



“ We believe in an India without absolute poverty where all people have the opportunity to live with dignity, free from hunger, deprivation and marginalisation. ”



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

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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 without absolute poverty where all people have the opportunity to live with dignity, free from hunger, deprivation and marginalisation.

The two Indias

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.

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.

Our Vision

Is an India without absolute poverty, 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 hope to help marginalised communities in India develop their capacity to meet basic needs and create solutions for 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 principles reflect Kamla Foundations's beliefs about the role of philanthropy and the impact it wants this foundation to have. The principles 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 Kamla Foundation's concept of self-reliance.

While many of our principles are fundamental to the way we operate, we will remain open to amending them as we grow and learn more about our work.

What we do

Kamla Foundation works in India to expand opportunities for poor or vulnerable people and to help ensure that globalisation's benefits are more widely shared.

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 relentlessly press the advantages of our firm belief and commitment. Among these: a capacity for the calculated risk that underlies most innovation, for venturing where others remain reluctant to go; an ability, while ultimately insisting on measurable results, to be patient in developing sustainable solutions rather than illusory quick-fixes; and our ability to provide both inspiration and standing and also 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.

