



Dr Rukmini Banerji

Initially trained as an economist in India, Rukmini completed her BA at St. Stephen's College and attended Delhi School of Economics. She was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University and completed her PhD at the University of Chicago. She did her postdoctoral work at the Population Research Center at the University of Chicago and later worked as a program officer at the Spencer Foundation in Chicago before returning to India in 1996. Originally from Bihar, Rukmini is now based in New Delhi.

Rukmini has been with Pratham, one of India's largest NGOs, since 1996. She is a member of the national leadership team of the organization. Until recently, she was responsible for Pratham's programs and activities in several major states in India. She has led the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) effort since it was launched in 2005 and is currently Director of ASER Centre, Pratham's autonomous research and assessment unit (www.asercentre.org). ASER is a nation-wide household survey of children conducted every year in every rural district in India. It is the only current source of national annual information on children's ability to read and do basic arithmetic. ASER has been acknowledged nationally and internationally for its innovative model of household-based, citizen-led assessment which has impacted education policy and practice within India and has also been adapted for use in several countries in Africa and Asia.

Rukmini has extensive field experience both in program implementation as well as in assessment, evaluation, survey and research. She has represented Pratham and ASER Centre at a variety of national and international forums. She is currently a member of the CAGE (Central Advisory Board of Education) Committee of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. In the past, she has also been a co-chair for the Global Learning Metrics Task Force (convened by the Brookings Institution and UNESCO), a member for the Hewlett Foundation's advisory group on Quality of Education in Developing Countries, and a member of the international advisory group for the Think Tank Initiative.