

Dr.Megha Phansalkar : Biography



A Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) professional and an Urban Regional Planner with an experience of 20 years in the development sector. Dr Megha Phansalkar specializes in community led development in rural water supply, rural/ urban sanitation and rural development with focus on livelihoods.

Focus on specific work with ability to do multi-tasking has always been her forte. While she works as a WASH and Livelihood consultant with the World Bank (WB), she is also a social entrepreneur supporting rural artisans across 18 states, thus helping thousand plus artisan families earn livelihood through enterprise model. Dr.Phansalkar has been invited by Stanford University on 22nd February 2018 to deliver a lecture on WASH livelihood convergence.

Dr Phansalkar is presently performing the following professional tasks:

- Resident Representative for WB driven India's National Rural Livelihood Project(NRLP) in the State of Maharashtra; instrumental in seeking innovative partnerships and creating convergence in sanitation through livelihood approach. She has pioneered her role as a Governance & Accountability specialist across 10 states in NRLP since 2014.
- Core member of the WASH- livelihood group of the WB, she is working to support the Swachha Bharat Mission (SBM) through women's self-help groups (SHGs) under the NRLP.
- To support rural livelihood, she founded 'Tisser', a venture to provide design and marketing support to handicraft and handloom artisans across the country in 18 States.

Dr Megha Phansalkar has worked in Nepal as an institutional specialist for social accountability in the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project (RWSSP-II) for the World Bank. She was also a senior advisor to CEMDS (Center for Environment Management and Decision Support), Vienna, Austria. She worked as a thematic expert (Water supply and Sanitation) for the Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS); as an urban planner contributed to the preparation of city sanitation plans (CSPs) and open defecation-free (ODF) strategy for Maharashtra developed by the Center for Environmental Planning and Technology (CEPT) Ahmedabad, India – Urban Maharashtra has since been declared ODF.

Her inception in the WASH sector goes back to 2003 as a Knowledge Management Specialist with the World Bank supported Water Supply and Sanitation Department, Government of Maharashtra, where innovative community level ideas were conceptualized and implemented. She also guided the monitoring framework by supporting the development of MIS for the project.

Her work experience with Non-Governmental Organizations, Government Departments and International Agencies **brings a multi-dimensional, multi-stakeholder approach in working for partnerships and convergence** to address developmental issues, particularly in WASH.

Dr Phansalkar is a gold medalist graduate and she is trained as a **Doctorate** in 'System Design for Resource Planning and Management' under a National fellowship. She has a **Masters in Planning** from the Center for Environmental Planning and Technology (CEPT), Ahmedabad **Masters in Geography** and also a **Masters in Business Administration**.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/meghaphansalkar/>