2015 after gaining diverse experience in the pharmaceutical sector. At MAD, Mannat has led key operational and strategic initiatives, overseeing programs that support 3,500 children across 18 Indian cities, with the help of over 3,000 volunteers, 160 fellows, and 25 community organizers. Her leadership has been crucial in scaling MAD's impact, fostering a community-driven approach that empowers at-risk children through mentorship, education, and holistic development.

Mannat holds an Executive Certificate in Social Impact Strategy from the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Social Impact Strategy and has completed advanced training through the Indian Leaders for Social Sector (ILSS) program. Her passion for tackling intergenerational poverty is reflected in her work at MAD, where she has been instrumental in designing and implementing fundraising strategies, securing over ₹36 crore in funding, and developing a tech-enabled scaling engine to streamline the organization's operations. Under her leadership, MAD's mentorship programs have transformed the lives of thousands of children, helping them break the cycle of poverty.

Mannat's vision for MAD is to expand its reach to 350,000 children by 2028, scaling the organization's impact to 10% of the children in need of care and protection in India. Her dedication to social equity and innovative program design has positioned MAD as a leader in the education and child protection space. As a Motwani Jadeja Impact Fellow, Mannat plans to use the fellowship to strengthen global partnerships, connect with innovators addressing similar challenges, and explore new technology solutions to further expand MAD's impact. Her goal is to leverage this opportunity to amplify MAD's mission and scale its community-powered approach across India.

Connect with Mannat Anand on LinkedIn: [LinkedIn](#)

Make A Difference (MAD)

Established in 2006, Make A Difference (MAD) works with a focus on education, holistic development, and mentorship for children in need of care and protection. MAD operates in 18 cities across India, including Delhi, Bengaluru, and Mumbai. It has empowered over 3,500 children and engaged more than 3,000 volunteers to break the cycle of poverty. MAD has received numerous awards, including the Ashoka Global Youth Social Entrepreneur Award.

[Website: MAD](#)



**MOTWANI JADEJA
IMPACT FELLOWSHIP**

Aakash Sethi

CEO, Quest Alliance

Aakash Sethi, CEO of Quest Alliance, brings over 18 years of experience in education and youth development, with a mission to equip young people with 21st-century skills through self-learning approaches. Since founding Quest Alliance in 2008, Aakash has led the organization in impacting over 1.6 million learners and educators across 21 Indian states. His work focuses on integrating technology into education to create cutting-edge learning experiences that prepare youth for the evolving demands of the workforce. Aakash's vision has propelled Quest Alliance to become a leader in employability and digital literacy, particularly through its work with government ITIs to deliver an employability skills curriculum.

Aakash holds a degree in Economics from St. Xavier's College, Ahmedabad, and his extensive leadership experience spans roles with AIESEC, Microsoft, and the International Youth Foundation. Under his guidance, Quest Alliance has scaled its programs to reach over 4 million learners, and the organization has received global recognition, including the WISE Award and the MIT Solve Award, for its innovative approaches to education. Aakash is also an Ashoka Fellow and Asia 21 Young Leader, and he serves on the boards of Dalit Shakti Kendra and the Children's Movement for Civic Awareness.

Throughout his career, Aakash has been committed to bridging the gap between education and employment, empowering young people to take charge of their futures through self-directed learning. His leadership has enabled Quest Alliance to form partnerships with key stakeholders in the education sector, contributing to the organization's long-term goal of preparing 2.5 million youth for the future of work by 2025.

As a Motwani Jadeja Impact Fellow, Aakash aims to leverage the fellowship to build strategic global partnerships and enhance Quest Alliance's reach. His goal is to further develop innovative learning technologies and expand Quest Alliance's impact, ensuring that even more young people are equipped with the skills they need to succeed in a rapidly changing world.

Connect with Aakash Sethi on LinkedIn: [LinkedIn](#)

Quest Alliance

Founded in 2008, Quest Alliance operates with a focus on, working in education, women's empowerment, and livelihoods across 13 states, including Assam, Bihar, and Tamil Nadu. Quest has impacted over 1.6 million learners and educators through innovative self-learning models and is the exclusive content developer for employability skills in India's government ITIs. The organization prepares youth for the future of work through technology-enabled learning.

