

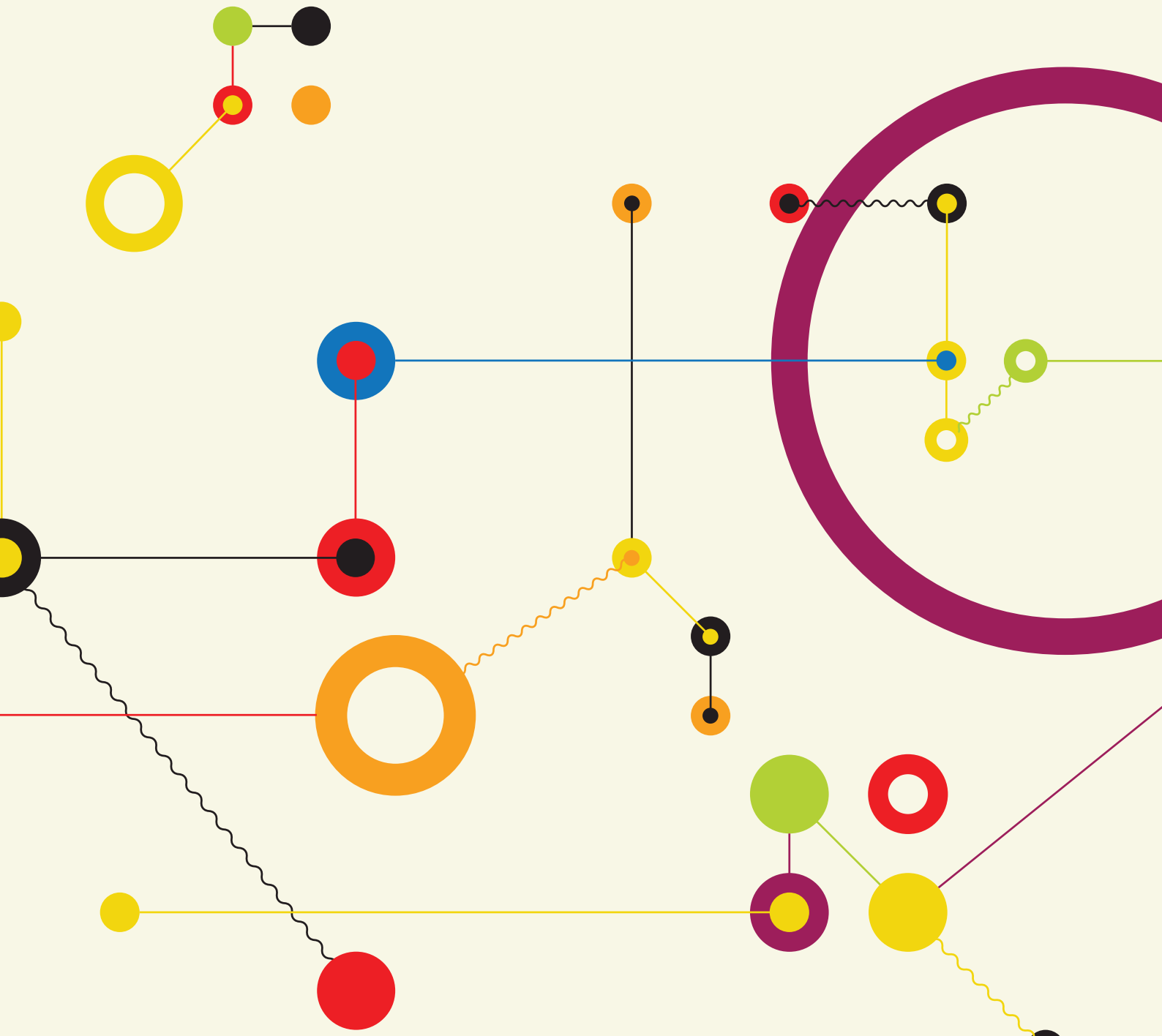
Highlights From The Dasra Philanthropy Week 2019



