



"poverty is the worst form of violence"

Mahatma Gandhi



If you are interested in working with us, funding our work or would like further information, please contact:

Bhupendra Mistry at Kamla Foundation

8 The Fairway | Offerton | Stockport | Cheshire | SK2 5DR
www.kamlafoundation.org | info@kamlafoundation.org

Tel: 0161 292 6633

Registered Charity No. 1122840

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Kamla[®]
FOUNDATION

CHANGING MINDS - CHANGING LIVES

Patron: Baroness Jill Pitkeathley OBE



Kamla Foundation

works in India with people who are on the margins of society; the poor, low-caste, tribal people, especially women, to help them build and sustain their individual, family and community livelihoods. We believe in an India where everyone has the opportunity to live with dignity, free from hunger, deprivation and marginalisation.

We strive to expand opportunities for poor and vulnerable people and to help ensure the benefits of globalisation are more widely shared.

Our strategic programmes are focused primarily on the empowerment of the rural poor (and in particular, women); facilitating the development of their economic skills and knowledge in order that they may gain greater self-sufficiency and social inclusion.

The two Indias

Many people believe Indians are growing rich under globalisation but these new opportunities benefit only the very few, who have never had it so good. More than ever there are the 'two Indias', that of the elite and the growing urban middle class, and that of the impoverished and dispossessed.

People who are poor, powerless and without hope, (wherever they are), are a concern of global significance. India remains one of the world's biggest poverty traps, with over half a billion people living on less than a dollar, or 50p, per day. They are the other face of India. Central and Local Governments have failed them, the media, with rare exceptions, ignores them and businesses exploit them.



Our Vision

Is an India where all people have an opportunity to live in dignity, free from hunger, deprivation and marginalisation

Our Mission

Tackling the roots of poverty in India through:

- Understanding problems and challenges faced by society and cultures
- Promoting inclusive, harmonious sustainable development
- Creating and sharing appropriate knowledge
- Influencing and partnering local networks

Our approach is to build partnerships that respond to locally defined problems with culturally sustainable solutions. We are helping marginalised communities develop their capacity to meet basic needs and create solutions to poverty and injustice.

We aim to

- Identify reliable and trustworthy partner organisations in India
- Signpost resources where appropriate
- Leverage and build partnerships for networking opportunities and information sharing across the areas of work
- Build capacity for culturally and financially sustainable solutions

Our Guiding Principles

The principle's reflect our beliefs about the role of philanthropy and the impact it wants this Foundation to have. They guide what we do, why we do it, and how we do it. We seek long-term solutions that will support economic independence while remaining committed to methods that are environmentally sound.

We promote solutions to problems that come from within individuals and communities. This principle is inherent in the Foundation's concept of self-reliance. While many of our principles are fundamental to the way we operate, we remain open to amending them as we grow and learn more about our work.

changing minds - changing lives

What we do

We try to avoid the temptation to engage in areas where others are more appropriately involved - in many cases public entities (especially where large sums of money are required).

We recognise that our resources alone will not be sufficient to adequately support basic research, or to take most innovations to scale. We seek and welcome opportunities for new partnerships and new networks.

We have the ability to be patient in developing sustainable solutions rather than illusory quick-fixes, while ultimately insisting on measurable results and the potential to move not just money but **'minds and policies'**.

It is not the investments that determine how any great organisation is judged, but the **outcomes of those investments**. For us, those outcomes are guided by our ability to innovate, influence, and, in the end, to generate impact.

By **innovate**, we mean the ability to identify more than just what is new. It means being both creative and expansive in how we identify and understand deep contextual challenges and flexible and agile in how we devise and deploy potential solutions.

Influence is a critical currency in today's rapidly changing world, where the complexities of market systems, governmental structures and cultures interact and compete for limited resources and advantage. The capacity to gain, retain and leverage influence in order to catalyse opportunities is essential to our efforts.

Impact is tangible, identifiable and in many cases, measurable. We focus our attention on issues and places not only where we know that change is needed, but where we have a real ability to affect change.