[Website: Quest Alliance](#)



**MOTWANI JADEJA
IMPACT FELLOWSHIP**

Kuldeep Dantewadia

Co-Founder & CEO, Reap Benefit

Kuldeep Dantewadia, Co-Founder and CEO of Reap Benefit, has dedicated over 12 years to empowering youth and mobilizing communities to address local civic and environmental challenges in India. Under his leadership, Reap Benefit has scaled its flagship "Solve Ninjas" initiative, engaging over 1.5 million youth across vulnerable districts in India to tackle pressing issues such as climate change, sanitation, and governance through micro actions and data-driven solutions.

An Ashoka Fellow, Unreasonable Fellow, and recognized by Forbes India's 30 Under 30 list, Kuldeep has demonstrated a keen ability to drive systemic change by fostering grassroots involvement and leveraging technology. His vision is centered on enabling youth to take ownership of their communities, turning local insights into meaningful, scalable actions. Reap Benefit's innovative tech platform empowers youth to crowdsource data, implement solutions, and advocate for policy change, creating a culture of proactive problem-solving at the community level.

Kuldeep holds a degree in Commerce and has used his entrepreneurial mindset to expand Reap Benefit's reach across 14 states in India, working closely with government institutions and civil societies. His leadership has earned Reap Benefit national and global recognition, including awards from Ashoka and Unilever, as well as adoption of its civic action model by state governments.

As a Motwani Jadeja Impact Fellow, Kuldeep aims to deepen Reap Benefit's impact by building global partnerships, gaining insights from leading social innovators, and scaling their civic action model to reach millions more youth. He seeks to leverage this fellowship to explore new technological innovations and collaborate with global leaders in youth engagement, with the ultimate goal of empowering young people to become active agents of change in their communities.

Connect with Kuldeep Dantewadia on LinkedIn: [LinkedIn](#)

Reap Benefit

Founded in 2013, Reap Benefit operates with a focus on youth mobilization, skill development, and government collaboration. Reap Benefit works in 14 states, including Assam, Delhi, and Punjab, engaging over 112,000 active citizens. Through its Solve Ninjas initiative, the organization has mobilized youth to address civic and climate challenges. Reap Benefit aims to engage 10 million youth across vulnerable districts by 2029.

[Website: Reap Benefit](#)



Sanchita Mitra

National Coordinator, SEWA Bharat

Sanchita Mitra, National Coordinator at SEWA Bharat, has over 32 years of experience dedicated to the empowerment of women in India's informal economy. As a Chartered Accountant with a strong background in business advisory, Sanchita transitioned to the social sector in 2004, joining SEWA Bharat to lead the Microfinance program. Her efforts have since institutionalized the program into Women's Cooperatives and a private company, bridging the financial gap for women in marginalized communities.

Sanchita's leadership has been pivotal in scaling SEWA Bharat's operations across eight states, with the organization now supporting over 2.9 million women across 18 states in India. Under her guidance, SEWA Bharat has fostered collaborations with academic institutions, corporates, and civil society organizations, enhancing the visibility and voice of women workers in the informal economy. Her commitment to grassroots leadership development has empowered countless women to advocate for their rights and engage in collective action, particularly through SEWA Empowerment Centres, which provide localized support for women.

Sanchita is a strong advocate for financial literacy and social security for women, regularly mobilizing them to participate in Gram Sabhas and public health initiatives. Her work has garnered national recognition, positioning SEWA Bharat as a key voice in women's economic empowerment and policy advocacy.

As a Motwani Jadeja Impact Fellow, Sanchita seeks to leverage the fellowship to amplify SEWA Bharat's efforts on a global stage, enhancing dialogue around the challenges faced by women in the informal sector. She aims to build strategic partnerships and connect with global leaders to further SEWA Bharat's mission of achieving full employment and self-reliance for millions of women in India.

Connect with Sanchita Mitra on LinkedIn: [LinkedIn](#)

Sewa Bharat

Established in 1984, Sewa Bharat operates with a focus on women empowerment and livelihoods across 18 states, including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, and Gujarat. Supporting 2.9 million members, Sewa Bharat advocates for women micro-entrepreneurs and has played a key role in the creation of the Street Vendors Act. The organization strengthens grassroots efforts through localized leadership.