3rd – 9th March 2019



#CollaborativeAction



This year, in our 10th convening, we brought together philanthropists, foundations, nonprofit leaders, media, academia, program staff and beneficiaries from the ground to celebrate a week of activities, discussions and workshops to collaboratively forge a way forward to achieve the SDGs.



attendees



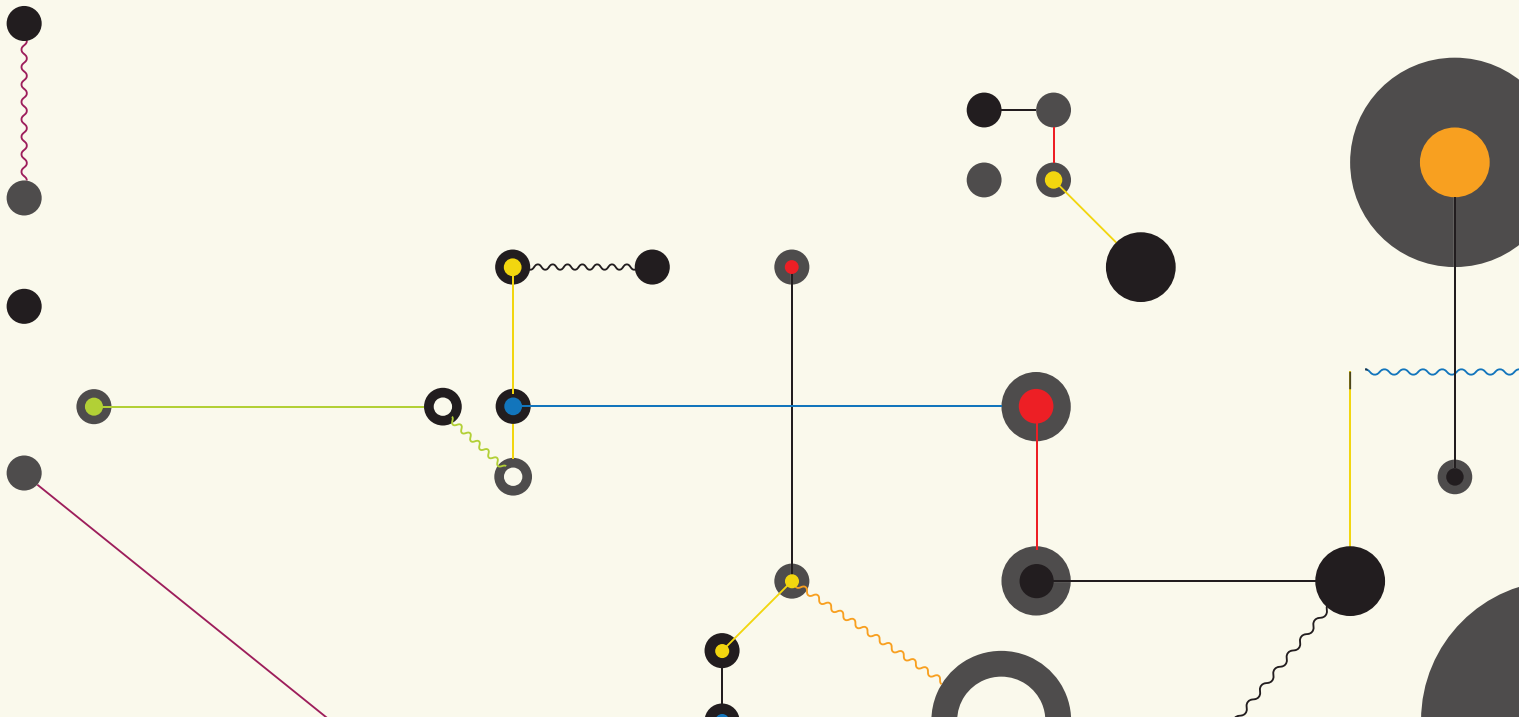
speakers



engagements
on Twitter



reports released



3rd - 5th March: India Immersive Learning Workshop

Impactful Philanthropy goes beyond writing checks to understanding communities, meeting change-makers and learning from peers on how to address India's development challenges. Dasra has engaged with more than 120 funders so far through immersive learning experiences that help them understand the dynamics and complexity of challenges on the ground and interact with beneficiaries first-hand.

