

Webinar: Paying for education outcomes at scale in India

Wednesday, November 6, 2019, 8:00 AM — 9:30 AM EST

Online Only

More than half of children in India are in “learning poverty”, or unable to read and understand a simple text by the age of 10 and nearly three quarters of rural children in Grade 3 are unable to read at grade level. In response to this dire situation, India is beginning to explore the use of innovative financing to ensure that all children receive quality education.

On November 6, the Center for Universal Education (CUE) at Brookings will host a webinar to discuss one such innovative financing structure, impact bonds—an outcomes-based financing tool where investors provide upfront capital to service providers. India has 3 contracted impact bonds, two of which are in the education sector: the Quality Education India (QEI) development impact bond (DIB) and the Educate Girls DIB. The QEI and Educate Girls DIBs provide interesting case studies to explore the potential and limitations of utilizing impact bonds to improve learning outcomes in India.

This event brings together key impact bond stakeholders from India, providing an opportunity to share lessons learned, and to work together to find solutions to pressing education challenges. In the webinar, CUE will also launch a comprehensive report on paying for education outcomes at scale in India. Key learnings from CUE’s research indicate that though impact bonds might not be the answer to all the challenges faced by the education system in India, judicious use of the tool has the potential to focus financing on results and reinforce the use of data and evidence in decisionmaking.

Agenda

8:00 AM - Welcome remarks and presentation

Dr. Emily Gustafsson-Wright, Fellow, Center for Universal Education, The Brookings Institution, @EGWBrookings

8:15 AM - Panel: Practitioners' perspectives on paying for education outcomes at scale in India

Moderator:

Izzy Boggild-Jones, Senior Research Analyst, Center for Universal Education, The Brookings Institution

Panelists:

Dr. Pankaj Jain, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Gyan Shala

Abha Thorat-Shah, Executive Director, Social Finance at British Asian Trust

Kate Sturla, Director, IDinsight

Maya Ziswiler, Head of Social Impact Finance, UBS Optimus Foundation

8:45 AM - Q&A

8:55 AM – Reflections on the future of outcome-based financing for education in India

Moderator:

Dr. Emily Gustafsson-Wright, Fellow, Center for Universal Education, The Brookings Institution

Panelists:

Dr. Madhav Chavan, Co-Founder and President, Pratham

Praveen Khanghta, Senior Program Manager of Strategy, Learning, & Partnerships, Central Square Foundation

9:15 AM - Q&A

9:25 AM – Closing remarks

Dr. Emily Gustafsson-Wright, Fellow, Center for Universal Education, The Brookings Institution

9:30 AM – Webinar Ends

Panelist Bios:

Izzy Boggild-Jones



Izzy Boggild-Jones is a senior research analyst at the Center for Universal Education at the Brookings Institution, where she works on innovative finance and early childhood development. Prior to joining Brookings, she was a Consultant at the Independent Evaluation Group at the World Bank, focusing on research related to human development. Izzy is a qualified teacher, and taught high school English and Politics in London, on the Teach First program. She spent a year as a Kennedy Scholar at Harvard University and has a BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics and an MSc in Sociology, both from the University of Oxford.

Dr. Madhav Chavan



Madhav Chavan moved from the field of Chemistry to the field of literacy a few years after his return to India having acquired a Ph. D. in the United States and some post-doctoral experience there. He worked in the field of adult literacy from 1989 to 1994 inspired by the National Literacy Mission launched by late Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India. In 1994, UNICEF in Mumbai put him in charge of creating a 'societal mission' to universalize primary education in the city of Mumbai. As a result, he co-founded Pratham that started in 1994-95 as a Mumbai based organization and has now grown to be one of India's largest NGOs working across the country with millions of children every year with a focus on basic learning outcomes including reading and math. Its flagship programs, Read India and the Annual Status of Education Report have earned the organization a reputation as a pedagogy and advocacy innovator that has influenced policy and practice at the national and international level. He stepped down as CEO of Pratham Education Foundation but continues to be on its Board and actively leading the new experimentation in use of technology for education.

Madhav has been personally recognized for his work with the WISE Prize and The Skoll Award for social entrepreneurship among other honours. His organization, Pratham, has received the Kravis Prize for Leadership, the BBVA Frontiers of Knowledge Award for developmental work and the LUI Che Woo Prize for positive energy.

