

CHITRA GOPALAKRISHNAN
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT
PROFILE

Over two decades of experience in research, writing and editing in a variety of fields including gender, child rights, sustainable livelihoods, health, education, poverty, etc. Experienced in media outreach and structured communication

SKILLS

- Research
- Documentation
- Editing
- Advocacy
- Organising workshops/events, and press briefings
- Recording oral testimonies
- Developing and maintaining website content

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Girls Not Brides:*** A comprehensive book on child marriage in India **2020**
- Fictionalised stories on people on the margins:** Several international websites and anthologies **2019-2020**
- Notebook Bihar** **2020-2017**
A Facebook initiative that captures happenings in Bihar <https://www.facebook.com/notebookbihar/>
- Oomna gender parity website and a blog on organic farming** **2017-2020**
Created an interactive website with social media interventions targeted at adolescent girls and boys. (www.oomna.com) and <http://chitraandgopi.blogspot.com/>
- Plan India** **2016**
Process documentation of ‘*Dream on the Streets*’ project and two South Asian Consultations leading to UNRCRC’s forthcoming General Comment (one a Children’s Consultation and the other an Expert Consultation)
- Society for Promotion of Youth and Masses** **2016**
Process documentation of substance abuse and boys in conflict with the law
- Centre for Health and Social Justice** **2015**
Compendium of interventions and research from the second ‘*Menengage Global Symposium 2014 - Men and Boys for Gender Justice*’
- Wadhvani Institute for Sustainable Healthcare and CARE Bihar** **2015**
Documents for both these organisations to record their distinctive health innovation models in Rajasthan and Bihar to evolve toolkits. Covered nine work areas in CARE’s mother and child work ambit
- CARE India** **2012-14**
Handled a range of women-centric communication initiatives. Developed the 2013 and 2012 Annual Reports; edited volumes, ‘*Energising Women’s Empowerment Principles within the Indian Business Culture*’, ‘*Expanding the Scope of CARE India’s Corporate Engagement*’, authored a coffee table book ‘*Affirmations: In her Own Voice*’ and an array of newsletters
- LUSH UK Acid Survivors Trust International UK, London** **2014**
Conceptualised and wrote a voluminous sourcebook and a trauma informed care kit for women survivors of acid violence and burns
- We Can Global Network, We Can India** **2013**
Authored a report on structured interfaces with young girls in five schools located in economically disadvantaged areas across New Delhi after visiting each of the schools and interviewing the students and staff; wrote a detailed ‘*Closure Report*’ for the We Can India campaign
- MacArthur Foundation, New Delhi** **2012**
Reportage of two expert consultations on Maternal Health and Young People’s Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
- MCH STAR (USAID-funded)** **2012**
Developed and wrote a three-fold advocacy kit on maternal health
- CEDPA** **2012**

Conceptualised and wrote a comprehensive brochure on maternal and child health for members of the legislative assembly and the media in Bihar

Oxfam Great Britain, India

2004-11

Managed the communications portfolio for the 'We Can End All Violence Against Women' campaign, a six-year project in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Included radio programmes, films, exhibitions and all communications for mass events. It also entailed primary research and website content for the duration of the dedicated campaign

HAQ, Child Rights Centre

2009-20

Documented the international colloquium on 'Children and Governance: Holding the State Accountable (July 2009)'. Authored books on the ten-year journey of HAQ, best practices to end child marriage, girl children at Nirmal Chaaya, in Tihar Jail, edited a book on Child Trafficking in India authored a volume titled 'Sense of Belonging' to document HAQ's counselling of children in conflict with the law

Panos India, New Delhi; WaterAid, New Delhi; Megh Pyne Abhiyan, North Bihar

2008-09

- **Panos India:** Edited two volumes on the health and human rights of Dalit women and oral testimonies of women living with HIV in the North East
- **WaterAid, New Delhi:** Edited and collated an exhaustive report of 70 presentations on 'Community-based Approaches to Safe Water Management in Rural Areas'
- **Megh Pyne Abhiyan, North Bihar:** Travelled through five flood-ravaged districts for first hand research and documentation of a sustainable water management campaign

Pathfinder Vietnam, Vietnam, Oxfam GB Vietnam, Vietnam, Plan International Vietnam

2006

Short term consultancies on reproductive health, poverty; juvenile delinquency, etc.

Centre for Science and Environment (CSE, New Delhi)

1993-02

Editor feature service, commissioning editor *Down to Earth*, headed State of India's Environment Report, Washington DC representative of CSE, Coordinator, Media Resource Centre

Assignments and books

2002-04

- Partners for Law in Development, New Delhi
- Panos South East Asia, Kathmandu
- Institute of Energy and Environmental Research, Takoma Park, Washington DC

EDUCATION

- Post-graduate diploma in journalism, Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi
- Masters degree in English Literature from Miranda House, Delhi University

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

- English, Hindi and Tamil

REFERENCES

- **Dr. Mona Mehta**, Global Programme Advisor, End Violence Against Women, Oxfam GB, (+91)08600-83003 MMehta@oxfam.org.uk
- **Mitu Varma**, ex-Country Director, Panos Institute India Private Limited, (+91) 9811385859, mitu.varma@gmail.com
- **Anumita Roychowdhury**, Executive Director, Centre for Science and Environment, (+91)9811793923, anumita@cseindia.org