This year, we took 8 participants from India and abroad to visit our implementing NGOs for the 10to19 Dasra Adolescents Collaborative in Jharkhand and Bihar.

Organizations visited:



The participants interacted with local program officers and adolescents on the ground to witness their stories first hand and understand the need for a long term plan for change over immediate outcomes.

They saw the interventions like Anandshala and Youth Clubs for out-of-school girls in action and visited multiple locations, some situated in the remotest parts of the state, to understand the magnitude of the problem to inspire them to take action.

“With each school visit, whether with the faculty or with the students, we learned about the challenges rural India faces and how important the Adolescent Collaborative is to inspiring young people to attend and stay in school and to become inspired and courageous leaders of change one step at a time.

The landscape and the people of Jharkhand are striking and hold such promise. We all felt privileged to have had a few days to enjoy its beauty.”

- Anne-Lindsay Makepeace



6th March: 10to19 Dasra Adolescents Forum



Bikaner House, New Delhi

The 10to19 Dasra Adolescents Collaborative is the world's first multi-stakeholder collaborative centered around empowering 5 million adolescents in India. The collaborative was launched in 2017 and rolled out implementation in its first geography – the state of Jharkhand – in 2018.

This year, we hosted the first-ever adolescents forum to bring together partners, funders, government representatives, program staff and the adolescents themselves to share learnings and experiences from the ground and discuss the way forward for the collaborative.

Here's a look at what's happening in Jharkhand:



The day saw panels discussing adolescent-centered programming and government programs like the RKSK

Through three main sessions - investment in adolescent issues, implementation of adolescent focused policies, and existing backlash in the adolescents sector, a range of perspectives were shared. Funder partner USAID delivered shared innovative approaches for impact, while public figures like **Aditi Premji** and **Sara Pilot** spoke about their personal journeys for social impact.

Nonprofit program experts lent their views on policies, program implementation and CSO partnerships, and **Dr. Zoya Rizvi** represented the MoHFW to discuss how policy trickles from the center down to the ground with a social health worker. **Shireen Jejeebhoy** presented the academic research lens by taking the audience through the baseline findings. Finally, we hosted a community-only panel on overcoming backlash to empowered adolescent, through which the audience learnt about individual strategies for overcoming hurdles.



Community engagement and youth delegates

In addition to the packed sessions, 14 youth delegates from the beneficiary communities of 6 nonprofit organizations participated in a half-day youth workshop. The interactive and engaging 3-part workshop called on them to exchange their personal experiences, shared details of each of the programs that have benefited them, and collectively chart out their 'dream communities' and hopes for social change. By the end of the workshop, the enthusiastic and inspiring youth delegates had created presentations on their demands and dreams, reached levels of familiarity and empathy with each other to be exchanging contact details to continue their discussions even beyond the event, and expressed excitement at having had the opportunity to learn from young leaders like themselves from other communities.



Watch the complete day's events and panels here.

Key Reports Launched:

Shireen Jeejebhoy launched the baseline survey:

The 10to19 is a unique effort to be outcomes-based and data-driven. To monitor impact, last year we conducted a robust baseline survey to understand the landscape of Jharkhand that threw up some challenging numbers.



Understanding Backlash Against Girls' Use of Agency:

Over 80% of organizations working to empower girls have reported at least one case of backlash against its staff and / or the beneficiaries. With little data available on this, Dasra's survey covers some interesting testimonials and statistics on the prevalence of backlash - highlighting a crucial determinant to the exercise of agency in girls.



Collaborative Action - Going from strategy to action:

Dasra charts down learnings and measures as the collaborative goes from strategy to implementation. Leveraging Dasra's 20 years of experience in conducting due diligence on over 1100 non-profit organizations across several sectors, the report focuses heavily on how collaboratives can effectively use due diligence as a tool for selecting implementing partners.



