

DR. MADHAV CHAVAN Full-time Member of the Board of Directors In Charge of Vocational Training and Digital Learning Innovations



Dr. Madhav Chavan is the Full-time Member of the Board of Directors in charge of vocational training and digital learning innovations in Pratham, one of the largest non-government organization in India addressing the needs of millions of children each year through quality education and policy change. He acquired a Ph.D. in Chemistry at the Ohio State University in the US in 1983 and returned to India in 1986 after his post-doctoral work at the University of Houston. In 1989, while teaching at the University of Mumbai, he started mass scale work for adult literacy in the slums of Mumbai as a part of the National Literacy Mission.

In 1994, Pratham was set up with the help of UNICEF to address problems of primary education in Mumbai. Dr.

Chavan has since then led the organization to expand its work over 21 states of India with programs that include remedial education in pre-primary, primary schools and upper primary segment, support for children who have dropped out of school or are at risk of doing so, and vocational training for youth.

The focus remains on creating innovative, low-cost and replicable solutions that can be easily scaled up. Pratham's Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) is a nationwide study testing the learning levels of children in India. The results showed that over half the fifth graders were unable to read at the second grade level. ASER helped shift the focus in primary education from enrolment alone to learning outcomes. Pratham has been recognized by the renowned Kravis Prize and Skoll Award for its innovativeness and leadership as a social entrepreneurial organization in the area of education.

Dr. Chavan was also awarded the 2012 WISE Prize for Education instituted by the Qatar Foundation at the World Innovation Summit for Education, which is equated with a "Nobel for work done in education". More recently Pratham has been awarded the Frontiers of Knowledge Award in Development Cooperation by the BBVA Foundation, Spain, for successfully catering to the learning needs of tens of millions of underprivileged children across the country and Dr. Chavan has also been named a 'Game Changer' by the Asia Society in New York.