



Sangeetha Purushothaman

Summary of Professional Experience

As founder-director of the Best Practices Foundation, have coordinated multi-institutional, international and local projects. For these projects have organized workshops and other events including exchanges between organizations towards knowledge sharing. In this capacity have overseen the production of several books, articles, reports, evaluations, annexes for main reports, three films, and communication products for projects, workshops and events. For these projects have coordinated the financial management, administration, project management and reporting for several organizations. Since several of these projects had a research component, have coordinated the data collection, management, analysis, write up and publication of a series of articles based on this data. Have also coordinated three edited international volumes to ensure publication of a series of local and international authors.

Have led cutting edge action research in the fields of development, governance and gender and have been acknowledged for this through an award (available on website www.bestpracticesfoundation.com). For example, have produced and disseminated the first book in India on the peri-urban interface and held state, national and district launches of the book to raise awareness among a range of stakeholders, particularly government. Production and screenings of the first film on the peri-urban in India at events organized with a variety of stakeholders.

Have led teams of scientists, management professionals and civil society on new innovations for livelihoods for the poor. One such innovation called MOVE (Market Orientation and Value Enhancement) which provides tools for poor, assetless women to access markets and improve livelihoods, is being taken on scale by the West Bengal state government as well as by other NGOs like CARE for application to Tsunami affected areas.

Author of several books on development, environment and gender including *The Empowerment of Women in India: Grassroots Women's Networks and the State* published by Sage and two books specifically on international best practices on women and community development. Have written books, documents and reports for international events based on primary and secondary research on best practices on gender, the urban environment, the periurban interface, governance, community development and participation. Have documented various development projects and best practices using participatory methodologies resulting in a series of publications. Conducted participatory research in the fields of gender, natural resource management, poverty alleviation and capacity building of women's federations. Currently co-authoring a book on participatory methods and the periurban interface, for Routledge.

Have taught urban policy courses internationally in the New School for Social Research as a visiting assistant professor and nationally as visiting faculty. Currently engaged in the creation of modules on integrated planning, participatory planning, planning for the urban periphery, urban governance, community mobilization and participation in governance.

As a member of international grassroots networks from 1989 onwards, GROOTS International and later on the Huairou Commission (HC), the partnership entity to which GROOTS now belongs have been involved in several global campaigns and programmes. These included the Our Best Practices Campaign where one book was published and several best practices documented and the Local to Local Dialogues Campaign where BPF ran an egroup for the HC coordinating the exchange of information across eight countries.