7th March:

Graduation Day for Dasra Social Impact Leadership Program



A flagship capacity building program, the Dasra Social Impact Leadership Program saw its 5th cohort graduate this year! 62 nonprofit Founders, Executive directors, CxOs and senior managers were trained on leadership styles and decision making capabilities.

Leaders were selected through an application process and included leadership from impactful organizations like Change.org, GlobalGiving, Barefoot College, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), Janaagrah, The Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF) and more.

Through four modules covered over 9 months, the leaders were trained in different aspects like branding & communications, governance, fundraising, talent management and others by some of the best mentors and experts from various sectors and industries.

The graduation ceremony saw participants deliberating over learnings and celebrating the bond they had been able to build with their peers as part of the program. The ceremony included a keynote address from **Ashok Alexander**, ex-Director of the India Country Office for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Founder Antara Foundation who read an excerpt from his book A Stranger Truth and shared his experiences from being a funder to a nonprofit founder.

Other guests present at the graduation ceremony included **Lynn Smitham**, co-founder Kiawah Trust, **Clemens Spiess** and **Christian Hanel** from Robert Bosch Stiftung who have been a key supporter over the years of the program.

“If you talk about results, you must invest in the capacities needed to achieve those results.”

– **Christian Hanel**



[Learn more about the program and the cohort](#)

8th & 9th March: Dasra Philanthropy Week Finale!



Royal Opera House, Mumbai

The finale brought together philanthropists, nonprofit leaders, government, media and other influencers from the sector to discuss collaborative action to achieve India's development goals.

Francine Pickup, County Director for UNDP in India delivered the welcome address beseeching for collaborative action between stakeholders and stated that the interconnectedness of the SDGs is a guide to help us find multidimensional solutions.

“For us to achieve all the SDGs, SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) is an integral goal that must be prioritized and achieved. The most difficult problems in the world today cannot be solved by individual actors, they need collaboration.”

- Francine Pickup

Nonprofit leaders and philanthropists came together to discuss **catalytic partnerships** with government, civil society organizations, communities that can scale organisational impact. It was recognized that the first step to building good partnerships is to be self-aware, understand what you know and more importantly, what you do not know and be honest about it. It is also important to change the power-dynamics that are often at play to truly create a level-field for learnings.

“I would (at the Gates Foundation) ask the NGO what do you think needs to be done, and this was often welcomed with stunned surprise, but also equally so with a sense of ‘we have been waiting to be asked!’”

- Ashok Alexander (The Antara Foundation)



Time for Philanthropy to Step up! Launch of the India Philanthropy Report 2019



Anant Bhagwati, Director, Dasra launched the 9th India Philanthropy Report with Bain & Company. The report explores the gap in individual giving in India and challenges philanthropists and UHNIs to up their game to help India achieve the SDGs.



Key Takeaways:

- **India is responsible for one-fifth of the SDG performance gap globally:**
This gap is the worst in the case of gender, wherein 29% of the Global Gap to the SDGs comes from India. Thus, India's role is critical in helping the world achieve its goals.
- **Indian UHNIs have the potential to give 2.5x - 3.5 x more:**
Philanthropic giving in India is 30x lower than that in the west. Even though we see an increase in wealth leading to more UHNIs, the giving is not increasing to match up.
- **Field Approach can help increase funding and impact:**
Dasra and Bain propose a field approach that comprises of the following elements to help achieve the SDGs.



Field Outcomes



Data-driven policy advocacy



Collaborative Action



Government Allies



Designed for scale



India Philanthropy Report 2019

Enhancing the field approach to achieve India's Sustainable Development Goals.



BAIN & COMPANY



Download the report.

Foundations, philanthropists and nonprofits came together to discuss the **role of bold and audacious philanthropy** and highlighted the 3 Cs that drive that - Collaborate, Change Behaviors and Course Correct. Bold philanthropy goes beyond the quantum of giving to facilitating unrestricted grants to implementers, patient capital with a 5 to 10 year timeframe, investing smaller innovative solutions and organizations, investing in 'dark' i.e. ignored sectors such as access to justice etc.