Website: [Sewa Bharat](#)



Vanessa D'souza

CEO, SNEHA (Society for Nutrition, Education and Health Action)

Vanessa D'Souza, Chief Executive Officer at SNEHA (Society for Nutrition, Education and Health Action), brings over 21 years of experience in leadership and social impact, with a focus on improving health and well-being in urban slum communities. Since joining SNEHA in 2013, Vanessa has led the organization in scaling its evidence-based health interventions, impacting over 141,000 individuals across Mumbai and other regions in India. Under her leadership, SNEHA has expanded its programs addressing maternal and child health, adolescent well-being, and the prevention of violence against women and children.

Vanessa's career journey began in the corporate sector, where she held senior positions at Citibank India, including Director of Citigroup Private Bank, before transitioning to the social sector. Her expertise in organizational development and fundraising has been instrumental in driving SNEHA's growth and forming strategic partnerships with government bodies and global institutions. Vanessa has also been a recipient of numerous prestigious awards, including the Dasra Social Impact Fellow (2015) and the Skoll Fellow (2018), recognizing her contributions to the field of public health.

With a background in Economics and a postgraduate degree in Management, Vanessa has completed advanced training in public health nutrition, further fueling her passion for creating sustainable impact in underserved communities. Through her leadership, SNEHA has pioneered initiatives such as community-based models for malnutrition reduction, gender-based violence prevention, and health service delivery improvements, which have been scaled across multiple regions.

As a Motwani Jadeja Impact Fellow, Vanessa seeks to leverage the fellowship to enhance SNEHA's use of technology for scaling its impact and advancing health initiatives. She aims to build connections with global networks and gain insights into innovative solutions that can further strengthen SNEHA's mission of improving health and safety for women and children in marginalized communities.

Connect with Vanessa D'souza on LinkedIn: [LinkedIn](#)

SNEHA (Society for Nutrition, Education and Health Action)

Founded in 1998, SNEHA operates with a focus on women empowerment, maternal and child health, and adolescent well-being. SNEHA works in Mumbai, Thane, and Palghar, impacting over 141,000 individuals. It has successfully reduced stunting, improved gender equitable attitudes, and partnered with government and academic institutions for research-driven health interventions.

[Website: SNEHA](#)



**MOTWANI JADEJA
IMPACT FELLOWSHIP**

Jayesh Joshi

Director, VAAGDHARA

Jayesh Joshi, Secretary of VAAGDHARA (Voluntary Association of Agricultural General Development Health and Reconstruction Alliance), has over 25 years of experience in rural development, focusing on empowering tribal communities through sustainable agriculture, nutrition, and livelihoods. Under his leadership, VAAGDHARA has positively impacted over 200,000 tribal families across Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat by promoting a blend of modern and indigenous knowledge to secure sustainable livelihoods and improve well-being.

Jayesh has been instrumental in driving VAAGDHARA's initiatives in food security, child development, and natural resource management. His strategic vision has led to the preservation of 80 indigenous seed varieties and the development of sustainable farming models such as the "Sustainable Integrated Farming System," which has improved crop diversity and soil fertility for thousands of farmers. VAAGDHARA's mission under Jayesh's guidance is deeply rooted in the principles of Swaraj, focusing on building gender-equitable institutions that empower tribal women and youth to take charge of their development.

With a strong background in development planning and community mobilization, Jayesh has represented India's tribal concerns on global platforms, including the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). His work has been recognized with several awards, including the National Water Watch Award and the Gandhi Sadbhawana Samman, for his contributions to rural development and community advocacy.

As a Motwani Jadeja Impact Fellow, Jayesh aims to amplify VAAGDHARA's work on an international stage, leveraging the fellowship to forge partnerships, enhance leadership development within tribal communities, and promote sustainable development practices. He envisions using the fellowship to further integrate climate resilience and social justice into VAAGDHARA's initiatives, ensuring long-term, sustainable change for marginalized communities.

Connect with Jayesh Joshi on : [LinkedIn](#)

VAAGDHARA

Founded in 1986, VAAGDHARA operates with a focus on livelihoods, women empowerment, and natural resource management in tribal regions. Working in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat, VAAGDHARA has impacted over 200,000 tribal families, promoting sustainable agriculture and leadership development. The organization has also received recognition from the United Nations for its grassroots initiatives.

[Website: VAAGDHARA](#)



**MOTWANI JADEJA
IMPACT FELLOWSHIP**