



Sheela Vashishtha

Host organization: Aangan Trust, Mumbai, India

ICats role: Partnership and Expansion Manager

ICats duration: Feb – Dec 2013 (full-time)

Degree: MSW/MBA

Professional experience: 5 years of experience in the development sector.

Summary

Sheela identified and created strategic partnerships which improved access to support systems for children in observations homes and in at risk communities. Furthermore, she enhanced Aangan's internal process for partnership development ensuring sustainability.

The problem Aangan aims to tackle

- Over 40% of India's children are at risk to vulnerabilities such as abuse, violence, isolation & exploitation which increases their risk to crime, drug addiction, trafficking, child marriage ...
- Many of these children end up in government run children's/ observation homes. Implementation of child protection mechanisms is poor thereby leaving the child further at risk and vulnerable.



Aangan's Solution

- Work with existing protection mechanisms and strengthen them through capacity building using scalable models and by working with at risk children in communities in a prevention capacity.
- Develop strategic partnerships which will help scale operations and create sustainable impact.

Aangan's challenges

- Government run homes are underfunded and closed to outsiders limiting children's access to care.
- "Partnerships" is a growing concept in India leading to more complex processes of partnership development.



Opportunity for an ICats Fellow

There was an opportunity for an ICat Fellow with both a clinical understanding as well as managerial skills to identify, create, and maintain strategic partnerships.

"Working in India has been transforming. The fellowship has provided me with a dynamic experience both professionally and personally.

It was very exciting to work on the frontlines of child protection and to utilize my skills to create long term change ."

Sheela

Sheela's achievements ...



- Identified strategic partnership needs within Mumbai.
- Created vocational partnerships connecting at risk children within Mumbai communities to vocational opportunities.
- Increased staff capacity on partnership development process and retention of partners.
- Initiated several corporate partnerships in Mumbai.
- Increased community partnerships and promoted Aangan's visibility within Mumbai.

Sheela's next challenge

Sheela was extended an offer and has stayed on in Aangan as a consultant assisting with program planning and development.

...contributing to Aangan's impact



- Aangan's vocational partnership goal was met.
- Corporate partnership initiative led to over 11 fundraising opportunities with TATA Group
- Mumbai observation home now open to external partners improving children's access to varying needs.
- Aangan team has taken over partnership program.

"When the fellowship was over, we requested Sheela to stay on in the team and help us develop a new aspect of the program - this is testimony to how much we valued her input and how well she had integrated into the team."

Suparna Gupta, Founder Aangan Trust