“Bold Philanthropy is a team sport; we cannot solve the problem as a single funder. We need to do it together.”

- James Nardella (Skoll Foundation)

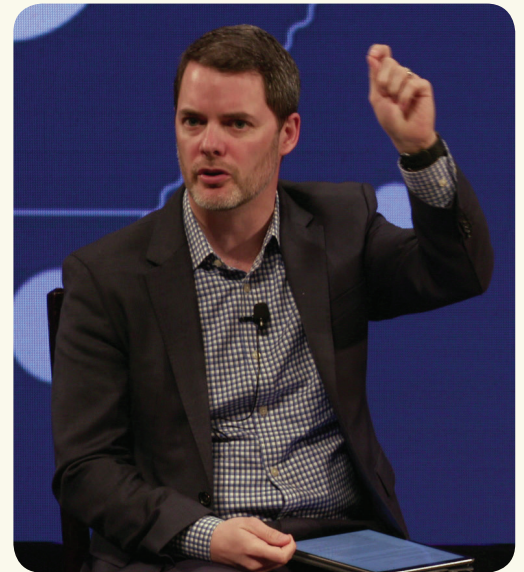
Collaboration Was Seen As A Facilitator to Bold Philanthropy.

Collaborations provide a platform for mutual respect and dialogue, especially between funders and nonprofits, and shared costs so that we can achieve targets collectively. It also leads to standardization and sets benchmarks for excellence and learnings in the sector. The role of the intermediary was seen as crucial to ensuring there is less friction between funders and implementers and expectations are managed on both sides to facilitate smooth operations on the ground.

In order to truly unlock the impact of philanthropy, **investing in capacity building** cannot be ignored. Funders urged nonprofit leaders to not feel guilty to ask for unrestricted funding to build capabilities and maybe even surpass the 15% standard to ask for more. However, both the funders and nonprofit leaders realized that to win an unrestricted grant is a journey where you share your potential and challenges through multiple conversations, program visits and reports. While, For most early donors, it is the immediate gratification of impacting a life that makes them program-centric givers, once they are involved and see the challenges and potential, they will be open to making big bets and investing in capacity building.

“If you strengthen the core (the institution) you will actually get more value for every other resource that you put into the program.”

- Archana Chandra (Jai Vakeel Foundation)



Spotlighting Underserved Areas and Issues

Panels were convened to spotlight under-recognised areas and topics. The SDG agenda demands inclusive growth and leaders recognised that we cannot leave even a single person behind in our mission and that we need to urgently invest in crucial areas like law and justice to ensure dignity and equity for a billion Indians.

Kaku Nakhate President and Country Head India at Bank of America Merrill Lynch released Dasra's flagship report on **Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) - Count Me In**. The panel that followed discussed measures for inclusion of PwIDDs from being language-sensitive to creating more spaces for dialogue so those with IDD can raise issues that affect them, and create inclusive workplace. The need to make this 'invisible' problem 'visible' was seen as an urgent challenge as disability activist Jeeja Ghosh demanded equal opportunities for PwIDDs.

Lack of data, stigma and misunderstanding of the issue causes us to not think of the community in the larger development agenda.

“It's not only about disability, if you see it in a broader way, and in life in general, we all need the opportunity to explore and develop skills.”

– Jeeja Ghosh (Inclusion Infinite Foundation)



On the occasion of **International Women's Day**, three powerful women leaders from the sector discussed the need to be gender-intentional in our programming and enabling women to participate in the formal economy. This requires better infrastructure and programs on childcare, health, sanitation etc. that will support women. Inability to migrate for work was seen as a major barrier for women in rural areas and the role of philanthropy was seen as crucial in funding more gender-transformational programs and recognising the value of a woman's perspective to solving social problems.

“...have you looked at an individual woman, these issues hit across her lifecycle – from mind set, early marriage, transport, care work, elder care and then issues in the workplace? You add up all the costs women must incur to come to work on one side, it doesn't add up.”

