

RUKMINI BANERJI CEO, Pratham Education Foundation



Rukmini Banerji joined Pratham in 1996. Since then, she has been a member of the leadership team of the organization. Until recently, she was responsible for Pratham's programs and activities in several major states in north India like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. She has extensive field experience in rural and urban areas in program implementation as well as in assessment, survey, evaluation, and research. Rukmini took over as CEO of Pratham in July 2015.

Initially trained as an economist in India, she did her B.A. at St. Stephen's College and attended the Delhi School of Economics. She was a Rhodes Scholar at the Oxford University and completed her Ph.D. at the University of Chicago where she also did post-doctoral research at the Population Research Centre. Rukmini worked as a program

officer at the Spencer Foundation in Chicago for several years before returning to India in 1996. Originally from Bihar, she is now based in New Delhi.

Rukmini has also been the Director of ASER Centre (the research and assessment unit of Pratham). She has led the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) effort since its launch in 2005. ASER is a nation-wide household survey of children's schooling and learning which is conducted annually in every rural district in India. In the ten years of its existence, ASER has been acknowledged nationally and internationally for its innovativeness in involving citizens and for its impact on education policy and practice.

In 2008, Rukmini was awarded the Maulana Abul Kalam Shiksha Puraskar by the Government of Bihar, India. She was the first recipient of this award. Over the years, she has represented Pratham and the ASER Centre in various national and international forums and is a member of committees both in India and abroad. Rukmini writes frequently on education in both Hindi and English dailies in India and enjoys writing books and stories for children.