Dr. Emily Gustafsson-Wright



Dr. Emily Gustafsson-Wright is a fellow in the Center for Universal Education at the Brookings Institution. Her current focus on effective delivery of social services including education and health interventions in developing countries has consolidated her role as a global expert on innovative financing mechanisms including payment by results, public-private partnerships, and impact investing. She is the premier thought-leader and convener in the emerging field of social and development impact bonds and has written an unprecedented five publications on this cutting-edge topic, including her most recent study, which examines early learnings from impact bonds in low and middle-income countries. Her work also focuses on examining the challenges to scaling up early childhood development (ECD) and education in developing countries, including the constraints around financing, capacity and quality of services, knowledge gaps, and political support. Most recently, she led an effort to establish quality data on the costs of ECD, which included leading a multi-agency working group and developing the Standardized ECD Costing Tool (SECT).

With 20 years of experience in development, her previous professional experience includes working at the World Bank, the UNICEF Innocenti Research Center, and as senior researcher with the Amsterdam Institute for International Development (AIID). Gustafsson-Wright holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the Tinbergen Institute at the University of Amsterdam. She is regularly cited in the media including in the Economist, the New York Times, and the Financial Times and has published numerous articles in peer-reviewed journals as well as contributed to several books in her field.

Dr. Pankaj Jain



Pankaj Jain is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Gyan Shala, a leading NGO, providing quality education to more than 200,000 children in 9 cities and 4 states in India. Prior to Founding Gyan Shala, Pankaj led strategic management for some of the world's leading international development organizations, namely Grameen Bank, BRAC, and Indian Dairy Cooperatives. From 2003-2007, he was a project leader for the World Bank action-research project in partnership with Media Lab Asia on IT application in school education. Before his work with the World Bank and Media Lab Asia, Pankaj worked as a senior executive of the Aga Khan Rural Support Program. He was a professor of Strategic Management at the Institute of Rural Management in Anand from 1982 to 1994. Following his work as a professor, he was a senior faculty and consultant at the institute of Development studies at Sussex, the University of Leeds, and MIT. In 1991, Pankaj was a senior Fulbright Fellow with the World Bank and Harvard institute of International Development. Pankaj holds a Bachelor of Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology and a PHD from the Indian Institute of Management.

Praveen Khanghta



Praveen leads the strategy office of [Central Square Foundation](#), an organization focused on system reform in education. Prior to this, Praveen was working with India's Central Government on the implementation of key strategic projects and scaling up successful practices from NGOs and government. He has worked on key policy initiatives of various Central and State governments in India. He is an Acumen Fellow, a Young India Fellow at Ashoka University Fellow and was a teacher in a low-income school as a part of Teach for India program.

Kate Sturla



Kate Sturla is a Director on the Innovation Team at IDinsight, based in San Francisco. In her role on the Innovation Team, Kate leads IDinsight's results-based financing strategy and has led internal initiatives to develop new services and resources for IDinsight's client engagements. Previously, Kate was based in India with IDinsight for 3 years. She led IDinsight's Patna office and managed multiple projects, including the evaluation of the world's first development impact bond and a learning partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to provide evaluation services to agriculture non-profits. Prior to joining IDinsight, Kate managed multiple evaluations of public health interventions at the Development and Behavioral Economics Lab in Chennai, India. She also worked as a teacher in a migrant camp in Chandigarh, India. Kate holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science and South Asian Studies from the University of California, Berkeley and an MPA in International Development (MPA/ID) from Harvard Kennedy School.

Abha Thorat-Shah



Abha is the Executive Director of Social Finance for The British Asian Trust – an organization founded by HRH The Prince of Wales and leading members of the South Asian diaspora communities in the UK. She was one of the founding team members and has been at the heart of the design and leadership of the organization, including a recent period of substantial growth. Abha has also been a crucial driver of the development of innovative social finance mechanisms at the Trust, including the recently launched Education Development Impact Bond in India, the largest education DIB in the world.

Maya Ziswiler



Maya Ziswiler is head of social impact finance at the UBS Optimus Foundation. She manages a team responsible for developing social finance solutions to mobilize private capital in new and more efficient ways. She spearheaded the foundation's work on the first Development Impact Bond and has been supporting a range of outcomes-based financing mechanisms and public private partnerships. Prior to this role, she was the Foundation's Program Director for Education and Early Childhood Development. She joined the Foundation from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria where she was responsible for managing partnerships with the private sector. Previously, Maya worked for UNICEF in Peru and Procter and Gamble's development and export markets. Maya holds degrees from McGill University and the University of Geneva. She speaks French, English, Spanish and German.