– Roopa Purushothaman (Tata Sons)

Access to Law and justice was seen as the next big challenge for philanthropists to invest in. SDG 16 was recognised as a means to attain all our other goals and domestic funders were asked to rise up to the challenge. Backlash from the government was seen as a major barrier to funding which makes this important sector rely on inconsistent and choked up funding from the individual's own networks.

The panel highlighted that the rule of law affects everyone and it is our collective responsibility to fix the breakdown in our justice systems that restricts access for 4 billion people around the world.

“Justice is a public good. You need justice like you need clean air and clean water.” - Somasekhar Sundaresan (Independent Legal Counsel)



Debate: We Need Non-Profit M&A to Solve India's Development Issues

Leaders debated on whether it was time to consider mergers and acquisitions in the nonprofit world. While at the beginning, the room poll showed a majority in favour of M&A by the end of the debate, the team had convinced them otherwise.

M&A was seen as a way to achieve increased footprint and impact. It would help nonprofits and philanthropists align better and function as one entity rather than partners with different visions. However, M&A would require organisations and foundations to give up on recognition through names and their individual goals and agendas, which was seen as a challenge. Moreover, funding is required to facilitate a dignified M&A where roles are assigned and visions are matched, this funding would be hard to get in the sector. The debate concluded with people largely being against nonprofit M&A, but most acknowledged that it should be done keeping the context in mind. M&A can help with problems that need collective solutions and where collaboration and partnerships won't work.

**“M&A route helps organizations share talent and expertise and it gives 2 non-profits the right role and dignity in the scale up journey.”
– Pravin Gandhi (Seedfund)**

**“Foundation heads and CSR organizations have very different goals and would want the recognition and name that comes. Would they want mergers?”
- Alkesh Wadhvani (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation)**



The days saw experts deliver short addresses on critical areas of expertise:

In 2 stirring addresses, Rohini Nilekani urged philanthropists to collaborate, take risks and have a bold, audacious vision

“In this decade of Indian philanthropy, we should commit to transformational changes and not incremental changes. This can be achieved through collaboration, without fear of failure and through innovative ideas. “

Watch the full talk:



Sherrie Rollins Westin told the story of sesame street and audacious philanthropy that today impacts 150 million children.

“MacArthur Foundation’s ‘100 and Change’ Program is one of the best examples of audacious philanthropy in recent times. They had the humility to decide as a Board, “we know what we want to address but why don’t we throw it out and let anyone apply so we can gauge what we don’t know.”

Watch the full session:



Dr. Rukmini Banerji cited ASER to explain the power of data to make the problem visible and find solutions to it

“Big change can come with Big data - by debating it, reevaluating it, measuring it again and again. A meaningful use of the right set of eyes who can understand the problem.”

Watch the full session:



Xerxes Sidhwa talked about the power of collaboration and human-centric design to impact India's 250 million adolescents.

“It is such a complex and challenging issue – to work for 25% of the world’s adolescent population – that collaboration is necessary. Collaboration gives us a safety net to take calculated risks, test new approaches, fail and document our learnings.”

Watch the full session:



[Watch all sessions and the debate here](#)





Celebrating 20 Years of Impacting a Billion Lives

This year marks Dasra's 20th year in the sector and throughout the week, we had our founders and supporters talk about the journey so far and the way ahead. Here's a sneak peek:

Catalyst For Social Change

Watch what our partners have to say about Dasra's 20-year journey:

Watch the video:



Co-founder Deval Sanghavi talks about the early days...

“We took a risk to leave our jobs to provide support to NGO leaders that were doing the heavy-lifting to scale their programs and get funding to build institutions. Today, 20 years later, we still need philanthropy to take more risks.”

Watch the video:



Co-founder Neera Nundy shares some fun trivia about Dasra...



“A couple of words to keep in mind while you watch - china, platinum, 52000 and 24...”

Watch the video:



Dasra Board Member, Shashank Singh talks the growth of the institution over the years

“All of this wouldn’t have happened without all of you, our partners... working together to try and make impact.”

Watch the video:



Thank you for being a part of our journey
and making us a part of yours!

See you at the next Dasra Philanthropy
Week!

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Send us feedback, comments, questions about the week,
email dpw@dasra.org!